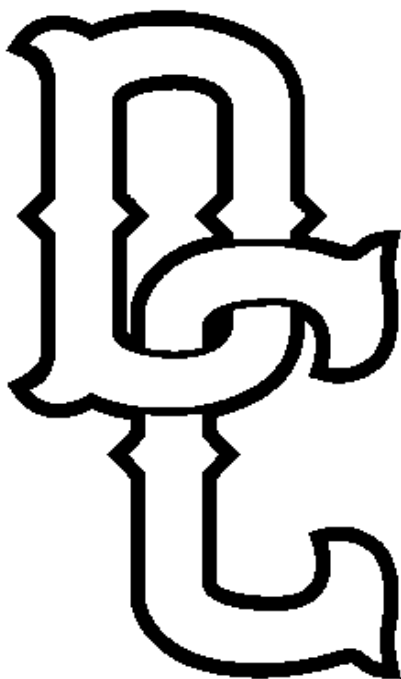


DALE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL



PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

2026-2027

Dale County Schools
2026-2027
School Calendar

Board Approved March 10, 2026

X - Work Days/Professional Development Days/No Students H - Holidays
Blue Shaded - end of the 9 weeks

June

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

July

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

Aug

M	T	W	T	F
X 3	X 4	X 5	X 6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

Sept

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
H	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

Oct

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
H	H	H	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

Nov

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	H	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
H	H	H	H	H
30				

Dec

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
H	H	H	H	H
H	H	H	H	

Jan

M	T	W	T	F
				H
X 4	X 5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
H	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

Feb

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
H	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

March

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
H	H	H	H	H
29	30	31		

April

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	H
26	27	28	29	30

May

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	X 28
H				

Teachers Begin - August 3, 2026

Students Begin - August 7, 2026

180 Student days

187 Teacher days

Oct 9, Dec 18, March 12, & May 27 - 1/2 day for students
Full day for Employees

Last day of school Students - May 27, 2027

Last day of school Teachers - May 28, 2027

1st Semester 86 days

1st 9 weeks 45 days

ending October 9, 2026

2nd 9 weeks 41 days

ending December 18, 2026

2nd Semester 94 days

3rd 9 weeks 45 days

ending March 12, 2027

4th 9 weeks 49 days

ending May 27, 2027

HOLIDAYS

Independence Day----- July 4, 2026

Labor Day----- Sept 7, 2026

Columbus Day/Fall Break----- Oct 12-14, 2026

Veterans' Day----- Nov 11, 2026

Thanksgiving Break----- Nov 23-27, 2026

Christmas/New Year Break----- Dec 21, 2026-

Jan 5, 2027

MLK Day----- Jan 18, 2027

President's Day----- Feb 15, 2027

Spring Break----- Mar 22-26, 2027

Good Friday----- March 26, 2027

Student/Teacher Holiday----- April 23, 2027

Memorial Day----- May 31, 2027

Progress Report Dates

Sept 11, 2026 Nov 13, 2026

Feb 5, 2027 April 22, 2027

Report Card Dates

Oct 16, 2026 Jan 8, 2027

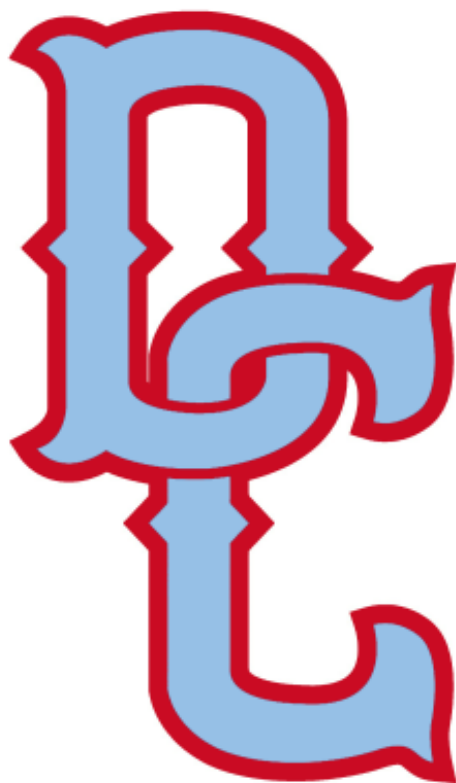
Mar 17, 2027 May 27, 2027

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DALE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
202 South Highway 123, Suite E Ozark, Alabama 36360
Main Office: 334-774-2355

Board President	Mr. Phillip Parker
Board Vice-President.....	Mrs. Priscilla McKnight
Board Member.....	Mr. Jerald Cook
Board Member.....	Mr. Dale Sutton
Board Member.....	Mrs. Shannon Deloney

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent	Mr. Ben Baker
Associate Superintendent.....	Mr. Chuck Walker
Director of Career Technical Education	Mrs. Lisa Welch
Director of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction	Mrs. Lisa Hendrix
Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction	Dr. Perry Dillard
Directory of Special Education	Mr. Patrick Reed

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome to the Dale County Schools family! The seven schools that make up the Dale County School system have a rich history of academic, athletic, and extra-curricular excellence. I encourage you to support your child's school and communicate with your school on a regular basis. I encourage parents to be actively involved in the education process. Together, as partners, our students will flourish under the direction of the dedicated employees of Dale County Schools. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns you may have about your child's education.

Ben Baker, Superintendent – bbaker@dalecountyboe.org

DALE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM VISION

Destination: Excellence

DALE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Dale County Schools is to develop life-long learners who have personal, economic, technological and social skills needed to be members of a global society.

DALE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM GOALS

1. We will provide a safe and supportive environment for learning opportunities.
2. We will develop college and career ready students through multiple approaches.
3. We will demonstrate and promote being responsible, respectful and resourceful citizens.
4. We will provide opportunities to build relationships with parents, students, teachers, and community stakeholders.
5. We will utilize a rigorous and relevant curriculum to meet the needs of all students.

DALE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM BELIEFS

1. Every person on each campus is a valued individual with unique physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs worthy of respect.
2. Every teacher and student has the right to a safe and enjoyable learning environment that promotes student learning, fosters self-worth, and enhances his or her potential.
3. All students have the ability to learn; therefore, they should be provided with a variety of instructional approaches to support different learning styles.
4. Students have a greater opportunity for success when they are actively engaged in the learning process in a well-disciplined environment.
5. Students develop to their full potential when there is a harmonious relationship among the school, the home, and the community.
6. Students need to demonstrate their understanding of essential knowledge and skills and need to be actively involved in higher order thinking, problem solving, and quality work production in order for them to become life-long learners.
7. Students are provided opportunities for students to practice principles and qualities of self-discipline needed for democratic citizenship and responsible participation in a multicultural, multi-ethnic society.
8. Schools need to function as a learning organization in which teachers, administrators, students, parents, and the communities share the responsibility for advancing the system's mission while demonstrating dedication, a positive attitude, and a willingness to change.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Students,

On behalf of the faculty and staff at Dale County High School, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Dale County High School. Dale County High School has established many incredible traditions and legacies throughout the years. I sincerely hope you will take the time to look through our DCHS Student Handbook. Parents, please encourage your child to participate in the opportunities available to them as a student at DCHS. We believe our students' years at Dale County will be their opportunity to be a 'Scholar and a Champion' in whatever endeavor they undertake – and we are very proud of everyone's accomplishments. Our goal as educators is to teach content, skills, and behaviors for the present and future benefit of all students and the entire community. We will make every effort so all students graduate ready for college and career – and be able to succeed in the increasingly complex world in which they will live and work. The incredible faculty and staff at Dale County High School continue to encourage all students to set high goals for themselves and to reach for their dreams. I am confident that you will see many parts of the proud Warrior tradition.

Go Warriors!!!

Sincerely,
Matt Humphrey, Principal

DALE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Dale County High School to provide a comprehensive education that challenges our students to reach their full potential in a safe, nurturing environment.

OBJECTIVES

1. Provide opportunities for students to practice principles and qualities of thought needed for democratic citizenship and responsible participation in a multi-cultural society.
2. Instill within each student the recognition of the essential dignity and worth of each individual.
3. Provide a harmonious and responsible relationship between the school, home, and community so that a unified effort is provided to help the student develop to his fullest potential.
4. Prepare the student to live in a democratic society with a desire to become a self-supporting citizen.
5. Provide a curriculum that will enable a student to have meaningful educational experiences in academic and vocational skills that will assist his becoming a vital, working, member of society.
6. Stimulate the student to seek an understanding and appreciation of classic art, music, and literature as leisure time activities.
7. Provide opportunities to practice democratic living and develop an appreciation for American culture and national heritage.
8. Prepare a student to become aware of the ethical principles with respect to authority, a desire for self-discipline and the ability to live in a peaceful atmosphere with others.
9. Prepare the student to realize consequences of moral choices.
10. Strive to instill within each student a professional work ethic, a sense of civic pride, responsibility, and a positive outlook.



DALE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

11740 County Road 59
Midland City, Alabama 36350

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

7:30 AM to 3:30 PM

DCHS Main Office: Phone: 334-983-3541 Fax: 334-983-1549
DCHS Guidance: Phone: 334-983-3541 ext. 20160 Fax: 334-983-1549
DCHS Website: dchs.dalecountyboe.org

ADMINISTRATION

Humphrey, Matt mhumphrey@dalecountyboe.org Principal
McNeal, Ben bmcneal@dalecountyboe.org Assistant Principal

FACULTY

Abercrombie, Susan sabercrombie@dalecountyboe.org Business Education
Bedesem, Rich rbedesem@dalecountyboe.org Special Education
Bedesem, Rosemarie robedesem@dalecountyboe.org Special Education
Black, Mason mblack@dalecountyboe.org Social Studies
Daughtry, Casey cdaughtry@dalecountyboe.org Science
Dutton, Nicole ndutton@dalecountyboe.org Physical Education/Athletic Director
Edmonds, James jedmonds@dalecountyboe.org Drivers Education/Health
Edmonds, Sydney sedmonds@dalecountyboe.org At-Risk Coach/Special Education
Garner, Will wgarner@dalecountyboe.org Physical Education
Horne, Cameron cahorne@dalecountyboe.org Social Studies
Jacobs, Lily ljacobs@dalecountyboe.org Agriculture
Jones, Josh jjones@dalecountyboe.org Agriculture
Lawson, Haley hmcneal@dalecountyboe.org Special Education
Lawson, Ivey ilawson@dalecountyboe.org Mathematics
Mitchell, Kristie kmitchell@dalecountyboe.org Science
Paramore, Traci tparamore@dalecountyboe.org Media Specialist
Park, Kelsey kpark@dalecountyboe.org Mathematics
Saunders, Abby asaunders@dalecountyboe.org Guidance Counselor
Stokes, Jocelyn jstokes@dalecountyboe.org Business Education
Street, Patrick pstreet@dalecountyboe.org Science
Taylor, Lee Ann ltaylor@dalecountyboe.org English
Teal, Julianne jteal@dalecountyboe.org Band Director
Thierfelder, Kelley kthierfelder@dalecountyboe.org Mathematics
Thompson, Andrea athompson@dalecountyboe.org English
Thompson, Krysta kthompson@dalecountyboe.org English
Watts, David dwatts@dalecountyboe.org Physical Education
Whigham, Hannah hwhigham@dalecountyboe.org Health Science
Whitt, Hanna hwhitt@dalecountyboe.org Social Studies
Windham, April awindham@dalecountyboe.org English

STAFF

Adams, Patty padams@dalecountyboe.org Intervention Specialist
Atkinson, Chris catkinson@dalecountyboe.org Custodian
Castle, Abby acastle@dalecountyboe.org Cafeteria
Cordes, Judy jcordes@dalecountyboe.org Cafeteria
Harper, Jazmin jharper@dalecountyboe.org Nurse
Hathaway, Denise dhathaway@dalecountyboe.org Custodian
Hitchcock, Lisa lhitchcock@dalecountyboe.org Cafeteria Manager
Miller, Jennifer jmiller@dalecountyboe.org Bookkeeper
Norris, Tonya tnorris@dalecountyboe.org Mathematics Coach
Patterson, Samantha spatterson@dalecountyboe.org Paraprofessional
Purvis, Mavis mpurvis@dalecountyboe.org Cafeteria
Skinner, Amanda askinner@dalecountyboe.org Cafeteria
Weed, Diane dweed@dalecountyboe.org Paraprofessional
Burgess, Tabitha tburgess@dalecountyboe.org Career Coach (District)
Williams, Wade wwilliams@dalecountyboe.org Paraprofessional
Wright, LeAnn swright@dalecountyboe.org Secretary

FOREWORD

The Dale County High School Student/Parent Guide should not be considered solely as a rulebook, but rather as an information booklet to help you in all aspects of student life at school. Anytime that a large group of people have come together to live and work, it has been necessary that some rules of conduct be formulated to protect the best interests of all concerned. It is in this spirit that this booklet has been formulated. No handbook can be all-inclusive. There may be situations that arise which are not covered in this handbook. These situations will be addressed on an individual basis.

JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Students enrolled in the Dale County School System are subject to the policies of the Dale County Board of Education and to the rules and regulations of the schools. This authority applies to all school sponsored activities including, but not necessarily limited to, the following:

- *Transportation on School Buses,
- *Field Trips,
- *Club and/or Organization Meetings,
- *Occupants in an automobile driven or parked on school property,
- *School groups, representing the school system in educational events,
- *Other school-sponsored events including, but not limited to, athletic events on or off campus, dances, plays, proms etc., and usual and customary parking area of facilities used for school sponsored activities.

The *Code of Conduct* is in effect during the time a student is transported under the sponsorship of the school system and during the time he/she is attending school. The pupil shall be under control and supervision of school administration, or school personnel, or the bus driver as assigned.

PARENT – STUDENT – TEACHER COMPACT

We at Dale County High School believe that children are our most valuable resource. It is our goal to provide the best education possible in a risk free environment promoting academic success through quality instruction. We know that learning can take place if there is a combination of effort, interest, and motivation on the part of the student, school, home, and community. This compact is an agreement and a commitment to help the student be successful in high school. We believe that this agreement can be fulfilled through our team effort.

School Responsibilities

Dale County High School will:

- 1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the State's student academic standards as follow:**
 - DCHS highly qualified teachers will use explicit teaching strategies aligned with the Alabama State Course of Study and College and Career Readiness Standards.
 - DCHS will provide Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III instruction to enable students to meet state academic standards.
 - DCHS students will receive whole and small group instruction.
 - DCHS will create an environment that promotes academic excellence and develop a sense of personal responsibility.
 - DCHS faculty and staff will work as a team to provide a supportive and effective learning environment.
 - DCHS will provide in school and after school tutoring.
- 2. Hold parent-teacher conferences during which this compact can be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement.**
 - Specifically, those conferences will be held annually for the purpose of informing parents of their school's participation in Title I, the requirements of the law and Tier I parents' right to be involved.
- 3. Provide parents with frequent reports on their children's progress.**
 - Progress reports are sent out at the middle of each 9 weeks.
 - Report cards are sent the end of each 9-week grading period.
 - Parents may access grades by going on the PowerSchool Parent Portal.
 - Parent conferences are scheduled as needed.
 - If parents can't come to school, a telephone conference is held.
- 4. Provide parents with reasonable access to staff.**
 - Parents have access to staff in person, by phone, or email before and after school, or during the teacher's planning time.
 - Open House will be provided in the evenings to provide access to teachers.
- 5. Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and to observe classroom activities, as follows:**
 - Parents will respond to the Volunteer form sent at the beginning of the school year.
 - Parents are encouraged to participate in field trips and classroom activities.
 - Academic Award Ceremony

6. Ensure regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in language that family members can understand.

- Parents and staff members utilize Remind and SchoolCast to communicate with each other.
- Title I information assemblies and Open House opportunities
- Teacher emails are posted publicly to the Dale County High School website allowing parents to freely communicate with parents.
- District and school websites can be converted to other languages to ensure effective communication.

Parent Responsibilities

We, as parents, will support our child's learning in the following ways:

- Expect my child to obey class/school rules
- Encourage good study habits and review daily work by providing a time and place for homework
- Have my child attend school on time
- Keep the lines of communication open with my child, teacher, and school to include parent-teacher conferences
- Help my child respect individual differences and resolve conflicts in a positive way
- Teach my child the harmful effects of bullying
- Limit and monitor my child's TV viewing, providing alternative experiences
- Send my child to school ready to learn

Student Responsibilities

As a student, I will share the responsibility to improve my academic achievement and achieve the State's high standards.

Specifically, I will:

- Obey class/school rules for good conduct
- Do my best in all that I do and ask for help when I need it
- Avoid behavior that would keep myself and others from learning and respect the privacy and property of others
- Complete all assignments on time: classwork, homework, etc.
- Listen in class
- Respect differences and avoid bullying of any kind including emotional, mental, physical, and verbal
- Go to bed early

FLAG DISPLAY AND PLEDGE

- I. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag shall be recited at the beginning of each school day in elementary, middle, & high schools.
- II. The United States flag and the Alabama state flag shall be displayed appropriately during the school year.

A PERIOD OF QUIET REFLECTION

At the opening of every school day, teachers shall provide students a moment of quiet reflection for one (1) minute.

PARENTS AND VISITORS

We want you to feel welcome on our campus; however, for the safety and security of our students and staff, all visitors must report to the office before visiting students, teachers, or other staff members. Approved visitors will be given a pass from the office. Students are not to bring relatives, friends, etc. to school.

PARENT/STUDENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parents are asked to review their child's progress on work they carry home, their progress reports, and their report cards. If you would like to schedule a conference with a teacher, please call the school office, send the teacher a note, or email the teacher. Please do not ask a teacher to schedule a conference during class time or during faculty meeting days. They have certain days and certain times they can schedule conferences. When you arrive for a conference, please go to the school office to check in and get a pass to go to the meeting area. Conferences may also be requested by teachers to discuss a student's progress. Parents are urged to attend all conferences when scheduled by a teacher.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Dale County Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person(s) has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: 504 Coordinator, 202 S. Hwy 123, Suite E, Ozark, AL 36360, 334-774-2355; Title IX Coordinator, 202 S. Hwy 123, Suite E, Ozark, AL 36360, 334-774-2355.

NON-DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF HANDICAP

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

No otherwise qualified person shall, solely by reason of handicap, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity. For purpose of this policy, a qualified handicapped person shall be one who satisfied the definition set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation act of 1973 and its implementation regulations. A student must be determined to: (1) have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; or (2) have a record of such impairment; or (3) be regarded as having such and impairment. The Dale County School Board of Education will identify, evaluate and provide a free and appropriate public education to qualified handicapped students within its district boundaries. A referral meeting will be scheduled to review your child's eligibility for 504 services. To determine eligibility, your child must be evaluated by a team of individuals who are familiar with your child. The results will then be shared at a team meeting, in which you are involved. Questions concerning 504 eligibility or services should be directed to the 504 Coordinator, Dale County School System, 202 S Hwy 123, Suite E, Ozark, Alabama 36360. The coordinator may be reached by telephone, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at (334)774-2355.

CAREER TECH DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Dale County School system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person(s) has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Career Technical Director, 202 S Hwy 123, Suite E, Ozark, AL 36360, telephone 334 – 774 – 2355.

CAREER TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

The Dale County School System offers career and technical education programs at the high schools. These programs are designed to prepare youth for a broad range of employment and further education and are offered under the guidance of certified teachers. The Dale County School System offers these career and technical education programs for all students regardless of race, color, national origin, including those with limited English proficiency, sex or disability in grades 9 – 12.

Persons seeking further information concerning the career and technical education offerings and specific pre-requisite criteria should contact: Career Technical Director, 202 S. Highway 123 Suite E., Ozark, AL 36360, telephone 334-774-2355.

IDEA CHILD FIND INFORMATION

The Special Education Coordinator of the Dale County Board of Education is in the process of identifying all children with disabilities from birth to 21 years of age, who are not presently receiving special education services.

If you know of any disabled child or youth that is not being served in a school program, please contact Special Education Coordinator at 202 S Hwy 123, Suite E, Ozark, AL 36360, 334-774-2355.

IDENTIFICATION OF ENGLISH LEARNERS (EL) IN DALE COUNTY

Dale County Schools are committed to the identification and proper servicing of all students with English language challenges. Upon determination of enrollment in the EL Program, an EL Committee will convene to facilitate placement, services and assessment of the English Learner student. Upon scoring 4.8 (composite score) on ACCESS, English Learners will be exited from EL services and placed on monitoring status for two (2) academic years. If you know of any disabled child or youth that is not being served in an EL school program, please contact the EL Coordinator at Dale County Board of Education, 202 S Hwy 123, Suite E, Ozark, AL 36360, 334-774-2355.

GIFTED EDUCATION

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

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

For each student referred, information is gathered in areas of Aptitude, Characteristics, and Performance. The information is entered on a matrix where points are assigned according to established criteria. The total number of points earned determines if the student qualifies for gifted services. To make a referral, contact Patrick Reed at 334-774-2355, Ext 23229.

HOMELESS, MIGRANT, AND ENGLISH LEARNERS (EL)

Any student deemed to be homeless will be afforded a free and appropriate public education. There are no policies, practices, or regulations that act as a barrier to the enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless children.

Pursuant to the requirement of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistant Act, all homeless, migrant and EL children must have equal access to the same free appropriate public education, including public preschool education, provided to other children and youth. Such children will be provided the opportunity to meet the same challenging state content and state student performance standards to which all students are held without being stigmatized or isolated.

The enrollment of homeless, migrant, and EL children and youth shall not be denied, prohibited, or delayed from school attendance due to any of the following barriers:

- Lack of birth certificate
- Lack of school records or transcripts
- Lack of immunization or health records
- Lack of proof of residency
- Lack of transportation
- Guardianship or custody verification

School administrator(s), with the assistance of local government agencies, shall take necessary steps to assist families obtain documentation necessary for school admission. No students will be excluded from any federal assisted education program on the basis of a surname or language-minority status [No Child Left Behind Act of 2011, Title III-Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students, Part C, Section 3302(f)]. Should you have any questions, contact the Homeless Student Liaison at Dale County Schools central office (334-774-2355).

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHT AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

All policies and practices governing the collection, maintenance, review and release of student education records are based on the principles of confidentiality and the student's right to privacy, consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974. FERPA is a federal law designed to protect the privacy of education records and to establish the right of students to inspect, review, amend and restrict access to their education records. Schools may disclose, without consent, directory information, such as students name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, parents and eligible students may request the school not disclose this information about them.

PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW

We are pleased to notify you that in accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, you have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's teacher. Specifically, you may request the following:

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

If you would like to receive this information, please complete the top portion of the "Right to Know" form, and return the form to your child's school. These forms can be provided by the front office of the school. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Associate Superintendent at (334-774-2355).

TITLE IX POLICY

It is the policy of the Dale County Board of Education not to discriminate on the basis of gender in its educational programs, activities or employment practices. Inquiries or complaints regarding compliances with applicable law or this policy may be directed to the Title IX Coordinator, Dale County Schools, 202 S Hwy 123, Suite E, Ozark, Alabama 36360. The coordinator may be reached by phone Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm at 334-774-2355.

EPA ASBESTOS NOTICE

All Dale County Board of Education buildings are in Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) compliance regarding asbestos codes. All Dale County Schools have been inspected by an EPA approved asbestos inspector and maintain a management file in the school office as required under the AHERA regulations. The file is available to any parent to view. The majority of our asbestos materials is non-friable and is in the form of floor tiles. Although we do have some friable (able to crumble with hand pressure) asbestos in our facilities, these materials are well maintained and are not accessible to the students. The law requires that we make this notice to all employees, students, and staff annually. We are glad to provide a healthy atmosphere for students and staff.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment in any form that is directed toward students is prohibited. Persons who violate the policy will be subject to the full range of disciplinary consequences up to and including termination (for employees) and expulsion (for students) as dictated by the nature and severity of the violation and other relevant considerations. If appropriate, the circumstances constituting the violation may be reported to law enforcement agencies or child welfare agencies for further investigation and action.

STUDENT HARASSMENT

- I. No student shall engage in or be subjected to harassment, violence, threats of violence, or intimidation by any other student that is based on any of the specific characteristics that have been identified by the Dale County Board of Education in this policy. Students who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary sanctions.
- II. Definitions

- A. The term “harassment” as used in this policy means a continuous pattern of intentional behavior that takes place on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function including, but not limited to, written, electronic, verbal, or physical acts that are reasonably perceived as being motivated by any characteristic of a student, or by the association of a student with an individual who has a particular characteristic, if the characteristic falls into one of the characteristics set forth in Section III B below. To constitute harassment, a pattern of behavior may do any of the following:
 - Place a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property.
 - Have the effect of substantially interfering with the educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of a student.
 - Have the effect of substantially disrupting or interfering with the orderly operation of the school.
 - Have the effect of creating a hostile environment in the school, on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function.
 - Have the effect of being sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.
 - B. The term “violence” as used in this policy means the infliction of physical force by a student with the intent to cause injury to another student or damage to the property of another student.
 - C. The term “threat of violence” as used in this policy means an expression of intention to inflict injury or damage that is made by a student and directed to another student.
 - D. The term “intimidation” as used in this policy means a threat or other action that is intended to cause fear or apprehension in a student, especially for the purpose of coercing or deterring the student from participating in or taking advantage of any school program, benefit, activity or opportunity for which the student is or would be eligible.
 - E. The term “student” as used in this policy means a student who is enrolled in the Dale County School System.
- III. Description of Behavior Expected of Students
- A. Students are expected to treat other students with courtesy, respect, and dignity and comply with the Code of Student Conduct. Students are expected and required (1) to comply with the requirements of law, policy, regulation, and rules prohibiting harassment, violence, or intimidation; (2) to refrain from inflicting or threatening to inflict violence, injury, or damage to the person or property of another student; and (3) to refrain from placing another student in fear of being subjected to violence, injury, or damage when such actions or threats are reasonably perceived as being motivated by any personal characteristic of the student that is identified in this policy.
 - B. Violence, threats of violence, harassment, and intimidation are prohibited and will be subject to disciplinary consequences and sanctions if the perpetrator of such action is found to have based the prohibited action on one or more of the following personal characteristics of the victim of such conduct:
 - *The student’s race;
 - *The student’s sex;
 - *The student’s religion;
 - *The student’s national origin; or
 - *The student’s disability.
- IV. A series of graduated consequences for any violation of this policy will be those outlined in the Code of Student Conduct or any rule or standard adopted under authority of this policy.
- V. Reporting, Investigation, and Complaint Resolution Procedures
- A. Complaints alleging violations of this policy must be made on Board-approved complaint forms available at the principal’s and or counselor’s office and school website. The complaint must be signed by the student alleging the violation or by the student’s parent or legal guardian and delivered to the principal or the principal’s designee either by mail or personal delivery. At the request of the complaining student or the student’s parent or legal guardian, incidental or minor violations of the policy may be presented and resolved informally.
 - B. Upon receipt of the complaint, the principal or the principal’s designee will, in his/her sole discretion, determine if the complaint alleges a serious violation of this policy. If the principal or the principal’s designee determines that the complaint alleges a serious violation, the principal or the designee will undertake an investigation of the complaint. The reasonably prompt time period taking into account the circumstances of the complaint. If the investigation establishes a violation, appropriate disciplinary sanctions will be imposed on the offending student(s). Other measures that are reasonably calculated to prevent a recurrence of the violation(s) may also be imposed by the principal or the school system.
 - C. Acts of reprisal or retaliation against any student who has reported a violation of this policy or sought relief provided by this policy are prohibited, and are themselves a violation of this policy. Any confirmed acts of reprisal or retaliation will be subject to disciplinary sanctions that may include any sanction, penalty, or consequence that is available to school officials under the Code of Student Conduct. A student who deliberately, recklessly, and falsely accuses another student of a violation of this policy is subject to disciplinary sanctions as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct.
 - D. The complaint form developed to report violations of this policy will include a provision for reporting a threat of suicide by a student. If a threat of suicide is reported, the principal or the principal’s designee will inform the student’s parent or guardian of the report.
- VI. This policy and any procedures, rules, and forms developed and approved to implement the policy will be published, disseminated, and made available to students, parents and legal guardians, and employees by such means and methods as are customarily used for such purposes, including publication on the Dale County School System web site.
- VII. The Student Harassment Complaint Form can be obtained from the school office and/or school website.

GRIEVANCE POLICY

Whenever a Dale County School System student believe that he/she has a complaint, every effort will be made to arrive at a satisfactory resolution of the problem on an informal basis. When this cannot be done, students can resort to the more formal procedures as provided as per Dale County Board of Education Policy 4.07. A copy of the Board Policy Manual and complaint form can be obtained through the school library, website or the Dale County Board of Education.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION

All students attending Dale County Schools must have the inoculations required by the State Health Officer or be exempt in accordance with the law. A blue immunization slip must be on file in the counseling office.

MEDICATION POLICY

Many children with chronic disabilities or illnesses are able to attend school because of the effectiveness of their prescribed medication. Any student who is required to take prescribed or over the counter medication should do so in compliance with school regulations. These regulations include the following:

- Pick up a *Medication Authorization Form* at the school office to be completed by BOTH the child's physician and parent,
- Prescribed medicines must be in a pharmacy labeled prescription container,
- Parents must transport all medication to the school office. Do not send medication with your child,
- Medicine prescribed two (2) or three (3) times during the day should be given at home and not during school hours,
- Pick up all medication at the end of the school year. Any medication left at the school will be disposed of by school authorities.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Any child with a communicable disease or contagious disease or infestations may be suspended from school for as long as the disease/infestation exists. The principal will not allow any student diagnosed as having or suspected of having a communicable disease (other than a mild respiratory disease) to attend school except as provided herein. The principal will report all cases of confirmed or suspected communicable diseases to the school nurse. A student diagnosed with a communicable disease must be cleared by a physician or the school nurse with a written statement of clearance presented to the school.

HEAD LICE POLICY

Children found to have head lice will be sent home with instructions for treatment. Once the child is treated, he/she may return to school. It is not necessary to remove all nits. If a few live lice are still found after investigation of the hair, the following process will occur:

- The child will be asked if he/she has been treated.
- If treated, they will be asked to comb dead and remaining sluggish lice from the hair.
- If treated and no dead lice are found and lice seem as active as before, the child will be sent home and the parent will be asked to see their health care provider for a different medication. The parent will be encouraged to follow the treatment directions.

After the child is treated and has returned to school, he/she will be re-checked in 7-10 days for live lice and nits ¼" away from the scalp. Classroom students and any siblings in school will be checked for evidence of head lice. Excessive absences due to head lice will be unexcused.

OTHER MEDICAL ISSUES

FEVER: Children should remain at home until he/she has been **fever free for twenty-four (24) hours**.

VOMITING/DIARRHEA: A child should not attend school if he/she has had excessive vomiting/diarrhea in the last twelve (24) hours.

PINK EYE: A child should not return to school until he/she has have treated for this inflammation

STREP THROAT: A child should not return to school until he/she is fever free and on antibiotics for twenty-four (24) hours.

UNDIAGNOSED RASH: Children should not return to school until the rash has been diagnosed and treated. It could be measles, chicken pox, scabies, or some other contagious disease.

CHICKEN POX: A child should be fever free for twenty-four (24) hours and the pox must be dried up. Children who have chicken pox should stay home for sever (7) days after the first lesion has appeared.

PREGNANCY: In order to protect pregnant students from injury, pregnant students should notify school officials of their pregnancy. A written statement from a physician denoting the physical activities in which the student may or may not engage in is required. In addition, a similar statement giving the permission of the physician for the student to return to school is required after the birth of the child.

SUN SAFE POLICY

All students are encouraged and allowed to wear sunscreen. All students are encouraged to wear sun safe clothing and sun protection accessories when outdoors during the school day. Outdoor Physical Education classes and outdoor recess may be relocated if the temperature is above 95 degrees Fahrenheit and/or the heat index is above 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Sun safety lessons will be included in physical education classes as appropriate during the school year.

MEDICAL SCREENINGS

The Dale County Board of Education may periodically and sometimes randomly administer vision and hearing screenings for students attending Dale County Schools. If you are opposed to these screenings and would like to exercise your option to deny this service, please do so in writing addressed to the Principal. The Dale County Board of Education school nurse may perform scoliosis screenings for students in grades 5-9 that attend Dale County Schools. This procedure is a State Department of Education requirement.

STUDENT INSURANCE

An accident insurance policy may be purchased during a specified period of time through the school.

SCHOOL PROVIDED OR SPONSORED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The school system may provide or sponsor the following mental health services:

1. **Large group guidance** - includes school counselor or professional visiting the classroom to discuss topics such as bullying, class scheduling, stress management, test anxiety or guest speakers to discuss good choices, substance abuse prevention, etc.
2. **Small group guidance** - includes small group of students with school counselor or professional to discuss topics such as test anxiety, grief, healthy coping skills, etc.
3. **Mentoring** - Peer Helpers, Community Helpers, and/or Professional Interns work with students in school on topics such as friendships, healthy relationships, anger management, anxiety, etc.
4. **Assessments or Surveys** - includes questionnaires provided to students related to social behaviors, feelings, etc.
5. **Crisis intervention** - short-term, immediate assistance by school counselor or professional for a specific situation.
6. **School-Based Mental Health** - On-going counseling services by school professionals or private practitioners in the school setting. Parent or legal guardian's permission may be obtained during an intake meeting before services are provided.

Review of Materials - You may request to review any materials used in the guidance and counseling programs available to students by contacting the student's local school guidance counselor or the district Mental Health Coordinator

Information Regarding How to Allow, Limit, or Prevent Your Child's Participation in Mental Health Services - Under Alabama law, no student under the age of sixteen may participate in ongoing school counseling services including, but not limited to, mental health services, unless (1) the student's parent or legal guardian has submitted a written opt-in granting permission for the student to participate or (2) there is an imminent threat to the health of the student or others.

Therefore, if your child is under sixteen, they will only be allowed to participate in mental health services if you opt-in. **If you would like the school system to be able to offer and/or provide mental health services to your child, you must opt-in for services listed for them to participate in that service.**

Even if you do not opt-in to mental health services, your child may be provided mental health services if there is an imminent threat to their health or others. School employees may determine in their discretion whether such an imminent threat exists and provide any mental health services they deem necessary under the circumstances.

Parent of students with disabilities: Please note that the opt-in process is not applicable to any school counseling services or "mental health services" contained in a student's IEP or 504 plan. Consent for those services will be obtained and information regarding your child's mental health services will be provided through the usual special education process.

Written record maintenance: Written records maintained by the school system and directly related to a student's mental health services will be treated in the same manner as health care records and are subject to the confidentiality protections applicable to education record generally. Such records will be available for examination and review by authorized persons in the manner prescribed and to the extent required by federal and/or state law. Records pertaining to a student's mental health services will be kept separately from academic records unless including such record(s) in the student's academic record is necessary to implement a state and/or federal law (e.g., special education referral process).

NUTRITION AND WELLNESS PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS

A Nutrition and Wellness program for the students in the Dale County School System has been developed under the regulations set forth by the passing of Public Law 108-265 on June 30, 2004. It is the ultimate goal of Dale County Schools to help educate our students on the importance of their nutrition choices and physical activity. There are six areas that will be addressed according to Public Law 108-265:

- | | |
|--|--|
| * Setting Nutrition Education Goals | * Ensuring Healthy School Stores/Vending Machines |
| * Ensuring Healthy School Parties | * Ensuring Quality and Quantity of Physical Activities |
| * Ensuring Healthy Food Choices & Environment in the cafeteria | * Ensuring Healthy School Fundraising. |

SCHOOL CAFETERIA

We have Self-Service Offer vs. Serve Lunch Program. Students serve themselves. Students are offered a selection from the following five categories: milk, bread, meats, vegetables, and fruits. Every child participating in the program must select from at least three categories. A variety of selections are available each day.

Students will receive FREE breakfast and lunch meals for the **current** school year. Students are issued a 4-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN) that will go with them through all school years at Dale County Schools. *Ala carte* items may be purchased separately, however items cannot be charged. Account information is available to parents at any time. Contact the lunchroom manager for balance information. Any balance remaining at the end of the year will transfer with the students to the next grade level or school within Dale County School System.

It is the intent of Dale County Schools to provide an opportunity for each student to eat a nutritious breakfast and lunch during the school day. It is necessary for all meals to be paid for before or at the time of service.

Online Payment System: An option of online lunchroom payment through LINQ Connect is available. Parents can set up an account at www.LINQConnect.com, or download the app LINQ Connect, or access this website through a link on our district website, www.dalecountyboe.org.

MEAL PRICES

	Daily		Weekly	
Breakfast	Full Price	FREE	Full Price	FREE
	Reduced	FREE	Reduced	FREE
	Staff	\$3.50	Staff	\$17.50
	Visitor	\$3.50		
Lunch	Full Price	FREE	Full Price	FREE
	Reduced	FREE	Reduced	FREE
	Staff	\$5.50	Staff	\$27.50
	Visitor	\$5.50		
Breakfast & Lunch	Full Price	FREE	Full Price	FREE
	Reduced	FREE	Reduced	FREE

The price of *ala carte* is determined by the amount and type of food selected.

Cafeteria Rules:

1. Sit at your assigned table/seat.
2. Place all trash in the proper containers.
3. Leave your table/seat area clean.
4. Line breaking or saving of places in line or at the table is not permitted.
5. Students are not to leave the cafeteria for any reason without permission from your teacher.
6. Keep noise at an appropriate level.
7. Absolutely no charging of items from the lunchroom will be allowed.

SCHOOL FOOD AND BEVERAGE POLICY

To maintain a clean, safe, and distraction-free learning environment, the following rules apply:

- Only clear plastic bottles containing water are permitted in classrooms.
- All other containers—such as cups, mugs, thermoses, and non-clear bottles—are not allowed for any reason.
- Food, snacks, candy, and gum are not permitted in classrooms at any time.

Students are expected to follow this policy at all times.

STUDENT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Students should not be on campus before 7:25 A.M. Due to the lack of supervision, the doors will not be unlocked until this time. Students arriving before 7:25 A.M. could face disciplinary actions. Arrival to school after 7:50 A.M. is considered tardy.

Students should not remain on campus after 3:30 P.M. unless participating in a school-sponsored event/activity. Due to the lack of supervision, students remaining on campus after 3:30 P.M. could face disciplinary actions if not involved in a school-sponsored event/activity.

ALABAMA COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAWS

The Alabama Compulsory Attendance Laws require children between the ages of 6 - 17 to attend school. The law also states that parents/guardians having control over school-age children are responsible for the children's regular attendance and proper conduct (Alabama Act 93-972).

All students enrolled in the Dale County School System are required to be in continuous attendance. Each student must attend school in the zone where the student maintains a bon-a-fide residence with the custodial parent/guardian. Be advised that the Early Warning Truancy Prevention Program is in place in the Dale County School System for this school year. The program was requested by the State Department of Education and the Administrative Office of Courts and has been approved by the Dale County Board of Education.

ATTENDANCE CODES

The following list explains the attendance codes documented in PowerSchool home portal:

- UA is an unexcused absence.
- PE is a parent excuse to justify absence (limit 5 per semester).
- LG is an absence from school due to death/legal authority.
- AA is an absence from school with prior permission from principal.
- DE is a documented health care provider's excuse.

ABSENCES (GRADES 7-12)

Students are not permitted to be absent from school without a valid excuse. A student's absence from school may be excused only for the following reasons: (1) personal illness, (2) hospitalization, (3) court subpoena, (4) a death in the immediate family, (5) an emergency condition as determined by the superintendent or principal, (6) absence with prior permission of the principal and with the consent of the parent or guardian, and (7) religious holidays.

After five (5) days or five (5) class periods of absences (not including health care provider excuses), school administrative officials shall require that all further excused absences be verified by a health care provider (physician, dentist, counselor, etc.) or legal authority (court, law enforcement etc.). The principal and/or his/her designee reserve the right to determine the validity of the excuse.

Therefore, high school students who accumulate more than five absences (except a AA or DE) per semester from school or from any given class will NOT receive credit for the course or courses in which they are enrolled.

Students are given 3 days after returning to school to submit excuses to the proper school authority. After three days have exhausted the school may code the absence as unexcused.

****Checking in or out during any point in time of a class may count as an absence for that class. Checking in or out during lunch may count as an absence for 3rd block class.**

****A student (7-12) who is absent from any class more than five times per semester, except for absences documented by a healthcare provider or PRIOR permission of the principal, may NOT receive credit for that class.**

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic Absenteeism is defined by a student missing 18 or more days of school during the school year. This includes all types of absences. Dale County Schools are graded on student attendance on the State and Federal Report Cards. We strongly encourage families to make all appointments (doctor, dentist, etc.) during times that do not conflict with the school day. Student achievement is directly related to attendance.

Dale County Schools Attendance Policy by School Year (Truancy)

- After 5 unexcused absences students will be assigned to Dale County Early Warning Court
- After 7 unexcused absences truancy charges will be filed with the Dale County Juvenile Court; if the student is in Elementary School a petition will be filed against the parents with the Dale County District Attorney's Office

Dale County Schools Attendance Policy by Semester (Class Credit)

- 3 unexcused absences and/or parent notes – warning notification
- 5 unexcused absences and/or parent notes – final warning notification
- 6 unexcused absences and/or parent notes – loss of credit and/or retention

****Students are allowed 5 parent notes per semester; after the 5 parent notes have been exhausted all further absences will be coded unexcused, unless the absence is a documented healthcare provider visit, court/legal related absence, or preapproved by the principal.**

ATTENDANCE EVENT NOTIFICATION

In the event the student is absent from school, the parent/guardian is notified through PowerSchool home portal from the Dale County Board of Education.

EARLY CHECK-OUTS

If a student needs to be checked-out for any amount of time, he/she must follow the procedures listed below: Present a note from the parent/guardian to the school office personnel or admittance teacher **prior to the first bell**. The note must state the time, the reason for the checkout, and a telephone number at which the parent/guardian can be reached.

- (1) In the absence of a note, the parent must send an email, fax, or visit the school in order for the student to checkout.
- (2) The student must sign out in the front office. Written documentation from a parent/physician is still required after student is signed out.

Before a student can leave campus, the above procedures must be satisfied. Failure to comply with checkout procedures will be considered leaving school without permission and disciplinary action will be taken.

LATE CHECK-INS

Students who check-in to school must adhere to the following procedures:

- (1) Report to the front office immediately upon arrival to school.
- (2) Submit the REQUIRED parent/doctor documentation to secretary.
- (3) Obtain class "Pass to Class" from the front office.
- (4) Report to regular scheduled class.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Absence from school may be excused **only** for the following reasons:

- (1) Parental note - **after five (5) parental notes per semester to justify an absence, a student must bring written verification from a health care provider in order to have the absence excused.** (PE)
- (2) Doctor's visit, accompanied by a note. (DE)
- (3) Legal authority. (LG)
- (4) Death in the immediate family. (LG)
- (5) Absence with **prior** permission of the principal or designee and with the consent of the parent/guardian. (AA)
- (6) Emergency condition as determined by the principal, superintendent or designee.
- (7) Inclement weather - which would be dangerous to life or health of the child if he/she attended school.

If a student has a chronic medical problem necessitating frequent school absences, **annual** medical updates must be written by a health care provider and placed in the principal's keeping.

TARDY TO SCHOOL

Students are to be in their class and seated in their desks or assigned seats before the tardy bell rings. Failure to meet these requirements will result in the student being marked tardy to school. Students who arrive on campus after the tardy bell are required to report to the office. Consequences for accumulated tardies to school will be as follows:

1. **First Tardy:** Teacher warning. Document tardy on Tardy Referral Form.
2. **Second Tardy:** Teacher warning. Document tardy on Tardy Referral Form.
3. **Third Tardy:** Student signs acknowledgment form.
4. **Fourth Tardy:** Teacher assigns student to afterschool detention.
5. **Fifth Tardy and Subsequent Tardies:** Office referral

Students are subject to loss of driving privileges as a result of excessive unexcused tardies to school. Tardies to school start over at the beginning of each Semester.

TARDY TO CLASS

Students are to be in their classrooms and seated in their desks or assigned seats before the tardy bell rings. Failure to meet these requirements will result in the student being marked tardy to class. Consequences for accumulated tardies to class will be as follows:

1. **First Tardy:** Teacher warning. Document tardy on Tardy Referral Form.
2. **Second Tardy:** Teacher warning. Document tardy on Tardy Referral Form.
3. **Third Tardy:** Student signs tardy acknowledgment line on Tardy Referral Form.
4. **Fourth Tardy:** Teacher assigns student to afterschool detention.
5. **Fifth Tardy and Subsequent Tardies:** Office referral

Tardies to class start over at the beginning of each Semester.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

Students who are absent from school due to an unexcused absence or out-of-school suspension (OSS) will not be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities (athletics, cheerleading, school trips, banquets, dances, etc.) on the day of the absence. If a student has an excused absence he/she must have prior approval of the administration to be absent and participate.

MAKE-UP WORK

Students may make up work missed due to excused absences. Arrangement for make-up work should be initiated by the student with the approval of the teacher. Work should be completed within a definite time limit set by the teacher. Students who miss class due to school-related activities must make arrangements with their teacher. Saturday school will be assigned to students who receive out of school suspension to make-up any missed assignments.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Students achieve perfect attendance if their records indicate NO attendance events in any and all of their classes except for those absences designated as school events. Attendance events include any absences, tardiness, check-ins, and/or check-outs.

WITHDRAWALS AND TRANSFERS

In order for records to be forwarded, a student must withdraw in good standing. Good standing requires that all fees are paid, all textbooks returned, library books returned, technology returned, cafeteria debt paid, all assignments the student wants graded complete, and any other requirements of the school administration. The following procedure applies to students who withdraw from school:

1. Prior to the date of withdrawal notify teachers, the school counselor, administrator (or designee), and the attendance office (school secretary) of the intent to withdraw.
2. Complete proper withdrawal forms with the school counselor (or designee). They will ensure that the student is in good standing to withdraw. Make sure the forms are accurate for proper withdrawal and transfer.
3. Make sure the completed forms are turned in to the proper school official before leaving campus.
4. When a student has withdrawn, they must leave campus; withdrawn students are not allowed to be on campus during the school day.

Students who withdraw must have their grades averaged through the last day of attendance. This must be the policy no matter how many days remain in the term. Early tests cannot be given unless very unusual circumstances exist.

****Students enrolled by a Non-Residency Enrollment Application Form (Waiver) can be withdrawn at any time by the Superintendent or his/her designee.**

HALL PASSES

Hall passes are to be given only in cases of emergencies within the required student planner. Students who have a medical condition that requires time away from the classroom must have verification of the condition from a health care provider on file in the front office. This verification must be updated at the beginning of each school year.

BOOK BAGS / BACKPACKS

Students will **NOT** be allowed to carry book bags/backpacks/bogg bags throughout the school day. Purses are permitted in classrooms.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Students are not to bring valuables to school. To avoid theft, it is the responsibility of each student not to leave money or valuables unattended. DO NOT leave money or valuables in locker rooms or school lockers.

POWERSCHOOL HOME PORTAL

Dale County School System has implemented the PowerSchool Home Portal. Each student has a user name and password that allows them to log into the portal and retrieve attendance, grades, unofficial transcripts, and other information. This allows the student, as well as, the parents/guardians to have daily/weekly monitoring. Should you have questions regarding this program, please contact the guidance department at the school.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The principal shall assign faculty advisors for student organizations. No club or organization function may be conducted without the presence of a faculty member. No new club or organization may be formed without the knowledge and permission of the principal. All revenues and expenditures associated the club activities will be administered through the principal's office. No separate accounts or holding of funds is permitted. Any activity or social event in which the name of the school is used must have the approval of the principal and be properly chaperoned by school personnel. The school name, school time, on duty personnel, or school material may not be used for non-school functions.

FUNDRAISING

Fund raising activities are confined to organizations at the school. Fund raising activities must have approval of the principal in advance. Activities must not interfere with instructional time.

SCHOOL TELEPHONE

The school telephone is for school business and emergency calls. The secretary in the school office will make the call for the student.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips must be for educational purposes only and have the advanced approval of the principal and superintendent. Field trip forms must be fully completed and turned in to the teacher by the specified deadline. (All spaces on the field trip form must include required information or be labeled N/A). No spaces are to be left blank. All students must ride the bus to and from each field trip. All school policies and rules apply while attending a school related or school sponsored activity on or off campus. Students may become ineligible due to disciplinary infractions. Parents are not allowed to ride school buses to or from field trips. Students must be in "Good Standing" in all academic areas and no excessive absences.

FIRE/SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURES

The fire alarm system is the signal for a fire drill or actual fire. An intercom warning is the signal for a severe weather drill or severe weather. Upon hearing such a signal, the following directions apply:

1. Stop all work immediately.
2. Remain quiet for instructions from the classroom teacher.
3. Follow the directions given by the teacher.
4. Move quietly and promptly to the designated area.

LOCK DOWN PROCEDURES

An intercom announcement will be the signal for lock down procedures. Upon hearing the announcement, the following directions apply:

1. Stop all work immediately.
2. Remain quiet for instructions from administration or his/her designee.
3. Follow directions given by administration or his/her designee.

USE OF VIDEO SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT

To provide and maintain a safe and secure environment for students, staff, and authorized visitors, the Dale County Board of Education may use surveillance equipment on properties owned and/or maintained by the school system. Properties include building and grounds, as well as, vehicles owned and/or operated by the Dale County School System.

Any information obtained through the use of surveillance equipment shall be used only for school safety, disciplinary matter, law enforcement, or other lawful purposes.

STUDENT POSSESSION AND USE OF CELLULAR PHONES, PERSONAL LAP TOPS, AND OTHER ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

In compliance with Alabama Law (FOCUS ACT), Dale County Schools is committed to creating a focused learning environment that minimizes distractions caused by personal electronic devices during the school day. This policy outlines the guidelines regarding students' use of cell phones and wireless communication devices. Wireless communication devices include, but are not limited to, a cellular telephone, tablet computer, laptop computer, pager, gaming device, smart watches, AirPods, or any other portable electronic device that has the capability of exchanging voice, messaging, or other data communication with another electronic device.

Purpose: This policy intends to foster an educational atmosphere free from distractions and promote the responsible use of technology within the school environment.

Alabama Law (FOCUS ACT) bans cell phones, personal lap tops, smart watches, and other electronic communication devices in public schools. It is the intent of the Dale County Board of Education (DCBOE) to be in compliance with Alabama Law. Students that bring personal mobile electronic devices to school do so at their own risk. The DCBOE accepts no responsibility if a device is lost, stolen, misplaced, damaged or confiscated. The DCBOE accepts no responsibility for viruses, malware or other computer related issues associated with connecting to the DCBOE network. The DCBOE accepts no responsibility for the costs associated with or that may result from the use of data or texting services by a student when using a personal mobile electronic device. Dale County Schools has a 1 to 1 Chromebook Laptop ratio; therefore, phones and personal devices will not be allowed for instruction.

- **Grades K-4:** Students in grades K-4 are not allowed to bring cell phones/wireless communication devices as defined in this policy.
- **Grades 5-12:** Bell-to-bell ban; students will not be allowed to use personal cell phones/wireless communication devices during the instructional day (from the first bell of the day to the last bell of the day). Cell phones are to be unheard and unseen during the school day.
- **Storage:** Grade 5-12 students are encouraged to leave cell phones/wireless communication devices at home. Cell Phones/wireless communication devices brought to school must remain concealed. The cell phone/wireless communication device must be turned off and unseen/unheard. Devices must be stored off their person, such as in a locker, car, or similar storage location (e.g., backpack, purse, gym bag, pouch, or other designated area). Again, the DCBOE accepts no responsibility if a device is lost, stolen, misplaced, damaged or confiscated.
- **Searches:** School officials may read, examine, or inspect the contents of any wireless communication device upon reasonable suspicion that the device contains evidence of a violation of Board policy, the Code of Conduct, or other school rules, provided that the nature and extent of such examination shall be reasonably related and limited to the suspected violation.

- **Exceptions to the ban:**

- Students with individualized education plans (IEPs) that require cell phones for educational purposes.
- Students with medical needs, such as managing chronic conditions like diabetes through mobile apps.
- Students who need to use cell phones during an emergency threatening the life or safety of another person.
- Students who are prompted to use a device to authenticate login credentials for school-related courses/assignments. This will be done under the supervision of a board-approved employee.
- Students who are prompted by a school employee to use a mobile electronic device for activities off campus or field trips. Examples - college tours, workforce development trips, or other school related field trips.

ELECTRONIC DEVICE USAGE POLICY AND PENALTIES

The Dale County Board of Education has adopted a policy that aligns with Alabama Law (FOCUS ACT). Violations of the established law and policy are as follows with additional penalties to be imposed based on the severity of the violations.

1st offense - Device confiscated with office referral; Conference with student; Parental contact;
Phone returned to student at end of school day. (1 demerit)

2nd offense - Device confiscated with office referral; Conference with student and parent;
Phone returned only to the parent. (2 demerits)

3rd offense - Device confiscated with office referral; Student placed in ISS (2 days);
Phone returned only to the parent (3 demerits)

4th offense - Device confiscated with office referral; 2 days of OSS; Phone returned at Parent Conference (4 demerits)

5th offense/subsequent offenses - Device confiscated with office referral and turned over to Superintendent;
10-day placement in Alternative School (5 demerits)

*** Refusal to turn over a device to school personnel may result in automatic OSS and the number of days will be at administrator's discretion. Severity of refusal to cooperate with the established policy will be at the sole discretion of the school principal or his/her designee.**

CELL PHONE/DIGITAL DEVICE IN A SECURE TESTING SETTING BY STUDENTS 6.20.1

The possession of digital devices (including but not limited to cell phones, MP3 players, cameras, mobile entertainment, smart watches, social connections, navigation devices, or other telecommunication devices) is strictly prohibited in the testing setting. If a device is in the possession of a student in the testing setting, testing for the student will cease, the device will be confiscated, the student will be dismissed from testing, and the student's test will be invalidated. In addition to the cell phone/electronic device policy, the student in violation of having an electronic device in a secure testing area will receive, at a minimum, 2-days OSS.

DISTRIBUTION OF EXPLICIT IMAGES

No student shall distribute, display, solicit, possess, or produce a sexually or pornographic explicit image of any individual, including sexually explicit images of a child. This prohibition applies whether or not the image is of an identifiable person nor whether the age of the individual can be determined. This prohibition includes images of known and unknown individuals and those generated by artificial intelligence.

PHOTO CONSENT

Pictures of students will be used by student organizations, the school, and the school system on paper and electronic publications. The name, address, transcript, and phone number of students can/will be released to colleges, technical schools, and the armed services when requested. If you do not want your child's picture, likeness, or information published, please contact the school principal in writing.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF INTERNET POLICY

Dale County School system recognizes the need to protect its student's privacy and internet safety. The federal government also has acts in place for this purpose. As such, the District forces all internet traffic to pass through filters. Dale County Schools meet the requirement of the Children's Internet Protection Act by filtering all internet access the Alabama Super Computer Authority. Content filter is designed to restrict minors' access to materials "harmful to minors," as that term is defined in Section 1, 721(c), of the Children's Protections Act of 2000.

Dale County School's technology is intended for use by staff and students. Dale County Schools encourage and promote the education use of technology in our schools. To ensure students and staff take full advantage of the technologies available; all uses of technology in the school district must have proper authorization and adhere to district policies. All use of technology is a privilege, not a right, and must be in support of and consistent with the purposes and state goals of the school district. There are no inherent warranties for technological resources that Dale County Schools are providing. Dale County Schools reserve the right to monitor network activity.

Guidelines:

- Students will use technology as authorized by appropriate school personnel.
- Only software legally owned and/or authorized by the district may be put on district computers.
- All network activities will be legal and appropriate use will be enforced.

Technology users will:

- Comply with district policies, rules and regulations.
- Use networks and technology in support of Dale County Schools' educational goals.
- Obey all district, state and national copyright laws.
- Use district equipment responsibly; respect individual work, files, programs and security.
- Sign the handbook acknowledgement form that confirms the parent and student understand the "Acceptable Use of Internet Policy."

Technology users will not:

- Access inappropriate matter on the internet or communicate with individuals for non-instructional purposes. This includes e-mail, chat, messenger services, or similar resources.
- Access, vandalize, or modify data or computer set-up.
- Use the network or internet for personal or commercial purposes.
- Disclose or post personal or confidential information of self or others over the internet.

VIOLATION OF ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Failure to abide by Board policy and administrative regulation governing use of the district's resources may result in the suspension and/or revocation of system access. Additionally, student violations may result in discipline or legal actions as stated in the Dale County Schools Code of Conduct. Fees or other charges may be imposed. Parents that choose for their student to abstain from computers, internet use, and other technology must notify the school in writing.

SCHOOL BUS POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Objective: To maintain a uniform set of rules to insure a safe environment for the daily transportation of all Dale County Schools bus passengers.

Students will be permitted to load or unload from the bus at only two locations:

1. Their assigned neighborhood bus stop.
2. Their assigned school.

Bus drivers will not stop for students to load/unload at any other locations. Any changes to this procedure will require a written parental request, approved by school administration, before the student will be allowed to ride an unassigned bus.

The bus schedule will be as consistent as possible. There should be very few times when the bus is not on time to pick up or drop off students. All students should be waiting at the assigned stop prior to the buses arrival. The bus cannot and will not wait for students that are not at the assigned stop due to the time and safety factors involved. Students should stand a minimum of 10 feet away from the road in an orderly fashion. During rainy days the students should be watching for the arrival of the bus and move as quickly as is safely possible to the assigned stop as the bus arrives.

"It is unlawful to enter a public school bus while the door is open to load or unload students without a lawful purpose, while at a railroad grade crossing, or after being forbidden from doing so by the authorized school bus driver in charge of the bus, or upon the demand of a principal of a school to which the bus is assigned or other duly authorized system official." Alabama House Bill 105

SCHOOL BUS RULES

Your child's driver is charged with the responsibility of maintaining bus discipline in order to provide the safest possible means of transportation.

- Always follow bus driver instructions.
- Remain seated in assigned seat, face the front of the bus, and keep the aisle clear.
- No objects thrown out of the windows and no objects thrown inside of the bus.
- Vandalism of the bus is prohibited.
- Maintain a low noise level, so as not to distract driver; absolute silence at all railroad crossings.
- No food, drink, gum, profanity, or tobacco use.
- Students will maintain the school dress code.
- All school rules apply while on school bus.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION DISCIPLINARY PLAN

Students who fail to abide by the rules and safety guidelines on the bus will be subject to the following preliminary actions to be taken by the bus driver:

- Driver will warn the student
- Driver will reseat the student
- Driver will contact parent

If the above preliminary actions by the driver does not resolve the student behavior or issue then the driver will refer the student to the building level principal or his/her designee.

The principal or his/her designee has the authority to deny a student the privilege of riding a school bus. This denial, based on the misconduct of the student for an offense committed on the school bus will be for a reasonable and specified period of time. The parent/guardian will be notified prior to the suspension.

All discipline referrals that result from incidents occurring on a school bus are submitted to the building level principal or his/her designee. The disciplinary actions taken by the school administration is as follows:

- **First Offense-** warning/administrative conference with the parent/guardian via phone or in person.
- **Second Offense-** three-day suspension off of the bus or corporal punishment; parent notified by phone or in person

- **Third Offense-** five-day suspension off of the bus; parent notified by phone or in person
- **Fourth Offense-** ten-day suspension off of the bus; parent notified by phone or in person
- **Fifth Offense-** twenty-day suspension off of the bus; parent notified by phone or in person
- **Subsequent Offenses-** suspension off of the bus for the remainder of the semester or the remainder of the school year; parent notified during a face to face conference with the principal or his/her designee; notification of a long-term suspension may be conducted via phone conference if necessary.

Fighting and/or physical contact towards another student may result in further disciplinary action based on the guidelines outlined in the Student Code of Conduct in the school handbook. The Dale County Schools Code of Conduct applies to students in transport for any school related function. ** Please remember, it is a privilege to ride a bus, not a right!**

CAR RIDER

Students should report to the car that will be providing transportation. Any student who is waiting on a car should remain at the foyer area in front of the school.

DRIVER'S LICENSE

Unless exempted from the requirement by Board policy, a person under the age of 19 years may not under state law obtain a driver's license or a learner's permit without being enrolled in school or meeting alternative criteria established by law. Additionally, a driver's license may be suspended or revoked if a student withdraws or fails to attend school. Students may be exempted or excused from otherwise applicable statutory requirements if their withdrawal or nonattendance is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the student. A student's discipline record will affect his or her eligibility to obtain and/or maintain a driver's license as established by the Alabama Department of Public Safety.

STUDENT VEHICLES ON CAMPUS

Being permitted to drive a vehicle on campus is a privilege. Any student who drives a vehicle must abide by the following:

1. Students must be licensed and have proof of liability insurance.
2. Students may NOT return to vehicles during the school day without being accompanied by an administrator.
3. Students must leave the vehicle immediately upon arrival at school, remove keys, and lock doors.
4. Students will not leave campus in their vehicles without completing appropriate check out procedures and/or forms.
5. Any action by a student driver, which is determined to be reckless, dangerous, or unlawful, is forbidden and will result in loss of driving privileges and/or other disciplinary actions.
6. The speed limit is 5 MPH on campus and 15 MPH in the remainder of the school zone.
7. Parking permits are required for students to park on campus. Permits may be purchased in the main office. This permit is good for only that calendar school year.
8. Parking lot violations that create an unsafe parking environment, including displaying flags from vehicles which creates distractions and line of sight issues.
9. THE SCHOOL IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR DAMAGED VEHICLES ON CAMPUS.

TAYLOR'S LAW

Disciplinary point system - Age of student eligibility: (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each student over the age of 12 years who is enrolled in a public or private secondary school shall be subject to a disciplinary point system for an infraction committed on school property to determine the age at which the student shall be allowed to apply for a learner's permit, motor driven cycle operator's license, driver's license, or any license required by the State of Alabama for the operation of a motor vehicle or vessel. The disciplinary points imposed for a disciplinary action shall be as follows: (1) One day in-school suspension - 1 point. (2) One day out-of-school suspension - 2 points. (3) Alternative school placement - 6 points. (4) Expulsion - 20 points.

(b)(1) The points shall accumulate on a yearly basis, beginning with the school year including summer school in which the student turns 13, and accumulate each year until the student is eligible to apply for a driver's license under the imposed point system. (2) Notwithstanding subdivision, the age at which a student may apply for a license or permit shall not be extended by Act 2009-713 beyond one year from the date the student initially applies for a learner's permit, motor driven cycle operator's license, driver's license, or any license required by the State of Alabama for the operation of a motor vehicle or vessel. Each accumulated point shall add one additional week to the age at which the student is eligible to be issued a learner's permit, motor driven cycle operator's license, or driver's license.

(c) The following subdivisions are contingent upon the technical capability of the student data management system to track, manage, and coordinate the data: (1) Points shall be accrued on a school-year basis. (2) Points may not accrue for the first three days of in-school suspension in any school year; however, beginning with the fourth day of suspension in any school year, all days, including the first three, of in-school suspension shall be counted in determining the points. (3) Points may not accrue for an initial out-of-school suspension of two days or less in any school year; however, the days of the initial suspension shall be used to determine the points after a second out-of-school suspension in any school year or all days will be used to determine points if the initial suspension exceeds two days. (4) Accumulated points shall be reduced by one-half if the student has not received additional accumulated points for one school year. If no additional points are received for two years, all records of the accumulated points shall be removed from the student's records at the school. (Act 2009-713, p.2095, §1.)

DRESS CODE POLICY

Students shall dress in a manner that is appropriate for a learning environment and a school setting. Health, safety, decency, and the prevention of distractions are the primary reasons for the development of the dress code for the Dale County Schools.

Failure to comply with the guidelines will result in penalties ranging from warning to suspension. In addition, the student will be required to come into compliance before allowed to attend class or classes.

No code or policy can be all-inclusive. There may be a situation that arises, not covered in this code; in these situations, the principal or his/her designee will deal with these on an individual basis. School personnel on a case-by-case basis will address any hairstyle, hair color, article of clothing, or other student item that is a distraction to the educational process.

The Student Dress Code include the following restrictions and/or requirements:

Pants: (Boys and Girls)

1. All pants (including shorts and skirts) will be worn appropriately.
2. Belts should be worn when appropriate. There will be NO sagging.
3. Pajama style pants are not allowed.
4. Pants with tears or holes above the knee that show skin are not allowed.
5. Pants with writing on the seat are not permissible.
6. Leggings/Yoga Pants can be worn if the skirt/dress hem or long top reaches mid-thigh.

Shorts/Skirts/Skorts:

1. Shorts, dresses, skorts worn at mid-thigh are permissible in grades PK-12, but there is to be no writing on the seat.

Shirts/Tops/Sweaters:

For safety reasons, pants, shorts, and skirt pockets must be visible. Shirts should be tucked in when appropriate.

The following types of shirts or tops are not allowed:

1. Shirts or tops that expose the midriff when arms are fully extended above the student's head.
2. Sleeveless shirts or tops for male students.
3. Shirts, tops, or sweaters worn by female students that expose undergarment or are immodest.
4. Strapless tops, mesh tops, spaghetti strap tops, tank tops, immodestly tight or revealing tops. The top should cover the width of the shoulder.

Symbols/Pictures/Wording/Tattoos:

Clothing, tattoos, jewelry, hats, medical facial coverings which contains profane, immoral, or distracting words or drawings, references to drugs, alcohol, gangs, tobacco products, or any type of distracting or disruptive comments or symbols, are not allowed. Flags worn as capes or drapes are not allowed.

Jewelry/Accessories:

1. Facial or tongue jewelry is not allowed.
2. Excessive/distracting/dangling ear jewelry is not to be worn by males or females.
3. Dog collars, chains, bracelets with studs or spikes, long and/or heavy necklaces are not allowed.
4. Jewelry in the mouth or on the teeth, unless prescribed by a physician or dentist, is not allowed.

Other clothing related guidelines:

1. Bandanas or other gang related clothing, etc. are not allowed.
2. No article of clothing may be worn in a gang related manner (i.e. cocked caps, towels, rags, strings, etc.)
3. Caps, hats, sweatbands, scarves, or other similar headwear are not allowed to be worn inside the building unless prescribed by a physician.
4. Sunglasses are not allowed to be worn inside the building unless prescribed by a physician.
5. Combs, hair picks, hair socks, or curlers are not allowed to be worn.
6. Hairstyles or hair color that cause distractions to the learning environment are not allowed. Principal (or his/her designee) discretion.
7. Suspender straps must be worn on the shoulder as designed.
8. Belts must be fastened and positioned completely within the belt loops with no belt excess hanging down.
9. Trench coats/Long coats are not allowed.
10. Swim suits are not allowed to be worn by males or females.

Footwear:

1. Shoes must be worn at all times.
2. Bedroom shoes/house slippers or shower shoes are not allowed.
3. Shoes must be Velcroed or tied at all times.

DISCIPLINE FOR DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS

Dress Violation	Consequence
1 st Offense	Warning
2 nd Offense	Detention (before, during, or after school) and parental contact
3 rd Offense	ISS
4 th Offense	OSS – 1 day
Additional Offenses	OSS – up to 3 days

*Students will be sent home when correction cannot be made at school. *Students may be placed in ISS during the day until corrections can be made.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
2026-2027

The Dale County Board of Education requires that graduation requirements for the students of the school system meet or exceed the current requirements specified by the State Board of Education and/or State Department of Education. Currently, the Dale County Board of Education requires students to earn 29 credits to graduate. A breakdown of the requirements may be found on the next few pages. The board further requires that the requirements for graduation be widely available to students and parents/guardians. To this end, detailed statements outlining the specific course requirements shall be published at least annually in school system publications and in the handbooks of the three high schools. The following diplomas and certificates will be available for issuance by all high schools in the Dale County School System.

ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

AREAS OF STUDY	REQUIREMENTS	CREDITS
English	English 9, 10, 11, 12 or their equivalent	4
Mathematics	Geometry, Algebra I w/Probabilities, Algebra II w/Statistics, and Applications of Finite Math, or their equivalent/substitute	4
Science	Biology, Physical Science, Earth & Space Science, and Anatomy & Physiology; or equivalent courses chosen from the Alabama Course of Study	4
Social Studies	World History, U.S. History I and II, and Government (.5)/Economics (.5)	4
Civics Test Requirement	Students are required to pass the <i>Civics Test</i> in the United States Government class.	
Physical Education	Beginning Kinesiology	1
Health Education		0.5
Career Preparedness		1
Career and Technical Education (CTE) and/or Foreign Language and/or Arts Education		3
Electives		7.5
Total Credits Required for Graduation		29

ALABAMA WORKFORCE DIPLOMA – OPTION B

Eligibility:

- Students may be eligible in their junior or senior year beginning in Fall 2025. Seniors must be on track to graduate.
- The student must have successfully passed or be enrolled in the following math and science courses:
 - Geometry or its equivalent/substitute
 - Algebra I or its equivalent/substitute
 - Biology
 - A Physical Science (Chemistry, Physics, Physical Science)
- The student must have completed, been enrolled in, or have a clear plan to enroll in at least three CTE courses within an approved program of study and earn a C or better in each course.
- Additionally, the student must have a clear path to obtaining an ALSDE-approved industry credential.
- The student must also meet all other graduation requirements the Alabama State Department of Education and Dale County Schools set, as outlined in the chart.

AREAS OF STUDY	REQUIREMENTS	CREDITS
English	English 9, 10, 11, 12 or their equivalent	4
Mathematics	Geometry, Algebra I or its equivalent/substitute	2
Science	Biology, A physical science (Chemistry, Physics, Physical Science)	2
Social Studies	World History, U.S. History I, U.S. History II, and United States Government (.5)/Economics (.5) Social Studies-credit eligible options may include Advanced Placement/ International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/SDE-approved courses.	4
Civics Exam Requirement	Students are required to earn a passing score on the <i>Civics Test</i> .	
Physical Education	Beginning Kinesiology	1
Career Preparedness	Graduating class of 2028 and beyond are required to complete an accompanying financial literacy examination as part of this course.	1
Health Education		0.5
Career and Technical Education	Credits must be earned from an approved CTE Program of Study, resulting in CTE Completer status.	3
Electives		11.5
Total Credits Required for Graduation		29

ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA with ALTERNATE ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS PATHWAY

A graduation certificate may be awarded to special education students, with the exception of the gifted and the speech-impaired, who have pursued the objectives established for them by the IEP committee. The decision for a student to pursue a graduation certificate should be made only after examining all other options. Students receiving the graduation certificate will have the same opportunities to participate in all activities associated with graduation from high school.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS INDICATORS

A CCR indicator is required to receive a high school diploma. CCR indicators include, but are not limited to:

- Earning a benchmark score in any subject area on the ACT® college entrance exam.
- Earning college credit while in high school.
- Earning a silver or gold level on the ACT® WorkKeys® Exam.
- Earning a career technical industry credential.
- Being accepted into the military before graduation.
- Attaining Career and Technical Education (CTE) completer status.
- Completing an ALSDE-approved computer science course.

EARLY COMPLETION/GRADUATION

A student who is interested in early completion/graduation should contact their principal. The principal, along with the school counselor, will develop a plan, if possible, that will allow a student to complete all requirements as mandated by the state and local education agencies. In developing a plan, consideration will be given to, but not limited to, school schedule, course availability, timely request notification, Carnegie units, end of the year honors, extracurricular activities, participation in honors programs, graduation, etc. The plan must be approved by the Principal and Superintendent or their designee prior to the implementation of this plan.

VALEDICTORIAN, SALUTATORIAN, AND OTHER END OF YEAR HONORS

The grades earned in the core academic courses from the ninth grade through the first semester of the twelfth grade are used for determining valedictorian, salutatorian, and class rank in the Dale County School System. *Grades posted for these courses on the high school transcript through first semester of the twelfth grade shall be used to determine class ranking* (A numerical average will be determined by adding all of the grades for the core academic courses through the 1st semester of the senior year and dividing by the number of core academic courses taken. For each honors core course passed, one point will be added to the numerical average. (This is referred to as a weighted numerical average.) The weighted numerical average will be used to determine the Valedictorian, salutatorian, and Class Rank. **Example:** If a student's weighted overall numerical average is 98, the student had taken 18 courses defined as honors, the student's weighted overall numerical average would be 116. The valedictorian will be the student who has the highest weighted numerical grade average, and has attended his or her entire senior year at the school from which he or she is to be graduated. The salutatorian will be the student who has the second highest weighted numerical grade average, and has attended the entire senior year at the school from which he or she is to be graduated. In the case of a tie, there will be co-valedictorians, or co-salutatorians. In the case of co-valedictorians, a salutatorian will be named. The transcripts of transfer-in students will be evaluated on the same criteria as Dale County School System students. The candidates for the other end-of-year honors must have been enrolled prior to the beginning of the second term of their senior year.

CRITERIA TO DETERMINE RANK IN CLASS

Grades used to determine class rank shall be computed at face value to the third (3rd) decimal. We will not round off. This is only an example. Ex. $98+97+90+96+95+97 = 573.000 / 6 = 95.500$

HONOR STUDENTS

Schools will recognize a top 10 from the graduating class. Schools may elect to recognize other groups.

CORE ACADEMIC CLASSES

The core academic courses are English, Math, Science, History. If a student fails a core honors academic class and then retakes the same honors class and passes, both grades will be used to determine the end of year honors.

HONOR ROLL

The "A" Honor Roll is for those students making all "A's" on the report card for that grading period. The "A-B" Honor Roll is for those students with no grades lower than an A or B on the report card for a particular grading period. The Yearly "A" Honor Roll is for those students making all "A's" in each subject for each grading period. The Yearly "A-B" Honor Roll is for those students with no grades lower than an A or B in each subject for each grading period.

HONOR AWARDS

Students will receive the following awards to be worn with their graduation attire. These attainments are directly related to our school accountability score.

- Gold Tassel – DCHS Top 10 students according to their GPA
- Academic Medallion – Valedictorian & Salutatorian
- Red Honor Cord – Honors Graduate (This honor is achieved by successfully completing all honors classes in grades 9-12).

- White Honor Cord – (ACT Benchmark) Student must earn a benchmark score in any subject on the ACT:
 - English – 18 or above Math – 22 or above Reading – 22 or above Science – 23 or above
- CTE Credential Cord – Students who have credentialed with a certification in one of our Career Tech programs.
- CTE Completer Cord – Students who completed three CTE courses within a specific program.
- Military Pin – Students who have been accepted into a military branch.
- Gold Stole – BETA membership is attained by maintaining A's and B's to two consecutive semesters with no more than two B's in each semester.
- Dual Enrollment Pin – Students that have successfully completed a Dual Enrollment course with a 70% or higher.
- WorkKeys Pin – Students achieving Platinum, Silver, or Gold status on the ACT WorkKeys will be recognized with a corresponding pin.
- Computer Science Pin – Students who completed an ALSDE-approved computer science course.

ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATING IN GRADUATION CEREMONY EXERCISES

The Board authorizes local high School principals and appropriate staff members to conduct graduation ceremony exercises for their respective schools. In all cases, eligibility criteria for participation in graduation exercise shall include the following provisions:

1. Students who have met the Carnegie requirement established by the Board will be awarded a diploma and are eligible to participate (march) in the graduation ceremony/exercise.
2. Students who have not met the Carnegie Unit requirement established by the Board will not be eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony (march). Credits and/or units needed to fulfill graduation requirements must be earned in grades 9 – 12.
3. Special Education students who have not met the minimum requirements for a diploma, but have met all requirements set out for them in their individual education programs shall participate in the graduation ceremony.
4. Foreign exchange students classified as seniors (classification can be based only on official transcripts in the English language) who have met the Carnegie Unit requirement established by the Board for senior students will be eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony (march).
5. Foreign exchange students classified as seniors who have not met the Carnegie Unit requirement established by the Board will not be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

If letter grades are presented, the student must have the respective school(s) attended submit the grades in numerical form. If numerical grades are not available, said student's letter grades will be converted to numerical grades at the mid-point of the grading scale.

HOME SCHOOLING

Courses taken through home schooling cannot be designated as honors courses.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Dual Enrollment for Dual Credit is an enrichment opportunity allowing eligible high school students to earn high school and college credits for courses taken through an Alabama Community College System (ACCS) or Alabama Public University while still enrolled in high school. Students will be required to have Dual Enrollment courses approved by the administration at the High School and follow all procedures for placement tests, applications, fees, tuition, and enrollments. The following policy applies to students taking Academic, Career Tech, and Elective Dual Enrollment courses:

Academic Dual Enrollment classes will be limited to the following in Dale County Schools:

- Credit Advancement – a student will not be allowed to take a course before entering the course appropriate year in school. For example, United States Government and Economics cannot be taken early; it is a senior level course
- Sophomores and Juniors – will be allowed to take academic Dual Enrollment as long as it is in a face-to-face setting – no online or virtual courses allowed.
- Seniors – will be allowed to take academic Dual Enrollment in a face-to-face or online/virtual platform.

Career and Technical/Elective Dual Enrollment courses may be taken in any format and/or grade approved by the High School principal and college.

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT/DUAL CREDIT

Students must meet the following criteria:

- Students must be rising 10th, 11th, or 12th graders as defined by each secondary education entity's promotion/retention policy.
- Students seeking enrollment in Dual Enrollment for Dual Credit coursework must have a minimum cumulative (unweighted) high school grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- Students must have the written approval of a secondary school official. Approval from secondary school officials indicates that the student has demonstrated both academic readiness and social maturity.

CONTINUOUS ELIGIBILITY FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT FOR DUAL CREDIT

Students who meet the criteria for initial admission to a Dual Enrollment for Dual Credit Program will maintain continuous eligibility so long as they earn a grade of C or better in all attempted college courses.

Students who fail to meet this minimum grade requirement or who withdraw from a course will be suspended from the program for a minimum of one term. The one-term suspension may not be served during the summer. The student may not re-enroll until the

suspension has been served. For re-entry, the student must reapply to the program and must meet the minimum grade point average requirements.

DALE COUNTY SCHOOL DUAL ENROLLMENT GUIDELINES

Please read carefully to understand the Dual Enrollment Guidelines.

- Dual Enrollment coursework must be on the approved ALSDE course listing.
- Enrolling in Dual Enrollment courses begins the student's college transcript, which is permanent.
- If a student withdraws from a Dual Enrollment course, the course will be reflected on the high school transcript as reflected on the college transcript. The student must follow the college policy to withdraw from a course and notify the high school of the withdrawal.
- It is the student's responsibility to submit all Dual Enrollment paperwork at the time of registration to the counselor or designee by the deadline.
- The student will have to provide transportation to and from the college campus if required.
- Students are required to take an Academic Dual Enrollment course on the high school campus or Bridge Academy campus if offered.
- Scheduling conflicts between the high school and the college may prevent participation in Dual Enrollment.
- College students operate independently of their parents. Therefore, parents do NOT have access to grades, progress, or the instructor at the college level, as they would at the local high school. Dale County Schools cannot access the student's grade(s) in a Dual Enrollment course(s) until final grades are issued.
- Tuition for most Dual Enrollment courses is due to the college at the current college tuition rate and is due by the college's deadline unless the course is covered by the Workforce Grant. Furthermore, if textbooks are not covered by the Workforce Grant, the cost must be paid by the student. Specific courses may incur additional fees. Please refer to the college for additional information. Dale County Schools is not responsible for any tuition, fees, or cost associated with Dual Enrollment.
- It is the student's responsibility to register on the date required by the college for the approved registered classes. After registering, the student must sign in to the college platform, print their schedule, and provide a copy to the high school counselor.

Weighted point(s):

- The following courses will be the only courses given weighted credit when calculating GPA for end-of-year honors and/or class rank.

HONORS ACADEMIC COURSES

Areas of Study	Requirements	Credits
English	English 9, 10, 11, 12 Honors. Must be the highest-level English course offered at the grade level or ALSDE Dual Enrollment Equivalency.	4
Mathematics	Geometry, Algebra I, Algebra II w/Trig. and Pre-Calculus Honors. Must be the highest-level Mathematics course offered at the grade level or ALSDE Dual Enrollment Equivalency.	4
Science	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Anatomy and Physiology or equivalent Honors Science course chosen from the Alabama Course of Study. Must be the highest-level Science course offered at the grade level or ALSDE Dual Enrollment Equivalency.	4
History/Social Science	World History II, U. S. History I and II, and Government/Economics Honors. Must be the highest-level History/Social Science course offered at the grade level or ALSDE Dual Enrollment Equivalency.	4

EMBEDDED CREDIT

The Dale County Board of Education authorizes embedded academic credit to be awarded for the completion of certain career and technical education programs as determined by the State Department of Education. Embedded credit is awarded as an elective science or mathematics credit for satisfactory completion of approved career and technical education courses contained in sufficient core science and mathematics content. A total of two embedded credits may be earned by a completer of a career technical program, one in mathematics and one in science.

VIRTUAL SCHOOL POLICY

The Dale County School District provides a virtual option for 9 - 12 grade students with course opportunities consistent with District instructional goals and aligned with Alabama's academic standards, curriculum frameworks, and assessments. Students enrolled will complete coursework virtually from their computers. The coursework allows student scheduling flexibility to complete the course requirements.

Students must meet the following eligibility criteria to participate in the virtual pathway:

- Have access to the internet and to a computer outside of school
- Must meet all enrollment guidelines for attending the Dale County School District
- Maintain minimum overall GPA of 2.0 in core courses taken during the academic year prior to making application to attend the Virtual School. (English, Math, Science, Social Studies)
- Maintain appropriate course progression as measured by the completion of weekly assignments, quizzes, and/or tests
- Daily access of virtual course content
- Be on track for graduation having earned necessary credit in each core area of study – English, Math Science, and Social Science – and other requisite courses needed for a particular diploma type
- Remain a student in good standing of the Dale County School District
- Have an adult (legal parent or guardian) willing to serve as the learning coach

Students must meet the established attendance and academic progress criteria which will be monitored by Dale County School District staff. All full-time virtual students will be enrolled as a student in the high school zone in which they reside. These students will be counted in the average daily membership. All full-time virtual students **will** participate in all state testing and accountability requirements, which may require reporting to the school campus. Upon satisfying all graduation requirements, students enrolled in the virtual pathway will receive an Alabama High School Diploma.

Students enrolled in a virtual pathway are eligible to participate in extracurricular activities in the school in which they are enrolled, according to attendance zone. They are subject to the same requirements as listed above, also including Alabama High School Athletic Association rules.

Students enrolled in a virtual pathway shall be exempt from any provision of general law, local law, or administrative rules that apply to the traditional delivery of instruction, including but not limited to, requirements to the physical presence of a student, student monitoring and security, staffing requirements, transportation obligations, facility requirements, space and location requirements, physical education requirements and time requirements, to the extent any of the forgoing conflict with the delivery of the virtual program.

Any online course delivery that is not provided by the Alabama State Department of Education shall be accredited by an institution recognized pursuant to administrative rule adopted by the ALSDE. Course work offered through the virtual program shall contain the required content as identified in the applicable Alabama Course of Study.

GRADE POLICY AND GRADE SCALE

Letter Grade	Grade Scale	Regular/Advanced
A	90-100	4.0
B	80-89	3.0
C	70-79	2.0
D	60-69	1.0
F	0-59	0.0

FINAL EXAM POLICY

All students in grades 9-12 are required to take a final exam at the end of each semester for all courses. The final exam will be comprehensive and will be 15% of a student's final semester grade.

- Students in half credit courses and Work Based Learning (WBL) courses will not be required to take a final exam.
- Students enrolled in Dual Enrollment, ACCESS, Dale County Schools Alternative Learning Center, and Bridge Academy must follow the policies of the host instructor/educational institution for final exams.
- Students may exempt a final exam if they meet one of the following criteria:
 1. Have an "A" average in the course with no more than 4 attendance events and/or 6 demerits; or
 2. Have a "B" average in the course with no more than 2 attendance events and/or 3 demerits; or
 3. Have a "C" average in the course with no attendance events and no demerits
- Students that receive Out of School suspension during a semester for a discipline infraction will not be allowed to exempt any final exam regardless of the average.
- An attendance event is any absence, any tardy, or any checkout. All absences count except for school related events/field trips as designated by the principal. The principal has the final say on attendance events.
- Students exempt from a test will not be required to attend school during the test session time. Students that are exempt and attend during the test session time will be required to be in the test setting.

**DALE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT
FOR HIGH SCHOOLS**

SYSTEM-WIDE DISCIPLINARY POLICY

The Dale County Board of Education Student Code of Conduct represents a system-wide disciplinary policy. The maintenance of order in the school is a necessity. Therefore, it is the responsibility of all school employees to assist in the maintaining of discipline, so students may be educated in an orderly manner. Students are expected to conduct themselves properly at all times. The school has the prerogative to determine if conduct interferes with the educational process and the means by which the conduct may be corrected. Student discipline is the responsibility of the principal (or his/her designee). Disciplinary interventions may include, but are not limited to, conference with school authorities, referral to the Department of Youth Services, parental conferences, break detention, after school detention, before school detention, corporal punishment (paddling), in school suspension (ISS), out of school suspension, alternative school and/or expulsion. All Dale County Schools system students and parents/guardians are responsible for being thoroughly familiar with all aspects of the Student Code of Conduct included in this handbook.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITY

Any parent, guardian, or other person having control or custody of any child enrolled in public school who fails to compel the child to properly conduct himself/herself as a pupil in accordance with the written policy on school behavior adopted by the local Board of Education and documented by the appropriate school official which action may result in a suspension of the pupil, shall be reported by the principals to the Superintendent of Education of the school system in which the suspected violations occurred. The Superintendent of Education or designee shall report suspected violations to the district attorney within ten days. (Alabama Code 16-28-12)

WEAPONS/FIREARMS IN SCHOOLS (ACT 94-817)

No persons shall knowingly with intent to do bodily harm carry or possess a deadly weapon on the premises of a public school. Possession of a deadly weapon with intent to do bodily harm on the premises of a public school or school bus is a Class C felony.

In compliance with Federal Gun Free School Act of 1994 and with Alabama law, it is the policy of the Dale County Board of Education that any student determined to have brought a weapon/firearm to school be expelled from the regular school setting.

Expulsion is defined, at a minimum as the removal from the student's regular program. However, the expulsion requirement may be modified for a student on a case-by-case basis by the Board. Also, discipline of student with disabilities who violate this policy shall be determined by the Board on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the requirements of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

SUSPENSION/EXPULSION/ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT

Students found to have committed the following offenses on school property, school-sponsored transportation or during a school-sponsored activity shall be brought before the Board for expulsion or alternative placement:

- homicide (murder, manslaughter);
- sexual battery;
- armed robbery;
- aggravated battery;
- battery, aggravated battery or threats to a teacher or other school personnel;
- kidnapping or abduction;
- arson;
- possession, use or sale of any firearm or weapon;
- possession, use or sale of any explosive device;
- possession, use or sale of controlled substances;
- threat or false report to do harm related to bombs or explosive devices.

The expulsion limit is a minimum mandatory one (1) full year. (See subsection IV in reference to procedures for Students with Disabilities.)

Prior to taking such action against any student, the School Board shall ensure that appropriate due process procedures are followed. If a student committing one of the offenses outlined in subsection (1) of this rule is identified as disabled and participating in a program for exceptional students, then the system shall follow procedures as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct pursuant to applicable law and Board policy. This provision shall not be construed to remove a School Board's discretion in cases where mitigating circumstances may affect decisions on disciplinary action.

Local law enforcement authorities shall be notified immediately when one of the offenses listed above is committed on school property, on school-sponsored transportation, or during a school-sponsored activity. Additionally, if the offense involves a victim, school officials shall notify the victim and the victim's parents/legal guardian if the victim is a minor, of the offense and of the victim's rights to press charges against the offender. School personnel shall cooperate in any investigation or other proceedings leading to the victim's exercise of rights as provided by law.

Upon notification by juvenile authorities that a *no contact order* has been issued by the court for the purpose of a juvenile offender not attending the same school or riding the same bus as the victim of a crime committed or as the siblings of the victim, the Superintendent or his/her designee will determine the appropriate setting for delivery of educational services to the offender. If the

delivery of educational services requires transportation which is beyond the existing transportation and which would incur additional costs to the school system, then the offender or the parents/legal guardians of the juvenile offender shall be responsible for arranging and paying for transportation.

If it is determined that it is not possible to deliver educational services to the offender at a different school site from the victim or the siblings of the victim, then the school system and the principal will take steps such as the use of in-school suspension of the offender and the scheduling of classes, lunch, or other school activities of the victim and the offender to keep the offender separated from the victim.

The school principal shall monitor the administration of discipline of students to ensure that discipline is administered equitably without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, linguistic preference, marital status, disability, political or religious beliefs, national or ethnic origin, or social and family background. Annually, the principal shall review school discipline data with the school advisory council in developing school improvement plans to maintain a safe and healthy school environment that protects the civil rights of all students.

PENDING CRIMINAL CHARGES

Any student charged with violating a local, state, and/or federal law which constitutes a felony offense, or which involves any violent crime, uses of any type of weapon or illegal drug shall not be allowed to return to a regular classroom setting until all legal proceedings are completely resolved and no such charges are pending. In the event that such criminal charges are dismissed, *not prossed*, or the student is found “not guilty” by a court of law, the charged student will be allowed to re-enter a regular classroom setting and allowed to make up work missed according to school policy. Any other disposition of such criminal charges will be considered on a case by case basis to determine whether and on what conditions the student will be allowed to return to the regular class setting. In all cases, the student or parent shall present the Superintendent with all court orders and other documentation showing that the criminal charges have been completely resolved before being allowed to return to the regular classroom.

IDEA students who violate this policy shall be dealt with in accordance to the discipline methods outlined in the IDEA and Alabama Administrative Code.

FELONY CHARGES OR CHARGES INVOLVING A FIREARM

If a student is charged with a felony, has been convicted of a felony, has committed a delinquent act based upon an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult, or is charged with an offense involving a firearm, the student’s parent/custodian should contact the Principal or Guidance Counselor to determine appropriate school placement while the charge is pending or court-ordered placement is served. If a student is placed on court-ordered probation with terms that prevent in-person attendance at the student’s school, the Superintendent or his/her designee will determine the student’s placement during the probationary period.

DUE PROCESS

A student must know what conduct is appropriate and what is forbidden. Therefore, the rules and regulations of the Board of Education governing student conduct shall be distributed to the students and parents. Essentially, due process of law means fairness. Therefore, all students are entitled to be treated fairly under every circumstance.

Before being punished for violation of Board policies or school regulations, a student shall have the right of the following minimum due process procedures:

- The student shall be given oral or written notice of the charges against him/her.
- The evidence against the student shall be explained to him/her.
- The student shall be given the opportunity to present his/her own version of the facts concerning the charges.

When a student discipline infraction results in a possible alternative school placement for more than 15 consecutive days, suspension from the regular school environment for more than 10 consecutive days or expulsion from school, the board shall afford the student:

1. Written notice of a hearing delivered personally or by mail that includes:
 - a. the date, time, place, and nature of the hearing
 - b. a short and plain statement detailing the alleged conduct the student is accused of
 - c. the provision of the Code of Student Conduct or state law violated
 - d. the proposed discipline
 - e. the students right at the hearing (e.g. to testify, present evidence, have counsel, etc.)
 - f. the right to review any evidence that may be used against them in the hearing
 - g. the student’s right to waive the hearing and accept the discipline: and
 - h. upon request a written or electronic record of the hearing
2. If the student requests a hearing, it should be held within 10 school days.
3. A written decision should be issued within five school days of the hearing.
4. The student can appeal the decision pursuant to the Code of Student Conduct to the local juvenile court.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Board Property – All school system property, facilities, and grounds may be entered, inspected, and searched for any lawful purpose by Board officials or their designees at any time, without prior notice and to the fullest extent permitted by law. The right to enter, inspect, and search includes and extends to (but is not limited to) Board owned or controlled offices, desks, file cabinets, lockers, computers, files, documents, data, and devices however and wherever kept, stored, or maintained.

Personal Property – Personal property, including but not limited to vehicles, purses, wallets, gym bags, book bags, cell phones, computers, and personal electronic devices may be searched by authorized school officials, including school principals or their designees, when reasonable suspicion exists that the property contains evidence of a violation of board policy, prohibited materials, illegal substances, weapons, or other items that are reasonably deemed to present a risk or threat to the safety or welfare of the school community, provided that the nature and extent of the search shall be reasonably related and limited to the suspected violation.

Personal Searches – Students may be searched whenever reasonable suspicion exists that the student possesses evidence of a violation of board policy, including, prohibited materials, illegal substances, weapons, or other items that are reasonably deemed to present a risk or threat to the safety and welfare of the school community. Student searches must be conducted by a school administrator in the presence of another certified school employee and may include a pat down of the student, a search of personal items and clothing, or a more thorough search upon specific approval of the Superintendent. Personal searches will be conducted with due regard for the age and gender of the student. Searches that require physical contact between the school official and the student, removal of clothing, or examination of the student in a way that would implicate privacy concerns must be conducted and witnessed by officials of the same gender as the student and in a way that preserves the dignity of the student to the extent practicable under the circumstances. Refusal to submit to a search or to cooperate in a search as provided in this policy may be grounds for disciplinary action.

Use of Recovered Items – Property, material, substances, information, or records that are obtained, discovered, or recovered as a result of a search may be retained and used for any lawful purpose.

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

The principal or designee has the authority to use reasonable physical force to restrain a student from abusing or attempting to abuse himself or herself, other students, teachers, administrators, parents, guardians, or other staff members. This action may be necessary to stop the behavior and to ensure to the extent possible the care, welfare, safety, and security of students and staff members. This must be done in a reasonable manner to protect all parties involved. Law enforcement may assist in this action.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law enforcement officers have the right to come on campus to interview students as suspects or witnesses. The Board of Education authorizes building administrators to release minor students into the custody of a law enforcement officer upon presentation of a court order or warrant for the student's arrest. The student may be removed from school premises if the officer or school administrator has reason to believe that the student has violated the law. The police department, juvenile services, or other law enforcement agencies may be informed regarding the misconduct of a student. Such notification may result in an arrest, a petition, a complaint, a warrant, a conference with law enforcement officials and/or other actions deemed appropriate by the agencies involved.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

The Dale County Board of Education permits reasonable and proper use of corporal punishment (paddling/spanking). "No student has the right to be unruly in his/her classroom to the extent that such disruption denies fellow students of their rights to learn. The teacher in each classroom is expected to maintain order and discipline. Teachers are hereby given the authority and responsibility to use appropriate means of discipline up to and including corporal punishment as may be prescribed by the local board of education." (AL Law 16-28a-1) Corporal punishment will be administered under the following guidelines:

1. The student will be given the reason for the punishment and the opportunity to explain his/her actions.
2. Corporal punishment will be administered by the principal or his/her designee in the presence of a school board employee.
3. A written report will be prepared for each incident and copy will be sent to the parent/guardian.

TOBACCO POLICY

The use of tobacco products and the illegal possession, distribution, and sale of tobacco products in a school building, on school grounds, on Board property, on school buses, in Board-owned vehicles, or at school-sponsored functions is prohibited. These prohibitions also apply to electronic cigarettes, vape pens, hookah pens, e-hookahs, vape pipes and any similar type of device designed to deliver nicotine, flavor, and other chemicals via inhalation or simulated smoking.

Students violating this policy shall be disciplined in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct. Employees violating this policy shall be subject to adverse employment action as defined in the employee handbook. Other persons violating this policy, including visitors and guests, may be denied re-entry to school property or Board property.

ALABAMA SAFE AND DRUG-FREE POLICY

The principal shall notify appropriate law enforcement officials when any person violates state policies concerning drugs and alcohol. If a student violates the drug-free policies, that student shall be immediately suspended from attending regular classes. The student may not be readmitted to the public schools of this state until 1) Criminal charges or offenses arising from the conduct have been disposed of by appropriate authorities, and 2) the student has satisfied all other requirements imposed by the local board of education.

Any student found to have violated school system and/or state policy concerning drugs may be referred to the Dale County Board of Education for appropriate disciplinary action to include expulsion.

If any criminal charge is warranted arising from the conduct, the principal is authorized to sign the appropriate warrant. Any decision to suspend or initiate criminal charges against a student shall include a review and consideration of the student's exceptional status, if any, or appropriate federal statutory or case law.

STATE TEXTBOOK POLICY

Textbooks must not be damaged. Some of the damages are as follows:

- One or more pages of content missing.
- Water-soaked, causing backs and pages to be swollen or molded.
- Physically marked with any kind of pencil, pen, crayon, etc., on outside/inside of backs, on ends, or any of the pages.
- Defaced or marred, such as broken, cut, or smeared backs of pages.

Penalty for lost or damaged textbooks:

- Full price, if new when issued
- Seventy-five percent (75%) if one year old when issued
- Fifty percent (50%) if book is two years old or older when issued

No textbook will be issued to any student while the payment for lost or damaged textbooks is outstanding.

DEMERIT SYSTEM

Disciplinary violations are grouped into four categories. Demerits are assigned to each category as shown below:

Class I:	1 demerit per referral
Class II:	3 demerits per referral
Class III:	6 demerits per referral
Class IV:	12 demerits per referral

Accumulation of Demerits: when a student receives a disciplinary referral, the school administrator or designee reviews the student's disciplinary record. The school official then calculates the total demerits accumulated by the student during the current eighteen-week term. Disciplinary action is then determined by the total demerits received by the student during the current eighteen-week term. There are several concepts to keep in mind concerning the demerit system and disciplinary action assigned.

1. Demerits are cumulative throughout each eighteen-week term.
2. Disciplinary actions are assigned based on the total demerits accumulated during each eighteen-week term (not on the individual violation).
3. The severity of disciplinary actions increases as the student accumulates demerits.
4. Demerits are removed from consideration at the beginning of each eighteen-week term (generally in August and January); except when a student commits more than one Class IV violation as stated in #6.
5. Only those demerits accumulated during the current eighteen-week term are considered in assigning disciplinary action, except when a student commits more than one Class IV violation as stated in #6.
6. Any student who commits two Class IV violations in the same academic year may be subject to an administrative hearing for placement in an alternative setting or a recommendation of expulsion to the Dale County Board of Education.
7. Any student that commits a Class III or Class IV violation after a completed placement in the Alternative Learning Center during the same academic year will be subject to an administrative hearing for placement in the Alternative Learning Center, Expulsion, or other disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the principal or his/her designee.

Disciplinary Actions Based on Accumulated Demerits: when a student is determined by a school official to be guilty of a disciplinary violation, a school official assigns disciplinary action(s) based on the total demerits accumulated by the student during the school term in which the violation occurred.

The table below shows possible disciplinary action that a school official may assign as a result of accumulated demerits.

1-4 demerits: Conference with the student, parental contact, parental conference, before school detention, break detention, after school detention, apology to appropriate persons, corporal punishment, in-school-suspension, and/or other disciplinary action(s) as deemed appropriate by the principal or designee.

5-8 demerits: Parental contact, parental conference, in-school suspension for up to three days, out-of-school-suspension up to five days, corporal punishment, complaint filed with the Department of Youth Services, referral to the school counselor, Saturday school, Alternative School, and/or other disciplinary action(s) as deemed appropriate by the principal or designee.

9-11 demerits: Parental conference (requested), in-school suspension for up to five school days, out-of-school-suspension for up to five school days, corporal punishment, Saturday school for up to three days, Alternative School, complaint filed with the Department of Youth Services, and/or other disciplinary action(s) as deemed appropriate by the principal or designee.

12 or more: Parental conference (required), removal from campus by legal authorities, out-of-school-suspension for up to ten school days, Alternative School, referral to appropriate court system, and/or referral to the Dale County Board of Education for possible expulsion, placement in an Alternate Learning Environment, and/or other disciplinary action(s) deemed appropriate by the principal or designee.

15 or more: Administrative hearing with the Superintendent of Education (or his/her designee) to determine referral to the Dale County Board of Education for expulsion, placement with Juvenile Court Authorities, withdrawal, placement in an Alternate Learning Environment, and/or other disciplinary action(s) deemed appropriate by the principal or designee.

Due Process: A student has a right to an administrative hearing if the discipline assigned is more than 15 consecutive days in Alternative School or 10 consecutive days of out of school suspension. The parent/guardian of the student has the right to waive the hearing and accept the discipline assigned.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS

CLASS I VIOLATIONS

1 demerit per violation

The following are Class I violations. Each Class I violation results in one demerit. Disciplinary action assigned based on the student's total demerits, not solely on the individual violation.

1. Classroom disruption - any behavior that is disruptive to the orderly educational process.
2. Refusal to complete class assignments and/or not having assigned materials/books.
3. Quarreling - Verbal conflicts such as name-calling, inflammatory language, etc.
4. Hallway misconduct - running, yelling, tripping others, etc.
5. Inappropriate public display of affection.
6. Eating, drinking, or gum chewing in unauthorized area.
7. Misuse, abuse, or littering of school property.
8. Possession of inappropriate or disruptive items - Cards, dice, inappropriate magazines, toys, etc.
9. Presence in unauthorized area - includes, but not limited to sitting in vehicles after arriving on campus.
10. Dress Code Violation
11. Disruptive conduct – pushing, horse playing, and/or unsafe physical behaviors deemed disruptive to the educational environment.
12. Any other violation deemed as a Class I violation by the principal or designee.

CLASS II VIOLATIONS

3 demerits per violation

The following are Class II violations. Each Class II violation results in three demerits. Disciplinary action assigned based on the student's total demerits, not solely on the individual violation.

1. Unauthorized meetings, gatherings, or organizations - Use of any part of the school day or facilities for activities that are not school sponsored or approved by the principal.
2. Gambling - Any participation in games of chance for money or things of value.
3. Defiance - any verbal or nonverbal refusal to comply in a timely manner with legal directions or instructions from school personnel.
4. Vandalism - Deliberate action resulting in damages of less than \$50 to public or private property.
5. Petty theft - The deliberate taking of property valued at less than \$25 belonging to or in the lawful possession or custody of another.
6. Possession of stolen property.
7. Profane or obscene language (Not including profanity directed to or about school personnel).
8. Possession of electronic devices – gaming devices, radios, laser pointers, etc.
9. Possession of objects or substances capable of causing bodily harm or injury (matches, lighters, etc.)
10. Obscene gestures or illustrations toward another person.
11. Truancy - Unauthorized absence from school or class.
12. Intimidation.
13. Disrespectful/rude language addressed to or about school personnel (not to include profanity directed to or about school personnel).
14. Providing false information to school personnel - including, but not limited to, forging a parent's signature, giving false accounts of incidences, intentionally failing to give truthful information when requested by school personnel.
15. Leaving school grounds without permission from school officials.
16. Parking lot violations that create an unsafe parking environment - including displaying flags from vehicles which creates distractions and line of sight issues.
17. Cheating on tests, projects, classroom assignments, homework, or any other assigned work. This includes, but not limited to, the use of Artificial Intelligence or other electronic source of information.
18. Any other violation deemed as a Class II violation by the principal or designee.

CLASS III VIOLATIONS

6 demerits per violation

The following are Class III violations. Each violation results in six demerits. Disciplinary action assigned based on the student's total demerits, not solely on the individual violation.

1. Motor vehicle violation - Unsafe or unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.
2. Extortion - Any communication threatening injury to the person, property or reputation of another with the intention of extorting money or any other item.
3. Fighting - Physical altercation involving hostile or aggressive contact or attempted contact.
4. Threats - Intentional demonstration of the intent or ability to carry out a malicious act creating a well-founded fear in the person

- threatened.
5. Possession and/or igniting fireworks.
 6. Harassment
 7. Inappropriate touching in a sexual or suggestive way.
 8. Vandalism - Deliberate actions resulting in more than \$50 to public or personal property.
 9. Student disorders - Inciting, participating, encouraging, or otherwise promoting unauthorized student activities, disruption to an orderly environment or impeding the educational process.
 10. Possession, viewing, or distribution of pornographic material; including any obscene or profane materials.
 11. Computer misuse - Assessing, changing, receiving, or transmitting information in school computers or technology systems. Including inappropriate use of social media platforms.
- Possession, sale, use, distribution of vaping/electronic cigarette products. (Students will be required to successfully complete an online course on the dangers of Vaping in In School Suspension at a minimum)
- Possession, sale, use, or distribution of tobacco or nicotine products.
- Possession, transfer, use, or sale of non-prescribed “over the counter” medications. This includes oral stimulant delivery pouches (caffeine Pouches).
- Any other violation deemed as a Class III violation by the principal or designee.

CLASS IV VIOLATIONS

12 demerits per violation

The following are Class IV violations. Each Class IV violation results in twelve demerits. Disciplinary action assigned based on the student’s total demerits, not solely on the individual violation.

1. Threatening school board personnel. (Any verbal or nonverbal communication)
2. Profanity or obscene language to or about school personnel.
3. Drug violation - Possession, transfer, use, or sale of illegal or unauthorized drugs (illegal and/or prescription medications).
4. Alcohol violation - Possession, transfer, use, or sale of alcoholic beverages.
5. Grand theft - The taking of property valued at \$25 or more belonging to or in the lawful possession or custody of another.
6. Assault upon school personnel- Hitting, pushing, kicking, grabbing, or any other hostile or aggressive contact or action toward school personnel.
7. Firearms violation - Any firearm (including, but not limited to, starter gun, BB gun, pellet gun, stun gun, hand gun, rifle, shotgun, etc.).
8. Weapons Violation - Including, but not limited to, metallic knuckles, tear gas, knives of any kind or size, box cutters, chemical weapons of any kind, or any device or substance converted or intended for use as a weapon.
9. Explosives Violation - Possession, igniting, preparing to ignite any explosive substance on school property or at a school related event.
10. Bomb Threat - Any such communication intended to imply the presence of explosives.
11. Arson - The skillful and malicious burning or attempting to burn public or private property.
12. Sexual Offense - Acts and/or contact of a sexual nature including, but not limited to, sexual battery, attempted intercourse, intercourse, rape, and attempted rape.
13. Aggravated battery - Intentionally causing great bodily harm, disability, or disfigurement, by the use of a weapon.
14. Sexual Harassment - Sexual comments, propositions, insinuations, or suggestions
15. Robbery - Taking of money or property from another by force, violence, threat, or intimidation.
16. Burglary - Entering or remaining in a structure or conveyance with the intent to commit an offense when premises are closed to the public.
17. Criminal mischief - Willful and malicious injury or damages of \$50 or more to public or private property.
18. Indecent Exposure - The inappropriate display or showing of the body. The principal or designee is the final authority as per what constitutes indecent exposure.
19. Possession, sale, use, or distribution of any form of synthetic marijuana, CBD, or THC products (including those found in vape devices). If a vape product - students will be required to successfully complete an online course on the dangers of Vaping in In School Suspension at a minimum.
20. Any distribution, viewing, or sharing of inappropriate pictures (nudity, weapons, drugs, sexual in nature, etc.), including digitally or on social media, that effects the school day.
21. Terrorist threats - Any verbal, written, or electronic threat to school safety, school personnel, or students. Including social media post, text, or emails.
22. Any other violation deemed as a Class IV violation by the principal or designee.

Class IV violations represent severe violations of the student’s legal obligation to conduct himself/herself properly as a student. As a result of a student being found to have committed or participated in a Class IV violation, the school principal or the designee shall contact the appropriate legal authorities. The principals shall sign appropriate complaints, petitions or warrants in the appropriate legal and/or judicial systems. The student shall be immediately suspended from regular classes and a hearing conducted at the earliest possible date. The student may be referred to the Board of Education for expulsion from the Dale County Schools.

* Any student determined to have brought to school or have in their possession, a firearm in a school building, on school grounds, on a school bus, or at a school function, shall be expelled from the Dale County Schools for a period of no less than one year.

* Any student found to have violated school or state policy concerning drugs and/or alcohol shall be immediately suspended from attending regular classes, legal authorities will be contacted, the appropriate warrant or petition will be signed, and the student is subject to expulsion from the Dale County Schools for a period of one year.

**Any student who commits two Class IV violations in the same academic year may be subject to an administrative hearing for placement in an alternative setting or a recommendation of expulsion to the Dale County Board of Education.

DISCIPLINE REFERRALS RESULT IN LOSS OF PRIVILEGES

Students are not eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities such as: dances, field trips, festivals, etc. if:

- Student has been in ISS (3) or more days per semester
- Student has been to alternative school once or more per semester
- Student has received out of school suspension once or more per semester
- Student obtained (5) or more demerits per semester
- Student is not in “Good Standing” in all academic areas and has excessive absences
- Student is not in “Good Standing” due to attendance events

Money paid to attend these events will not be refunded.



REQUIRED FEES and DUES

COURSE FEES

Several courses require fees to purchase equipment and materials, as well as supplement maintenance cost not furnished by state or local funds. Below is a listing of courses that require fees:

Agribusiness courses	\$20.00 per course	Drivers Education	\$30.00 per course
Band – Concert/Jazz	\$25.00 per course	Health Science courses	\$20.00 per course
Band – Marching/Percussion/Auxiliary	\$100.00 per course	Theatre	\$20.00 per course
Business Education/Computer courses	\$20.00 per course		

MISCELLANEOUS FEES

Lockers are to be used by only one student and that student is responsible for the locker, and contents of the locker. Administrators reserve the right to enter lockers and search contents at any time.

Locker Rental (includes lock and combination)	\$10.00 each
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ALL students are required to have their student planner in their possession at all times. One student planner will be provided to each student at no charge.

Student Planner (replacement)	\$10.00 each
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School t-shirts will be pre-sold at the beginning of each school year. School T-shirt \$20.00 each

PARKING FEE

A pass for students that have fulfilled the requirements to drive on campus will be assessed a fee to park on campus. Student will be required to provide a Driver's License and Proof of Insurance.

General Reserved Parking Space	\$10.00
Renewal of Personalized Reserved Parking Space	\$20.00
New Personalized Reserved Parking Space	\$35.00

DUES

Dues are collected by clubs/organizations to assist in covering operational cost for various activities.

RETURNED CHECK FEE

There is a **\$30.00** charge for returned checks, and any future checks will not be accepted. If the check is not collected within the allotted amount of time the check will be turned over to the local District Attorney's office.

SCHOOL CLUBS

B.A.S.I.C. (Brothers And Sisters In Christ)	Windham
Best Buddies Club	H. Lawson/Abercrombie
Drama Club	K. Thompson
FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America)	Stokes/Abercrombie
FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes)	Miller/Garner/Watts
FFA (Future Farmers of America)	Jacobs/Jones
Homecoming Sponsor	S. Edmonds/Thierfelder/Mitchell/Ro. Bedesem
HOSA (Future Health Professionals)	Whigham
Junior Civitan Club	Taylor/Paramore
Prom Sponsor	S. Edmonds/Thierfelder/Mitchell/Ro. Bedesem
Senior BETA Club	Park
SGA (Student Government Association)	Whitt/Black/Horne
Yearbook	Taylor

SCHOOL SPORTS

Athletic Director	Dutton
Band	Teal
Baseball	Street
Basketball	Boys – J. Edmonds, Girls – McLaney
Cheerleaders	S. Edmonds/Wright
Football	Garner
Golf	J. Edmonds
Soccer	Boys – Heer(SDMS), Girls – Ri. Bedesem
Softball	Dutton
Track and Field	Reeves(SDMS)/Black
Volleyball	L. Pitchford

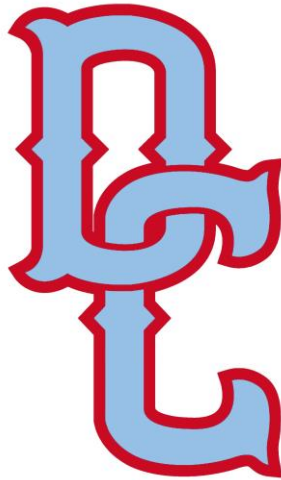
DCHS ALMA MATER

Dale County High we raise our song,
With vows of love and vows of faith.
The name that sets our heart a flame,
We'll ever loyal be to thee.
Dale County High our high school,
In praise our voices swell.
Scene of happy high school days,
The home we love, love so well.
Dear Dale County High.
From the fold we far shall stray,
And mem'ries we'll recall.
The mem'ries of dear Dale County High,
We'll cherish most of all.
Dale County High our high school,
In praise our voices swell.
Hearts again will sadly yearn,
For the home we love, love so well.

DCHS FIGHT SONG

Hail to the Warriors!
Hail Victory!
Braves on the Warpath!
Fight for old D.C.!

Run or pass and score - we want a lot more!
Beat 'em Swamp 'em
Touchdown! - Let the points soar!
Fight on, Fight on 'til you have won
Sons of Dale County.
Rah! Rah! Rah!
Hail to the Warriors!
Hail Victory!
Braves on the Warpath!



DALE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
2026-2027
BELL SCHEDULE

<u>Begin</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Description</u>
7:25	7:50	Lockers & Breakfast in Classrooms
7:50	9:30	1st Block
9:10	9:25	Break – 1st
9:30	9:45	Break – 2nd
9:45	9:50	<i>Transition to 2nd Block</i>
9:50	11:20	2nd Block
11:20	11:25	<i>Transition to 3rd Block</i>
11:25	1:30	3rd Block
11:30	11:50	A Lunch
11:50	12:10	B Lunch
12:10	12:30	C Lunch
12:30	12:50	D Lunch
1:30	1:35	<i>Transition to 4th Block</i>
1:35	3:05	4th Block

Tuesdays Only

- Club Meetings (11:00-11:20)

Wednesdays Only

- Advisement Curriculum (1:10-1:30)

**DALE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM
2026-2027**

Student's Name: _____

Grade: _____ **1st Block Teacher:** _____

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK AND CODE OF CONDUCT

I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to all terms as outlined in the Dale County Public School Code of Conduct and the DCHS Parent/Student Handbook.

The following are several concepts to keep in mind in reference to the Code of Conduct:

- Infractions are cumulative throughout each semester.
- Disciplinary actions are assigned based on the total number of infractions accumulated during each semester (not on the individual infraction).
- The severity of disciplinary action increases as the student accumulates more disciplinary infractions.
- Only those infractions accumulated during the current semester are considered in assigning disciplinary action.

Also, please pay special attention to the following components within the Code of conduct:

- Any student determined to have brought to school or have in their possession, a firearm in a school building, on school grounds, on a school bus, or at a school function, shall be expelled from the Dale County Schools for a period of no less than one year.
- Any student found to have violated school or state policy concerning drugs and/or alcohol shall be immediately suspended from attending regular classes, legal authorities will be contacted, the appropriate warrant or petition will be signed, and the students is subject to expulsion from the Dale County Schools for a period of one year.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student's Signature

Date

ACCEPTABLE USE OF INTERNET

I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to all terms as outlined in the Dale County Schools Acceptable Use of Internet Policy.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student's Signature

Date

PHOTO CONSENT POLICY

I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to all terms as outlined in the Dale County Schools Photo Consent Policy. Pictures of students will be used by student organizations, the school, and the school system on paper and electronic publications. If you do not want your child's picture, likeness, or information published, please contact the school principal in writing.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student's Signature

Date

STATE TEXTBOOK POLICY

I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to all terms as outlined in the Dale County Schools State Textbook Policy.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student's Signature

Date

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

I DO hereby authorize the school administration to administer corporal punishment as a consequence for school violations.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student's Signature

Date

PARENT-STUDENT-TEACHER COMPACT

I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to all terms as outlined in the Dale County Schools Parent-Student-Teacher Compact.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student's Signature

Date

TRUANCY POLICY

The Alabama Compulsory Attendance Laws require children between the ages of 6 - 17 to attend school. The law also states that parents/guardians having control over school-age children are responsible for the children's regular attendance and proper conduct (Alabama Act 93-972).

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student's Signature

Date

Thank you for your support of the Dale County Schools. Please have your son/daughter return this form to the appropriate school personnel.