

FAYETTE COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
1401 Spartan Drive
Connersville, IN 47331

ELEMENTARY STUDENT HANDBOOK

2023-2024

FAYETTE COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Fayette County School Corporation is to provide quality educational programs in an environment, which is safe, harmonious, and conducive to learning, enabling a diverse population of all ages to become independent, productive citizens and lifelong learners.

Eastview Elementary

School Hours: 7:55 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.

401 S. Fountain Street
Connersville, IN 47331
Phone: 765-825-5541
Fax: 765-827-1584
Principal—Kate Charlton

Fayette Central Elementary School

Hours: 7:50 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

2928 North County Road 225 West
Connersville, IN 47331
Phone: 765-825-6261
Fax: 765-825-5956
Principal—Mrs. Kirstin Phillips

Everton Elementary

School Hours: 7:50 a.m. – 2:25 p.m.

2440 East Everton Road
Connersville, IN 47331
Phone: 765-825-5840
Fax: 765-825-4275
Principal—Mr. Bryan Jennings

Frazee Elementary

School Hours: 7:55 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.

600 West Third Street
Connersville, IN 47331
Phone: 765-825-6811
Fax: 765-827-4805
Principal—Mrs. Mia McCreary

Grandview Elementary

School Hours: 7:55 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.

2620 Iowa Avenue
Connersville, IN 47331
Phone: 765-825-2981
Fax: 765-825-4703
Principal—Mrs. Stephanie McCann

ATTENDANCE

Fayette County School Corporation recognizes that regular attendance is necessary for proper educational growth. The development of responsibility and punctuality is a worthwhile lifetime habit and attitude. A student's academic progress could be affected by unnecessary absences from school. State laws require punctual and regular attendance of all children. Below is the attendance policy of the Fayette County School Board (Policy 5.20).

The following are recognized as legal reasons for absence:

- I. Illness or quarantine
- II. Death in the immediate family, which is defined as parents, brothers or sisters, and grandparents.
- III. Mental or physical incapacity
- IV. Military connected families – deployment and return (military will provide letter regarding Family Day.)
- V. **These absences are authorized, must be pre-arranged, and the student is not recorded as absent:**
 - A. Service as a page in the Indiana General Assembly
 - B. Subpoenaed to appear in court
 - C. Attendance at weekly religious instruction with the condition that instruction not be more than 120 minutes per week. Permission can be granted for only one (1) year at a time.
 - D. Attendance at the Indiana State Fair on the day designated by the Indiana State Fair Board as Education Day or for exhibiting projects at the state fair
 - E. Religious holidays
- VI. **These absences must be pre-arranged, and the student is recorded as absent:**
 - A. Medical and dental appointments
 - B. **Family travel**—Students may be absent from school without sanctions for family travel under the following conditions:
 1. The request must be made by the parent/guardian to the principal/director at least one week prior to the absence; and
 2. All school assignments must be completed within one week after the return to school. Requests for family travel must be approved by the building principal/designee. Appeals of the principal's/designee's decision shall be made to the superintendent and the superintendent's decision shall be final.
- VII. The principal/director may consider an absence excused, although not listed above, when, in his/her view, conditions and circumstances so warrant.
In regard to items IV, V and VI, building administrators will determine if siblings from other buildings are involved with a similar request. If this condition exists, administrators will collaborate in rendering a decision.

Absences fall into one of three (3) categories.

- I. Excused (Items I, II, III, IV, and VII above)
- II. Pre-arranged (Items V and VI above)
- III. Unexcused—any absence not listed above as excused.

Procedures for dealing with unexcused absences will be established by each level: elementary, middle school, and high school. Students who have excessive tardies or absences will be required to make up school work.

All students must make up work missed during an excused or pre-arranged absence, and it is the student's responsibility to contact each teacher concerning work missed. Parents/guardians of elementary students must make arrangements with their child's teacher. Students will receive 100% credit for make-up work.

In the case of a pre-arranged absence, a written request from the parent/guardian must be presented to the principal/director 7 days prior to the absence. The proper form may be obtained from the principal's/director's office.

Perfect Attendance—Perfect Attendance is defined as being in attendance every day, all day. This means no tardies or early outs. Good attendance may also be recognized by individual buildings and guidelines are set accordingly.

ATTENDANCE RULES

I. Reporting Absences

Parents/guardians are requested to notify the school of the reasons for the student's absence according to individual school rules.

II. Attendance Records

An accurate daily record of the attendance of all students enrolled shall be kept by the teacher and such record shall at all times be open for inspection by attendance officers and school officials.

III. Closed Noon Hours

Continuous sessions (or closed noon hours) are authorized for the high school and middle school. Students shall remain on school property from arrival until the dismissal of school.

IV. Extended Absences

If a student is unable to attend school for an extended period of time because of illness or injury, the principal/director should refer to Policy #4.13, Homebound Instruction.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

- I. Parents/guardians are expected to notify the school of the reason for student absences on the day the student is absent or within 24 hours after the student returns to school.
- II. A student who is unable to attend school due to illness is not allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities on the day of the absence.
- III. Students who are present any part of a half day are considered present for that half day.
- IV. When a student accumulates two (2) unexcused absences, five (5) unexcused tardies (which is considered excessive), or a combined total of five (5) unexcused absences and/or tardies, a letter regarding the matter will be sent by the principal/director to the parent/guardian.
- V. When a student accumulates a fourth unexcused day of absence, a letter will be sent to the parent/guardian informing them that a doctor's note will be required for any additional absences.
- VI. The parent will be notified when a student accumulates a total of eight (8) absences if the principal believes a student is absent from school without sufficient reason. These can be excused or unexcused absences. The parent/guardian will be required to furnish a statement from a physician or furnish other acceptable evidence supporting the need for the absence. A statement verifying a visit to a physician will not be sufficient. Statements from physicians must state that the student was unable to attend school. If no doctor's excuse is provided, the absences will be unexcused and a letter will be sent to the prosecutor.

The parent/guardian will be provided a copy of the Fayette County School Corporation Attendance Policy and Procedures when they register their child/children for school.

HABITUAL TRUANT

- I. A student who has more than eight (8) days of unexcused absence during the school year shall be considered an habitual truant.
- II. If a student is an habitual truant, the following action will be taken:
 - A. The Superintendent or school attendance officer will report the student as habitually truant to the INTAKE OFFICER OF THE JUVENILIE COURT and/or the Department of Child Services. The intake official or the Department of Child Services is required to take certain action in accordance with Indiana law, IC 20-33-2-25.
 - B. If the student is at least thirteen (13) years of age, but less than fifteen (15) years of age and is an habitual truant, the Board or its designee will submit to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles pertinent information concerning an individual's ineligibility as an habitual truant student to be issued an operator's license or a learner's permit based upon the requirements of IC 20-33-2-11.

BIRTHDAY RECOGNITION

Each student receives special recognition for his/her birthday. In order to provide optimum learning time, classroom birthday snacks/parties and special deliveries are not permitted at school. Additionally, in order to protect the feelings of all children, students are not permitted to pass out any invitations at school even if the entire class is invited. The school is not permitted to release student addresses or phone numbers.

BUS PASSES

Students who need to ride a bus other than their regular bus after school MUST bring a note from their parents. A bus pass will be issued to the student to notify the driver. Any student who does not bring a note must go home on his/her regular bus. Bus passes will not be available during the first two weeks of school. For additional school bus procedures and policies see TRANSPORTATION (See page 11).

CAFETERIA PROCEDURES—BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

Meals are served at breakfast and lunch each day. Each class has an assigned lunch period. Every elementary student is expected to eat a mid-day meal. Students may opt to bring a sack lunch from home. Breakfast is optional, and parents can decide if they want their student to eat breakfast. Meals should be prepaid to the student's lunch account. Checks should be made payable to FCSC Food Service. Application forms for free and reduced meals are available in the school office. Due to federal guidelines, fast food and sodas cannot be brought into the cafeteria. According to state health regulations, students are not permitted to trade or share food.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

Effective communication between parents and teachers is encouraged. When a parent has a question about his/her child's progress or what is taking place in the classroom, it is important to contact the teacher either by phone, note or e-mail. When a problem arises, it is critical that the teacher or the adult on duty be consulted first. If the problem is still not solved, then the principal can be contacted.

CLOSING, DELAYS & EARLY DISMISSAL

Inclement weather can cause school to be delayed or even closed. This information is provided on radio and television announcements as early as 6:00 a.m.

Please do not call the school to obtain information about delays, closings, and early dismissals. Occasions do arise that warrant dismissing students early. With the number of students enrolled, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to call all parents in the event of an early dismissal. Therefore, it is important that parents have a contingency plan in place. Please discuss with your child what he/she should do in case of an emergency early school dismissal. Since only a limited number of phone calls can be made in the available time, please plan now. As a community service, WISH TV or connersvillecommunity.com offers a service of sending a text message or email to families in the event of school cancellation, delay, or closing early. To register for WISH TV go to www.wishtv.com, and click on the "weather" link. Choose school delays to complete the required form.

CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

The education your child receives is based on the Indiana's College and Career Readiness Academic Standards as established by the Indiana Department of Education and the curriculum guidelines as approved by the Fayette County School Board. These guides are available for review in the school office.

DELIVERIES

Deliveries of balloons, flowers, etc., to students will not be accepted. Items of this nature create a distraction to the learning environment and can be hazardous during the dismissal process. This is also in consideration of students who have allergies to latex.

DISCIPLINE PLAN

The learning environment is an important part of the educational process. To help facilitate effective instruction, an orderly environment must be maintained. Students are expected to adhere to a code of good behavior not only for their own benefit, but also for the benefit of others as well. Students should conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to their school and ensure the safety of all students, personnel, parents, and patrons. The Fayette County School Corporation's "Student Code of Conduct" is the basis for the expectations of behavior of students. The plan for student behavior is intended to provide general guidelines by which students are to conduct themselves. This plan includes specific violations/consequences listed below, but does not limit the disciplinary consequences that may be imposed by the administration. The primary goal of the school is to provide students with an education that will allow them the opportunity to be successful in life. In order to achieve this goal, there must be order and discipline in the school. Good behavior should be recognized and rewarded, and unacceptable behavior should have consequences to ensure that a few students do not interfere with the rights of others and with the normal functions of the school.

Elementary Rules

1. Students will be prompt for school.
2. Students will walk quietly in all areas of the building.
3. Students will follow all rules and regulations related to student behavior as recognized by the Fayette County School Corporation Student Code of Conduct.
4. Students will conduct themselves in an orderly manner.
5. Students will obey the instructions given by all school staff members.
6. Students' behavior will not endanger themselves or others.
7. Students will demonstrate respect for themselves and others.

8. Students' behavior will not interrupt the normal activities of the school.
9. Students will not practice extremes in dress or grooming which cause disruption. (See DRESS CODE on page 8.)
10. Students will not destroy/damage property that belongs to the school or others. They will use equipment in a safe and orderly manner.
11. Students will not bully others. (See definition below.)
12. Students will not throw items such as snowballs, rocks, sticks, etc.
13. Students will remain in supervised areas of the school or school grounds.
14. Gum is not permitted at school or school functions.
15. Roller blades, roller skates/shoes, scooters, or skateboards are not permitted on school grounds at any time, whether during or after school hours.
16. Electronic devices (iPads, iPods, and other tablets) and "toys" are not to be brought to school.
17. Taking or displaying inappropriate pictures (digital or otherwise) at school, on the school bus, or at a school sponsored event or function, with or without the consent of the student or staff member, is a violation of school rules.
18. Carbonated drinks and fast food are NOT permitted in the cafeteria.

Each student is responsible for his/her own behavior. Throughout the day, situations arise in which he/she chooses how to act and respond. Each student will be held accountable for the choices he/she makes. To assist students in the development of self-discipline, a positive behavior support system of rewards and consequences has been implemented in each building. Positive Behavior and Intervention Support (PBIS) is a form of behavior management that Fayette County School Corporation is utilizing. Students are rewarded for making the right behavioral choices in school. When a student follows the rules of the school, he/she could receive a positive reward that may include but is not limited to any of the following:

1. Verbal complement
2. Material reward (i.e. a smiley button or sticker)
3. Free time
4. Positive note home or phone call
5. Conference with principal
6. Reward from principal
7. Lunch with a staff member
8. Help teacher with special tasks
9. Citizenship Award
10. Classroom Celebration
11. School Wide Celebration

The school administration is not required to follow the progressive discipline steps listed below for attendance, cell phone possession and usage, and student conduct. Administrators may impose more severe disciplinary consequences when, in its judgment, such action is warranted by serious misconduct. Law enforcement officials may be involved if warranted by the nature of the incident.

Disciplinary Action Disclaimer

The consequences lists below do not encompass all potential violations of the discipline rules and guidelines. Known facts of a violation may alter the final penalty assessment. Although a student may be suspended or expelled for any of the enumerated grounds set forth below, the following guidelines for the imposition of specific disciplinary sanctions will generally apply. Related circumstances, or past conduct, may warrant a greater or lesser disciplinary sanction as specified in the guidelines set forth above. However, in no case shall the disciplinary sanctions exceed the maximum penalty allowed by IC 20-33-8

Infractions are divided into two categories: minor and major. Persistent minor infractions and major infractions will result in an office referral.

MINOR INFRACTIONS
(include but are not limited to)

Types of Infractions

Defiance	
Physical aggression (pushing, shoving, horseplay, etc.)	
Teasing	Minor theft (less than \$50)
Rude, mean, impolite language	Misuse of property

Possible Consequences

Time out in classroom	Administration/parent/teacher/student conference
Missed recess	
Parent contact	Restitution
Detention in classroom	
Loss of privileges	

MAJOR INFRACTIONS

Types of Infractions

Bullying	
Harassment	Persistent Minor Infractions
Fighting/Physical Aggression	Sexually Inappropriate Behavior
Abusive language/Profanity/Gestures	Possession/use of a Knife
Threats of Violence	Sexual Harassment
Serious Theft (more than \$50)	Vandalism

Possible Consequences

Referral to office	Alternative Learning Environment
Referral to school counselor	In-school Suspension
Parent contact	Out- of-school Suspension
Isolation	Expulsion
Restitution	

In cases of illegal activity, law enforcement and or child protective services will be contacted.

Obligation to Report: Students have an obligation to inform school personnel of potential danger or threats. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

Bullying: Bullying by a student or groups of students against another student or staff member with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the other student/staff member through overt, repeated acts or gestures, including verbal, written, telephonic (including text messaging), electronic or computer (email, web page, blog, etc.) communications, and/or physical acts committed, or any other similar behavior is prohibited. Students engaging in such conduct may be disciplined in accordance with IC 20-33-8. Bullying presentations are given by the counselors in grades K-6 to explain bullying and give students steps and guidelines to follow if they feel they are being bullied. Students in grades K-- 6 are given bullying information that both students and parents read and sign.

Cyberbullying: "Cyberbullying" is the use of any electronic communication device to convey a message in any form (text, image, audio or video) under a person's true or false identity that defames, intimidates, harasses or is otherwise intended to harm, insult or humiliate another in a deliberate, repeated or hostile and unwanted manner.

1. Any communication of this form which disrupts or prevents a safe and positive educational environment may also be considered cyberbullying. Students will refrain from using personal communication devices or district property to harass or stalk another.
2. The administration will take any report of cyberbullying seriously and will investigate reports promptly. Students are encouraged to report an incident immediately to a teacher or principal, who will take appropriate action. Students who make a report are expected, but not required, to preserve evidence of cyberbullying. For example, a student may save or bring a copy of an email, text message, picture or other electronic transmission that the student believes was intended to harm, insult, or humiliate.
3. Students whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to loss of privileges, and/or discipline, up to and including expulsion. The school corporation may also report individuals to law enforcement if necessary.

Sexting: Sexting is defined as using a cell phone, or other electronic or personal communication device to send text or email messages, or to knowingly possess text or email messages, or disseminate, transfer or share images or messages reasonably interpreted as indecent, sexually suggestive, lewd, obscene, or pornographic.

1. Sexting is prohibited.
2. In addition to taking any disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion, cell phones or other personal communication devices will be confiscated.
3. Students should be aware that sending or possessing any images or messages suspected of violating criminal laws will be referred to law enforcement authorities. Sexting may constitute a crime under federal and/or state law. Such conduct engaged in by a student may result in arrest, criminal prosecution and inclusion on sex offender registries.

Reporting: Any incidents of bullying reported to FCSC will be communicated to targeted and perpetrator's parent/guardian, no later than 5 school days, after an incident has been reported. For more information in regards to reporting an incident of bullying visit our website: <https://www.fayette.k12.in.us/page/fscs-anti-bullying>

Habitual Offender: A student who chronically exhibits disruptive behavior that interferes with an educational function or school purpose. A student who continues to choose inappropriate behaviors regardless of repeated discipline interventions. The consequence for the habitual offender could be suspension for up to 10 days and/or a recommendation for expulsion.

Sexual Harassment: Sexual harassment shall consist of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other inappropriate verbal, written or physical conduct of a sexual nature. It may include but is not limited to:

1. Verbal, written, or physical harassment or abuse;
2. Repeated remarks to a person with sexual or demeaning implications;
3. Unwelcome touching;
4. Pressure for sexual activity.

Racial Harassment: Racial harassment consists of unwelcome racial comments, and other inappropriate verbal, written or physical conduct of a racial nature. It may include but is not limited to:

1. Verbal, written, or physical conduct harassment or abuse.
2. Repeated remarks to a person with racial or demeaning implications

Students and parents/guardians may report any type of harassment/bullying or any safety concerns by completing a form in the office of each elementary school or by accessing the link for reporting on the FCSC website: <http://fayettein.schooldesk.net> and clicking on the school of your choice.

Restorative Practices- FCSC Elementary Schools have implemented restorative practices to enhance school culture, strengthen relationships, and inform the discipline process. Restorative practices seek to strengthen relationships through building community. Examples of these practices are morning meetings, community circles, and restorative chats. These practices provide the opportunity for students to learn how to communicate respectfully and listen with empathy. When confrontation arises, students are able to focus on the harm done. Restorative practices give a voice to the person(s) harmed. Incorporating these practices seeks to empower change through a collaborative problem solving approach that allows the offender to take responsibility for their actions and repair the damage done to the community. In situations where all parties are agreeable, discipline may be addressed through this lens.

Testing for Cannabis and THC

FCSC is committed to maintaining a safe, orderly school to promote health and safety within the school setting, and to provide a school environment conducive to education. To combat student drug use in our schools, the District may utilize Marijuana Test Kits in order to verify whether confiscated contraband contains THC. This policy is applicable in all situations in which students are subject to school disciplinary rules including:

- On school grounds immediately before or during school hours, or immediately after school hours, or at any other time when the school is being used by a school group;
- Off school grounds at a school activity, function, or event; or
- Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event.

Marijuana Test Kit Screening Procedures:

- All confiscated contraband may be subject to screening. In the event marijuana test kit screenings are conducted:
- Marijuana test kit screenings of confiscated contraband shall be conducted in an orderly and safe manner, consistent with industry standards for use of the testing kits, and consistent with minimizing intrusion into students' privacy rights.
- Confiscated contraband belongings shall be screened by District employees using a testing kit owned by the District.
- Consistent scanning techniques shall be used for each student's confiscated contraband.
- Students whose confiscated contraband was tested will be subject to an invoice for the cost of each marijuana testing kit utilized as determined by the district.

The purpose of marijuana test kit screenings is to enforce school policy on possession of marijuana and/or any substance containing THC.

DRESS

The Fayette County School Corporation believes that each student should be attired in such a way as to reflect credit to him/herself, his/her family, and the school. The attire a student wears to school should be neat, clean and in good taste. When helping your child select clothing appropriate for school, you should consider these guidelines:

- Alterations to appearance that disrupt the educational process are not allowed.
- Clothing that deviates from the normal to such a degree as to interrupt the educational process will not be permitted.
 - o Clothing should not contain words or pictures that communicate a negative message.
- Students may not wear hats nor have the hood of a sweatshirt covering their heads (while indoors)
- Special dress and appearance regulations will be recognized for special activities.
- Students should always be dressed appropriately for prevailing weather conditions.
- Footwear must be worn at all times. Students are encouraged to wear shoes with a back. For safety reasons, flip-flops, slides, and house slippers are discouraged.
- Sunglasses, hoods, and hats are not to be worn in the building.
- Articles of clothing that advocate or display the use of vulgar language, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, illicit sex or violence, or the confederate flag are not to be worn.
- Body piercing jewelry must be limited to the ears. No jewelry should be worn in the eyebrow, nose, tongue, or other visible places. Any other piercing should be covered by clothing.
- Hair may not be colored or styled in such a way that it disrupts the educational environment.
- Shorts and skirts need to be mid-thigh in length. A good test to determine appropriate length of shorts and skirts is to hold arms straight down at sides. If the shorts or skirt is not longer than the fingertips, the garment should not be worn to school.
 - o Sleeveless, transparent or low cut shirts/blouses, short shorts, bicycle shorts, and midriff shirts are not appropriate school wear.
 - o Other thin, tight-fitting articles should not be worn unless covered by appropriate length shorts, shirt or dress. Camisole tops must be covered with another top/blouse.
 - o Jeans and slacks (which expose the midriff, torso, or bottom) are not appropriate and should not be worn.
 - o Holes in pants are permitted below the mid-thigh. No skin should show above mid-thigh.

ELEARNING

Please find the FCSC Elearning Handbook on any of the individual school's websites (or ask for a paper copy in the school office).

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Emergency procedures have been established to provide for the safekeeping of students and staff. Students are instructed in these procedures on a regular basis. The procedures are posted in every classroom. Each school has a designated place for students and staff to go in the event of an emergency that would require building evacuation. Parents will be notified of building procedures through school notes and newsletters.

FINE ARTS EDUCATION, TECHNOLOGY INSTRUCTION AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We are fortunate to continue to provide quality instruction in these areas for all students in Grade K-6. These subjects are not electives in the elementary, but are curriculum enhancements. Teachers trained in these areas encourage students to perform and to excel in areas beyond the classroom requirements. Participation is required of all students. In the case of physical education, if a child has had a medical condition that prevents his/her participation in this class, a note from the doctor documenting the reason for non-participation should be presented to the office so that the instructor can be informed.

GRADING SCALE

A+	99-100	C+	78-79
A	92-98	C	72-77
A-	90-91	C-	70-71
B+	88-89	D+	68-69
B	82-87	D	62-67
B-	80-81	D-	60-61
		F	59 and below

Students in grades 3 - 6 who have maintained a "B" average or above will have their names placed on an Honor Roll. To access student progress reports, attendance, or discipline for students in grades 3 - 6, go to the parent portal on the left side of FCSC website: <http://fayettein.schooldesk.net>. Click on parent portal, choose the school, and then enter your student's username and password

HEALTH CLINIC AND MEDICATION

EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL DUE TO HEALTH

The school nurse/health assistant follows the standing orders from the Fayette County Health Officer for use in the Fayette County School Corporation. A parent will be contacted to pick up their child at school for any of (but not limited to) the following health conditions:

1. The student has a temperature of 99.8? or above.
*Student is required to be fever free for twenty-four hours, without the use of fever reducing medication such as acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen before coming back to school.
2. Student is vomiting.
*Student may return the following day, if vomiting has stopped.
3. Any suspicious skin rash.
*Student is excluded from school until skin clears, or until the student brings a note from a physician stating that the condition is not infectious.
4. Discharging reddened eye or eyes.
*Student is excluded from school until condition is cleared up, or until the student brings a note from a physician stating the condition is not infectious.

MEDICATION

- I. No medication will be administered to a student without a signed and dated Medication Authorization Form signed by the student's parent/guardian. The signed Medication Authorization Form shall be valid only for the period specified on the Authorization Form and in no case longer than the current school or program year. The signed Medication Authorization Form will give designated school employees the authority to dispense prescription or non-prescription medicine.
- II. The FCSC board strongly recommends that parents/guardians NOT allow students to transport prescription medicine to and from school. Whenever possible, it is strongly recommended that parents request their doctor (M.D. or D.O.) to arrange for medication "times" to be given at home, i.e., twice a day medication could be given before and after school or medication scheduled for three times a day could be given before school, after school, and at bedtime. An example of an exception to this would be "Ritalin" which requires a specific daily medication time.
 - A. Prescription and non-prescription medication (not considered Controlled Substances) may be transported to or from school by a student if the student's parent/guardian provides written permission prior to transporting the medication.
 - B. Medications considered to be Controlled Substances may not be transported to or from school by students. Medications considered Controlled Substances, provided in the original container with an appropriate prescription, must be transported by a parent/guardian or an individual who is at least 18 years of age and has been authorized in writing to transport the medication by the student's parent/guardian.
- III. All prescription medicine, including injectable medicine and all blood glucose tests by finger prick, to be administered to a student must be accompanied by written instructions from the medical doctor, a copy of the original prescription, or the pharmacy label indicating specific times for dispensing. If the medication is to be terminated prior to the date on the prescription, the written and dated consent by a physician (M.D. or D.O.) or withdrawal of consent of the parent is required. The written consent of the parent/guardian

and the written order of the physician via the prescription container shall be kept on file at the student's school.

- IV. Herbs will not be given in school without written and signed orders from a medical doctor.
- V. All non-prescription medication to be administered to a student shall be in the original container and accompanied by a statement describing the medicine, dosage, and the time it is to be given to the student.
- VI. No student shall be allowed to keep medicine (i.e. inhalers) in his/her possession at school except when ordered by a physician (M.D. or O.D.). Any medicine to be administered to a student shall be kept in a secure place in either the principal's/director's office, school nurse's office or in another location approved by the building principal/director.
 - A. A physician's written order for a student to possess and self-administer medication must be submitted annually and state that:
 1. The student has an acute or chronic disease or medical condition for which the physician has prescribed medication;
 2. The student has been instructed in how to self-administer the medication; and
 3. The nature of the disease or medical condition requires emergency administration of medication.
- VII. Medication shall be administered in accordance with the parent's/guardian's statement (in the case of non-prescription medicine) or the physician's (M.D. or D.O.) order (in the case of prescription medicine) only by the school nurse or other staff member designated by the principal/director. All administration of medicine shall be documented in writing. Any designated employee who is responsible for administering emergency medicine or a blood glucose test by a finger prick shall receive proper training from a practitioner or a registered nurse and such training shall be documented in writing.
- VIII. Medical procedures performed during school hours must have a physician's (M.D. or D.O.) order with specific instructions and written permission from the parent/guardian to perform a procedure during the school day. All training of unlicensed personnel will be supervised and documented by the school nurse. (FCSC Policy 5.37)

HOMEWORK

Homework is an essential part of the educational process. Not only does it give students an opportunity to practice skills learned at school, but it also allows teachers to determine if skills have been mastered. Parents can expect their child/children to have homework nightly Monday through Thursday. Assignments might be as simple as reading from a book. Occasionally students will have projects to complete perhaps on the weekend. His/her grade level determines the amount of homework a student has on a given night.

INTERNET USAGE

The Fayette County School Corporation is pleased to make Internet/computer services available to its students. The FCSC Acceptable Use Policy restricts access to material that is inappropriate for the school environment. Although your student's use of the Internet will be supervised by staff, we can not guarantee completely that your child will not gain access to inappropriate material. There may be additional kinds of material on the Internet that are not in accord with your family values. We encourage you to use this as an opportunity to have a discussion with your child about your family values and your expectation about how these values should guide your child's activities while they are on the Internet. Each family will receive a form at registration that includes the "Network Etiquette" that is expected of all students. If parents are in agreement that their child can use the Internet as an educational tool, then this form is signed at registration.

LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS

Before a student can leave the school grounds during school hours, the following procedures must be followed:

1. Whenever possible, the parent is to send a note to the school. If someone other than the parent or guardian is to pick up the student, this fact should be noted. The school may request identification of any person, other than the parent/guardian, who signs the student out of school. In case of an emergency, a phone call to the office can replace a note.
2. To be certain that an unauthorized person does not pick up the student, parents must report to the office to sign out students. Sick students will remain in the school clinic until picked up by their parent, guardian, or designated person.
3. No student is to be released from school early or leave the campus without the knowledge of the school office personnel.
4. Documentation from a medical professional is required for an excused tardy or an excused early out (early dismissal).

MEDIA RELEASES

Parents will receive a media release and interview letter to sign at registration. This will give parents the opportunity to determine if the local news media may interview their child as part of a school or class activity. Parents may also determine if individual and group photos, and information regarding school activities and events involving their child may be shared with the local news media. A student may decline to be photographed or interviewed.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

Non-Discrimination Policy

Students shall be provided a learning environment free from sexual, racial, ethnic and religious discrimination/harassment and hazing. It shall be a violation of this policy for any employee or any student to discriminate against, harass or haze a student through disparaging conduct or communication that is sexual, racial, ethnic or religious in nature. The following guidelines are set forth to protect students from discrimination/harassment/hazing.

Student discrimination/harassment/hazing will not be tolerated. Discrimination/harassment is defined as conduct, advances, gestures or words either written or spoken of a sexual, racial, ethnic or religious nature. Hazing is defined as an intentional or reckless act on or off school property, by one student acting alone or with others, directed against any other student that:

- (1) endangers the mental or physical health or safety of that student or
- (2) induces or coerces a student to endanger that student's mental or physical health or safety. Hazing does not include physical contact associated with athletic events, athletic training, or with competition conducted under a coach's or sponsor's supervision. (Board Policy 6.304)

It is the policy of the Fayette County School Corporation not to discriminate against any otherwise qualified individual on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability in its educational programs or employment policies as required by the Indiana Civil Rights Law (IC 22-9-1), IC 20-8.1-2, Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Action of 1964, the

Equal Pay Act of 1973, Title IX (1972 Education Amendments), or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

FCSC will notify one parent/guardian of a student, no later than 5 days after a request is made, to change their name, pronoun, title or word. This is in accordance to HEA 1608 Education Matters House Bill.

Inquiries regarding compliance with these policies should be directed to the Director of Human Resources, Fayette County School Corporation, 1401 Spartan Drive, Connersville, Indiana, 765-825-2178 or the Section 504/ADA Coordinator, 900 Spartan Drive, Connersville, Indiana, 765-827-5498, or the Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.

PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Each school has a PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) that plans fundraising projects, coordinates volunteer efforts with special projects, and fosters school pride. The organization hosts meetings throughout the school year. Communications are sent in the weekly folder. All parents are encouraged to take an active role in the organization's many endeavors. Parents can contact their child's teacher via phone or email.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

The school is not responsible for any loss/damage/theft of personal property, including medication, cell phones and electronics, while on school property. This is the responsibility of the student and parent. Parents are encouraged to carry homeowners insurance to cover any loss of property.

RAPTOR

All visitors who want to go beyond the front office AND anyone who has intent to checkout a student will be asked to present an ID such as a Driver's License. The ID will be scanned into the Raptor visitor management system. The Raptor visitor management system screens against the national sex offender registry for every visitor based on first name, last name, and date of birth.

Raptor does NOT keep a copy of the ID.

REPORTING PROGRESS TO PARENTS

Maintaining communication between home and school regarding student progress is important. The following are several ways in which school personnel will keep the parent informed of their child's progress.

Weekly Folder

Each week, students will bring home test papers, written lessons, and supplementary work that will give the parent a good idea of work being accomplished in class. All of these are considered when the child's progress is evaluated. It is the parent's responsibility to sign the back of the folder indicating the parent has seen the child's work for the week. This folder must be returned to school on the following day.

Mid Term Reports

In the middle of each quarter (at 4 ½ weeks), a report indicating a student's academic progress to that point is sent home to the parents/guardians.

Report Cards

Report cards are sent home at the end of each of the four quarters during the year. Each child is responsible for taking his/her report card home.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences are held at the request of parent or teacher.

Parent Portal - To access student progress reports, attendance, or discipline for students in grades 3- 6 go to the parent portal on the left side of FCSC website <http://fayettein.schooldesk.net>. Click on parent portal, choose the school, and then enter your student's username and password.

SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

Fayette County School Board Policies can be viewed by using the following link:
<http://fayettein.schooldesk.net/Administration/AdministrationBuilding/tabid/6898/Default.aspx>.

SELF-INFLICTED INJURY or SUICIDE

Self-inflicted Injury – Defined as: Any injury caused by the student to themselves. This includes cutting, *bruising*, burning or friction burns. Other injuries using a sharpened instrument to mark/pierce the skin would be included in this category.

School Protocol, when self injury is observed or reported the school will:

1. School counselor, social worker, or principal will contact the parent/guardian of the student to request permission for a school based licensed provider to complete a risk assessment or to request they take the student to a licensed provider of their choice to complete a risk assessment. If assessment is declined the student will be released to their parent/guardian.
2. School counselor, social worker, or principal will discuss assessment results with parents and/or licensed provider.
3. Recommendations by licensed provider will be followed.
4. School counselor, social worker, or principal will document the event for internal record keeping

USE OF SECLUSION, RESTRAINT, AND AVERSION WITH STUDENTS

The Fayette County School Corporation has a policy for seclusion and restraint with students. Please use this link to read the policy (Policy 5.24):
<http://fayettein.schooldesk.net/Portals/Fayettein/District/docs/Policy%20Folder/Policy%205.24.pdf?ver=2012-05-03-154755-283>

TELEPHONE

Each classroom is equipped with a telephone and voice mail. If your child's teacher does not answer your call, please leave a message. However, if you know about an appointment or after school arrangements, it is helpful to send a note to the teacher in advance. Teachers check their voice mail periodically throughout the day. Yet, there have been occasions when messages have not been received before dismissal. The classroom teacher, the teacher in charge, the secretary, or the principal must approve calls made from the school by the student. Permission will be restricted to calls of an emergency nature. Please make after school arrangements before your child comes to school.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Procedures are distributed to every family at the time of enrollment. Students should conduct themselves in a proper manner to insure a safe, pleasant trip to and from school. The bus driver has the same position of authority on the bus as a teacher in the classroom. The following consequences may be employed when a student chooses not to follow transportation procedures.

1st Offense—Verbal warning

2nd Offense—One-day bus suspension

3rd Offense—Three-day bus suspension

Other consequences include and are not limited to further bus suspension(s), detention, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, and expulsion from school. The school administration is not required to follow the progressive discipline steps listed above, and may impose more severe disciplinary consequences when, in its judgment, such action is warranted by serious misconduct.

VISITORS

When entering the building, all visitors to the school are to report to the office. All will sign in and be given a visitors badge to wear during their visits. Prior to leaving guests are to return to the office to sign out and return their badges.

WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

Parents needing to withdraw their child/children from school to transfer to another school should report this to the office at least one full day before the child's last day of attendance. Parents will be asked to fill out a withdrawal form on their student.

This student handbook, including the Student Code of Conduct, should be read in conjunction with the Fayette County School Corporation Policy Manual. This handbook and the Student Code of Conduct are intended to implement FCSC Board policy. Although the provisions of this handbook are intended to be consistent in all respects with applicable Board policy, any apparent conflict between the provisions of Board policy and this handbook shall be resolved in favor of the provisions of FCSC Board policy.

PESTICIDE APPLICATION NOTICE

Periodically throughout the year, it may be necessary that pesticides be applied to external or internal areas of the school buildings and grounds. If you wish to be given notice of such pesticides applications please notify the Director of Maintenance. You will then be notified at least 48 hours prior to any application of pesticide that is scheduled during school hour activities. Every effort will be made to apply pesticides when students, staff, and or other individuals are not present in the area that is to be sprayed.

SCHOOL SEARCHES AND RETENTION OF CONTROL OVER SCHOOL PROPERTY

In order to help provide for the safety in Fayette County School Corporation Buildings and to prevent weapons or other dangerous items from being brought upon school premises, notice is given that occasional school-wide or random checks using hand held metal detectors may be conducted by trained Administrative Personnel or School Resource Officers.

The Administration may use hand held metal detection devices as an aid for finding possible weapons on school premises and/or preventing the same from being brought. Metal detector checks may be performed when there is reasonable suspicion for any students or randomly on a neutral, non-discriminatory basis. These random metal detector checks will not be used to single out a particular individual or category of individuals. School Administration will notify parents immediately if a student refuses to consent to this safety measure or if any item is discovered in violation of our School Board Policies or Student Handbook Policies. Violation of state or local policies or laws related to the possession of weapons or threats to harm with weapons will result in School Administration turning the investigation over to local law enforcement. School Board Policy information related to the use of metal detectors in Fayette County Schools is found in Board Policy 5.29.1 on the Fayette County School Corporation home webpage- <http://fayettein.schooldesk.net/>

FAYETTE COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
1401 Spartan Drive
Connersville, IN 47331
2023-2024 STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The entire foundation and success of public school education depends on the basic concept of self-discipline which will allow all individuals to exist in a world of change and with the individual rights afforded them by our Federal and State Constitutions. Certain standards of student conduct are necessary to assure that students seeking to express their own individual rights do not at the same time infringe upon the rights of others. The responsibility for the development and maintenance of self-discipline falls to the cooperative efforts of students, parents, teachers, administrators, and the community.

The purpose of school discipline, rules, and procedures is to help create an atmosphere that promotes the best possible learning environment for all those involved in the educational process. An environment that provides equal opportunity for all and permits the teaching-learning process to proceed in an orderly manner is the objective of all staff members. Students must follow responsible directions of staff members in all educational settings and refrain from disruptive behavior that interferes with the educational environment.

Staff members will make every effort, individually, collectively, and cooperatively, with appropriate available commentary resources, to help each student gain acceptable self-discipline standards. However, in the absence of self-discipline, school corporation staff members have the right to take any disciplinary action necessary to promote student conduct that conforms with an orderly and effective educational system.

Some behavior is much more serious than other behavior and requires different approaches and clearly defined actions. Disciplinary actions may include but are not limited to: reprimand; counseling with a student or group of students; conferences with student and parent/guardian; assigning additional work; rearranging class schedules; behavior contract; requiring a student to be in school before and/or after regular school hours to do additional school work or for counseling; restricting extracurricular activities; payment for damages to property; assignment by the principal/director to a special course of study or an alternative education program; assignment by the principal/director of not more than one hundred twenty (120) hours of community service (with agreement of the parent/guardian); removal of a student from school-sponsored transportation; corporal punishment; referral to the juvenile court having jurisdiction over the student; suspension; or expulsion.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Recognizing that the behavior of some students may be so disruptive that it interferes with school purposes or educational functions of the school corporation, school officials may find it necessary to discipline a student. In this event and in accordance with the provisions of IC 20-33-8, administrators and staff members may take the following actions:

1. **Removal from class or activity – Teacher**
 - a. A middle school or high school teacher has the right to remove a student from his/her class or activity for a period of up to five (5) school days if the student is assigned regular or additional work to be completed in another school setting.

- b. An elementary teacher has the right to remove a student from his/her classroom or activity for a period of up to one (1) school day if the student is assigned regular or additional work to be completed in another school setting.

2. **Suspension from school – Principal/Director**

A school principal/director or designee may deny a student the right to attend school or take part in any school function for a period of up to ten (10) school days.

3. **Expulsion**

In accordance with the due process procedures defined in this policy, a student may be expelled from school for a period no longer than the remainder of the current semester plus the following semester, with the exception of possession of a firearm, destructive device, or a deadly weapon listed under the Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion in this policy.

4. **Penalty for Possession of a Firearm, Destructive Device or Deadly Weapon**

The penalty for possession of a firearm, destructive device or deadly weapon shall be suspension up to ten (10) days and expulsion from school for at least one calendar year. Students expelled for bringing a firearm or destructive device to school or on school property, may not return to school until the beginning of the first semester after the one-year period. The length of the expulsion may be reduced by the superintendent if the circumstances warrant such reduction. The superintendent shall immediately notify the appropriate law enforcement agency when a student is expelled under this rule.

GROUND'S FOR SUSPENSION/EXPULSION

The grounds for suspension or expulsion apply to student conduct:

1. On school grounds immediately before, during, and immediately after school hours and any other time when the school is being used by a school group (including summer school).
2. Off school grounds at a school activity, function or event.
3. Traveling to or from school or a school activity or event.

A student committing an act that violates Indiana or Federal law at any time or place may be suspended or expelled if the unlawful act arises out of a school relationship or is likely to have in-school consequences.

A. **STUDENT MISCONDUCT AND/OR SUBSTANTIAL DISOBEDIENCE**

The following constitute misconduct and/or substantial disobedience for which a student may be suspended or expelled:

- I. Behavior that injures or presents risk of injury to the student or another person.
- II. Damaging or attempting to steal school property or the private property of another person or organization.
- III. Disrupting a class or school activity.
- IV. Harassing, threatening, intimidating, hazing, bullying, cyberbullying or sexting another person for any purpose.
- V. Possessing, handling, or transmitting a knife, firearm, destructive device, deadly weapon or any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon, is represented to be or looks like a destructive device or weapon. See Section B and C for description of devices that are considered to be a firearm, destructive device, or deadly weapon.
- VI. Possessing, using, transmitting, selling or being affected by any controlled substance which is represented to be or looks like:
 - A. A narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate
 - B. Alcohol, alcoholic beverage, intoxicant of any kind
 - C. A prescription drug except as authorized in a prescription by a licensed health care provider

- preparations containing caffeine, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or Phenylpropranolamine as their primary ingredient or any other similar OTC product except as authorized in a prescription by a licensed health care provider.
- E. A substance which is marketed for use for the purpose of interfering with the detection of the use of a substance in violation of these student conduct rules.
- F. Marijuana or any other illegal drug
- G. Depressant
- H. Any substance represented to be or thought by the possessor or the intended recipient to be a substance described in this student conduct rule.
- A student with a chronic disease or medical condition may possess and self-administer prescribed medication for the disease or condition if the student's parent has filed a written authorization with the building principal. The written authorization must be filed annually and the written authorization must be done by a physician and must include the following information:
1. That the student has an acute or chronic disease or medical condition for which the physician has prescribed medication.
 2. The nature of the disease or medical condition requires emergency administration of the prescribed medication.
 3. The student has been instructed how to self-administer the prescribed medication.
 4. The student is authorized to possess and self-administer the prescribed medication.
- VII. Possessing alcohol or drug use paraphernalia such as rolling papers or clips or displaying materials that promote or encourage alcohol, tobacco or drug use.
- VIII. Possessing cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, electronic cigarettes, VAPÉ, JUUL & any other inhaling/smoking device (with or without nicotine) or other tobacco products or a device such as a lighter designed primarily for use in consuming tobacco products.
- IX. Engaging in inappropriate sexual behavior.
- X. Engaging in speech or conduct, including wearing clothing, jewelry or a hair style, that is dangerous to the student, indecent, lewd, vulgar, offensive, and or profane which presents a message that is inconsistent with the educational mission of the school district, or results in disruption of an educational function.
- XI. Possessing or using on school grounds during school hours or on a school bus an electronic device, cellular phone, laser pointer or other telecommunication device in a situation not related to an approved school purpose or educational function, or using such device to engage in an activity that would otherwise violate school rules without approval of the principal.
- XII. Refusing or failing to follow a directive from a school employee.
- XIII. Not having legal settlement in the school district, unless enrollment as a transfer student has been approved.
- XIV. Violating rules (distributed separately) governing the use of school computer or communication equipment or access to the Internet or computer networks through school.
- XV. Refusing to cooperate in a vehicle search conducted pursuant to reasonable suspicion of a teacher or administrator or pursuant to the consent to search given in the student parking agreement.
- XVI. Violating any rules necessary in carrying out school purposes or an educational function.
- XVII. Aiding, assisting, or conspiring with another student in violating these student conduct rules or Indiana or Federal law.
- XIX. Failure to inform school officials of a potential danger or threat.
- XX. Being a habitual offender. A habitual offender is a student who chronically exhibits disruptive behavior that interferes with an educational function or school purpose and continues to choose inappropriate behaviors regardless of repeated discipline interventions.
- XXI. Willful absence or tardiness.
- XXII. Failing to tell the truth about any matter under investigation by school personnel.
- XXIII. Falsely accusing any person of sexual or racial harassment, or violating a school rule and/or Indiana or Federal law.
- XXIV. Taking or displaying inappropriate pictures (digital or otherwise) at school or at a school sponsored event or function, with or without the consent of the student or staff member.
- POSSESSING A FIREARM OR A DESTRUCTIVE DEVICE**
- No student shall possess, handle or transmit any firearm or a destructive device on school property. The following devices are considered to be a firearm under this rule:
- a. Any weapon which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive
 - b. The frame or receiver of any weapon described above
 - c. Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer
 - d. Any destructive device which is an explosive, incendiary, poison gas bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine, or any similar device
 - e. Any weapon which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter
 - f. Any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described in the two immediately preceding examples, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled
 - g. An antique firearm
 - h. A rifle or shotgun that the owner intends to use solely for sporting, recreational, or cultural purposes
- For purposes of this rule, a destructive device is:
- > An explosive, incendiary, or overpressure device that is configured as a bomb, grenade, a rocket with a propellant charge of more than four ounces, a missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, a mine, a Molotov cocktail or a device that is substantially similar to an item described above.
 - > A type of weapon that may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant through a barrel that has a bore diameter of more than one-half inch, or
 - > A combination of parts designed or intended for use in the conversion of a device into a destructive device. A destructive device is NOT a device that although originally designed for use as a weapon, is redesigned for use as a signaling, pyrotechnic, line throwing, safety, or similar device.

C. POSSESSING A DEADLY WEAPON

No student shall possess, handle or transmit any deadly weapon on school property. The following devices are considered to be deadly weapons as defined in I.C. 35-41-1-8:

- A weapon, taser or electronic stun weapon, equipment, chemical substance, or other material that in the manner it is used, or could ordinarily be used, or is intended to be used, is readily capable of causing serious bodily injury.
- An animal readily capable of causing serious bodily injury and used in the commission or attempted commission of a crime.
- A biological disease, virus, or organism that is capable of causing serious bodily injury.

DEFINITION OF "IN POSSESSION"

Students are "in possession" of an item for purposes of these grounds for suspension and expulsion if the item is on their person, in their immediate possession such as in a purse or backpack, or is kept in a place under their primary control such as a locker or vehicle with their knowledge.

With respect to possession of illegal drugs, a student is presumed to possess the drug in violation of these rules if a test of the student's blood or urine shows that the student has used the illegal drug. A student may rebut this presumption by showing that s/he did not possess or use the illegal drug.

SUSPENSION PROCEDURES

When a principal/director or designee determines that a student should be suspended, the following procedures will be followed:

1. A meeting will be held prior to the suspension of any student. At this meeting, the student will be entitled to:
 - a. A written or oral statement of the charges;
 - b. A summary of the evidence to be presented against the student if the student denies the charges; and
 - c. An opportunity for the student to explain his/her conduct.
2. The meeting shall precede suspension of the student except where the nature of the misconduct requires immediate removal. In such a situation, the meeting will follow the suspension as soon as reasonably possible following the date of the suspension.
3. Following the suspension, the parent/guardian of a suspended student will be notified in writing. The notification will include the dates of the suspension, a description of the student's misconduct, and the action taken by the principal/director.

EXPULSION

When a principal or designee recommends to the superintendent/designee that the student be expelled from school, the following procedures will be followed:

1. The superintendent/designee may conduct an expulsion meeting, or may appoint one of the following persons to conduct the meeting:
 - a. legal counsel, or
 - b. A member of the administrative staff who did not expel the student during the current school year and was not involved in the event giving rise to the expulsion.
2. An expulsion will not take place until the student and the student's parent/guardian are given notice of their right to appear at an expulsion meeting conducted by the superintendent/designee. The notice of the right to an expulsion meeting will be in writing, delivered by certified mail or personal delivery, and contain the reasons for the expulsion and the procedure for requesting the meeting.

3. Failure by a student or a student's parent/guardian to request and to appear at this meeting will be deemed a waiver of rights administratively to contest the expulsion or to appeal it to the Board.

4. At the expulsion meeting, the principal/director or designee will present evidence to support the charges against the student. The student or parent/guardian will have the opportunity to answer the charges against the student and present evidence to support the student's position. The person conducting the expulsion meeting will make a written summary of the evidence heard at the meeting, take any action found to be appropriate, and give notice of the action taken to the student and the student's parents/guardians.
5. In accordance with IC 20-33-8-19 (f) the Board has determined it will not hear appeals of expulsion meeting decisions made by the superintendent or his designee. A student or parent may appeal the expulsion decision to the Fayette Circuit or Superior Court.

WEB PAGE SPEECH, DISPLAYS, OR COMMUNICATIONS, AND ELECTRONIC MAIL COMMUNICATIONS

The principal has the authority to discipline students for inappropriate web page speech, displays or communications, or electronic mail communications, which violate school policies or rules, student internet user policy or agreements, or is unlawful, if created, displayed, or communicated by the student on school property or using school equipment or software. The principal may also discipline (including suspend or expel) a student for web page speech, displays, or electronic communications created or displayed off school grounds if the activity is unlawful and either of the following elements exist:

1. The activity may reasonably be considered an interference with school purposes or an educational function; or
2. The student's removal is necessary to restore order or protect persons on school property.

STUDENT LOCKER INSPECTION

All lockers made available for student use on the school premises, including lockers located in the hallways, physical education and athletic dressing rooms, industrial, vocational and art classrooms are the property of the school corporation. These lockers are made available for student use in storing school supplies and personal items necessary for use at school, but the lockers are not to be used to store items which cause, or can reasonably be foreseen to cause, an interference with school purposes or an educational function, or which are forbidden by state law or school rules.

The student's use of the lockers does not diminish the school corporation's ownership or control of the locker. The school corporation retains the right to inspect the locker and its contents to ensure that the locker is being used in accordance with its intended purpose; to eliminate fire or other hazards; to maintain sanitary conditions; to attempt to locate lost or stolen materials; and to prevent use of the locker to store prohibited or dangerous materials such as weapons, illegal drugs, or alcohol.

The school corporation will retain access to student lockers by keeping a master list of combinations and/or retaining a master key. An inspection of all lockers in the school, or all lockers in a particular area of the school, may be conducted if the principal/director, superintendent, or assistant superintendent reasonably believes that such an inspection is necessary to prevent, impede, or substantially reduce the risk of:

1. An interference with school purposes or an educational function;
2. A physical injury or illness to any person;
3. Damage to personal or school property; or
4. A violation of state or federal law or school rules.

The Board recognizes its obligation to balance the privacy rights of its students with its responsibility to provide student, faculty, and authorized visitors with a safe, hygienic, and drug-free learning environment. In balancing these competing interests, the Board directs the superintendent/designee to utilize the following principles:

1. School Property

All lockers, desks, and other storage units made available for student use on the school premises, including lockers located in the hallways, physical education and athletic dressing rooms, industrial, vocational and art classrooms are the property of the school corporation. These units are made available for student use in storing school supplies and personal items necessary for use at school, but the lockers are not to be used to store items which cause, or can reasonably be foreseen to cause, an interference with school purposes or an educational function, or which are forbidden by state law or school rules.

A student may not expect to have privacy in a locker, desk or other storage unit on its contents. Periodic general inspections may be conducted by school authorities for any reason, at any time, without notice, without the student's consent, or without a search warrant. The school's right to inspect the storage units and their contents ensures that the units are being used in accordance with their intended purposes, and to eliminate fire and other hazards, maintain sanitary conditions, attempt to locate lost or stolen materials and prevent use of the locker, desks, or storage unit to store prohibited or dangerous materials such as weapons, illegal substances, paraphernalia, alcohol, or stolen property.

Other than a general inspection of all lockers, desks, or other storage units, whenever an individual student unit is the subject of a search based on reasonable suspicion of contraband being present, the student assigned to the storage unit being searched should be present during the search, if possible.

2. Student Person and Possession

Students and student lockers may be searched when a school administrator has individualized reasonable suspicion to believe that the search will produce evidence of a violation of the law, a school rule, or of a condition that endangers the safety or health of the student or others. Searches of the person of a student shall be conducted in a witnessed by staff members of the same sex as the student and shall be conducted in a private office. The student's parent/guardian shall be notified of the search within twenty-four (24) hours if possible. This search policy shall apply to all situations in which the student is within the jurisdiction of the Board.

3. Vehicle Search

Permission for a student to bring a motor vehicle on school property is conditional on written consent by the student driver, the owner of the motor vehicle, and the parent/guardian of the student to allow search of that motor vehicle by a school administrator with reasonable suspicion to believe that the search will produce evidence of a violation of law, a school rule, or a condition that endangers the safety or health of the student driver or others. The student shall have no expectation of privacy in a vehicle parked on school property.

Refusal by the student, parent/guardian, or the motor vehicle owner to provide or allow access to a motor vehicle on school premises at the time of request to search the motor vehicle, shall be cause for termination, without further hearing, of the privilege of bringing a motor vehicle on to school premises.

4. Law Enforcement Agencies

The superintendent or building administrator may request the assistance of a law enforcement agency in implementing any aspect of this policy. Where law enforcement

request by the superintendent or building administrator, the search shall be conducted by the law enforcement officers in accordance with the legal standards applicable to law enforcement officers. If a law enforcement official requests to inspect a student's locker, desk, or storage unit of its contents, the principal/director shall require the production of a search warrant before allowing the inspection. However, upon request of law enforcement officials, school officials may secure the unit and its contents for a reasonable period of time in order to permit the law enforcement official an opportunity to obtain a search warrant.

5. Seizure of Property

Anything found during the course of a search pursuant to this policy which constitutes evidence of a violation of a law, school rule, or which endangers the safety or health of any person shall be seized and utilized as evidence if appropriate. Seized items of value shall be returned to the owner if the items may be lawfully possessed by the owner. Seized items that may not be lawfully possessed by the owner shall be destroyed and seized items of no value may be destroyed.

6. Publication of Rules

A copy of these rules shall be provided to each student and his/her parents/guardians at the start of each school year or as soon as practical after the student's enrollment in the school. Copies of the rules shall be available in the principal's/director's office and other prominent places generally used for announcements to students.

DEFINITIONS

As used herein, the term "school purposes" is defined as it is in IC 20-33-8-4:

... The term "school purposes" refers to the purpose for which a school corporation operates, including:

- (1) to promote knowledge and learning generally,
- (2) to maintain an orderly and effective educational system,
- (3) take any action under the authority granted to school corporations and their governing bodies by IC 20-26-5 or by any other statute.

As used herein, the term "educational function" is defined as it is in IC 20-33-8-2:

... The term "educational function" means the performance by a school corporation, or its officers or employees, of an act or a series of acts in carrying out school purposes.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. 8921
20 U.S.C. 8922

- IC 20-33-8
- IC 20-33-8-0.2(b)
- IC 20-33-8-19(f)
- IC 35-47-5-2-4
- IC 35-41-1-8
- IC 35-47-1-5

DATE OF ADOPTION: 7-11-23