

2023-2024 Thomasville City Schools Student Code of Conduct

The Thomasville City Schools Board of Education supports all students' rights to learn. To do so, each student must be in a school climate that is satisfying and productive without disruptive behavior by any student infringing upon the rights of others.

Therefore, it is the policy of the Board of Education that each school within this system shall implement the district's age-appropriate student code of conduct, which is designed to improve the student learning environment by improving student behavior and discipline. Schools may address discipline identified within student handbooks or similar publications, but these publications should comply with and be consistent with the district's student code of conduct.

The student code of conduct will comply with state law and state board of education rules and will include the following:

1. Standards for student behavior are designed to create the expectation that all students will behave themselves in a manner that facilitates a learning environment for themselves and other students. The standards are designed to encourage students to respect each other, school system employees and any other persons attending school functions. The standards are also designed to motivate students to obey student behavior policies adopted by this Board and to obey student behavior rules established at each school within this school system.
2. Student support processes are designed with appropriate consideration given to the severity of a behavioral problem. Support services are available at each school, school system, and other public entities, including community organizations that address behavioral problems students are experiencing.
3. Progressive discipline processes are designed to create the expectation that the degree of discipline imposed will be in proportion to the severity of the behavior leading to the discipline and will consider the discipline history of the student and other relevant factors, while ensuring that each student receives the due process mandated by federal and state law.
4. Parental involvement processes designed to enable parents, guardians, teachers, and school administrators to work together to improve and enhance student behavior and academic performance. The process should enable parents, guardians, and school employees to communicate freely their concerns about student behaviors which detract from the learning environment.

The student code of conduct should be distributed to each student at the beginning of the school year and upon enrollment of each new student. The parents/guardians will be requested to sign an acknowledgement confirming receipt of the code of conduct and promptly return the acknowledgment to the school. The student code of conduct will be available in the school office.

This code was developed in conjunction with Georgia school laws pertaining to student discipline in elementary and secondary public education outlined in the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A), commonly called the Georgia Code (specifically, O.C.G.A. 20-2-730 – O.C.G.A. 20-2-769). Such a code is mandated in O.C.G.A. 20-2-735. The behavior code is reviewed on an annual basis.

It is the purpose of the Thomasville City School System for each school to operate in a manner that will provide an orderly process of education and that will provide for the welfare and safety of all students who attend the schools within the district. In accordance with that purpose, all schools require students to always adhere to the student code of conduct to facilitate a learning environment for themselves and other students. These standards for behavior require students to respect each other and school district employees, and to obey the established student behavior rules.

The district's primary goal is to educate, not to punish; however, when the behavior of an individual student comes in conflict with the rights of others, corrective actions may be necessary for the benefit of that individual and the school. Accordingly, students shall be governed by regulations and rules set forth in the Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct is effective both during and outside normal school hours, meaning:

- a) At school or on school property at any time;
- b) Off school grounds at any school activity, functions or events and while traveling to and from such events;
- c) In route to or from school or school-related activities;
- d) School bus stops;
- e) In vehicles provided for student transportation by the school system; and
- f) Off school system property if: (a) the student's off-campus conduct results in the student being charged with a criminal offense (or delinquent act) that would be a felony if committed by an adult and the off-campus conduct either makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to the educational environment or disrupts the school environment; or (b) the student's off-campus expressive behavior (including, but not limited to, written communication, internet postings, communication through social media, cyber bullying [threats or harassment], or texting) could reasonably be expected to come to the attention of school officials and create a substantial risk to the safety of students, staff or others and/or a risk of substantial disruption to the school, program or school environment.

Any student charged with or convicted of the commission of any felonious crime may be denied the right to attend classes by the Superintendent when the Superintendent determines that the continued presence of the student in school will have a substantially disruptive effect on the school environment. Such denial may be continued until the Superintendent determines that the presence of the student will no longer have a disruptive effect. Any student who is denied the right to attend school may appeal the Superintendent's determination to the Board of Education. The appeal must be submitted within 3 days after notice of denial is received.

READMISSION AND APPEALS

Any student denied the right to attend school by the Superintendent, may at any time during the term or expulsion submit a petition stating the grounds supporting the petition based on new evidence.

The Board may, in its discretion, allow the student presenting the petition to appear before the Board in person.

The Board shall act on the petition within three weeks after receiving the petition. The student shall be notified of the Board action by letter from the Superintendent. Before any student who has been denied the right to attend school is eligible to re-enter school, the student and the parents must attend a conference at the office of the school principal. Any action of the Board may be appealed to the State Board of Education. Implementation of the Board's action, however, need not be postponed pending the outcome of the appeal. Such appeal shall be in accordance with Georgia Code Section 20-2-1160 and regulations of the State Board of Education governing such appeals.

Teacher Reporting Information

A teacher has the authority, consistent with Board policy and applicable law, to manage his/her classroom, discipline students, and refer a student to the principal or designee to maintain discipline in the classroom.

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

Student behavior which violates state or federal laws as specified in O.C.G.A 20-2-1184 will result in a report being filed with police and district attorney.

The Superintendent and/or designee shall develop procedures and guidelines as necessary for implementation of this policy and law.

Searches

School officials are authorized to conduct reasonable searches of students, staff, and visitors pursuant to applicable law. When reasonable suspicion exists, school officials may search students whom they believe have either violated a particular law or rules of the school. The scope of the search will be reasonably related to the purpose of the search and not excessively intrusive considering the age and gender of the student and the nature of the suspected infraction. Students are permitted to park on school premises as a matter of privilege, not of right. The school retains authority to conduct routine patrols of student parking lots and inspection of vehicles on school property. Students should not expect their vehicles or vehicle contents to remain private if exercising the privilege of parking on campus.

Student lockers, desks, and all school and classroom storage areas are school property and always remain under the control of the school. These areas are not private. Periodic general inspections of these areas may be conducted by school authorities for any reason at any time without notice, and without student consent.

School computers and school technology resources are not private and are open to school review at any time.

If a search yields illegal or unauthorized materials, such materials should be turned over in person to the School Resource Officer or proper legal authorities for ultimate disposition.

Disciplinary Consequences

Once it has been determined that a rule(s) was violated, the principal or designee will afford the student oral or written notice of the charges. If the student denies the charges, he/she shall be given an explanation of the evidence the school authorities have and an opportunity to present his/her side of the story. The administrator will follow a progressive discipline process, when possible. The degree of discipline to be imposed by each school administrator will be in proportion to the severity of the behavior of the particular student and will take into account the student's discipline history, the age of the student, and other relevant factors. Disciplinary consequences may include restorative practices, in-school suspension (ISS), short-term suspension, long-term suspension, expulsion, and/or referral for a disciplinary hearing. Disciplinary hearings may result in assignment to an alternative education program, long-term suspension, expulsion, or permanent expulsion from all Thomasville City Schools. In addition to discipline, behaviors may also be reported to law enforcement at the District's discretion and as required by law, including O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1184 and 19-7-5.

Suspension/Expulsion

If a student is removed from regular class assignments for more than one-half of the school day, written notice of this assignment to in-school suspension must be sent to the parent. The student's parent/guardian should be notified of in-school suspension and out-of-school suspension (OSS) as soon as possible. This notification should be confirmed in writing no later than two school days after the suspension begins. This notification should contain the charges, a description of the alleged acts, and the number of days and dates of the suspension. The written notification should be delivered to the student's parent/guardian either in person or by first class mail to the last known address of the parent/guardian. If notification is delivered in person, a written confirmation of delivery should be obtained.

Students under Out of School (OSS) suspension or expulsion shall not participate in or attend school activities on or off campus or be present on any Thomasville City School property until the student is physically readmitted to the classroom.

If less than the number of suspended days remain in the complete grading period or regular school year, the suspension/expulsion will continue into the next regular school year or complete grading period.

Chronic Disciplinary Problem Student

A "chronic disciplinary problem student" is defined by law as a student who exhibits a pattern of behavioral characteristics which interfere with the learning process of students around him or her and which are likely to recur. Any time a teacher or principal identifies a student as a chronic disciplinary problem student, the principal shall inform the parent or guardian of the student's disciplinary problem. Notification should be by either first-class mail or certified mail with return receipt requested and telephone call. The principal should request that at least one (1) parent or guardian attend a conference with the principal and/or teacher. The purpose of the conference would be to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan.

Before any chronic disciplinary problem student is permitted to return from suspension or expulsion, the school to which the student is to be readmitted should request by telephone call or by either certified mail with return receipt requested or first-class mail that at least one parent/guardian schedule and attend a conference with the principal, or principal's designee, to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan. At the discretion of the principal, a teacher,

counselor, or other person may attend the conference. The principal will note the conference in the student's permanent file. Failure of the parent/guardian to attend shall not preclude the student from being readmitted to the school.

PART 1: DISCIPLINARY RULES

The following code provisions apply to student behavior *AT ANY TIME* while on school property, engaging in or attending a school-sponsored event, while using school technology resources or, in some cases, off-campus. The decision to charge a student for violation of this Code of Conduct shall be made by the administration of the local school. If the local school administration is uncertain as to the interpretation of the Code of Conduct, they are to contact the system office of student discipline.

The following behaviors are a violation of this Code of Conduct:

Rule	Description
00	Continuation
01	Alcohol
02	Arson
03	Battery
04	Breaking & Entering - Burglary
05	Computer Trespass
06	Disorderly Conduct
07	Drugs, Except Alcohol and Tobacco
08	Fighting
09	Homicide
10	Kidnapping
11	Larceny/Theft
12	Motor Vehicle Theft
13	Robbery
14	Sexual Battery
15	Sexual Harassment
16	Sex Offenses
17	Threat/Intimidation
18	Tobacco
19	Trespassing
20	Vandalism
22	Weapons - Knife
23	Weapons - Other
24	Other Incident for a State-Reported Discipline Action
25	Weapons – Handgun
26	Weapons – Rifle/Shotgun
27	Serious Bodily Injury
28	Other Firearms
29	Bullying
30	Other- Attendance Related
31	Other- Dress Code Violation
32	Academic Dishonesty
33	Other – Student Incivility
34	Other – Possession of Unapproved Items
35	Gang-Related
36	Repeated Offenses
40	Other Non-Disciplinary Incident
42	Electronic Smoking Device
44	Violence Against a Teacher

Rule 00. Continuation

An event with multiple incidents for a single action has occurred.

Rule 01. Alcohol

Violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, or use of intoxicating alcoholic beverages or substances represented as alcohol. This includes possession, sale, use, transmission, manufacture, purchase, or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, or possessing related paraphernalia during a school activity, function, or event on or off school grounds or while under school supervision. Students under the influence or consumption of alcohol may be included if it results in disciplinary action.

Contact SRO and Student Services

- **Level 1**
 - Unintentional possession of alcohol
- **Level 2**
 - Under the influence of alcohol without possession
- **Level 3**
 - Violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, or consumption of alcoholic beverages or substances represented as alcohol.

Rule 02. Arson

Unlawful and intentional damage or attempted damage to any real or personal property by fire or incendiary device. This includes property belonging to, rented by, or on loan to the school system and property belonging to school employees or to other students. (Note: Possession of fireworks or incendiary devices must be reported as "Possession of Unapproved Items". Use of such items should be reported as Arson.)

Contact SRO and Student Services

- **Level 2**
 - Attempt to commit arson or use of matches, lighters or incendiary devices at school; includes but not limited to the use of fireworks. Includes but is not limited to trashcan fires without damage to school property.
- **Level 3**
 - Intentional damage as a result of arson-related activity or the use of an incendiary device. Includes but not limited to setting fires to school property

Rule 03. Battery

Actual and intentional touching or striking of another person against his or her will or intentionally causing bodily harm to an individual. (Note: The key difference between battery and fighting is that fighting involves mutual participation.)

Contact SRO and Student Services

- **Level 1**
 - Intentional physical attack with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in no bodily injuries

- Includes but not limited to pushing, hitting, kicking, shoving, pinching, slapping, and other intentional physical confrontations
- **Level 2**
 - Intentional physical attack with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in mild or moderate bodily injuries
 - Includes but not limited to pushing, hitting, kicking, shoving, pinching, slapping, and other intentional physical confrontations that result in mild or moderate injuries
 - Participate in consensual physical hazing/initiation or bodily modifications (e.g. tattooing, branding, and piercing).
- **Level 3**
 - Intentional physical attack with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in severe injuries or any physical attack on school employee (coded as assault if reasonable apprehension of immediately receiving a violent injury is present, but no contact made), unless such physical contact was in self-defense as provided by *O.C.G.A. § 16-3-21*.
 - Includes, but is not limited to choking, pushing, hitting, kicking, shoving, pinching, slapping, and other physical confrontations resulting in severe injuries;
 - Includes any physical attack on school employee;
 - *Physical attack on teachers should be reported as Violence Against a Teacher (44);*
 - Includes incidents serious enough to warrant calling the School Resource Officer (SRO) or Police.

Rule 04. Breaking & Entering – Burglary

Unlawful or unauthorized forceful entry into a school building or vehicle (with or without intent to commit theft). (Note: The key difference between Trespassing and Breaking & Entering – Burglary is that Trespassing does not include forceful entry into the school building.)
Contact SRO and Student Services

- **Level 3**
 - Unlawful or unauthorized forceful entry into a school building or vehicle (with or without intent to commit theft).
 - Parent Contact
 - Out of School Suspension (OSS)
 - Recommendation for Tribunal Hearing
 - Contact School Resource Officer

Rule 05. Computer Trespass

Use of school computer for anything other than instructional purposes or unauthorized use of a computer or computer network with the intention of deleting, obstruction, interrupting, altering, damaging, or in any way causing the malfunction of the computer, network, program(s) or data.

The District, or any school, is NOT responsible for personal electronic devices on school property or at District/school sponsored events. The District/school administrator or designee may confiscate electronic devices.

- **Level 2**

- Violate the District’s Internet User Agreement or Acceptable Use Policy in any way.
- Copy computer programs, software or other technology provided by the District for personal use; download unauthorized files; or use school technology resources for personal gain or private business enterprises.
- Gain or attempt to gain unauthorized access to the District's computer data, network, system, Internet connections, e-mail accounts, or intranet or to any third party's computer system, data, or network, such as:
 - Malicious tampering, phishing, or hacking activities;
 - Intentionally seeking information about passwords belonging to other users;
 - Disclosing a user's password to the District's computer network, System, Internet connections, E-mail accounts, Software, or Intranet to other individuals. *Students, however, may share their passwords with their parents.*
 - Modifying passwords belonging to others;
 - Attempting to log in through another person's account;
 - Attempting to gain access to material that is blocked or filtered by the District;
 - Accessing, copying, or modifying another user's files without authorization;
 - Disguising a user's identity;
 - Using the password or identifier of an account that does not belong to the user;
 - Engaging in uses that jeopardize access into others' accounts or other computer networks or systems.
 - Is profane, vulgar, lewd, obscene, offensive, indecent
 - Advocates violence
 - Use of recording devices to record misbehaviors or to violate the privacy of others.

Level 3

- Use or participate in using personal or school technology resources to distribute or display inappropriate material. Inappropriate material does not serve an instructional or educational purpose and includes but is not limited to the following: (See (17) for bullying using technology) (In any event, SRO must be notified):
 - Is profane, vulgar, lewd, obscene, offensive, indecent, sexually explicit, pornographic or threatening;
 - Advocates illegal or dangerous acts;
 - Causes disruption to Thomasville City Schools, its employees or students;
 - Advocates violence;
 - Contains knowingly false, recklessly false, or defamatory information;
 - Is otherwise harmful to minors as defined by the Children’s Internet Protection Act.
- Refusing to comply with reasonable directions/commands of school staff regarding responsible use of technology, and/or use of visual recording devices without permission of a school administrator.
- Use of recording devices to record misbehaviors or to violate the privacy of others.
- Attempt, threaten, or actually damage, destroy, vandalize, or steal private

property or school property while using school technology resources on or off school grounds (SRO must be notified of such incidents).

- Purposely look for security problems, attempt to disrupt school technology resources, or engage in any activity that monopolizes or compromises school technology resources.

Rule 06. Disorderly Conduct

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

- **Level 1**
 - Creating or contributing to a moderate disturbance that substantially disrupts the normal operation of the school environment but doesn't pose a threat to the health or safety of others.
 - Engage in horseplay or rough or boisterous activities. School administrators will use discretion in determining acts of horseplay/rough or boisterous activities as opposed to other prohibited activities, such as intentional physical contact.
 - Engage in amorous kissing or similar public or other displays of affection.
- **Level 2**
 - Occupy or block any school building, part of school grounds, entrance, exit, or normal pedestrian/vehicular traffic on school grounds or adjacent grounds so as to deprive others of access.
 - Use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, false statements, or any other conduct that causes, may cause, or attempts to cause the disruption of any mission or function of the school or poses a threat to the health, safety and/or welfare of students, staff or others.
- **Level 3**
 - Pull a fire alarm without authorization or without the belief that a true emergency exists.
 - Threaten to plant a bomb or falsely inform others that a bomb or other explosive has been planted on school property or at a school-sponsored event (SRO must be notified of such incidents).

Rule 07. Drugs, Except Alcohol and Tobacco

*Unlawful use cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, possession, transportation, or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance, or equipment or devices used for preparing or using drugs or narcotics. Includes being under the influence of drugs or substances represented as drugs. Code includes over-the-counter medications if abused by the student. Also includes intentionally smelling or inhaling fumes from any substances (for example: glue, solvents) for the purpose of becoming intoxicated. **Offenses are cumulative at the Elementary, Middle, and High School levels***

Contact SRO and Student Services

- **Level 1**
 - Unintentional possession of prescribed or over-the-counter medication. Does not include the possession of narcotics or any illegal drugs.

Parent/Administrative Conference

- **Level 2**
 - Any medication prescribed to a student or purchased over the counter and not brought to the office upon arrival to school.
- **Level 3** – Unlawful use, cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, possession, transportation, or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance, or equipment or devices used for preparing or using drugs or narcotics.
 - A student shall not:
 - Possess, consume (eaten, digested, injected, inhaled, etc.), receive, purchase, transmit, store, or be under any degree of influence of illegal drugs, narcotics, hallucinogens, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana, synthetic cannabinoid drugs, cannabis, inhalant, synthetic cathinone drugs (e.g. bath salts) or any other substance listed under the Georgia Controlled Substances Act or any substance believed by the student to be alcohol or an illegal drug. ***Legal intoxication is not required for violation of this rule.*** First-time offenders may be required to attend a drug intervention program in addition to any other disciplinary action deemed appropriate.
 - Possess, transmit, store, buy, sell, or otherwise distribute or possess with intent to sell, or otherwise distribute any drug-related paraphernalia, which may include vaporizers (For electronic cigarettes, see Tobacco Use/Cigarette Products).
 - Falsely present or identify a substance to be an illegal drug or use/consume/buy/sell/distribute/possess/transmit compounds or substances meant to mimic the effects of drugs.
 - Buy, sell or otherwise distribute or possess with intent to distribute or attempt to buy, sell, or otherwise distribute or possess with intent to distribute illegal drugs, narcotics, hallucinogens, amphetamines, barbiturates, or marijuana, or any other substance listed under the Georgia Controlled Substances Act, or any substance falsely identified as such, or is believed by the purchaser to be an illegal drug, narcotics, hallucinogens, amphetamines, barbiturates, or marijuana, synthetic cannabinoid drugs, cannabis (including but without limitation to marijuana, hemp, THC, etc.), inhalant, synthetic cathinone drugs or any other substance listed under the Georgia Controlled Substances Act. **There is no requirement that there be an exchange of money, goods, and/or services to find a violation of this rule.**
 - Sniff or be under the influence of inhalants and/or other substances.
 - **Over-The-Counter Medication**
 - *Possession of all over-the-counter medication on school property must be pursuant to Operating Guideline JGCD – Medication. A student is prohibited from selling, distributing, or possessing with intent to distribute any over-the-counter medication. Over the counter medications specifically include, but are not limited to, stimulants (e.g., diet pills, caffeine pills, etc.), nicotine replacement therapies such as nicotine gum and candy, nicotine lozenges, nicotine patches, nicotine inhalers, nicotine nasal sprays and the like. For electronic cigarettes, see Rule Tobacco Use/Cigarette Products.*
 - **Prescription Medication**
 - *Possess prescription medication not prescribed for the student. All prescription medication prescribed for a student must be in compliance with written parent authorization and adherence to Operating Guideline JGCD – Medication. In addition, a student shall not sell, distribute, or possess with intent to distribute any prescribed medication on school property. If the prescription drug is a controlled substance under the Georgia Controlled Substances Act, the student shall be found to have violated the appropriate portions of the above.*

Rule 08. Fighting

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

- **Level 1**
 - A physical confrontation between two or more students with the intent to harm resulting in no bodily injuries.
- **Level 2**
 - A physical confrontation between two or more students with the intent to harm resulting in mild or moderate bodily injuries.
- **Level 3**
 - A physical confrontation between two or more students with the intent to harm resulting in severe bodily injuries.
 - Students that violate the school policy on fighting **three (3) or more** times during the same school year.

Rule 09. Homicide

Killing of one human being by another.

Contact SRO and Student Services

- **Level 3**
 - Includes but not limited to shooting, stabbing, choking, bludgeoning, etc.
 - 10 days OSS and hearing referral

❖ Off-Campus Misconduct

- Off-campus misconduct for which a student may be disciplined includes, but is not limited to, any off-campus conduct which could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony, or felonious conduct for which a student has been arrested, criminally charged/indicted, adjudicated to have committed, or convicted; and conduct which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process. (Contact Director of Student Services and SRO)*
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Rule 10. Kidnapping

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

Contact SRO and Student Services

- **Level 3**
 - The unlawful and forceful abduction, transportation, and/or detention of a person against his/her will.

❖ Off-Campus Misconduct

- Off-campus misconduct for which a student may be disciplined includes, but is not limited to, any off-campus conduct which could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony, or felonious conduct for which a student has been arrested, criminally charged/indicted, adjudicated to have committed, or convicted; and conduct which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the*

educational process. (*Contact Director of Student Services and SRO*)

Rule 11. Larceny/Theft

The unlawful taking, carrying, leading or riding away of property of another person without threat, violence, or bodily harm. (Note: The key difference between larceny/theft and robbery is that the threat of physical harm or actual physical harm is involved in a robbery.)

Contact Director of Student Services and SRO

- **Level 1** – The unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity that does not belong to the student with a **value up to \$100**.
 - but not limited to theft by taking, theft by receiving stolen property, and theft by deception.
- **Level 2** - The unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity that does not belong to the student with a **value between \$100 and \$250**.
 - Includes but not limited to theft by taking, theft by receiving stolen property, and theft by deception.
- **Level 3**
 - The unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity that does not belong to the student with a **value exceeding \$250**.
 - Includes but not limited to theft by taking, theft by receiving stolen property, and theft by deception.
 - May be used for students that violate the school policy on larceny/theft **three (3) or more times** during the same school year.

❖ **Off-Campus Misconduct**

- *Off-campus misconduct for which a student may be disciplined includes, but is not limited to, any off-campus conduct which could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony, or felonious conduct for which a student has been arrested, criminally charged/indicted, adjudicated to have committed, or convicted; and conduct which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process. (Contact Director of Student Services and SRO)*

Rule 12. Motor Vehicle Theft

Theft or attempted theft or any motor vehicle.

Contact SRO and Student Services

- **Level 3**
 - Code includes theft of car, truck, motorcycle, ATVs, golf carts, or anything that is self-propelled.
 - o 10 days OSS and hearing referral
- ❖ **Off-Campus Misconduct**
 - *Off-campus misconduct for which a student may be disciplined includes, but is not limited to, any off-campus conduct which could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony, or felonious conduct for which a student has been arrested, criminally charged/indicted, adjudicated to have committed, or convicted; and conduct which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the*

educational process. (Contact Director of Student Services and SRO)

Rule 13. Robbery

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

Contact SRO and Student Services

- **Level 2**
 - Robbery without the use of a weapon
 - Taking something by force or threat of force
- **Level 3**
 - Robbery with the use of a weapon
 - Weapons may include but are not limited to guns, knives, clubs razor blades, etc.
 - o 10 days OSS and hearing referral

❖ Off-Campus Misconduct

- *Off-campus misconduct for which a student may be disciplined includes, but is not limited to, any off-campus conduct which could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony, or felonious conduct for which a student has been arrested, criminally charged/indicted, adjudicated to have committed, or convicted; and conduct which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process. (Contact Director of Student Services and SRO)*

Rule 14. Sexual Battery

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

Contact SRO and Student Services

- **Level 3**
 - Includes but is not limited to rape, fondling, child molestation, indecent liberties and sodomy
 - o 10 days OSS and hearing referral

❖ Sexual Molestation:

- *Sexual molestation is defined as a student doing any immoral or indecent act to or in the presence of another person, without that person's consent, with the intent to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of either the student or the other person. This includes a student forcing another person to make physical contact with the student's intimate body parts, such as having another perform sex acts (for instance, oral sex).*
- *No student shall commit any act of sexual molestation or the attempts thereof on school property, school buses, or at school-sponsored events.*
 - *The SRO must be notified of such incidents. The Chief of Police, or designee, will notify the district attorney. (See O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1184)*
 - *Notify the Director of Student Services and Superintendent.*
- *Any student (or parent or friend of a student) who has been the victim of an act of abuse, sexual*

misconduct, or other inappropriate behavior is urged to make an oral report of the act to any teacher, counselor or administrator at his/her school.

❖ **Off-Campus Misconduct**

- *Off-campus misconduct for which a student may be disciplined includes, but is not limited to, any off-campus conduct which could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony, or felonious conduct for which a student has been arrested, criminally charged/indicted, adjudicated to have committed, or convicted; and conduct which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process. (Contact Director of Student Services and SRO)*

Rule 15. Sexual Harassment

- ❖ *A student shall not harass another person through unwelcome conduct or communication of a sexual nature. Prohibited acts of sexual harassment include verbal or written harassment, such as sexual jokes or comments about an individual or his/her physical characteristics; physical harassment such as unwanted touching or gestures; visual harassment such as the display of, or encouraging/participating in the display of, sexually suggestive objects or pictures; or requests or demands for sexual involvement, accompanied by implied or explicit threats.*

- *The local school police officer must be notified of such incidents where the behavior involves a sexual offense (as defined in Chapter 6 of Title 16 of Georgia law) including, but not limited to, sexual battery, rape, and molestation. Any alleged victim of such offense may request to have his/her schedule changed, subject to the principal's approval.*
- *Staff members should report instances of behaviors referenced in this Rule to school administration within a reasonable time period so that administrators may review them in a timely manner. (See also Policy JAA, Equal Educational Opportunities for Students, for more information regarding harassment.) At the conclusion of the investigation, any written report required by Policy JAA will be forwarded to the Superintendent or his/her designee.*
- *Any student (or parent or friend of a student) who has been the victim of an act of abuse, sexual harassment/misconduct, or other inappropriate behavior is urged to make an oral report of the act to any teacher, counselor or administrator at his/her school.*

▪ **Level 1**

- Comments that perpetuate gender stereotypes or suggestive jokes that are not directed towards specific individuals.
 - Includes but not limited to insensitive or sexually suggestive comments or jokes.

▪ **Level 2**

- Comments that perpetuate gender stereotypes, suggestive jokes or lewd gestures that are directed towards specific individuals or group of individuals.
 - Includes but not limited to insensitive or sexually suggestive comments or jokes; leering.

▪ **Level 3**

- Physical or non-physical sexual advances; requests for sexual favors;
- May be used for students that violate the school policy on sexual harassment **three (3) or more times** during the same school year.

Rule 16. Sex Offenses

Unlawful sexual behavior; sexual contact without force or threat of force, or possession of sexually

explicit images; can be consensual.

- ❖ *The Georgia General Assembly requires the District to encourage parents to inform students of the consequences, including potential criminal penalties, of underage sexual conduct. The consequences can include the student being tried as an adult. Any behavior, which is a violation of Chapter 6 of Title 16 of Georgia law, or violations below, must be immediately reported to the SRO, the Superintendent and the Director of Student Services. The Chief of Police, or designee will then notify the District Attorney.*
 - *Any alleged victim of a sexual offense may request to have his/her schedule changed, subject to the principal's approval. Sexual offenses are prohibited against members of the same sex as well as members of the opposite sex.*
 - *See also Policy JAA, Equal Educational Opportunities for Students, for more information regarding harassment. At the conclusion of the investigation, any written report required by Policy JAA will be forwarded to the Superintendent or designee.*
 - *As used in this Rule, "intimate body parts," as defined in Georgia law, O.C.G.A. § 16-6-22.1 include "the primary genital area, anus, groin, inner thighs, or buttocks of a male or female and the breasts of a female."*
- **Level 1**
 - Inappropriate sexually-based physical contact
 - Including but not limited to public groping, inappropriate bodily contact, or any other sexual contact not covered in other Levels.
- **Level 2**
 - Inappropriate sexually-based behavior
 - Including but not limited to sexting, lewd behavior, possession of pornographic materials; simulated sex acts.
 - Expose one's intimate body parts or "moon" in public
- **Level 3**
 - Engaging in sexual activities on school grounds or during school activities.
 - Oral, anal or vaginal penetration; pimping; prostitution; indecent exposure of private body parts.

Rule 17. Threat/Intimidation

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

- **Level 2**
 - Physical, verbal or electronic threat which creates fear of harm without displaying a weapon or subjecting victims to physical harm.
- **Level 3**
 - School-wide physical, verbal or electronic threat which creates fear of harm without displaying a weapon or subjecting victims to physical attack; ***Note: Students that display a pattern of behavior that is so severe, persistent, or pervasive so as to have the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education, threatening the educational environment, or causing substantial physical harm, threat of harm or visibly bodily harm may be coded as bullying.***

Rule 18. Tobacco

Possession, use, distribution, or sale of tobacco products on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, and on transportation to and from school.

- ❖ *Possess, distribute, or use, cigarettes or related tobacco products of any kind, including cigarette wrapping paper or containers for such products. First offenders may be referred to attend a tobacco use program, in addition to any other disciplinary action deemed appropriate.*
 - **Level 1**
 - Unintentional possession of tobacco products on school property
 - **Level 2**
 - Use of or knowledgeable possession of tobacco products
 - Intentional use or possession of tobacco products on school property
 - **Level 3**
 - Distribution and/or selling of tobacco products on school property
 - May be used for students that violate the school policy **three (3) or more times** during the same school year

Rule 19. Trespassing

Entering or remaining on a public-school campus or school board facility without authorization or invitation and with no lawful purpose for entry. (Note: The key difference between Trespassing and Breaking & Entering-Burglary is that Trespassing does not include forceful entry into the school building.)

- **Level 2**
 - Entering or remaining on school campus or school property without authorization or invitation
- **Level 3**
 - Refusing to leave school campus or school property after a request from school personnel
 - Being on school campus or school property, including attending home athletic events and extracurricular activities while currently on Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
 - May be used for students that violate the school policy on trespassing **three (3) or more times** during the same school year

Rule 20. Vandalism

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

- **Level 2**
 - Attempting to or causing minor destruction, damage or defacement of school property or private property without permission
- **Level 3**
 - Causing willful/malicious destruction, damage or defacement of school property or private property without permission
 - May be used for students that violate the school policy on vandalism **three (3) or more**

times during the same school year

Rule 22. Weapons – Knives

The possession, use, or intention to use any type of knife.

Contact SRO and Student Services

- **Level 1**
 - Unintentional possession of a knife or knife-like item on school property without the intent to harm or intimidate
- **Level 2**
 - Intentional possession of a knife or knife-like item on school property without the intent to harm or intimidate
- **Level 3**
 - Intentional possession, use or intention to use a knife or knife-like item on school property with the intent to harm or intimidate

Rule 23. Weapons – Other

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

Contact SRO and Student Services

- **Level 2**
 - Unintentional possession of a weapon, other than a knife or firearm, or simile of a weapon that could produce bodily harm or fear of harm.
 - Includes but is not limited to razor blades, straight-edge razors, brass knuckles, blackjacks, bats, clubs, nun chucks, throwing stars, stun guns, tasers, etc.
- **Level 3**
 - Intentional possession and/or use of any weapon, other than a knife or firearm, in a manner that could produce bodily harm or fear of harm.
 - Includes but is not limited to razor blades, straight-edge razors, brass knuckles, blackjacks, bats, clubs, nun chucks, throwing stars, stun guns, tasers, etc.

❖ Prohibition

- A student shall not possess, handle, transmit, or cause to be transmitted; use or threaten to use; sell, attempt to sell, or conspire to sell a firearm, a dangerous weapon or dangerous instrument/hazardous object/unauthorized item, either concealed or open to view, on school property. All items prohibited under this rule should be confiscated and given to the local school resource officer or other law enforcement agencies as appropriate. The Superintendent or his/her designated school official, in conjunction with law enforcement, should determine the disposition of items prohibited under this rule. The possession of any dangerous weapon, hazardous object, or firearm in violation of O.C.G.A. § 16-5-21; 16-5-24; 16-11-127; 16-11-127.1; or 16-11-132 will trigger the reporting requirements of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1184. The incidents will be reported to the School Resource Officer, the Superintendent, and the Director of Student Services.*
- There is no exception for students who have a valid legal license to carry a weapon.*

Rule 24. Other Incident for State-Reported Discipline Action

Any other discipline incident for which a student is administered corporal punishment, in-school suspension, out of school suspension, administrative action, detention, suspended from riding the bus, referred to court or juvenile system authorities, or removed from class at the teacher's request (pursuant

to O.C.G.A. 20-2-738).

- **Level 1**
 - Any other discipline incident for which a student is administered corporal punishment, detention, in-school or out-of-school suspension, expelled, suspended for riding the bus, assigned to an alternative school, referred to court or juvenile system authorities, or removed from class at the teacher's request (*Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-738*)
- **Level 2**
 - Level 2 should be used for students who display a pattern of violating local school policies not listed among the state incident types.
 - Includes but is not limited to parking violations, etc.

❖ Off-Campus Misconduct

- *Off-campus misconduct for which a student may be disciplined includes, but is not limited to, any off-campus conduct which could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony, or felonious conduct for which a student has been arrested, criminally charged/indicted, adjudicated to have committed, or convicted; and conduct which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process. (Contact Director of Student Services and SRO)*

Rule 25. Weapons - Handguns

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

Contact SRO and Student Services

- **Level 3**
 - Intentional or unintentional possession or use of a handgun in a manner that could produce bodily harm or fear of harm.
 - Pistols or revolvers
 - 10 days of OSS and hearing referral

Rule 26. Weapons – Rifle/Shotgun

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

Contact SRO and Student Services

- **Level 3**
 - Intentional or unintentional possession or use of a rifle or shotgun in a manner that could produce bodily harm or fear of harm.
 - Rifle or shotgun
 - 10 days OSS and hearing referral

Rule 27. Serious Bodily Injury

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

Contact SRO and Student Services

- **Level 3**
 - Infliction of "bodily harm" that dismembers, disfigures, causes permanent loss of a limb or function of an organ and causes substantial risk of death.
 - Any behavior that dismembers, disfigures, causes permanent loss of a limb or function of an organ and causes substantial risk of death.
 - 10 days OSS and hearing referral

Rule 28. Other Firearms

Firearms other than handguns, rifles, or shotguns as defined in 18 USC 921. Includes any weapon (including started gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of any explosive; the frame or receiver of any weapon described above; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; any destructive device, which includes any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas (i.e. bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge more than 4 ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than ¼ ounce, mine, or similar device); any weapon which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than ½ inch in diameter; any combination or parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described above, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled. (NOTE: This does not include toy guns, cap guns, bb guns, pellet guns, or Class-C common fireworks). [Pursuant to Gun-Free Schools Act – Public Law 107-110, Section 4141]

Contact SRO and Student Services

- **Level 3**
 - Intentional or unintentional possession or use of any firearms other than rifle, shotgun, or handguns (including starter pistols) and any other destructive device which includes explosives
 - Includes any weapon (including started gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of any explosive; the frame or receiver of any weapon described above; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; any destructive device, which includes any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas (i.e. bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge more than 4 ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than ¼ ounce, mine, or similar device); any weapon which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than ½ inch in diameter; any combination or parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described above, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled. (NOTE: This does not include toy guns, cap guns, bb guns, pellet guns, or Class-C common fireworks). [Pursuant to Gun-Free Schools Act - Public Law 107-110, Section 4141]
 - 10 days OSS and hearing referral

Rule 29. Bullying

Behavior, which may include written, verbal, physical acts, or through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology occurring on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions that is so severe, persistent, or pervasive so as to have the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education, threatening the educational environment, or causing substantial physical harm or visible bodily harm.

▪ **Level 1**

- First Offense of bullying as defined in *Georgia Code Section 20-2-751.4*
 - Includes but is not limited to a pattern of unwanted teasing, threats, name-calling, intimidation, harassment, humiliation, hazing, physical attacks, extortion, social exclusion, coercion, spreading of rumors or falsehoods, gossip, stalking, or using any type of electronic means to harass or intimidate.

▪ **Level 2**

- Second incident of bullying as defined in *Georgia Code Section 20-2-751.4*
 - Includes but is not limited to a pattern of unwanted teasing, threats, name-calling, intimidation, harassment, humiliation, hazing, physical attacks, extortion, social exclusion, coercion, spreading of rumors or falsehoods, gossip, stalking, or the use of electronic equipment on school property or using school equipment to harass or intimidate.

▪ **Level 3**

- Repeated acts, as defined in *Georgia Code Section 20-2-751.4*, occurring on school property or school possession that is a willful attempt or threat to inflict injury, or apparent means to do so, any display of force that puts victim at fear of harm, any written, verbal or physical act that threatens, harasses, or intimidates; causes another person physical harm; interferes with a student's education; so severe and pervasive intimidated or threatens educational environment.
 - Includes but is not limited to a pattern of unwanted teasing, threats, name-calling, intimidation, harassment, humiliation, hazing, physical attacks, extortion, social exclusion, coercion, spreading of rumors or falsehoods, gossip, stalking, or the use of electronic equipment on school property or using school equipment to harass or intimidate.

- ❖ *Parents/guardians/persons that have control of charge of students who are victims of bullying or have found to commit bullying will be notified via telephone/personal conference or letter/referral. Staff members are expected to report instances of these behaviors to the school principal or designated administrator immediately so that administrators may investigate them in a timely manner. Employees, volunteers, students and parents/guardians/other persons that have control of students may report or otherwise provide information on bullying activity to a school administrator anonymously if they choose.*
- ❖ *No school employee will retaliate against any person who reports bullying behaviors. Students who retaliate against others for reports of bullying behavior are subject to discipline, which may include enhanced consequences. Students who knowingly file a false report of bullying will also be disciplined.*
- ❖ *Upon a finding by a Disciplinary Hearing Officer that a student in grades six (6) through twelve (12) has committed the offense of bullying for the **third time in a school year**, such student shall be assigned to an alternative education program. If a student is found to have engaged in bullying or in physical assault or battery of another person on the school bus, a meeting shall be scheduled involving the parent or guardian of the student and appropriate school district officials to form a school bus behavior contract for the student. Such contract shall provide for progressive age-appropriate discipline and restrictions for student misconduct on the bus. Contract provisions*

may include but shall not be limited to assigned seating, ongoing parental involvement, and suspension from riding the bus. This does not in any way limit or restrict the school system's ability to take additional action, including imposing disciplinary sanctions through and including permanent expulsion from the school system, as a result of the student's behavior.

- ❖ Any alleged victim of harassment or bullying may request to have his/her schedule changed, subject to the principal's approval. See also Policy JBCD, Transfers and Withdrawals, for more information about transfer options for victims of violent offenses. See Policy JAA, Equal Educational Opportunities for Students, for more information regarding harassment. Staff members should report instances of behaviors referenced in this Rule to school administration within a reasonable time period so that administrators may review them in a timely manner. At the conclusion of the investigation, any written report required by Policy JAA, Equal Education Opportunities for Students, will be forwarded to the Director of Student Services as the Compliance Coordinator's designee.
- ❖ Bullying applies to acts which occur on school property or through school technology resources, and also applies to acts which occur through the use of electronic communication, whether or not that communication originated on school property or with school technology resources, if the electronic communication:
 - Is directed specifically at students or school personnel,
 - Is maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school, AND
 - Creates a reasonable fear of harm to the students' or school personnel's person or property or has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose.
- ❖ Electronic communication includes but is not limited to any transfer of signs, signals, writings, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system. (See (05)).
- ❖ It is beneficial for the school to be notified of community situations that may impact the school environment. However, individuals who are subject to harassment, bullying or "cyberbullying" in the community may contact their local police department for action, as the school may have no jurisdiction to discipline (OSS, ISS, etc.) for events in the community.

Rule 30. Other - Attendance Related

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

- **Level 1**
 - "Skipping" or missing any class or activity or any portion of a class or activity, or being tardy for a class or activity for which he or she is enrolled without a valid excuse;
 - Leave school grounds during the course of the regularly scheduled school day without the permission of a parent and school principal or designee. Students must follow the established procedures for checking in or out of school.
 - Failure to attend detention, Saturday school or ISS
- ❖ It should be noted that *O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690.1* states that any parent, guardian, or other person residing in this state who has control or charge of a child or children that accrues five (5) unexcused absences during one school year will be deemed to have violated Code section 20-2-690.1 and shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to fines, imprisonment, community services, or any combination of these penalties.

Rule 31. Other – Dress Code Violation

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

- ❖ *Students in the school system are expected to dress and groom themselves in such a way as to reflect neatness, cleanliness and safety. All students shall dress appropriately so as not to disrupt or interfere with the educational program or the orderly operation of the school.*
- ❖ *Designated dress involving school activities approved by the principal shall be acceptable. The principal or other duly authorized school official shall determine whether any particular mode of dress or grooming results in a violation of the spirit and/or the intent of this rule.*
 - Non-invasive and non-suggestive clothing, jewelry, book bags or other articles of personal appearance.
 - Pursuant to local dress codes, dress code violations for Level 1 may include but are not limited to bare feet; trousers, slacks, shorts worn below waist level; no belt; clothing that is excessively baggy or tight; skirts or shorts that are shorter than mid-thigh; sunglasses worn inside the building; hats, caps, hoods, sweatbands and bandanas or other head wear worn inside school building
 - Invasive or suggestive clothing, jewelry book bags or other articles of personal appearance.
 - Pursuant to local dress codes, dress code violations for Level 2 may include but are not limited to depiction of profanity, vulgarity, obscenity or violence; promote the use or abuse of tobacco, alcohol or drugs; creates a threat to the health and safety of other students; creates a significant risk of disruption to the school environment; clothing worn in such a manner so as to reveal underwear, cleavage or bare skin; spaghetti straps, strapless tops, halter tops, see-through or mesh garments or other clothing that is physically revealing, provocative or contains sexually suggestive comment
 - Invasive or suggestive clothing, jewelry, book bags or other articles of personal appearance.

Rule 32. Academic Dishonesty

Receiving or providing unauthorized assistance on classroom projects, assignments or exams

❖ Honor Code Violation

- *The expectation is that each student will be honest and submit his/her own work. Cheating, plagiarism and other Honor Code violations are strictly prohibited. Examples of violations of this rule include, but are not limited to:*
 - *Copying or "borrowing" from another source and submitting it as one's own work*
 - *Seeking or accepting unauthorized assistance on tests, projects or other assignments*
 - *Fabricating data or resources*
 - *Providing or receiving test questions in advance without permission*
 - *Working collaboratively with other students when individual work is expected*
- **Level 1**
 - Intentional receiving or providing of unauthorized assistance on classroom projects, assessments and assignments
 - May include but is not limited to failure to cite sources
- **Level 2**
 - Intentional plagiarism or cheating on a minor classroom assignment or project
 - Includes but is not limited to Intentional dishonesty on minor classroom projects, assignments, homework, etc.

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

Rule 33. Student Incivility

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

- **Level 1**
 - Failure to comply with instructions or the inadvertent use of inappropriate language.
 - May include but is not limited to general disrespect for school staff or students;
 - Profanity;
 - Failure to follow instructions
- **Level 2**
 - Blatant insubordination or the use of inappropriate language directed towards school staff or peers; intentional misrepresentation of the truth.
 - Profanity or obscene language directed towards school staff;
 - Issuing false reports on other students;
 - Insubordination
- **Level 3**
 - Blatant and repeated insubordination or intentional misrepresentation of the truth; Level 3 should be used for students who display a pattern of violating the school policy related to student incivility.
 - Issuing false reports on school staff;
 - Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on student incivility **three (3) or more times** during the same school year.

Rule 34. Other – Possession of Unapproved Items

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

- **Level 1**
 - The possession of any unauthorized item. Does not include the possession of fireworks, matches, toy weapons, or other items that can be construed as dangerous.
 - Includes but is not limited to possession of toys, mobile devices, gadgets, personal items, gum, candy, etc.; includes possession of pepper spray
- **Level 2**
 - The use of any unauthorized item (i.e. toys, mobile devices, or gadgets). Does not include the possession of fireworks, matches, toy weapons, or other items that can be construed as dangerous
 - Includes but is not limited to use of toys, mobile devices, gadgets, personal items, etc.; includes the use of pepper spray without injury

- **Level 3**
 - The use or possession of unauthorized items including but not limited to toy guns or other items that can be construed as dangerous or harmful to the learning environment; Includes the possession of matches, lighters, incendiary devices or fireworks. *CBD products of any form (gummies, tablets, capsules, vapes, etc.) are prohibited on school grounds.* The use of matches, lighters, incendiary devices or fireworks should be coded as Arson; Level 3 should be used for students who display a pattern of violating the school policy related to unapproved items.
 - Includes but are not limited to matches, lighters, or the possession of fireworks, bullets, stink bombs, CO2 cartridges; includes the use of pepper spray with injury

Rule 35. Gang-Related

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

❖ Definition

- *A “gang” is defined as any group of three or more people with a common name or common identifying signs, symbols, tattoos, graffiti, attire or other distinguishing characteristics which engage in “criminal gang activity” as described in O.C.G.A. 16-15-3(1)(A)-(J) (including but not limited to the commission, attempted commission, conspiracy to commit, or solicitation, coercion, or intimidation of another person to commit offenses such as, but not limited to, rape, aggravated sexual battery, violence, possession or use of a weapon, or trespass or damage to property resulting from any act of gang related painting on, tagging, marking on, writing on, or creating any form of graffiti on school or personal property).*
 - Wearing or possessing gang-related apparel; communicating either verbally or nonverbally to convey membership or affiliation with a gang
 - Possession or wearing of gang-related clothing, jewelry, emblems, badges, symbols, signs, or using colors to convey gang membership or affiliation;
 - Gestures, handshakes, slogans, drawings, etc. to convey gang membership or affiliation;
 - Committing any other illegal act or other violation of school policies in connection with gang-related activity.
 - The solicitation of others for gang membership, the defacing of school or personal property with gang-related symbols or slogans, threatening or intimidating on behalf of a gang, the requirement or payment for protection or insurance through a gang. Level 3 should be used for students who display a pattern of violating the school policy related to gang activity.
 - Soliciting students for gang membership;
 - Tagging or defacing school or personal property with symbols or slogans intended to convey or promote membership or affiliation in any gang;
 - Requiring payment for protection, insurance, otherwise intimidating or threatening any person related to gang activity;
 - Inciting other students to intimidate or to act with physical violence upon any other person related to gang activity.

10 days OSS; SRO Referral; Tribunal Hearing; Contact Student Services

Rule 36. Repeated Offenses

Collection of offenses not previously assigned a state reportable action that occurs on a single or across multiple school days that leads to a state reportable disciplinary action.

Rule 40. Other Non-Disciplinary Incident

This code is used exclusively for the reporting Physical Restraint. When the INCIDENT TYPE = '40', then the ACTION CODE must = '95' for Physical Restraint. Do not report a Teacher ID when Incident Code is "Other Non-Disciplinary Incident."

Rule 42. Electronic Smoking Device

Any device used to deliver nicotine, or any other substance intended for human consumption that may be used by a person to simulate smoking through inhalation of vapor or aerosol from the device. Such devices include those manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, electronic hookah, vape pen, electronic nicotine delivery system or any cartridge or other component of the device or related product.

- **Level 1**
 - Unintentional possession of an electronic smoking device
- **Level 2**
 - Use or knowledgeable possession of an electronic smoking device
- **Level 3**
 - Distribution and/or selling of electronic smoking devices: Level 3 may be used for students that violate school policy on electronic smoking devices three or more times during the same school year.

Rule 44. Violence Against a Teacher

Intentional physical attack against a teacher with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in severe injuries or any physical attack against a teacher. Violence against other school personnel should be reported as Battery (03) – Level 3.

Contact SRO and Student Services

- Intentional physical attack against a teacher with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in severe injuries or any physical attack against a teacher. (Violence against other school personnel should be reported as Battery (03) – Level 3.
 - 10 days OSS and hearing referral

NOTE: These disciplinary measures are not inclusive and as such, a student committing an act of misconduct listed or not listed will nevertheless be subject to the discretionary authority of the administrator.