

**Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School**  
**Policy S1: Student Behavior Code of Conduct**  
**Adopted: July 23, 2020**

The Governing Board of Southwest Georgia Stem Charter hereby adopts the following discipline policy and student code of conduct which shall be effective on the date the policy is adopted by the Board.

**Section One: Purpose**

Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School (“School”) is committed to creating a safe, positive environment for all of our students, staff, parents, and community partners. The school will work to assure that all students and staff are well-motivated, fully aware of their potential and dedicated to pursue excellence in academic knowledge, skills, and behavior. The School believes that all children can thrive in a safe learning environment. The School utilizes a range of activities to recognize, celebrate, and reward positive behavior at the classroom, school, and district levels.

The purpose of this policy is to support the creation of a safe learning environment for all members of the school community. The purpose of this policy is to state clearly our standards for acceptable conduct of students. The policy also explains the consequences for not meeting these standards of conduct. This policy is a strict policy for conduct that endangers the safety of the schools and/or disrupts the educational experience for other students. The School does not permit corporal punishment.

The policy also sets forth the discipline procedures for the students who have committed violations. This policy is not meant to be a contract between the District and the students, and may be amended at any time.

**Section Two: Scope of the Policy**

Every student is entitled to a safe, secure, and orderly environment in which to learn and work. The rules and regulations in this policy are designed toward that end and shall apply during the following times and in the following places:

- a. On school grounds at any time;
- b. Off school grounds at a school bus stop, on a school bus, school activity, function, or event;
- c. When either the alleged perpetrator or the alleged victim is en route to and/or from school, or to or from a school activity, function or event;
- d. Off school grounds when the behavior of a student (1) could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony or which could result in a felony criminal charge if committed by an adult; and which (2) makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to person or property at school or which disrupts the educational process. (O.C.G.A. 20-2-751.5(c)).

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e. Off school grounds while the student is participating in or attending school-sponsored or school-related activities such as field trips, conferences, or athletic events; or is otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of school authorities;

f. Off school grounds when the misconduct is directed at a school student or employee and is related to the victim's school affiliation, or when the off-campus conduct directly affects the safety and welfare of the school community or the orderly mission and function of the school; and

g. Off school grounds and when a student leaves without permission of a school official or any time Rule 10 would apply.

The rules of this policy do not apply to student speech that occurs off campus if the speech is at a non-school sponsored event and does not cause or is not likely to cause a material and substantial disruption to the school environment or a school activity.

**Section Three: Equal Opportunity Statement**

The School complies with all federal, state and local laws, and provides an equal opportunity for all students. The school prohibits discrimination in admission, grading, discipline and any other activity based on race, creed, color, national origin, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, sexual orientation (known or perceived), gender identity expression (known or perceived), sex, handicap, nationality or citizenship.

All decisions of the School Board and Administration will be administered without regard to any of the categories listed above.

**Section Four: Statement of Student Misconduct**

The rules in this policy are designed to notify students (grades K-9) as to the types of behaviors that are unacceptable; nevertheless, every specific variation of the prohibited conduct may not have been included. Consequently, students should expect to be disciplined for misconduct that is obviously inappropriate. A specific rule need not be written for every conceivable variation of behavior that directly affects the orderly mission of the school.

**Section Five: References to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated**

References to Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) included in this policy do not require that the elements of the specific criminal code section referenced be proved beyond a reasonable doubt before schools may punish misconduct. Further, these code references do not impose any additional intent requirements upon schools pursuing discipline against students for violation of this policy.

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When a school rule is violated that may also be a violation of the law, the schools may notify the appropriate law enforcement agency.

**Section Six: Discipline Rules and Prohibited Conduct**

**RULE 1 - DISRUPTION AND INTERFERENCE WITH SCHOOL**

No student shall cause or attempt to cause (either directly or indirectly) a disruption or interference with school by any means including, but not limited to, any of the following behaviors:

- 1A. Pull fire alarm;
- 1B. Occupy or block any area of the campus, prevent or attempt to prevent students from attending a class, school activity or event;
- 1C. Except under the direct instruction of the principal, block or attempt to block normal pedestrian or vehicular traffic on a school campus or adjacent grounds;
- 1D. School disruption. A student may not in any manner, by use of violence, noise, force coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, insult, or other conduct, intentionally or unintentionally cause the disruption of any lawful mission, process, or function of the school;
- 1E. Class disruption. Student behavior that is repetitive or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to teach and/or students' ability to learn;
- 1F. Disorderly conduct. Any act that substantially disrupts the orderly learning environment, or poses a threat to the health, safety and/or welfare of one or more students, staff members and/or others;
- 1G. Refuse to identify himself/herself upon request of any teacher, principal, superintendent, school bus driver, or other school personnel;
- 1H. Urge, encourage, or counsel other students to violate any rules of the Student Conduct Behavior Policy;
- 1I. Be on campus or enter the premises of a school without proper authorization of the superintendent, principal, or other school personnel;
- 1J. Dress inappropriately (including drug, alcohol, or tobacco advertisements, graffiti, etc.) (A list of each prohibited item is available at each local school);

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1K. Willfully fails to leave the premises after being told to do so;

1L. Other Disruptive Conduct to be explained in detail in discipline documents

**Mandatory Reporting of Repeated and Substantial Class Interference**

Teachers are required to report any student's violation of the Student Conduct Behavior Policy which repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in his or her class or with the ability of the students in his or her class to learn. Teachers shall report any such incidents to the principal or the principal's designee within one school day of the most recent occurrence of such behavior. Such report shall not exceed one page and shall describe the behavior. The principal or the principal's designee shall, within one day of receiving such report, send to the student's parents or guardians a copy of the report, and information regarding how the principal or the principal's designee may be contacted. Such students may be expelled from the School or may not be permitted to re-enroll during the next school year.

**Student Removal from Class**

A teacher may remove or refer to the principal or designee a student from class if the student has exhibited behavior that repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to teach students in his or her class or the ability of other students to learn in the class. The Board shall fully support the authority of principals and teachers to remove a student from the classroom pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-738.

Where a teacher has previously filed a report of a student's repeated or substantial interference with the classroom or where the behavior of a student poses an immediate threat to the safety of student's classmates or the teacher, the teacher shall have the authority to remove the student from the classroom pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-738. The school will have a placement review committee that shall be responsible for determining the appropriate placement of a student when the principal recommends that the student be returned to the classroom and the teacher withholds consent for the student's return. The placement review committee shall consist of three members, including two teachers and one alternate teacher chosen by the faculty and a member of the professional staff chosen by the principal.

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**RULE 2 - DAMAGE, DESTRUCTION OR MISUSE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY OR EQUIPMENT**

A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to school property or alter/misuse school technology or any other equipment, including accessing unauthorized areas on the computer. A student shall not steal or attempt to steal school property. A student shall not access/alter school/teacher records. A student shall not possess, sell, use, buy or transmit stolen school property or attempt to possess, sell, use, buy or transmit stolen school property.

The prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 2A. Damage or vandalize school property;
- 2B. Steal school property (valued at less than \$300.00);
- 2C. Engage in larceny/theft of school property (valued at \$300.00 or more);
- 2D. Possess, use, sell, buy or transmit stolen school property (valued at less than \$300.00);
- 2E. Possess, use, sell, buy or transmit stolen school property (valued at \$300.00 or more);
- 2F. Alter/misuse technology or any other equipment-hardware or software or school web site/page;
- 2G. Engage in computer trespass (accessing unauthorized areas on the computer/software);
- 2H. Accessing/altering school/teacher records;
- 2I. Undertake breaking and entering and/or burglary;
- 2L. Commit arson (by means of fire or explosive a person knowingly damages or knowingly causes, aids, abets, advises, encourages, hires, counsels, or procures another to do damage);
- 2M. Rob or attempt to rob by using violence, threat, or intimidation;
- 2N. Commit armed robbery (with intent to commit theft, a person takes property of another by use of any offensive weapon or any replica, article, or device having the appearance of such weapon);
- 2O. Compromising test security of an international, national, state or county standardized test;

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2P. Other Destructive Behavior to be explained in detail in discipline documents

**RULE 3 - DAMAGE, DESTRUCTION OR MISUSE OF PRIVATE PROPERTY**

A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to private property or steal or attempt to steal private property. A student shall not possess, sell, use, buy or transmit stolen private property on school grounds. Further, off school grounds, a student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to private property belonging to a school employee where such theft or damage is because of that school employee's performance of his/her official duties. A student shall not sell or buy or attempt to sell or buy personal property on school grounds.

The prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 3A. Damage or vandalize private property of another person (valued at less than \$300.00);
- 3B. Damage or vandalize private property (valued at \$300.00 or more);
- 3C. Steal private property of another person (valued at less than \$300.00);
- 3D. Possess, use, sell, buy, or transmit stolen property (valued at less than \$300.00);
- 3E. Possess, use, sell, buy, or transmit stolen property (valued at \$300.00 or more);
- 3F. Engage in larceny/theft of private property (valued at \$300.00 or more);
- 3G. Steal or attempt to steal a motor vehicle;
- 3H. Rob or attempt to rob by using violence, threat, or intimidation;
- 3I. Commit armed robbery (with intent to commit theft, a person takes property of another by use of an offensive weapon or any replica, article, or device having the appearance of such weapon);
- 3J. Commit arson (by means of fire or explosive a person knowingly damages or knowingly causes, aids, abets, advises, encourages, hires, counsels, or procures another to do damage);
- 3K. Other Destructive Behavior to be explained in detail in discipline documents

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**RULE 4 - ABUSE, THREATS, INTIMIDATION, ASSAULT OR BATTERY ON A SCHOOL EMPLOYEE**

Regardless of intent, a student shall not make oral or written communication, create a document, or make a symbolic gesture or contact of a threatening, undermining, or provoking nature to or about a school employee or in the presence of a school employee. This includes, but is not limited to, disrespectful conduct, insult, use of profanity, ethnic, racial, sexual, disability, or religious slur, or harassment and includes the development of a "hit list", "people to kill", "people to shoot", or a statement about bringing a weapon to school and injuring people. Further, a student shall not cause or attempt to cause physical injury or behave in such a way that could reasonably cause physical injury or make physical contact of a threatening or provoking nature to a school employee.

The prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 4A. Oral threat/verbal assault (oral speech that creates, or is intended to create, a fear of physical harm);
- 4B. Written threat;
- 4C. Rude and/or disrespectful conduct including but not limited to symbolic gestures and insults;
- 4D. Cyberbullying. Any electronic communication, whether or not such electronic act originated on school property, off school property, with school equipment, or with non-school equipment, that: (1) is directed specifically at school personnel; (2) is maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school; and (3) creates a reasonable fear of harm to the school personnel(s)' person or property or has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose.
- 4E. Use of profanity;
- 4F. Ethnic, racial, sexual, religious, or disability slur;
- 4G. Harassment - Repeated words (verbal or written), conduct, or action that annoys, alarms, or causes distress and serves no legitimate purpose;
- 4H. Any expression (oral, written, or gesture) which has the effect of undermining the authority of the school employee or distracting staff and/or students from the learning environment, including writings of a threatening or provoking nature;
- 4I. Terroristic threats (threatening to commit any crime of violence, release any hazardous substance, or to burn or damage property with the purpose of terrorizing another, with the purpose of causing the evacuation of a building, with the purpose of causing serious public inconvenience, or in reckless disregard of the risk of causing terror, the evacuation of a building, or serious inconvenience).
- 4J. Posturing to inflict physical harm. Any action or gesture directed toward a school employee that places the school employee in reasonable fear of immediate physical harm;

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- 4K. Other Threatening Conduct to a school employee to be 4BA. Behavior that could cause physical injury;
- 4L. Behavior that unintentionally caused physical injury to employee;
- 4M. Intentional physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature to employee;
- 4N. Aggravated battery (maliciously causing bodily harm to another by depriving him or her of a member of his or her body, or by rendering a member of his or her body useless, or by seriously disfiguring his or her body or a member thereof);
- 4O. Homicide/murder;
- 4P. Kidnapping (seizure, transportation, and/or detention of a person against his/her will);
- 4Q. Voluntary manslaughter;
- 4R. Enter without permission the private property of a school employee and/or deface/damage/vandalize such property;
- 4S. Intentional physical contact that caused physical harm to an employee;
- 4T. Violence against a teacher
- 4U. Other Violent Behavior to be explained in detail in discipline documents

This rule applies off school grounds when the misconduct by the alleged perpetrator is because of the school employee's performance of his/her official duties.

**Intentional Physical Contact with a Teacher, Bus Driver, or Other School Employee**

Any student who intentionally makes physical contact of a threatening or provoking nature with a teacher, bus driver, school official, or other school employee shall be suspended and brought before a disciplinary hearing.

The minimum penalty for a student found in violation of Rule 4M or 4S shall be suspension from school until the end of the school year. Any hearing finding a student in violation of Rule 4M or 4S may impose a more severe penalty in its discretion. This minimum penalty shall not be applied in conflict with applicable law.

Any student found in violation of Rule 4N, 4O, 4P, 4Q, or 4T shall be expelled from the school for the remainder of their eligibility to attend school. The following exceptions apply: (1) The Board, in its discretion, may allow a student found in violation to return to school after completing certain remedial programs, (2) the Board, in its discretion and upon the recommendation of the disciplinary tribunal, may allow a student in grades 6-8 to return to the school system for grades 9-12, (3) the Board, in its discretion, may allow a student in grades K-5 to return to the school, (4) permanent expulsion will not be imposed where this penalty would infringe any right created under law, and (5) permanent expulsion will not be imposed where the student acts in self defense as provided in O.C.G.A. 16-3-21.



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**RULE 5 - ABUSE, THREATS, INTIMIDATION, ASSAULT OR BATTERY BY A STUDENT ON ANOTHER STUDENT OR TO ANY OTHER PERSON NOT EMPLOYED BY THE SCHOOL**

Regardless of intent, a student shall not make oral or written communication, create a document, or make a symbolic gesture or contact of a threatening, distracting, or provoking nature to or about a person/student or in the presence of a person/student. This includes, but is not limited to, bullying, disrespectful conduct, insult, use of profanity; ethnic, racial, sexual, disability, or religious slur; or harassment and includes the development of a "hit list", "people to kill", "people to shoot", or a statement about bringing a weapon to school and injuring people.

State law defines "bullying" as: 1) any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so; 2) any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily injury or harm; or 3) any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate that: a) causes substantial physical harm or visible harm; b) substantially interferes with a student's education; c) is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating/threatening educational environment; or d) substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school. Upon finding that a student in grades 6 - 9 has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, such student shall not be permitted to attend the School. (O.C.G.A. 20-2-751.4) Retaliation for reports of bullying will not be tolerated and will be subject to independent disciplinary action. The prohibition against bullying includes off-campus cyberbullying that is (1) directed specifically at students or school personnel; (2) is maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school; and (3) creates a reasonable fear of harm to students' or school personnel's person or property or has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose.

A student shall not cause or attempt to cause physical injury or behave in such a way as could reasonably cause bodily injury to any student/person. A student shall not engage in any behavior that threatens the safety or well-being of another person or has the likelihood of provoking a fight.

The prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:

5A. Oral threat/verbal assault (oral speech that creates, or is intended to create, a fear of physical harm);

5B. Written threat;

5C. Rude and/or disrespectful conduct including but not limited to symbolic gestures and insults;

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5D. Bullying; (See note below on bullying and state law above)

5E. Cyberbullying. Any electronic communication, whether or not such electronic act originated on school property, off school property, with school equipment, or with non-school equipment, that: (1) is directed specifically at student(s); (2) is maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school; and (3) creates a reasonable fear of harm to the student(s)' person or property or has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose.

5F. Use of profanity;

5G. Ethnic, racial, sexual, religious or disability slur;

5H. Harassment - Repeated words (verbal or written), conduct, or action that annoys, alarms, or causes distress and serves no legitimate purpose;

5I. Posturing to fight;

5J. Terroristic threats (threatening to commit any crime of violence, release any hazardous substance, or to burn or damage property with the purpose of terrorizing another, with the purpose of causing the evacuation of a building, with the purpose of causing serious public inconvenience, or in reckless disregard of the risk of causing terror, the evacuation of a building, or serious inconvenience)

5K. Pushing and shoving;

5L. Fighting;

5M. Battery (when one individual physically attacks or beats up on another individual)

5N. Behavior that could cause physical injury;

5O. Behavior that caused physical injury to another student;

5P. Physical contact of a threatening or provoking nature to another student;

5Q. Aggravated battery (maliciously causing bodily harm to another by depriving him or her of a member of his or her body, or by rendering a member of his or her body useless, or by seriously disfiguring his or her body or a member thereof);

5R. Homicide/murder;

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5S. Kidnapping (seizure, transportation, and/or detention of a person against his/her will);

5T. Hazing (as a condition or precondition of gaining acceptance, membership, office, or other status in any school or school organization, subjecting a student to an activity which endangers or is likely to endanger the physical health or emotional well being of a student, regardless of a student's willingness to participate in such activity);

5U. Voluntary manslaughter;

5W. Other Violent Behavior to be explained in detail in discipline documents

**RULE 6 - WEAPONS, DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS AND EXPLOSIVE, OR IMPLOSIVE DEVICES**

A student shall not solicit to buy or sell, or buy or sell or possess, handle, transmit, threaten with or discharge/use, any object that can reasonably be considered or converted to and/or used as a weapon such as, but not limited to knives; guns; pellet guns; brass knuckles; fireworks; lighters, tear gas, mace, explosives, pepper spray; bats (other than for athletics); clubs, sticks or other instruments of a bludgeoning type; Chinese stars; razors; projectiles and the like.

The prohibited behavior include, but are not limited to, possession of the following:

6A. Knife less than 2 inches;

6B. Knife 2 inches or more;

6C. Handgun;

6D. Rifle or shotgun;

6E. BB/pellet/airsoft/paintball gun or rifle;

6F. Toy or any look-a-like gun;

6G. Destructive device (bomb, grenade, mine, rocket, missile, pipe bomb or similar device);

6H. Brass knuckles or metal knucks;

6I. Fire works;

6J. Accelerants (any liquid/aerosol, etc. which may be used to start or perpetuate a fire or other hazardous condition);

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6K. Tear gas, mace or pepper spray;

6L. Bats, clubs, sticks or other instruments of a bludgeoning type (other than for athletics);

6M. Razors or razor blades;

6N. Spring stick/expandable baton;

6O. Nun chahka, nun check, nunchaku, shuriken, fighting chain, [any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely];

6P. Throwing star, oriental dart, or any disc having two or more points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled;

6Q. Taser/Stun gun;

6R. Other Weapon or device intended to cause physical harm.

**Possession of a Firearm, Dangerous Weapon or Hazardous Object on School Property or at School Functions**

Students are prohibited from possessing firearms (including a handgun, rifle, shotgun, or other weapon which will or can be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or electrical charge, dangerous weapons (as defined by O.C.G.A. 16-11-121) or hazardous objects (as defined by O.C.G.A. 20-2-751), while on school property or at school functions. A student shall be excluded from school for one calendar year for possessing on school grounds or at a school function a firearm or a dangerous weapon (as defined by O.C.G.A. 16-11-121), provided that all hearing officers, tribunals, panels, administrators, and the Board shall have the discretion to impose a lesser or more harsh, appropriate consequence on a case-by-case basis for any such offense. Any student possessing a hazardous object (as defined by the O.C.G.A. 20-2-751), while on school property or at school functions, shall receive disciplinary consequences in the discretion of the hearing officer, tribunal, panel, administrator, the superintendent, or the Board, as consistent with the Board's policies and procedures.

This Rule shall not apply to individuals who are permitted to carry weapons by O.C.G.A. 16-11-127.1.

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**RULE 7 - DRUGS, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND VAPING**

A student shall not be involved in any substance, drug, alcohol tobacco or vaping transaction, including, without limitation to buy, possess, sell, use, transmit, solicit; attempt to buy, possess, sell, use, or transmit; or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, depressant or stimulant drug including without limitation caffeine pills, hallucinogenic drug, anabolic steroid, amphetamine, barbiturate, cannabis, inhalant, alcoholic beverage, vaping product or intoxicant of any kind. A student shall not possess, sell, buy or transmit, or attempt to sell, buy or transmit any substance under the pretense that it is, in fact, a prohibited substance as described in this rule. The misuse or unauthorized possession of a prescription drug or nonprescription drug shall be considered a violation of this rule; however, this rule shall not apply to proper possession and/or use of a drug as authorized by a medical prescription from a registered physician.

A student shall not possess, sell, use, transmit, buy or solicit any drug-related paraphernalia any tobacco related paraphernalia, or any vaping related paraphernalia, which includes, but is not limited to, pipes, water pipes, clips, rolling papers, electronic smoking devices, or any other items related to drug use, tobacco use, vaping or depicting drugs, drug use, tobacco, vaping, or tobacco use, except where such items are related to approved curriculum.

A student shall not possess, sell, use, transmit, buy or solicit tobacco or nicotine products.

The prohibited substances, products and behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 7A. Alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind;
- 7B. Amphetamine/methamphetamine drug [schedule II];
- 7C. Hallucinogenic drug [schedule I] [ex. peyote, PCP, etc.];
- 7D. Anabolic steroid [schedule III];
- 7E. Controlled drug or controlled substance {ex. Ritalin, Adderall, Phenobarbital, Percocet, OxyContin, Xanax, etc.};
- 7F. Cannabis (including but without limitation to marijuana, hemp, THC, etc.);
- 7G. LSD [schedule I];
- 7H. Cocaine [schedule II];
- 7I. Heroin [schedule I];
- 7J. Inhalants (any volatile solvents, aerosols, anesthetics, or volatile nitrites) [ex. glue, paint thinner, hair spray, Pam, ether, etc.];

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7K. Over-the-counter (OTC) drugs (ex. NoDoz, Vivarin, asthma medicines, energy/diet pills, aspirins, herb pills, etc.);

7L. Look alike substance (under the pretense);

7M. Cannabis (selling - including possession of cannabis that is packaged for distribution or possession of one ounce or more)

7N. Offering, requesting, and/or receiving of a substance;

7O. Furnishing/providing/selling of a substance;

7P. Non-controlled prescription drug (ex. Prozac, Seroquel, Amoxicillin, etc.);

7Q. Pipes, water pipes, clips, rolling papers, or other objects used for drug use;

7R. Photographs, drawings or depictions of drugs, drug use, or objects used for drug use;

7S. Photographs, drawings or depictions of tobacco, vaping, tobacco use, or objects used for tobacco use or vaping;

7T. Electronic Smoking or Vaping Device;

7U. Tobacco products (ex. cigarettes, electronic tobacco or nicotine cartridges [any type], chewing tobacco, dip, snuff, cigars, liquid nicotine (regardless of biological source), electronic cigarette vapors (with or without nicotine), etc.);

Self-administration of asthma medication and prescription auto-injectable epinephrine is permitted with written parental approval and required documentation to the principal or his or her designee. See administrator for completion of proper forms/procedures.

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**RULE 8 - DISREGARD OF DIRECTIONS OR COMMANDS**

A student shall not fail to comply with reasonable directions or commands of teachers, student teachers, substitute teachers, teacher aides, administrators, school bus drivers, or other authorized school personnel.

The prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 8A. Failure to follow directions or commands of staff;
- 8B. Failure to follow written directions, local school rules or regulations;
- 8C. Failure to serve an administrative consequence (ex. Administrative Detention, Saturday School);

**RULE 9 - SEXUAL MISCONDUCT/INDECENCY**

A student shall not engage in any act of sexual harassment of a physical nature or verbal nature. A student shall not perform any act of indecent exposure, lewd exposure, gesture or lewd caress or indecent fondling/touching of the student's own body or the body of another person, or any act of sexual intercourse. A student shall not allow another student/person to commit a lewd or indecent act to the body of oneself. A student shall not use any inappropriate gestures that mimic or imply sexual acts or engage in any acts of "streaking" or "mooning" as those terms are commonly understood. Such acts will not be regarded lightly or considered pranks.

A student shall not possess, view, copy, sell, buy or transmit printed or non-printed pornographic materials including any non-curricular sexually explicit printed or non-printed materials; or a student shall not possess, view, copy, sell, buy or transmit printed or non-printed pornographic materials including but not limited to non-curricular materials depicting the human male or female genitals or buttocks with less than a fully opaque covering or any portion of the female breast with less than a fully opaque covering.

A student who engages in any of the behaviors covered by this rule may also be subject to a Title IX investigation as set forth in policy S3.

The prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 9A. Sexual harassment. Deliberate and unsolicited physical actions, gestures, or verbal or written comments of a sexual nature that are repeated or a single incident of a sufficiently serious nature to create a hostile environment;
- 9B. Lewd (sexual) exposure (any act of) (This includes "streaking" and "mooning.");

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9C. Obscene and/or indecent gestures or gestures that mimic or imply sexual intercourse;

9D. Lewd caress or indecent fondling/touching of the student's own body or the body of another person;

9E. Sexual intercourse;

9F. Oral sex or any act of sodomy;

9G. Aggravated sexual battery;

9H. Pornographic materials. Possession or transmission by any means of descriptions, images, recordings, or other materials involving the display of genitals, pubic area, buttocks or breasts;

9I. Sexually Exploitative/Sexually Explicit materials. Possession or transmission by any means of descriptions, images, recordings or other materials involving (a) sexual acts of any type, (b) exposure of the genitals, pubic area, breasts or buttocks of a minor, or (c) other graphic sexual content;

9J. Recording images of intimate areas. Recording, possession, and/or transmission of images of students or employees that are of a sexual nature and that were taken without the consent of the student or employee;

9K. Kissing or any act of intimacy;

9L. Aggravated child molestation;

9M. Aggravated sodomy;

9N. Rape;

9O. Sexual battery (Intentional physical contact with the intimate parts of the body of another person without the consent of that person);

9P. Allowing another student/person to commit a lewd or indecent act to the body of oneself;

9Q. Other Sexual Behavior



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**RULE 10 - UNEXCUSED ABSENCES**

A student shall not be absent from school or from any class or other required school function during required school hours except for illness or other providential cause, except with written permission of the teacher, principal, or other duly authorized school official. A student may not leave school grounds prior to the end of the school day, after his/her initial arrival on campus, without the permission of a duly authorized school official.

The prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 10A. Tardy to class;
- 10B. Tardy to school;
- 10C. AWOL from class (Absent without official leave);
- 10D. AWOL from school;
- 10E. Unexcused absence (Failure to comply with compulsory school attendance law);

**RULE 11 - OTHER CONDUCT WHICH IS SUBVERSIVE TO GOOD ORDER**

A student shall not perform any other act which is subversive to good order and discipline in the schools. This includes, but is not limited to, violation of local school rules; violation of state and federal law; involvement in criminal gang-related behavior and/or criminal gang conduct as defined and prohibited by O.C.G.A. 16-15-3 and 16-15-4; providing false information to school personnel; unauthorized possession or inappropriate use of laser pointers, and electronic communications devices (including tape recorders, radios, CD Players, MP3 players, video games, and televisions); loitering or trespassing, providing false information to or about school personnel, or community misconduct that would be so serious as to pose a threat to the school community.

A student shall not hold oneself out as a member of a criminal street gang identified by one's mode of dress, means and method of communication including the use of handsigns, or the possession or publication of gang writings/symbols.

Subject to the rules listed below, the Board permits students to possess electronic pagers, cell phones or communication devices on a limited basis and provides local school principals with the authority to set forth rules pertaining to student possession and use of such devices at their individual schools.

The prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following:

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11A. Criminal gang-related activity (as defined by O.C.G.A. 16-15-3 and 16-15-4) including but not limited to: (1) Conduct or participate in a criminal street gang through criminal gang activity as defined in O.C.G.A. 16-15-3; (2) Acquire, maintain, directly or indirectly, through criminal gang activity or proceeds derived there from any interest in or control of any real or personal property of any nature, including money; (3) Engage in, directly or indirectly, or conspire to engage in criminal gang activity while acting as an organizer, supervisor or other position of management with regard to a criminal street gang; (4) Cause, encourage, solicit, or coerce another to participate in a criminal street gang; (5) Communicate, directly or indirectly, with another any threat of injury or damage to the person or property of the other person or to any associate or relative of the other person with the intent to deter such person from assisting a member or associate of a criminal street gang to withdraw from such criminal street gang; (6) Communicate, directly or indirectly, with another any threat of injury or damage to the person or property of the other person or to any associate or relative of the other person with the intent to punish or retaliate against such person for having withdrawn from a criminal street gang; (7) While employed by or associated with a criminal street gang, commit any offense enumerated in O.C.G.A. 16-15-3 with knowledge that members of such criminal street gang have committed one or more of such offenses; (8) Commit any offense enumerated in O.C.G.A. 16-15-3 with the intent to maintain or increase his or her status or position in a criminal street gang;

11B. Retaliating against or deterring a witness. No student shall use threats, physical force, intimidation or violence to deter a student from, or retaliate against a student for: (1) providing information to school staff regarding the violation of the policy, the commission of a criminal act or the commission of a delinquent act, or (2) testifying at a school disciplinary hearing.

11C. Provide false information and/or forgery;

11D. Cheating;

11E. Gambling;

11F. Plagiarism;

11G. Foul language (profane or vulgar language not directed at another person) on school property or at a school-sponsored event;

11H. Laser pointers;

11I. Unauthorized use during school hours of electronic devices including but not limited to: tape recorders, radios, Cellphones. CD players, MP3 players, video games, and televisions;

11J. Loitering;

11K. Criminal trespassing;

11L. Community misconduct that would pose a threat to the school community. Any off campus behavior of a student which (1) could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony or which could result in a felony criminal charge if committed by an adult; and which (2) makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to person or property at school or which disrupts the educational process;

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11M. Other felony-Behavior of a student which could result in the student being charged criminally with a felony or which could result in a felony criminal charge if committed by an adult: (list);

11N. Holding oneself out as a member of a criminal street gang by more than one of the following: one's mode of dress, means and method of communication including the use of handsigns, the possession or publication of gang writings/symbols, or admission of membership;

11O. Falsifying, misrepresenting, omitting, or erroneously reporting information regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator, or school employee toward a student;

**RULE 12 - REPEATED VIOLATIONS/MISBEHAVIOR/CHRONIC DISCIPLINARY PROBLEM STUDENTS**

Students who chronically disrupt or repeatedly violate other school rules may be charged with repeated violations of school rules or misbehavior. This rule applies after remediation attempts, including the development and implementation of a student disciplinary and behavioral correction plan.

12A. Chronically disrupt or repeatedly violate other school rules;

The student and parent must be notified in advance that once the student has been placed on a Rule 12, all subsequent violations will lead to an escalation in consequences and may lead to an independent Rule 12 charge and a disciplinary hearing.

**RULE 13 - SCHOOL BUS INFRACTIONS**

No student shall cause or attempt to cause (either directly or indirectly) a disruption or interference with a school bus or other means of transportation by any means including, but not limited to, any of the following behaviors:

13A. Disruption of school transportation. A student shall not in any manner use violence, force, fear, threat or other conduct to disrupt or interfere with a driver's ability to operate the vehicle safely;

13B. Throwing objects at the driver;

13C. Failure to follow directions, rules or regulations;

13D. Use of mirrors, lasers, flash cameras or any other lights or reflective devices during the operation of a school bus without the permission of the driver;

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13E. Posturing to fight;

13F. Fighting;

13G. Diverting or distracting the driver's attention;

13H. Throwing objects on the vehicle or out the vehicle window;

13I. Excessive noise;

13J. Use of any electronic device during the operation of a vehicle, including but not limited to cell phones, pagers, audible radios, tape or compact disc players without headphones;

Note: All other school rules still apply while on a school bus or at the bus stop. Discipline may also include suspension of transportation privileges.