

September 8, 2020

Dear Parents,

The West Virginia Department of Education and the Jackson County Board of Education have established requirements for **Safe and Supportive Schools** to provide an educational system that supports students in their efforts to become healthy, responsible and self-directed citizens with a goal for all students to develop the personal skills and dispositions of wellness, responsibility, self-direction, ethical character, cultural awareness and good citizenship in an environment that is caring and safe.

In order to meet these requirements, the Jackson County Board of Education has developed a **Policy 5500 Student Conduct**. The expectations outlined in this policy apply during any education-sponsored event, whether in a classroom, elsewhere on school premises, on a school bus or other vehicle used for a school related event, or at a school-sponsored activity or event, whether or not it is held on school premises, in a building or other property used or operated by the Jackson County Board of Education, by any Regional Education Service Agency (RESA), by the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE), or in another facility or upon any other property being used by any of these agencies.

Students in all Jackson County Schools will be trained annually in this policy and shall be given a summary of these policies to take home to share with parents and guardians. Attached to this letter is that summary of the policy and a **Safe and Supportive Schools, Code of Conduct Contract for Students**. Contact Tracy LeMasters, Director of Federal Programs at (304) 372-7310 or tlemaste@k12.wv.us for complete West Virginia and Jackson County Board of Education Policies regarding **Safe and Supportive Schools, Code of Conduct for Students**. Please complete the attached contract form and return it immediately to your child's school to verify that you have received this information and will support its intent in encouraging your child to display appropriate behavior. The policy is also available on the Jackson County Board of Education web page.

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that students, staff and visitors are safe and protected while striving to meet the mission of student learning. School administrators and staff are encouraged to exhaust all available school and community resources to provide appropriate school based prevention and intervention strategies designed to keep students in school and engaged in instruction. Out-of-school suspension strategies should be used sparingly and shall never deny a student access to instructional material and information necessary to maintain their academic progress. Out-of-school suspension is not a recommended consequence or intervention for Level 1 behaviors. However, the determination of interventions and consequences is at the discretion of the school administrator for offences classified as levels 1, 2, and 3 behaviors. It is critical that level 3 and 4 behaviors are to be referred directly to the appropriate administrator because of the serious and/or unlawful nature of the misconduct. Jackson County School administrators shall inform the appropriate programmatic level director immediately in the case of any level 3 or 4 behaviors. **In order to create consistency among all schools in the application of out-of-school suspension and expulsion as they relate to inter-scholastic extra-curricular activities, any student suspended or expelled from school is also suspended from extra-curricular activities for the duration of the out-of-school suspension or expulsion.**

When administering interventions and consequences, it is required to determine if a student warrants protection under the individuals with Disabilities in Education Act of 1997 Amendments (IDEA), State Board policy 2419 and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its implementing regulations (Section 504).

Thank you for your time and interest to ensure the best learning environment for your student and for all students in Jackson County Schools.

Sincerely,

Blaine C. Hess, Superintendent