Lee County Schools
Student Code of Conduct

Lee County Schools is committed to providing a safe, orderly, and welcoming environment in which our students learn and grow academically, socially, and emotionally. Student success is a partnership between students, parents, community members, and school staff. Lee County Schools encourages all stakeholders to be active, supportive partners to ensure our students have a safe school environment in which they learn the skills they need to become successful, productive citizens.

To achieve this goal Lee County Schools has developed a Student Code of Conduct which clearly outlines expectations and consequences for student behavior. We encourage you to read the Student Code of Conduct and become familiar with the behavioral expectations. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Lee County Schools by calling 919-774-6226. Lee County Schools welcome your input and encourage strong, open communication between the home and the school. Working together as partners, our students will experience a safe learning environment in which they will achieve academic, social, and emotional success.
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I. RESPONSIBILITY FOR STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Introduction

The primary purpose of Lee County Schools is to promote learning for all students. Good teachers, a quality learning environment, proper behavior, and regular attendance by students are all necessary to accomplish this goal. All decisions related to student behavior are guided by the Lee County Board of Education’s objective to teach responsibility and respect for cultural and ideological differences and the commitment to creating safe, orderly and inviting schools. Student behavior policies are provided in order to establish: (1) expected standards of student behavior; (2) principles to be followed in managing student behavior; (3) consequences for prohibited behavior or drug/alcohol policy violations; and (4) required procedures for addressing misbehavior. In order to promote a quality learning environment, the Board of Education establishes this Code of Student Conduct as a guide to students, parents and staff in meeting expected standards of student behavior both at school and in attendance at all school-sponsored activities. The Superintendent is responsible for supervising the enforcement of student behavior policies to ensure that school disciplinary policies are uniformly and fairly applied throughout the school district.

Purpose and Applicability

The purpose of this code is to present in a single document system-wide policies on the proper conduct and behavior of students. A copy of the current Code of Conduct is posted on the Lee County Schools’ website under Parent Resources. A copy is also available on each school’s website.

Students must comply with the Code of Student Conduct in the following circumstances:

1. Before, during and after hours at school, in any school building, or on any school premises.
2. While on any school-owned vehicle or in any other school-approved vehicle used to transport students to and from school or school activities.
3. While waiting at any bus stop.
4. During any school function, extracurricular activity or other activity or event.
5. During any period of time when students are subject to the authority of school personnel.
6. At any place or time when the student’s behavior has or is reasonably expected to have a direct and immediate impact on the orderly and efficient operation of the schools or the safety of individuals in the school environment.

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Authority of School Personnel

This code is not intended to restrict in any way the authority of principals or teachers to create additional rules that are consistent with this code. School administrators and teachers are authorized by law to ensure the safe operation of their respective schools or classes. The Board encourages and supports the right of principals to employ a variety of disciplinary actions which may include but are not limited to in-school suspension, suspension from school events and activities, after-school detention and out-of-school suspension.

The principal has the authority and responsibility to investigate and take appropriate action regarding any prohibited or criminal student behavior and any other behavior appropriately referred to him/her. The principal is responsible for informing students and parents of any standards or rules that, if violated, could result in short-term or long-term suspension or expulsion.

The teacher has the authority and responsibility to manage student behavior in the classroom and when students are under his/her supervision. The teacher is expected to implement the student behavior management plan and any other school standards or rules. The teacher may develop other standards or rules consistent with the direction provided by the board, superintendent and school principal. Every teacher, student teacher, substitute teacher, volunteer, teacher assistant or other school employee is required to report to the principal all acts of violence occurring in school, on school grounds or at any school-sponsored activity.

Teachers and other school personnel have the authority to manage or remove disruptive or dangerous students from the classroom and other locations within the school building. School personnel may use reasonable force to control behavior or to remove a person from the scene in those situations when necessary:

1. To correct students;
2. To quell a disturbance threatening injury to others;
3. To obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous objects on the person or within the control of a student;
4. For self-defense;
5. For the protection of persons or property; or
6. To maintain order on school property, in the classroom or at a school-related activity on or off school property.
Except as restricted by G.S. 115C-391.1, school personnel may use appropriate seclusion and restraint techniques reasonably needed in the circumstances described above as long as such use is consistent with state law and applicable board policies and procedures. (See Policy 4302 School Plan for Management of Student Behavior.)

Students must comply with all directions of principals, teachers, substitute teachers, student teachers, teacher assistants, bus drivers and all other school personnel who are authorized to give such directions during any period of time when they are subject to the authority of such personnel. Any student who refuses to comply with reasonable rules, regulations or directives imposed by any principal, assistant principal, teacher or authorized school employee shall be held in violation of this Code of Student Conduct.

**Consequence for Violations**

Violations of the Code of Student Conduct must be dealt with in accordance with the guidelines established in the school's behavior management plan (see Policy 4302 School Plan for Management of Student Behavior).

1. **Minor Violations**
   Minor violations of the Code of Student Conduct are those less severe infractions involving a lower degree of danger and harm. Examples of minor violations include the use of inappropriate or disrespectful language, noncompliance with a staff directive, dress code violations and minor physical altercations that do not involve a weapon or an injury. Aggravating circumstances; however, may justify treating an otherwise minor violation as a serious violation.

Minor violations of the Code of Student Conduct may result in disciplinary measures or responses up to and including short-term suspension. Further information regarding the procedure for short-term suspension is provided in Policy 4351 Short-Term Suspension. Other disciplinary measures or responses may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Parental involvement such as conferences
- Isolation or time-out for short periods of time with supervision
- Behavior improvement agreements
- Individual or small group sessions with the school counselor
- In-school suspension
- Detention before and/or after school or on Saturday
- Community service on school grounds with supervision

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• Exclusion from extracurricular activities which are not related to curriculum and instruction  
• Suspension from bus privileges 
• Placement in an alternative school 
• Instruction in conflict resolution and anger management 
• Peer mediation 
• Academic intervention 
• Exclusion from graduation ceremonies

2. **Serious Violations**

Serious violations of the Code of Student Conduct may result in any of the consequences that may be imposed for minor violations. In addition, serious violations that threaten or substantially disrupt the educational environment may result in long-term suspension, and serious violations that threaten the safety of students, school employees or school visitors may result in long-term suspension, alternative placement or expulsion. Certain violations involving firearms or explosive devices may result in a 365 day suspension. Further information regarding the standards and procedures for long-term suspension, 365 day suspensions and expulsions is provided in Policy 4353 and short-term suspension in Policy 4351. (See also Policy 4333 Weapons, Bomb Threat, Terrorist Threats and Clear Threats to Safety, for information regarding 365 day suspensions for certain violations involving firearms or explosive devices).

Principal are expected to use good judgment and reasonable discretion in applying board policies and in determining the appropriate consequences for violations of board policies or school standards or rules. **School discipline is separate and different from any criminal charge.** This includes any charge levied by the school resource officer or any other law enforcement agency. The parent or guardian is responsible for transportation as may be required to carry out the consequence. With the exception of suspension from bus privileges, if a parent or guardian is unable to provide transportation, another consequence shall be substituted.

**Disciplinary Action For Exceptional Children Students**

Disciplinary actions for students identified as exceptional children according to North Carolina guidelines shall conform to the Procedures Governing Services for Children with Disabilities as adopted by the State Board of Education. If the procedures manual does not fully address a particular issue, the director of exceptional children, in the case

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of a student with a 504 accommodation plan, shall develop any necessary protocols consistent with state and federal law.

All disabled children shall be accorded all rights as required by state and federal laws. See also Policy 1730/4022/7231 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities.

Definitions

1. **Student** - any person attending any school that is part of Lee County Schools.
2. **Classroom** - any location over which school officials have supervising responsibility.
3. **Principal** - the school principal or any school professional to whom the superintendent delegates authority.
4. **School Personnel** - any principal, teacher, substitute teacher, student teacher, instructional assistant, supervisor, director, coordinator, administrator and all other personnel paid or unpaid working under the supervision and direction of Lee County Schools.
5. **Parent** - natural parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or person serving in loco parentis.
6. **Board** - Lee County Board of Education
7. **OSS** - Out-of-school Suspension
8. **ISS** - In School Suspension
II. PROHIBITED CONDUCT AND AUTHORIZED PENALTIES

RULE 1: COMPLIANCE WITH THE DIRECTIONS OF SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Students shall comply with all directions of principals, teachers, substitute teachers, student teachers, teacher assistants, bus drivers and all other school personnel who are authorized to give such directions during any period of time when the students are subject to the authority of such school personnel.

No student shall refuse to or fail to promptly obey reasonable requests of school personnel or administrative staff.

Discipline: Up to 5 days suspension or disciplinary action as determined by principal.

Additional Offenses: Up to 10 days suspension and possible recommendation for long-term suspension based on aggravating factors.

Refer to Policy 4300 Code of Student Conduct

RULE 2: MISREPRESENTING INFORMATION TO SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

No student shall be untruthful or intentionally misrepresent information to any school employee.

Discipline: 1st offense - Up to 5 days suspension and parent conference.

Additional Offenses: Up to 10 days suspension and possible recommendation for long-term suspension based on aggravating factors.

Refer to Policy 4340 School Level Investigations

RULE 3: ASSAULT ON OR PHYSICAL INJURY TO OTHERS, THREATENING ACTS, HARASSMENT

Students are prohibited from assaulting, physically injuring, attempting to injure or intentionally behaving in such a way as could reasonably cause injury to any other person. Assault includes engaging in a fight. Neither self-defense nor action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall be

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considered an intentional act under this rule. A student who is physically assaulted may use reasonable force in self-defense but only to the extent to free himself and to notify proper school authorities. (See Rule 13 - Fighting).

Students are prohibited from directing toward any other person any language that threatens force, violence or disruption, or any sign or act that constitutes a threat of force, violence or disruption.

Students are prohibited from engaging in or encouraging any form of harassment, including bullying of students, employees or other individuals on school grounds or at school-related functions. Bullying, as defined under Rule 15 means, “the repeated intimidation of others by the real or threatened infliction of physical, verbal, written or electronically transmitted emotional abuse or through attacks on the property of another.” Bullying may include, but is not limited to, verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs, extortion of money or possessions, implied or stated threats and exclusion from peer groups. Harassment is “unwanted, unwelcomed and uninvited behavior that demeans, threatens or offends the victim and results in a hostile environment for the victim. The hostile environment may be created through pervasive or persistent misbehavior or a single incident if sufficiently severe.”

Discipline: Up to 10 days suspension for all involved students and possible recommendation for long-term suspension.

Additional Offenses: Up to 10 days suspension and possible recommendation for long-term suspension based on aggravating factors.

The Superintendent may remove to an alternative school setting any student who physically assaults and seriously injures a teacher or other school personnel.

The Board may remove to an alternative school setting any student who does one of the following:

- Physically assaults a teacher or other adult who is not a student.
- Physically assaults another student.
- Physically assaults and seriously injures another student.
In all cases of serious physical assault, including kidnapping or death, a student who is fourteen years of age or older whose behavior indicates that the student’s continued presence in school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or school personnel is subject to expulsion. Law Enforcement will be notified immediately.

Refer to Policy 4331 Assaults, Threats and Harassment

**RULE 4: FIRES, FIREWORKS, FIRECRACKERS, SMOKE BOMBS OR STINK BOMBS**

No student shall possess, handle, transmit, or use any fireworks, firecrackers, smoke bombs or any device on educational property or in a school setting that would create a fire. Educational property is defined by G. S. 14-269.2 (a)(1) as any school building or bus, school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used, or operated by any board of education or school board of trustees, or directors for the administration of any school.

The possession of any incendiary material (including but not limited to matches, lighters, lighter fluid, smoke bombs, stink bombs) or the use of any material reasonably likely to result in a fire on school property is prohibited.

**Discipline:** Confiscation of item(s), notification of parents, and up to 10 days suspension with possible recommendation for long-term suspension.

Refer to Policy 4333 Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats and Clear Threats to Safety

**RULE 5: WEAPONS AND WEAPON-LIKE ITEMS**

No student shall knowingly possess, handle, use, or transmit on educational property, or during school sponsored events, whether concealed or open, any weapon or any instrument that reasonably looks like a weapon or could be used as a weapon. Weapons include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

- Loaded or unloaded firearms*, including guns, pistols or rifles;
- Destructive devices** including explosives such as dynamite cartridges, bombs, grenades and mines;
- Knives, including pocket knives, bowie knives, switchblades, dirks and daggers;
- Slingshots for slingshots
- Leaded canes;

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- Blackjacks;
- Metal knuckles;
- BB guns;
- Air rifles and air pistols;
- Stun guns and other electric shock weapons, such as tasers;
- Icepicks;
- Razors [And razor blades-except those designed and used solely for personal shaving as outlined in G. S. 14-269.2(d)];
- Fireworks;
- Ammunition; and
- Any sharp pointed or edged instrument except unaltered nail files and clips and tools used solely for preparation of food, instruction and maintenance.

Examples of other objects that may be considered weapons are box cutters and other types of utility blades and blowguns.

*A firearm is (1) a weapon including a starter gun that is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, (2) the frame or receiver of any such weapon or (3) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer.

**A destructive device is an explosive, incendiary or poison gas (1) bomb, (2) grenade, (3) rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, (4) missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, (5) mine or (6) similar device.

No student may knowingly or willfully cause, encourage or aid any other student to possess, handle or use any of the weapons or weapon-like items listed above. A student who finds a weapon or weapon-like item, who witnesses another student or other persons with such items, or who becomes aware that another student or other persons intends to possess, handle or use such items, must notify a teacher or the principal immediately. Items that are not weapons or dangerous instruments but are represented as such shall be dealt with by school authorities in the same manner as a weapon or dangerous instrument.

This rule does not apply to normal school supplies such as pencils, compasses or other tools unless they are used as weapons. This rule also does not apply to students who are members of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) and who are required to carry arms or weapons in the discharge of their official class duties. This rule also does not apply to weapons used in school-approved instruction or ceremonies.

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Principal will notify superintendent and all other applicable agencies immediately.

Possession of weapons other than firearms or destructive devices:

Discipline: Up to a 10 day suspension and possible recommendation for long-term suspension.

Possession or use of firearms or destructive devices:

Discipline: A student who brings or possesses a firearm or destructive device on school property or at a school-sponsored event must be suspended for 365 days, unless the superintendent modifies, in writing, the required 365 day suspension for an individual student on a case-by-case basis. The superintendent shall not impose a 365 day suspension if the superintendent determines that the student (1) took or received the firearm or destructive device from another person at school or found the firearm or destructive device at school, (2) delivered or reported the firearm or destructive device as soon as practical to a law enforcement officer or school personnel, and (3) had no intent to use a firearm or destructive device in a harmful or threatening way.

Refer to Policy 4333 Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats and Clear Threats to Safety

**RULE 6: BOMB THREATS, TERRORIST THREATS AND CLEAR THREATS TO SAFETY**

Students are prohibited from making, aiding and/or abetting in making a bomb threat or perpetrating a bomb hoax against school district property by making a false report that a device designed to cause damage or destruction by explosion, blasting or burning is located on school property. No student may knowingly or willfully cause, encourage or aid another student to make a bomb threat or perpetrate a bomb hoax. Any student who becomes aware that another student or other person intends to use a bomb, make a bomb threat or perpetrate a bomb hoax must notify a teacher or the principal immediately.

Students are prohibited from making, aiding, conspiring, and/or abetting in making a terrorist threat or perpetrating a terrorist hoax against school district property by making a false report that a device, substance or material designed to cause harmful or life-threatening injury to another person is located on school property. No student may
knowingly or willfully cause, encourage or aid another student to make a terrorist threat or perpetrate a terrorist hoax. Any student who becomes aware that another student or other person intends to use a device, substance or material designed to cause harmful or life-threatening illness or injury to another person, make a terrorist threat or perpetrate a terrorist hoax must notify a teacher or the principal immediately.

Students are prohibited from engaging in behavior that constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or employees. Behavior constituting a clear threat to the safety of others include, but is not limited to:

- Theft or attempted theft by a student from another person by using or threatening to use a weapon.
- The intentional and malicious burning of any structure or personal property, including vehicles.
- An attack or threatened attack by a student against another person wherein the student uses a weapon or displays it in a manner found threatening to that person.
- An attack by a student on any employee, adult volunteer, or another student that does not result in serious injury but that is intended to cause or reasonably could cause serious injury.
- An attack by a student upon another person whereby the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury such as broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injuries, laceration requiring stitches, loss of consciousness, or significant bruising or pain, or whereby the victim requires hospitalization or treatment at a hospital emergency room as a result of the attack,
- Any intentional, highly reckless or negligent act that results in the death of or serious injury of another person.
- Confining, restraining, or removing another person from one place to another, without the victim's consent or the consent of the victim's parents, for the purpose of committing a felony or for the purpose of holding the victim as a hostage for ransom, or for use as a shield.
- The possession of a weapon on any school property, including in a vehicle with the intent to use or transmit for another's use or possession in a reckless manner so that harm is reasonably foreseeable.
- Taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody or control of another person or persons, by force, threat of force or violence, or by putting the victim in fear.
- Any unauthorized and unwanted intentional touching, or attempt to touch, by one person of the sex organ of another, including the breasts of the female and the genital areas of the male and female.
- The possession, manufacture, sale or delivery, or any attempted sale or delivery of a controlled substance in violation of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes.
- Any behavior resulting in a felony conviction of a weapon, drugs, assault or other charge that implicates the safety of other persons. and,
- Any other behavior that demonstrates a clear threat to the safety of others in the school environment.

Discipline: Up to 10 days suspension and recommendation for long-term suspension.

Refer to Policy 4333 Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats and Clear Threats to Safety

**RULE 7: INTEGRITY AND CIVILITY**

No student shall engage in the following behaviors which violate standards of integrity and civility:

- Cheating, including the actual giving or receiving of any unauthorized assistance or the actual giving or receiving of unfair advantage on any form of academic work.
- Plagiarizing, including copying the language, structure, ideas and/or thoughts of another and representing it as one’s own original work.
- Violating copyright laws, including the unauthorized reproduction, duplication and/or use of printed or electronic work, computer software, or other copyrighted material.

Discipline: 1st offense - Zero on the assignment. It will be recorded on the student’s discipline file in the office. The teacher will maintain a record. Parent will be notified by the teacher.

2nd Offense - At principal’s discretion.

Refer to Policy 4310 Integrity and Civility
RULE 8: THREATENING, INSULTING, ABUSIVE OR SERIOUSLY DISCOURTEOUS WORDS, SIGNS OR OTHER ACTS INCLUDING SEXUALLY RELATED ACTS

No student shall direct toward any principal, teacher, or other school personnel, student or any other person, any cursing, vulgar, abusive or demeaning language which threatens force or violence, or which is abusive, demeaning, vulgar, or insulting; any sign or act which constitutes a threat of force or violence which is abusive, dangerous or insulting or otherwise subject another person to personal indignity; or playing abusive or dangerous tricks or otherwise subjecting a student or employee to personal indignity. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment and will not be tolerated.

For Threatening Language or Acts and Sexual Harassment

Discipline: Up to 10 days suspension and possible recommendation for long-term suspension based upon aggravating circumstances.

For Abusive, Insulting or Discourteous Language

Discipline: 1st offense - Up to 5 days suspension
Additional offenses - Up to 10 days suspension

Refer to Policy 1710/4021/7230 Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying; Policy 4331 Assaults, Threats and Harassment; Policy 4310 Integrity and Civility

RULE 9: DISRUPTION OF SCHOOL

A. No student shall by use of passive resistance, noise, threat, fear, intimidation, coercion, force, violence or any other form of conduct, intentionally cause the disruption of any lawful function, mission, process of the school to which he/she is assigned or any other school in the school system.

B. No student shall engage nor shall encourage any other student to engage in any such conduct as is referred to in Subdivision A of this rule for the purpose of causing the disruption of any lawful function, mission or process of the school to which he/she is assigned or any other school in the school system, if such disruption is reasonably certain to result there from.

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C. While the list is not intended to be exclusive, the following intentional acts illustrate the kinds of offenses encompassed here:

- Occupying any school building, school grounds, school bus or part thereof with the intent to deprive others of its use.
- Intentional verbal or physical acts that result in blocking the entrance or exit of any school building or corridor or room or school bus therein with the intent to deprive others of lawful access to or from, or use of the building or corridor or room.
- Preventing or attempting to prevent by intentional physical or verbal act the convening or continued function of any school, class, or activity of any lawful meeting or assembly on the school premises.
- Preventing students from attending a class or school activity.
- Except under the direct instruction of the principal, blocking normal pedestrian or vehicular traffic on school premises.
- Intentionally making noises or acting in any manner so as to interfere with any teacher’s ability to conduct his/her class or to carry on any school activity.
- Appearance or clothing which (a) violates a reasonable dress code adopted and publicized by the school, (b) is substantially disruptive, (c) is provocative or obscene, or (d) endangers the health or safety of the students or others.
- Possessing or distributing literature or illustrations which significantly disrupt the educational process or which are obscene or unlawful.
- Engaging in behavior which is immoral, indecent, lewd, disreputable of an overly sexual nature in the school setting.
- Failing to observe established safety rules, standards and regulations, including on the bus and in hallways.
- Interfering with the operation of school buses, including delaying the bus schedule, getting off at an unauthorized stop, and willfully trespassing upon a school bus.
- Possession and use of any electronic device can be classified as a disruption to the school day.

Though school personnel generally do not monitor student internet activity conducted on non-school district devices during non-school hours, when the student’s online behavior has a direct and immediate effect on school safety or maintaining order and discipline in the schools, the student may be disciplined in accordance with board policy.
Disturbance in Classrooms

Discipline: Removal of student from class and up to 5 days suspension from school as determined by the principal.

Additional Offenses: Up to 10 days suspension and possible recommendation for long-term suspension based on aggravating factors.

Disruptive Behavior

Discipline: Up to 10 days suspension and possible recommendation for long-term suspension based on aggravating factors.

Possession of Offensive Material

Discipline: 1st offense - Confiscation, parent notification and up to 5 days suspension.

Additional Offenses: Up to 10 days suspension

Refer to Policy 4315 Disruptive Behavior, Policy 3225/4312/7320 Technology Responsible Use

**RULE 10: USES OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATION AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

The Board recognizes that cellular phones and other wireless communication devices have become an important tool through which parents communicate with their children. Therefore, students are permitted to possess such devices on school property, except on elementary and alternative school property, as long as such devices are not activated, used, displayed or visible during the instructional day or as otherwise directed by local school rules or school personnel. Wireless communication and other electronic devices include, but are not limited to: cellular phones; electronic devices with internet capability; paging devices; two way radios; electronic games; laser pointers; cameras; video cameras and similar devices.
Authorized Use

Administrators may authorize individual students to use wireless communication devices for personal purposes when there is a reasonable need for such communication. Upon administrator's approval teachers may authorize individual students to use the devices for instructional purposes provided the teacher supervises the students during such use.

Although generally use is permitted during non-instructional hours, use of cellular phones and other wireless communication devices are prohibited on school buses when noise from such devices interferes with the safe operation of the buses. In addition, elementary and middle school students who participate in after-school programs are prohibited from using wireless communication devices for the duration of such programming. Elementary students are not permitted to possess cellular phones and other wireless communication devices on school property.

Liability

Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their wireless communication devices. The school district is not responsible for the theft, loss or damage of a cellular phone or any other personal wireless communication device.

Consequences for Unauthorized Use

Discipline: 1st offense - Confiscation of item. Parents only may pick up the item no earlier than the end of the school day.

Additional Offenses: Confiscation of item. Parents only may pick up the item at the end of the school day. The student loses the privilege of possessing the item on campus for the remainder of the school year. In-school-suspension and/or out-of-school suspension may be imposed.

Aggravating factors may subject a student to more stringent disciplinary consequences, up to and including expulsion. Examples of such aggravating factors include, but are not limited to, using wireless communication devices: (1) to reproduce images of tests, to access unauthorized school information or to assist students in any aspect of their instructional program in a manner that violates any school board policy, administrative regulation or school rule; (2) to take illicit photographs; and (3) to produce video recordings.
RULE 11: GAMBLING ON CAMPUS - GAMES OF CHANCE

No student shall engage in any games of chance involving money or shall otherwise gamble.

Discipline: 1st offense - Discipline by principal and/or parent conference/possible suspension
2nd offense - Up to 3 days suspension
3rd offense - Up to 5 days suspension

Refer to Policy 4315 Disruptive Behavior; Policy 4335 Criminal Behavior

RULE 12: DRESS CODE

The Lee County Board of Education respects a student’s right to choose his/her style of dress or appearance. Students are expected to adhere to standards of cleanliness and dress that are compatible with the requirement of a safe and beneficial school environment; however, if a student’s dress or lack of cleanliness is such that it constitutes a threat to health or safety the principal or principal’s designee may require the student and the student’s parents/guardians to take appropriate action to remedy the situation. In addition, if a student’s dress or appearance is so unusual, inappropriate or lacking in cleanliness that it clearly disrupts class and learning activities, the student may be required to change his/her dress or appearance. Individual schools have the discretion to specify additional examples of dress or appearance that are appropriate at that school under the terms of this policy.

Principals will display regulations in visible locations throughout their schools and maintain guidelines to assist students in determining appropriate dress and appearance for school, copies of which will be individually made available to parents and students. Items listed below shall be included in all school guidelines and shall apply to all students in grades K-12. Reasonable accommodation will be made by the school principal or principal’s designee for those students who because of a sincerely held religious belief, cultural heritage, or medical reason request a waiver of a particular guideline for dress or appearance. Reasonable accommodations shall be made by the principal or principal’s designee to accommodate students involved in special duties, activities, or projects approved by the school. This would include but not limited to athletics, vocational
classes and projects, special events, or other activities that would allow for non-conforming dress on a school campus.

Student dress and grooming must be appropriate, safe and not disruptive to the educational environment. The following are inappropriate and not permitted:

- Sagging pants and oversized clothing.
- Clothing and accessories which can be perceived as weapons.
- Clothing and attire with any symbols or styles frequently associated with intimidation, violence or violent groups.
- Clothing and items with messages or illustrations which are lewd, derogatory, indecent, vulgar or advertising any product or service not permitted by law to minors such as drugs, illegal substances, tobacco and alcohol.
- Clothing, shorts, dresses and skirts which are excessively tight or shorter than mid-thigh.
- Clothing with excessive holes, see-through materials, strapless, tank and spaghetti tops.
- Clothing exposing cleavage, midriff and undergarments.
- Clothing worn inappropriately such as unbuckled belts, inside out, backward, unfastened, pants and skirts not at waistline, rolled-up pants and shoes not tied or secured.
- Sunglasses and head coverings of any kind are not to be worn inside the buildings.
- Face paint is not allowed unless it is related to school activities or events.

Before receiving disciplinary consequences, a student who is not in compliance with this policy or a school dress code will be given a reasonable period of time to make adjustments so that he or she will be in compliance. Disciplinary consequences for a student who fails to comply after being offered this opportunity shall be consistent with Section D of policy 4300, Code of Student Conduct.

For information on gang related attire see Policy 4328 Gang Related Activity

Discipline: 1st offense - Confiscation or covering of items. Parent notification or student sent home for the remainder of the day.
2nd offense - Up to 3 days OSS.
3rd offense - Up to 5 days OSS.
4th offense - Refer to Rule 21 or other disciplinary action as determined Necessary by the site principal.

Refer to Policy 4301/4316 - Student Dress and Appearance; Policy 4328 Gang Related Activity; Regulation 4301-R-Student Dress and Appearance

Revised August 2018, August 2019
The following is the unique dress code for the specified school:

J. Glenn Edwards Elementary School
Academic Attire and Dress

Students are expected to adhere to standards of cleanliness and dress that are compatible with the requirement of a safe and beneficial school environment. However, if a student's dress or lack of cleanliness is such that it constitutes a threat to health or safety the principal or principal's designee may require the student and the student's parents or guardians to take appropriate action to remedy the situation. In addition, if a student's dress or appearance is so unusual, inappropriate, or lacking in cleanliness that it clearly disrupts class and learning activities, the student may be required to change his/her dress or appearance. Individual schools have the discretion to specify additional examples of dress or appearance that are appropriate at that school under the terms of this policy.

Required Academic Attire

**Shirts**
- Shirts/Tops must be a solid color, any color.
- Shirts/Tops must have collars and sleeves, short, quarter length, or long.
- Shirts/Tops must be without large logos (exception made for school logo on spirit days).
- During the cold season, students may wear a solid color sweatshirt, jacket, or sweater over their collared shirt. The sweatshirt or sweater is not permitted to have a large logo or hood. No Hoodies! (exception made for school logo hoodies on spirit days)
- Solid colored mock neck, turtleneck, or long sleeve shirts may also be worn under the collared shirt during cold weather.
- School shirts are permitted on special days/spirit days.
- It is encouraged that shirts are tucked in. It can be required for excessively long shirts to be tucked in.

**Bottom Wear**
- Colors for pants include khaki, navy, or black.
- Pants, skirts, shorts, skorts, capri pants, jumpers, and dresses colors include khaki, navy, or black (no denim).
- All skirts, shorts, skorts, jumpers, dresses must be knee length or longer. Slits on skirts / dresses may be no higher than the knee.
- Socks (ankle or knee highs), tights, and leggings may be worn with skirts, jumpers, or dresses.
- Pants with belt loops can have a solid color or leather style belt.

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STUDENT DRESS AND GROOMING MUST BE APPROPRIATE, SAFE AND NOT DISRUPTIVE TO THE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT. ITEMS NOT PERMITTED INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

1. Denim material, jeans, cargo pants with very large pockets, leggings as pants, spandex pants, clothing with frayed hems, baggy or wide leg pants, sweat pants, gym shorts, bottom wear knit clothing, oversized or denim overalls, pants with elastic cuffs.
2. Writing on shirts with large logos such as American Eagle, GAP, advertisements, sports teams, colored stitching.
3. Sagging pants and oversized clothes.
4. Sunglasses and head covering of any kind are not to be worn inside the buildings.
5. Clothing and any accessories, such as large jewelry or belt buckles, which can be perceived as weapons.
6. Clothing and attire with any symbols or styles frequently associated with intimidation, violence, or violent groups.
7. Clothing and items with messages or illustrations which are disruptive, lewd, derogatory, indecent, vulgar, or advertising any product or service not permitted by law to minors such as drugs, illegal substances, tobacco, and alcohol.
8. Shorts which are excessively tight or shorter than knee length.
9. Dresses or skirts that are excessively tight or shorter than knee length.
10. Clothing with excessive holes, see-through material, strapless, tank and spaghetti tops, and any shirts that hang off the student’s shoulder.
11. Clothing exposing cleavage, midriff, or undergarments.
12. Clothing worn inappropriately such as unbuckled belts, inside out or backward, unfastened, pants and skirts not at waistline, or rolled-up pants.
13. Face paint, temporary and/or permanent hair coloring, or hair styles of a distracting nature will not allowed unless it is related to school activities or events.
14. **Shoes**: Lee County School Board Policy 4540: Student Wellness. A minimum of 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity will be provided daily by schools for kindergarten through eighth grade students. Due to this policy and for your child’s safety, proper footwear is essential. Therefore, shoes/sneakers that can be fastened/tied/secured are permitted on school campus. The following footwear is not allowed on campus: wheelies, flip-flops, open toed shoes, any shoe not secured at the heel, or any shoe with a heel over 1 ½ inches.

Families will be given 10 days to adhere to the above dress code policy upon their student entering J. Glenn Edwards Elementary. Non-compliance will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If you have questions about dress code, please contact Mrs. Candace Smith, JGE Guidance Counselor.
**Deep River Elementary School**

*Shorts, skirts, skorts, and jumpers are acceptable at a dollar bill width (2½ inches) above the knee length or longer.*

*Shoes are to be properly secured/fastened/tied rubber soled shoes. (No Crocs, sandals, or high heels.)*

*Coats/jackets must be worn outside only.*

*All clothing must fit and not be baggy, long or sagging. In such cases, shirts will be tucked in and/or a belt required.*

*Student dress and grooming must be appropriate, safe and not disruptive to the educational environment.*

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**Lee County High School**

**Dress Code**

According to LCHS board policy 4301, students are expected to adhere to a dress code that is conducive to the learning environment. Presenting a bodily appearance or wearing clothing which is disruptive, provocative, revealing, profane, vulgar, offensive, obscene, promotes illegal activities or which endangers the health or safety of the student or others is prohibited. The school shall exercise appropriate discretion in implementing this policy, including making reasonable accommodations on the basis of students' religious beliefs or medical conditions.

If a student’s dress or appearance is in violation of the dress code, the student will be required to change his/her dress or appearance. Students will not be allowed to attend classes until they are appropriately dressed. Students will remain in ISS until a change of clothes has been provided to them. A second or repeated violation of this policy may result in further disciplinary action.

Student dress and grooming must be appropriate, safe and not disruptive to the educational environment. The following are inappropriate and not permitted to be worn by any student (this includes males and females).

- At 8:00 am all sunglasses, head coverings (this includes do-rags) of any kind are not to be worn on campus in the buildings (gyms included).

- Clothing and accessories which can be perceived as weapons or gang related; bandannas are not permitted (even if used as a headband).

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- Clothing and attire with any symbols or styles frequently associated with intimidation, violence or violent groups.

- Clothing and items with messages or illustrations which are lewd, derogatory, indecent, vulgar or advertising any product or service not permitted by law to minors such as drugs, illegal substances, tobacco and alcohol.

- Clothing, shorts, dresses and skirts which are excessively tight or shorter than mid-thigh or that does not go to the fingertips when hands are placed by your side.

- Clothing with excessive holes, see-through materials, strapless, tank tops (this includes wife beaters), and spaghetti tops.

- Clothing exposing cleavage, midriff and undergarments, sagging pants and over sized clothing.

- Clothing worn inappropriately such as unbuckled belts, inside out or backward, unfastened, pants and skirts not at waistline, rolled-up pants, and shoes not tied or secured.

- Face paint or masks are not allowed unless it is related to school activities or events.
Tramway Elementary School

Student Grooming and Dress: The Lee County School Board has adopted a Student Dress and Appearance Policy. Individual Schools are given the discretion to specify additional examples of dress or appearance that are appropriate under the policy. In all cases, the student will be required to correct the situation before being allowed to return to class. Policy Code 4301. The following are inappropriate and not permitted:

1. Sagging pants and oversized clothing.
2. Sunglasses and head coverings of any kind are not to be worn inside the buildings.
3. Clothing and accessories, which can be perceived as weapons.
4. Clothing and attire with any symbols or styles frequently associated with intimidation, violence, or violent groups.
5. Clothing and items with messages or illustrations which are lewd, derogatory, indecent, vulgar or advertising any product or service not permitted by law to minors such as drugs, illegal substances, tobacco and alcohol.
6. Clothing, shorts, dresses and skirts which are excessively tight or shorter than mid-thigh.
7. Clothing with excessive holes, see-through materials, strapless, tank and spaghetti tops.
8. Clothing exposing cleavage, midriff and undergarments.
9. Clothing worn inappropriately such as unbuckled belts, inside out or backward, unfastened pants, and skirts not at waistline, rolled-up pants and shoes not tied or secured.
10. Face paint is not allowed unless it is related to school activities or events.

Tramway Student Footwear Policy
Students must wear closed toe/closed heel shoes and be securely fastened. Tennis shoes are a great choice, because this allows for easy movement and protection. This allows students to have ideal footwear for the 30 minutes of required physical activity each day. The following types of shoes are not allowed: flip flops, rainbows, clogs, crocs, sandals, platform shoes, no heel over 1 ½ inches.

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The following are not permissible at J.R. Ingram:

- Any shoe that is not closed toe, closed heel and secure on the foot to include flip flops, crocs, sandals, shoes with wheels, and shoes with heels over 1 1/2 inches.
- Sunglasses, hats, and head coverings of any kind worn inside the buildings.
- Clothing and accessories which can be perceived as weapons.
- Clothing and attire with any symbols or styles frequently associated with intimidation, violence, or violent groups.
- Clothing and items with messages or illustrations which are lewd, derogatory, indecent, vulgar or advertising any product or service not permitted by law to minors such as drugs, illegal substances, tobacco, and alcohol.
- Clothing, shorts, dresses, and skirts which are excessively tight or shorter than mid-thigh.
- Clothing with excessive holes, see through materials, strapless, tank, and spaghetti tops.
- Clothing exposing cleavage, midriff, and undergarments.
- Clothing worn inappropriately such as unbuckled belts, inside out or backward, unfastened, pants and skirts not at waistline, and shoes not tied or secured.
- Face paint unless it is related to school activities or events.

**B. T. Bullock Dress Code**

*Students must wear closed toe/closed heel shoes and be securely fastened. Tennis shoes are a great choice, because this allows for easy movement and protection. This also allows students to have ideal footwear for the 30 minutes of required physical activity each day.*

*Students at B. T. Bullock Elementary School will not be allowed to wear any type of shoe with wheels, flip flops, clogs, Crocs, sandals, platform shoes, no heel over ½ inch.*

*Hooded sweatshirts may be worn outside or on buses for warmth, but must be removed during the school day. Hoods attached to any clothing item are not to be worn at any time.*
Warren Williams Alternative Elementary School

Student dress and grooming must be appropriate, safe, and not disruptive to the educational environment. All students (adults & children) will be dressed appropriately (Lee County Schools Dress Code). The dress code bars students from wearing spaghetti straps tops, tank tops, net shirts, bare-midriff clothing, or other revealing attire. The policy forbids short dresses, skirts, or shorts. Pants or shorts must be worn at the waistline, and shirts or blouses must completely cover undergarments. Hats, bandanas, and sunglasses may not be worn in school.

Children are active. They play outdoors; make crafts, paint, cook, and much more. We prefer that children wear clothes that are durable, washable, comfortable, and suitable for the weather. Students should wear tennis shoes, so they can play, walk, run, jump, climb, and skip in the playground easily; therefore, flip flops should NOT be worn to school.

Simple clothes, easy to fasten, are the best choices for children learning to take care of themselves. Since children sometimes have “accidents” in their clothes, please bring an extra set of clothing. Also, please bring a jacket or sweater that can be left here for unexpected changes in the weather. Please label all clothing and/or other items that are to be left at school.

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RULE 13: FIGHTING

No student shall take any physical action or make any comments or written messages intended to cause others to fight or which might reasonably be expected to result in a fight. A student who is physically assaulted may use reasonable force in self defense but only to the extent to free himself from the attack and notify proper school authorities. A student who exceeds this reasonable force may be disciplined even though he may not have provoked the fight. Violation of this rule shall result in disciplinary action which, at a minimum, shall be short-term suspension. For repeated or serious violations of this policy, the student may receive a long-term suspension or expulsion.

Discipline:

1st offense - Up to 10 days suspension for all involved students and possible long-term suspension.
2nd offense - Up to 10 days suspension and possible recommendation for long-term suspension with possible expulsion.
3rd offense - Up to 10 days suspension and recommendation for long-term suspension with possible expulsion.

The board shall remove to an alternative school setting any student who physically assaults and seriously injures a teacher or other school personnel. If no alternative setting is available the board shall suspend the student for no less than 300 days but no more than 365 days.

The board may remove to an alternative school setting a student who does one of the following:
- Physically assaults a teacher or other adult who is not a student;
- Physically assaults another student; or
- Physically assaults and seriously injures another student.

In all cases of serious physical assault, including kidnapping or death, a student who is fourteen years of age or older whose behavior indicates that the student’s continued presence in school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or school personnel is subject to expulsion. Law Enforcement will be notified immediately.

Refer to Policy 4331 Assaults, Threats and Harassment
RULE 14: THEFT OF OR DAMAGE TO SCHOOL OR PRIVATE PROPERTY

Students are prohibited from stealing or attempting to steal school or private property and/or from knowingly being in possession of stolen property.

Students are prohibited from damaging or attempting to damage school or private property.

Discipline: 1st offense - Up to 10 days suspension, notification of parents, payment of damages and possible recommendation for long-term suspension based on aggravating factors with possible expulsion.

Additional Offenses: Up to 10 days suspension and possible recommendation for long-term suspension with possible expulsion based on aggravating factors.

Refer to Policy 4330 Theft, Trespass and Damage to Property

RULE 15: DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND BULLYING

No student shall play abusive tricks on, frighten, scold, harass or otherwise subject any other students to personal indignity. All staff members and school employees shall report such violations immediately to the principal.

No student shall bully any other student. Bullying means, “the repeated intimidation of others by the real or threatened infliction of physical, verbal, written, electronically transmitted emotional abuse or through attacks on the property of another.” Bullying may include, but is not limited to, verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs, extortion of money or possessions, implied or stated threats, and exclusion from peer groups.

Students are prohibited from directing toward any other person any language which threatens force, violence or disruption, or any sign or act which constitutes a threat of force, violence or disruption.

Discrimination means, “any act that unreasonably and unfavorably differentiates treatment of others based solely on their membership in a socially distinct group or category such as race, ethnicity, sex, religion, age or disability.” Discrimination may be intentional or unintentional.
Students are prohibited from engaging in or encouraging any form of harassment against students, employees or any other individuals on school grounds or at school-related functions. Harassment is “unwanted, unwelcomed and unwanted behavior that demeans, threatens or offends the victim and results in a hostile environment for the victim.” The hostile environment can be created through pervasive or persistent misbehavior or a single incident if sufficiently severe. Harassment is further defined in Policy 1710/4021/7230 Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying.

Complaints of harassment shall be investigated pursuant to Policy 1720/4015/7225 Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying Complaint Procedures. All complaints of harassment shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated. Any form of sexual harassment shall be reported to the superintendent within 24 hours.

The superintendent shall report to the State Board of Education all verified cases of discrimination, harassment or bullying.

**Discipline:** Up to 10 days suspension or recommendation for long-term suspension.

Any student convicted of the criminal offense of hazing, G.S. 14-15, or aiding or abetting the offense of hazing, is subject to recommendation for expulsion.

For incidents which do not rise to the level of harassment see Policy 4310 Integrity and Civility, which establishes the expectation that students will demonstrate civility and integrity in their interactions with others.

Refer to Policy 1710/4021/7230 Prohibition A Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying

**RULE 16: UNACCEPTABLE PHYSICAL CONTACTS**

No student shall engage in any inappropriate physical contact (contact which is of a romantic or sexual nature) with any other person in the schools, on school property, or during school sponsored events.

**Discipline:** 1st offense - Up to 10 days suspension and possible recommendation for long-term suspension for serious violations.

**Additional Offenses:** Up to 10 days suspension and possible recommendation for long-term suspension for serious violations.

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Rule 17: Narcotics, Alcohol Beverages, Stimulants, Drugs, Controlled Substance or Intoxicants

Students are prohibited from possessing, using, distributing, selling, exchanging or being under the influence of any of the following substances:

- Narcotic drugs;
- Hallucinogenic drugs;
- Amphetamines;
- Barbiturates;
- Marijuana or any other controlled substance;
- Synthetic stimulants such as MDPV and Mephedrone (e.g. “bath salts”), and synthetic cannabinoids (e.g. “Spice,” “K2”);
- Any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage or fortified wine or other intoxicating liquor, or
- Any chemical or products procured or used with the intention of bringing about a state of exhilaration or euphoria or otherwise altering the student’s mood or behavior.

Students also are prohibited from possessing, using, distributing or selling drug paraphernalia or counterfeit (fake) drugs. Students may not in any way participate in the selling or distributing of prohibited substances.

Possession or use of prescription and over the counter drugs are not in violation of this policy if possessed and used in accordance with Policy 4525/6125 Administering Medicines to Students. Students must not give or distribute any prescription drug to another student.

The principal may authorize other lawful uses of substances otherwise prohibited by this policy, such as for approved school projects.

Discipline: Up to 10 days suspension and possible recommendation for long term suspension.
First offense - The student and parent may enroll in the Saving All Families Through Education (SAFTE) Program. If the student and parent do not successfully enroll in and complete the SAFTE Program for the first offense, the student will be reassigned to an alternative educational setting.

For additional offenses the student may be suspended and re-assigned to an alternative setting. Any student who possesses, distributes, sells or has the intent to sell, or conspires to distribute any drug, alcohol, or counterfeit drugs will receive 1-10 days OSS and possible re-assignment to an alternative school or possible recommendation for long-term suspension. Students who violate this rule with any drug, alcohol or counterfeit drug may be disciplined with out of school suspension, SAFTE Program and/or placed in an alternative educational setting. If the student is already placed in an alternative educational setting, his/her new alternative setting will be web-based with an off campus setting or the possible reduction in the student’s schedule.

Any subsequent offense during their school career may result in a long-term suspension or possible expulsion.

In addition to school disciplinary action, the principal must report to the appropriate law enforcement agency any student who had used or possessed the substance prohibited by this policy.

Refer to Policy 4325 Drugs and Alcohol; Policy 4525/6125 Administering Medicines to Students

**RULE 18: DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR**

No student shall on school premises engage in any activity which causes or results in the disruption of any lawful function, mission or process of the school district or the school to which he/she is assigned or any other school in the school district.

Discipline: Up to 5 days suspension with possibility for 10 days suspension or recommendation for long-term suspension based on aggravating factors.

Refer to Policy 4315 Disruptive Behavior
RULE 19: USES OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

No student may use or knowingly possess any tobacco product. This rule also includes smokeless tobacco products, electronic cigarettes and vaping, which is the act of inhaling and exhaling the aerosol produced by an e-cigarette or similar device. Students are prohibited from using or possessing any tobacco product: (1) in any school building, school vehicle or on the school grounds at any time; (2) at any school-related activity, including athletic events; or (3) at any time when the student is subject to the supervision of school personnel, including school trips.

Discipline: 1st offense - The product will be confiscated. The parents or guardians will be notified. Up to 3 days suspension which will be inactivated if the student successfully completes a tobacco cessation program as designated by the school.

2nd offense - Up to 3 days suspension and/or parent conference.

Additional Offense: Up to 5 days suspension and/or parent conference.

Refer to Policy 4320 Tobacco Products - Students

RULE 20: HABITUAL VIOLATIONS OF SCHOOL RULES

No student shall through habitual violation of local school or classroom rules disrupt the educational process. Such habitual violations, no matter how minor, shall be considered a major violation when the student’s disciplinary record shows a clear pattern of noncompliance with established rules and regulations. Violation of this rule may result in long-term suspension.

Refer to Policy 4300 Code of Student Conduct
RULE 21: TRESPASSING

Students are prohibited from trespassing on school property. No student shall be on the campus of any Lee County School during the school day without the knowledge and consent of the school officials. A student will be considered a trespasser and may be criminally prosecuted in any of the following circumstances:

- The student is on the campus of a school to which he or she is not assigned during the school day without the knowledge and consent of the officials of that school;
- The student is loitering at any school after the close of the school day without any specific need or supervision; or
- The student has been suspended from school but is on the property of any school during the suspension period without the express permission of the principal.

No student while under school-imposed suspension shall be in any school building, school bus or on the premises of any Lee County School, or in attendance at any Lee County Schools’ activity, function or event.

Discipline: Principal’s discretion based on the severity of the event.
   Up to 10 days suspension.

Refer to Policy 4330 Theft, Trespassing and Damage to Property

RULE 22: SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Every student is expected to be in full-time attendance in his assigned classes except in instances of excused absences. When a student must miss school, a written excuse signed by a parent or guardian must be presented to the student’s teacher on the day the student returns after an absence. The Superintendent, principal or teacher may excuse a child temporarily from school for any of the following reasons:

- Personal illness or injury that makes the student physically unable to attend school;
- Isolation ordered by the local health officer or State Board of Health;
- Death in the immediate family;
- Medical or dental appointment;
- Participation under subpoena as a witness in court proceeding;
- A minimum of two days each academic year for observance of an event required or suggested by the religion of the student or the student’s parent(s) with written
prior approval from the principal. The student will have the opportunity to make up any tests or other work missed due to an excused absence for a religious observance;
- Participation in a valid educational opportunity such as travel or service as a legislative or Governor’s page with prior approval from the principal;
- Pregnancy and related conditions or parenting when medically necessary;
- Absences that in the judgment of the principal have an educational value at least as great as that received during an equal amount of time in the classroom and permitted only if a comparable opportunity shall not be available at a time other than during school hours;
- Miscellaneous causes of an emergency nature approved by the principal or assistant principal.

In addition, a student whose parent or legal guardian (a) is an active duty member of the uniformed services as defined by Policy 4050 Children of Military Families; and (b) has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, will be granted additional excused absences at the discretion of the superintendent or designee to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian.

Absences due to extended illnesses generally require a statement from a physician. In the case of excused absences and short-term out-of-school suspension, the student will be permitted to make up his or her work. (See also Policy 4351 Short-Term Suspension.) The teacher will determine when work is to be made up. The student is responsible for finding out when assignments are due and completing them within the specified time period.

The principal shall determine if the amount of time missed is of reasonable length. All other absences are considered unexcused.

“Classes” include that location over which the school and school officials have supervisory responsibilities. Part of the requirement to receive credit for any grade or course is to fulfill the board policy on regular attendance. This states that in addition to other requirements, to receive credit for any course, high school students are permitted no more than 8 absences out of the total days in the semester for a semester course or 16 absences out of the total days in the school year for a year long course.

Elementary and middle school students are permitted no more than 16 absences during the school year. Pursuant to Board Policy 4400 Attendance, violation of this policy may

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result in a reduction in grades, receipt of a non-passing grade or a referral to the juvenile justice system for compulsory attendance violations.

Tardiness to School/Class
No student shall be tardy in his/her arrival for school or class without permission or excuse by school officials.

Discipline:  In-school discipline and/or parental notification. Recurring unexcused tardies may result in suspension up to two days.

Cutting Classes/Truancy/Unauthorized Leaving School
No student shall fail or refuse to attend an assigned class or fail or refuse to attend the school to which he/she is assigned on any school day without permission or excuse from school personnel or without good reason sufficient to constitute an excused absence. No student who attends school during any portion of any school day shall thereafter leave the school grounds prior to the end of the school day without permission or excuse from school personnel.

Discipline: Notification to parent, in-school-suspension, possible suspension up to 2 days, and unexcused absence.

Refer to Policy 4400 Attendance

RULE 23: BUS CONDUCT

Students shall comply with all appropriate rules in this code of conduct while riding, boarding or leaving the bus. In addition, students shall adhere to any additional school, county, or state rules developed specifically to govern their conduct while riding, boarding, or leaving the bus.

No student shall fail to observe established safety rules, standards and regulations on the bus and in the bus aisle ways. No student shall interfere with the operation of school buses, including delaying the bus schedule, getting off at an unauthorized stop, and willfully trespassing upon a school bus.

To provide maximum safety for students to and from school, students must remain seated at all times facing forward. Students are not permitted to sit with feet and legs in the aisle and all other objects such as book bags, etc. should not be placed in the aisle. Book bags should be placed in the student’s lap or underneath the seat in front of them.
The principal will take such action with reference to any misconduct on a school bus, or at a bus stop, or any violation of the instruction of the driver, as he/she might take if such misconduct violation occurred upon the grounds of the school.

In addition, the principal has the authority to remove any student from the bus for minor misconduct.

**Discipline:**

1st offense - Counsel with student; notify parents; maximum 3 days off bus.

2nd offense - Up to 5 days off bus.

3rd offenses - Up to 10 days off bus and may be suspended from bus for remainder of the school year.

Additional - Student may be suspended from bus up to the remainder of Offense: the school year.

Refer to Policy 4315 Disruptive Behavior

**RULE 24: CRIMINAL BEHAVIORS**

Criminal or other illegal behavior is prohibited. Any student who the principal reasonably believes to have engaged in criminal behavior on the school premises or at school activities shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action as stated in applicable board policies and may be criminally prosecuted as well. School officials shall cooperate fully with any criminal investigation and prosecution. School officials shall independently investigate any criminal behavior that also violates school rules or board policy.

a. Students Charged With or Convicted of Criminal Behavior

If necessary, the superintendent and principal may take reasonable measures to preserve a safe, orderly environment when a student has been charged with or convicted of a serious crime regardless of whether the alleged offense was committed on school grounds or related to school activities. Depending upon the circumstances, including the nature of the alleged crime, the child’s age and publicity within the school community, reasonable efforts may include changing a student’s classroom assignment or transferring the student to another school. Transfer to the alternative school may be made in accordance with the criteria established in board Policy 3470/4305 Alternative Schools. The student shall continue to be provided with educational opportunities unless and until the

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student is found to have violated board policy or school rules and is suspended or expelled in accordance with procedures established in board policy.

b. Reporting Criminal Behavior

The principal must report immediately to law enforcement officers and the superintendent the following acts when the principal has personal knowledge or actual notice from others that such acts occurred on school property, regardless of the age or grade of the perpetrator or victim:

- Assault resulting in serious personal injury;
- Bomb threat;
- Burning of a school building;
- Sexual Assault;
- Sexual offense;
- Rape;
- Kidnapping;
- Possession of alcoholic beverages;
- Indecent liberties with a minor;
- Assault involving the use of a weapon; (see Policy 4333 Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist and Clear Threats to Safety)
- Possession of a firearm or powerful explosive in violation of the law;
- Possession of a weapon in violation of the law;
- Possession of a controlled substance in violation of the law;
- Assault on school officials, employees and/or volunteers;
- Homicide, including murder, manslaughter and death by vehicle;
- Robbery; or
- Armed robbery

Refer to Policy 4335 Criminal Behavior; Policy 4333 Weapons, Bomb Threats, and Clear Threats to Safety

**RULE 25: GANG RELATED ACTIVITIES**

The presence of gangs and gang-related activity within the schools creates an atmosphere of fear and hostility that obstructs student learning and achievement. Thus, the board condemns the existence of gangs and will not tolerate gang-related activity in the school district.

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Gang-related activity is strictly prohibited within the school. For the purpose of this rule, "gang-related activity" means: (1) Any conduct that is prohibited by another board policy and is engaged in by a student on behalf of an identified gang or as a result of the student’s gang membership; or (2) Any conduct engaged in by a student to perpetuate, proliferate or display the existence of any identified gang.

Conduct prohibited by this rule includes:
- Wearing, possessing, using, distributing, displaying or selling any clothing, jewelry, emblems, badges, symbols, signs or other items with the intent to convey membership or affiliation in a gang.
- Communicating either verbally or nonverbally (gestures, handshakes, slogans, drawing, etc.) with the intent to convey membership or affiliation in a gang;
- Tagging, or otherwise defacing school or personal property with symbols or slogans intended to convey membership or affiliation in a gang (see Policy 4330 Theft, Trespass and Damage to Property);
- Requiring payment for protection, insurance or otherwise intimidating or threatening any person related to gang activity (see Policy 4331 Assaults, Threats and Harassment);
- Inciting others to intimidate or to act with physical violence upon any other person related to gang activity (see Policy 4331 Assaults, Threats, and Harassment);
- Soliciting others for gang membership; and
- Committing any other illegal act or other violation of school district policies in connection with gang-related activity.

Students shall not lead, participate in, or encourage others to participate in a gang or gang activity. (A “gang” is defined as a group who organizes for unlawful activities or to harass or intimidate others.)

Discipline: 1st offense and all other subsequent referrals

Any student who engages in any gang type activity such as, but not limited to, fighting, creating a disturbance, graffiti, intimidation of other students, harassment, wearing gang attire of any type, etc., may be subject to out-of-school suspension up to 10 days and possible long-term suspension on the first offense. Law enforcement and parents shall be notified.

Refer to Policy 4328 Gang-Related Activity; Policy 4316 Student Dress Code

Revised August 2018, August 2019
III. LEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES

A complete and updated version of all Lee County Schools’ policies and regulations may be obtained online at www.lee.k12.nc.us or at the Lee County Schools Central Office located at 106 Gordon Street, Sanford, N. C.