

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Houston County Schools

2021-2022 Edition





Ashford High School



Principal – Dr. Donnie Chambers

Assistant Principal – Mr. Ben Turvin

Guidance Counselor – Mrs. Heather Turvin

Address - 607 Church Street Ashford, AL 36312

Phone Number- 334-899-5411

Website- www.hcboe.us

Ashford Middle School

Principal – Mr. Jarod Andrews

Assistant Principal – Dr. Stephanie Alexander

Guidance Counselor – Mrs. Jennifer Johnson

Address- 607 Church Street Ashford, AL 36312

Phone Number- 334-899-5411

Website- www.hcboe.us

Ashford Elementary School

Principal – Mrs. Sharon LeRoy

Assistant Principal – Mr. Kole Skinner

Guidance Counselor- Mrs. Mandy Strickland

Address- 100 Barfield Street Ashford, AL 36312

Phone Number- 334-899-3458

Website- www.hcboe.us



Cottonwood High School



Principal – Mr. Darren Stewart

Assistant Principal – Mr. Randy Meadows

Guidance Counselor – Ms. Tambria McArdle

Address- 663 Houston Street Cottonwood, AI 36320

Phone Number- 334-691-2587

Website- www.hcboe.us

Cottonwood Elementary School

Principal – Mr. Paul Strange

Assistant Principal – Mrs. Lindsey Andrews

Guidance Counselor – Ms. Kala Hamilton

Address - 663 Houston Street Cottonwood, AI 36320

Phone Number- 334-691-2587

Website- www.hcboe.us



Houston County High



Principal- Ms. Lisa Towns

Assistant Principal- Mr. Brent Maloy

Guidance Counselor- Mrs. Joy Pitchford

Address – 200 West Church Street Columbia, AL 36319

Phone Number- 334-696-2221

Website- www.hcboe.us



Webb Elementary School



Principal – Mrs. Jodie Shelley

Assistant Principal – Mr. Daniel Bristow

Guidance Counselor – Mrs. Jennifer Smith

Address- 178 Depot Street Webb, AL 36376

Phone Number- 334-792-5744

Website- www.hcboe.us



Rehobeth High School



Principal – Mr. Mike Linder

Assistant Principal – Mr. Mil Tatum

Assistant Principal – Dr. Holly Lane

Guidance Counselor- Mrs. Allison Tucker

Guidance Counselor – Mrs. Cathy Keasler

Address- 373 Malvern Road Rehobeth, AL 36301

Phone Number- 334-677-7002

Website- www.hcboe.us

Rehobeth Middle School

Principal – Mr. Mark Fairris

Assistant Principal- Mr. O'Shawn McClendon

Guidance Counselor – Mrs. Trevis Scott

Guidance Counselor – Mrs. Jamie Dean

Address- 5631 South Co. Rd 203 Dothan, AL 36301

Phone Number- 334-677-5153

Website- www.hcboe.us

Rehobeth Elementary School

Principal- Mrs. Dusty McKinley

Assistant Principal- Mrs. Jami Whillock

Assistant Principal- Mr. Michael Stevens

Guidance Counselor- Ms. Lydia Walker

Guidance Counselor – Mrs. Shanel Stewart

Address- 5525 South Co. Rd 203 Dothan, AL 36301

Phone Number- 334-677-3838

Website- www.hcboe.us



Wicksburg High School



Principal – Mr. Joshua Robertson

Assistant Principal – Mr. Lee Hyde

Guidance Counselor - Mr. Roger Sanders

Address- 1172 South State Hwy 123 Newton, AL 36352

Phone Number- 334-692-5549

Website- www.hcboe.us

Wicksburg Elementary School

Principal – Mr. Jason Blisset

Assistant Principal – Mrs. Mary Hudson

Guidance Counselor – Mrs. Tori Strickland

Address- 1172 South State Highway 123 Newton, AL 36352

Phone Number- 334-692-5549

Website- www.hcboe.us



Houston County Career Academy



Principal – Dr. Chris Kennedy

Guidance Counselor – Mrs. Niki Apida

Address- 662 West Main Street Dothan, AL 36301

Phone Number- 334-796-2736

Website- www.hcboe.us



Houston County Virtual School



Principal- Mr. Delbert Bradley

Guidance Counselor – Ms. Carole Cobb

Address- 662 West Main Street Dothan, AL 36301

Phone Number- 334-702-4168

Website- www.hcboe.us

Absences	8
Acknowledgement.....	43
Alabama Asbestos Management Program Notification	24
Alternative School Guidelines.....	29
Alternative School Program	28
Attendance	8
Attendance and Conduct (Act 94-782).....	20
Automobile Use.....	14
Board Members, Superintendent, Coordinators	3
Calendar	5
Cell Phone Policy	7
Check In/Check Out	10
Child Find.....	12
Child Nutrition Program Policy on Charged Lunches	13
Class I - Minor Offenses	31
Class II - Intermediate Offenses.....	32
Class III - Major Offenses	33
Classification of Violations.....	31
Classroom Observation and Visits	39
Code of Conduct Introduction	6
Common Courtesy.....	36
Computer, Network, and Internet Acceptable Use for Students	22
Corporal Punishment.....	27
Courses to be Weighted	17
Criteria for Assigning Weights to High School Courses	17
Decency and Modesty	37
Disciplinary Actions for Class I Offenses.....	31
Disciplinary Actions for Class II Offenses.....	33
Disciplinary Actions for Class III Offenses.....	35
Disciplinary Actions for Exceptional Students	13
Documentation of Absences.....	8
Dress Code.....	36
Dress vs. Costume	36
Drop Out/Driver's License	21
Drugs, Alcohol, Weapons, Physical Harm or Threatened Physical Harm (Act 94-784)	20
Drug Dealing (Act 94-783)	20
Equal Education Opportunity Statement.....	4
Elementary/Middle School Promotion Restricted on the Basis of Excessive Absences.....	9
Elementary Promotion.....	15
Exam Exemptions	18
Expulsion	28
Gifted Education.....	26
Grievance Procedure for Title VI, Title IX and Section 504	21
Gun-Free Schools (Act 1994)	21
Guideline for Long-Term Alternative School.....	30
Graduation Activities	17
Graduation Policy.....	16
Health and Safety	36
High School Athletics	19
High School Credit Restricted on the Basis of Excessive Absences	9
Hope School Contract, Attendance, Rules and Regulations	18

Homework.....	19
Houston County Harassment/Bullying Report.....	40
Houston County Harassment/Bullying Report Form.....	41
Houston County Schools Grading Scale.....	14
In-School Suspension.....	27
It's The Law Parental Notification of Civil Liberties and Criminal Penalties.....	20
Jurisdiction of the Board of Education.....	27
Medication.....	38
Morning Detention/After School Detention/Saturday School.....	27
Notification of Law Enforcement.....	28
Notification of Responsibility under Act 93-368.....	20
Notification of Rights under the Protection of Public Rights Amendment (PPRA).....	24
Notification of Rights under FERPA the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.....	25
Parental Notification of Responsibility under Act 93-672.....	19
Parents Right to Know (HR 1-37).....	24
Parent/Teacher Conferences.....	13
Pending Criminal Charges.....	36
Physical Restraint.....	28
Pistol Possession/Driver's License (Act 94-820).....	21
Placement of Students from Other Alternative Programs.....	14
Possession/Use of Digital Devices during the Administration of a Secure Test.....	12
Principal's Probation.....	28
Promotion for Grade 6 - 8.....	15
Promotion for Grades 9-12.....	15
School Bus Suspension.....	28
School Closing in the Event of Severe Weather.....	12
Student Selling Personal Items.....	13
Student Transportation Policy.....	14
Suspension.....	28
Tardiness.....	10
Teacher Assault (Act 94-794).....	20
Textbooks.....	13
Transfer Student with Discipline Issues.....	36
Truancy.....	11
Vision Statement.....	4
Vandalism (Act 94-819).....	21
Weapons in School (Act 94-817).....	21

Houston County Schools
404 West Washington Street
Dothan, Alabama 36301
(334)792-8331
www.hcboe.us

HOUSTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Scott Thomas, Chairman
Mr. Marty Collins
Mr. Gary Cox
Mr. David Hollinger
Mr. Chris Lasseter
Mr. Scott Long
Mr. Vince Wade

SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent – Mr. Brandy White

CENTRAL OFFICE DIRECTORS & SUPERVISORS

Mr. Dom Curran – Facilities Maintenance Supervisor
Mr. Steve Dasinger – Transportation Supervisor
Mr. Bob Blalock – Head of Technology
Mr. Derrick Morris – Director of Federal Programs/District Safety/Alabama Teacher Mentoring
Dr. Chris Kennedy – Director of Career Tech/Dual Enrollment
Mrs. Marie Payne – Director of CNP
Mrs. Judy Thomas – Director of Human Resources/Personnel/Title IX
Mr. Cas Haddock – Director of Testing/Accountability
Dr. Misty Freeman – Director of Special Education/Gifted/504
Mrs. Cheryl Smith – Director of Secondary Curriculum
Mr. Greg Yance – Director of Elementary Curriculum

Code of Conduct developed by local school committees:
Derrick Morris, Chairman

Houston County Schools

EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Houston County Board of Education that no student will be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity on the basis of sex, race, religion, belief, national origin, ethnic group, disability, or age.

HOUSTON COUNTY SCHOOLS ENROLLMENT POLICY

Pursuant to the requirements of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, Plyer vs. Doe, 457 U.S. 202, Title VI of the Civil Rights of 1961, and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act of 2001*, **all homeless, foster care, migrant, immigrant, foster care, and English Learners** must have equal access to the same free appropriate education, including public preschool education, provided to other children and youth. This shall be the policy of the Houston County School System. Such children will be provided the opportunity to meet the same challenging state content and state student performance standards to which all students are held without being stigmatized or isolated.

VISION STATEMENT

Houston County Schools, in partnership with our stakeholders, will prepare students to lead productive lives and meet the high expectations of a competitive global society. In this pursuit, we will strive to become innovative, exemplary, and technology-rich centers for learning. We will inspire, challenge, and empower students to become responsible citizens and lifelong learners who are excited by the challenges of tomorrow.

By implementing high-quality, research-based education strategies in a safe, secure, and nurturing environment, we will ensure the success of our students to compete in the twenty-first century. While sharing this vision, we will shape the future through perseverance, dedication, and teamwork.

“Sharing the Vision, Shaping the Future.”

HOUSTON COUNTY SCHOOL CALENDAR 2021 - 2022.

August 2, 2021 August 3-5, 2021 August 5, 2021 August 6, 2021	Institute-Ashford High School Auditorium School Personnel Sign in: 8:30 AM – Institute begins @ 9:00AM Teacher Professional Development/Workdays OPEN HOUSE: 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM (School Prep from 1:00-3:00) First Day for Students (Full Day) First Grading Session Begins
September 6, 2021	Labor Day (schools closed)
October 4-8, 2021 October 11, 2021 October 12, 2021	Fall Break (student holiday) Teacher Professional Development/Workday Second Grading Session Begins
November 11, 2021 November 22-26, 2021 November 29, 2021	Veteran's Day (schools closed) Thanksgiving Holiday (schools closed) * Teacher Professional Development/Workday
*December 20, 2021-January 2, 2022	Christmas Break (schools closed) *
January 3, 2022 January 4, 2022 January 17, 2022	Teacher Professional Development/Workday Third Grading Session Begins Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (schools closed)
February 21, 2022	Teacher Professional Development/Workday
March 21-25, 2022 March 28, 2022 March 29, 2022	Spring Break (schools closed) Teacher Professional Development/Workday Fourth Grading Session Begins
April 15, 2022	Good Friday (schools closed)
May 26, 2022 May 27, 2022 May 30, 2022 May 31, 2022	Last School Day for Students Teacher Professional Development/Workday Memorial Day Holiday (schools closed) Teacher Professional Development/Workday

* Schools will dismiss at 1:00 P.M. on the Friday preceding the holiday
NOTE: Teacher Professional Development/Workdays (schools are closed to students)

Student Sessions

1st Nine Weeks - August 6, 2021 - October 1, 2021	40 days
2nd Nine Weeks - October 12, 2021 - December 17, 2021	42 days
3rd Nine Weeks - January 4, 2022 - March 18, 2022	52 days
4th Nine Weeks - March 29, 2022 - May 26, 2022	42 days

*****176 Students Days*****
 *****187 Teacher Days*****

Kindergarten and 6th Grade Graduation – TBD (School Choice)
Senior Commencement – May 27, 2022

1st Semester	August 6, 2021 – December 17, 2021
2nd Semester	January 4, 2022 – May 26, 2022

**HOUSTON COUNTY BOARD OF
EDUCATION CODE OF CONDUCT**

2021-2022

INTRODUCTION

The Houston County Board of Education recognizes fully the constitutional rights of students enrolled in its schools. The board recognizes equally, however, its obligation to establish policy related to student behavior and discipline which assures that a proper atmosphere for learning will be maintained within every school serving the Houston County School System.

COMMUNICATION DEVICE POLICY

Cell phones and any other electronic devices are not permissible, during the school day, unless it is authorized by the school administration – for instructional purposes.

NOTE: The HCBOE and/or local school is not responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen devices. The school will not investigate these incidences; therefore, students bring their personal device at their own risk.

Cell Phone Consequences:

- 1st- Administrative warning and parent must pick up the device
- 2nd- Parent must pick up and 1 day ISS or Saturday School
- 3rd- Parent must pick up and 3 days Alternative School
- 4th- Parent must pick up at Central Office and 5 days Alternative School

COMMUNICATION DEVICE POSSESSION/USE DURING A FEDERAL/STATE ASSESSMENT (*Reference Page 12*):

* Strictly prohibited

* Violations will result in **3 Days** of a Houston County Alternative School assignment

NOTE: * Cell phones are strictly prohibited in Alternative School

* Students who loan his/her cell phone to another student may receive the same punishment as the student in possession of the cell phone

**** When enforcing the student code of conduct, the term “school” will be applicable; but not limited to, the following:**

- 1. School grounds**
- 2. School bus**
- 3. Athletic events**
- 4. School sponsored field trips**

ATTENDANCE

All students enrolled in the Houston County School System are to be in continuous attendance. The principals shall enforce the compulsory attendance laws of the State of Alabama.

1. Each teacher shall be responsible for checking the rolls daily in their assigned classes and properly recording the student's attendance.
2. A student approved by the principal to participate in or attend a school-sponsored or other approved activity during the school day shall be counted present. Students are responsible for all assignments missed while participating in or attending said activities. Failure on the part of the student to complete assignments shall result in the student receiving a zero for that class.
3. The principal or designee shall notify the teacher, in advance, of students who will be attending approved activities and will be counted present.
4. In case of prolonged absence due to illness, injury, or other emergencies, the parent/guardian shall seek assistance from the principal of the school or from the Special Education Homebound program.

ABSENCES

NOTE: All documentation for absences must be received within three (3) days or the absence will be unexcused.

Excused: An absence may be excused for the following reasons:

1. Student is too ill to attend school
2. Inclement weather which would be dangerous to the life and health of the student if he/she attended school
3. Legal quarantine
4. Death in the immediate family
5. Emergency conditions as determined by the superintendent or principal.

Students may make up work if the absence is excused. This work must be made up within five (5) school days.

Unexcused: Any absence other than those listed above are unexcused.

DOCUMENTATION OF ABSENCES

All absences must be documented by a note from the student's parent or guardian. Absences beyond five (5) days per semester for grades K-12 must be accompanied by additional documentation as follows:

Death in the immediate family – Approved by the principal

Legal Quarantine – Quarantine notice

Doctor's Excuse – Note from the doctor's office signed by the doctor or his designee

Blanket excuses for multiple nonconsecutive absences will not be accepted. Any absence must be documented per absence with appropriate date(s).

All other absences are to be submitted to the principal in written form for consideration. The principal may request additional documentation as necessary. **All documentation for absences must be received within three (3) days or the absence will be unexcused.**

ELEMENTARY/ MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTION RESTRICTED ON THE BASIS OF EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

Upon the eleventh unexcused absence, promotion may be withheld. Unexcused absences could result in mandatory attendance to Saturday School to make up the number of days missed. One day of Saturday School is required to make up one day of regular school.

In individual cases where an extended illness or other extreme emergencies have existed and can be verified, the principal may extend the maximum number of days per semester that a student may be absent before credit is withheld.

The parent/guardian may appeal a decision to withhold credit for an individual student based upon excessive absences to the superintendent by setting forth the reasons for the absences and attaching any supporting documentation.

The school administration may require one (1) day of Saturday School to make up one (1) day of regular school.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT RESTRICTED ON THE BASIS OF EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

A student absent from class more than five (5) days per semester (grades 9-12) may not receive credit for the course. These are unexcused absences and must not exceed 10 days per year. In individual cases where extreme emergencies have existed and can be verified, the principal may extend the maximum number of days per semester that a student may be absent before credit is withheld. Excessive absences may result in student being required to attend Saturday School or Summer School to make up absences. A minimum of one (1) semester of Summer School may be required to make up excessive absences.

The parent/guardian may appeal a decision to withhold credit for an individual student based upon excessive absences to the superintendent by setting forth the reasons for the absences and attaching any supporting documentation.

The principal shall develop and implement local school procedures necessary for the proper implementation of these procedures.

The school administration may require one (1) day of Saturday School to make up one (1) day of regular school.

TARDINESS

A student is considered tardy when he/she is not in class when the tardy bell rings. Unexcused tardiness to class will result in the loss of perfect attendance and will be subject to disciplinary actions as written herein. Excused tardiness to school shall not count against perfect attendance.

Excessive tardiness to school will be considered as truancy from class and may consequently result in the student being referred to Saturday School, After School Detention, Early Morning Detention, ISS and/or Alternative School at principal's discretion.

Failure to attend Saturday School as assigned could result in Alternative School placement.

Any student being tardy six (6) times in one class during a semester will be subject to disciplinary action as written herein.

THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY TO CHECK-INS AND CHECK-OUTS

CHECK-INS

- A. The student reports to the main office for an admission slip to enter the classroom.
- B. The student must bring a written statement from his/her parent/guardian indicating the reason(s) for the tardiness.

CHECK-OUTS

- A. A student may be allowed to check-out with the written consent of parent/guardian and the advance approval of the principal.
- B. Any student not having advance written approval may not leave campus unless a parent/guardian or designated person comes to the school and checks the student out. (In case of extenuating circumstances, a principal may, with verbal approval from the parent or guardian, allow the student to checkout.)
- C. Check-outs remain unexcused until documentation is presented. Documentation must be submitted within three (3) days of the check-out.
- D. Unexcused check-outs will count as tardies.

TRUANCY

IT'S THE LAW

Parental Responsibility (Act 94-782)

Your student _____ is considered truant due to his/
(Child's name)

her unexcused absence/absences on _____ Read
"Parental Responsibility" printed below and sign and return this form to your student's teacher.

(Teacher's name/date)

(Parent's signature/date)

The Alabama Legislature passed Act 94-782 stating that parents are responsible for enrolling their children in school, ensuring that they attend school regularly, and that they conduct themselves properly as students.

The Houston County School System recognizes the privilege and responsibility of parents and guardians in supporting and demanding responsible behavior from their children. In an effort to ensure parental awareness and acceptance of that responsibility, reasonable efforts will be made to contact parents regarding Class II and III misconduct. Reasonable efforts will be made on Class I offenses also if such misconduct is continuing and notification is needed.

Reasonable efforts may include one or more of the following: telephone calls, copies of referrals, parental conferences, letters to parents, registered mail, and, when possible, home visits. In the event of continued misbehavior, parents may be asked to sit in class with their child. Petitions may be filed with Juvenile Court if the child is in need of supervision beyond that given by the parent or guardian. Warrants may be filed requiring the arrest of parents and guardians who do not require their children to properly conduct themselves in school.

Alabama Act 94-782 requires each local school board of education to adopt and distribute to parents, guardians, and others a written policy of its school behavior standards; requiring parents, guardians, and others to document receipt of this plan. Each parent or guardian or other person having custody or control of any student required to attend school who fails to require the child to regularly attend the school or tutor or fail to compel the child to properly conduct him or herself as a pupil in any public school in accordance with the written policy on school behavior adopted by the local board of education pursuant to this session and documented by the appropriate school official which conduct may result in suspension of the student, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction, shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and may be sentenced to hard labor for the county for no more than 90 days. The absence of a child without the consent of the Principal, teacher of the public school he or she attends or should attend; or, of the tutor who instructs or should instruct the child, shall be prima facie evidence of the violation of this section.

Houston County Board of Education Truancy Procedures

Per school / academic year:

1. 3rd Unexcused Absence – Notify guardian (phone call or letter)
2. 4th Unexcused Absence – Meeting with guardian (telephone conference)
3. 5th Unexcused Absence – Local school refers the student directly to the "Houston County Truancy Prevention Project" provided by SpectraCare
4. 6th Unexcused Absence – Refer to Early Warning Court
5. 7th Unexcused Absence – File a complaint with Juvenile Court Services, or the DA's office

CHILD FIND

Help us locate children with disabilities by contacting Houston County Schools 334-792-8331 for ages 3-21, the Interagency Coordinating Council 1-800-543-3098 (V/TDD) for birth through two, or Alabama Relay Service 1-800-543-2547 (voice only).

POSSESSION/USE OF DIGITAL DEVICE DURING THE ADMINISTRATION OF A SECURE TEST

(Alabama State Department of Education Policy)

The possession of a digital device (including but not limited to cell phones, smart watch, MP3 players, cameras, or other telecommunication devices capable of capturing or relaying information) is strictly prohibited during the administration of a secure test. If a student is observed in possession of a digital device during the administration of a secure test, the device will be confiscated until all tests are completed at the school. (ALSDE/Test Company rules)

If a student is observed using a digital device during the administration of a secure test: **1)** testing for the student will cease; **2)** the device will be confiscated and is subject to search; **3)** the student will be dismissed from testing; **4)** the student's test will be invalidated by the testing committee. The student will receive a **minimum of 3 days placement at the Houston County Alternative School.**

INFORMATION FOR CLOSING SCHOOL IN THE EVENT OF BAD WEATHER

It sometimes becomes necessary, usually because of inclement weather, to close school early. This decision is made after consulting with agencies such as the Emergency Management Agency, the police department, state trooper office, and weather officials. While most authorities agree that children are usually safer in school buildings than elsewhere, we are sometimes requested to close early to prevent traffic problems caused by blocked streets, slick road surfaces, or congestion.

When the decision is made to close schools, we immediately utilize our **school messaging system** and contact the local radio and TV stations and ask them to begin making announcements. We also begin contacting bus drivers to get buses operating as soon as possible. A sufficient number of school employees remain on duty at the school to provide supervision of students until all have safely departed.

There are certain things that you, as a parent or guardian, are requested to do:

1. Please instruct your child as to what he/she should do if schools close early. For example: he/she should know if he/she is to wait to be picked up or if he/she should ride a school bus.
2. If no one is likely to be at home be sure your child knows where he/she should go, whether to a neighbor's house, to stay with a relative, or to his/her own home.
3. If your child does not ride a bus, or drive, please make arrangements to have him/her picked up immediately if schools close early.
4. Do not depend on a telephone call to your child's school to give him/her instructions when school closes early. The school's telephone lines are flooded with calls and it is very difficult to get a call through. Also, telephones are sometimes out of order due to weather.

Normally we do not close schools because of severe thunderstorms or tornado alerts. However, we follow procedures recommended by the Emergency Management Agency. **It is recommended that parents not pick up children during these alerts.**

It is strongly recommended that students be allowed to remain at school. However, if a parent comes to the school and asks for his/her child, we will release him/her, if possible. We can assure you that we will do everything possible to provide for the safety of your child. Your cooperation in carrying out the suggestions listed above will help us greatly.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM POLICY ON CHARGED LUNCHES

Federal regulations prohibit CNP charging meals to anyone. All meals and extra items must be paid for at the point of service. We encourage parents to pay for their child's lunch in advance, daily, weekly, monthly, yearly, or on a nine-week basis to ensure that there will be adequate money in the child's account. The lunchroom manager/School Messaging System will notify the parent when his/her account becomes low.

All free or reduced applications must be renewed each school year. If your student received free or reduced meals last school year, he/she will continue to receive these benefits for the first 30 school days of this school year. Failure to submit a new application will result in loss of benefits.

If your student did not have a free or reduced application last school year or is a new student to this district, please submit an application as soon as possible. Until you have received approval, your child will need to pay full price for any meals.

Online applications can be completed and submitted at the following site location: www.hcboe.us (click on parent resources)

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

The Houston County Board of Education encourages and solicits parent involvement in our schools. Please feel free to contact the school administration and faculty at any time concerning your child's education. Parent-teacher/principal conferences may be made by calling your child's school office at the number listed in the front of the handbook. (Requires 24 hour notice.)

TEXTBOOKS

All textbooks are furnished to Houston County students free of charge. Any textbooks issued to students shall remain the property of Houston County Schools. The parents or legal guardians of a student to whom textbooks are issued will be held liable for any loss, abuse, or damage in excess of that which would result from normal use. The following guidelines will be used to make an assessment for lost or damaged textbooks:

1. Loss of a textbook will be assessed at replacement cost
2. Damage of a textbook two-years old will be assessed at 75 percent of the original cost
3. Damage of a textbook three-years old or older will be assessed at 50 percent of the original cost

If payment is not received within 30 days after notification, students will not be entitled to future use of textbooks until remittance is made.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FOR EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS

Exceptional students are those students as defined in IDEA 04 and Alabama Act 106 (excluding gifted and speech only). All rules and regulations governing student conduct as related to exceptional students shall comply with the Alabama Administrative Code of the State Department of Education, IDEA 04, Alabama Act 106 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

STUDENTS SELLING PERSONAL ITEMS

Students are prohibited from selling goods/products, toys, etc., to other students at school unless approved by the school administration. (Reference Class II Offenses)

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION POLICY

If a parent/guardian needs to change the usual method of afternoon transportation for a student, the parent/guardian is required to provide a written request to school personnel the morning of the desired change. School personnel will ensure that the request to change the means of student transportation is honored.

In the case of an emergency, the parent/guardian may contact the school office before 1:00 p.m. and verbally request the desired change. School personnel will verify the identity of the person requesting the change before any change is made in student transportation.

If an emergency arises after 1:00 p.m., the parent/guardian must speak directly with a school administrator, before the child's usual afternoon means of transportation is changed. Only the school administrators can authorize a change in transportation after 1:00p.m.

Once a request is received and approved, school personnel will provide written or verbal notification to the classroom teacher(s), the bus driver(s), and if applicable, the car line supervisors. The student will be notified verbally of the change.

AUTOMOBILE USE

Students driving cars to school must park them in the area designated by the principal. Students are not to sit in parked cars after arriving in the morning. Cars are not to be moved during the day without administrative approval. The Houston County School System will not assume any liability for damage that might occur to student automobiles.

PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS FROM OTHER ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

An elementary/middle school student or home-schooled student transferring into the Houston County Schools from an alternative program will be given a grade level benchmark test in reading and mathematics for correct grade placement. This will ensure that the student receives instruction according to his/her education level.

High school students will be given end-of-course tests approved by the superintendent.

HOUSTON COUNTY SCHOOLS GRADING SCALE

Letter Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
Numerical Grade	100-97	96-93	92-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-77	76-73	72-70	69-67	66-63	62-60	59-0
Standard GPA	4.33	4.00	3.67	3.33	3.00	2.67	2.33	2.00	1.67	1.33	1.00	0.67	0.00
Weighted GPA	5.33	5.00	4.67	4.33	4.00	3.67	3.33	3.00	2.67	2.33	2.00	1.67	0.00

S	N	U
100 - 80	79 - 65	64 - 0

ELEMENTARY PROMOTION (Grades Kindergarten - 5th)

Kindergarten Students will receive a skills-based report card

1st Grade: Numerical grades are given for ELA and Math. All other subjects will receive a letter grade of S, N, or U. Students must pass ELA and Math for promotion.

2nd Grade – 5th Grade: A student shall be promoted on the following criteria:

- 1) pass ELA and Math
- 2) pass one (1) of the following: *social studies, science, or health*
- 3) meet the attendance requirements

Note: ELA (English Language Arts) – Reading, Language, and Spelling

“According to the Alabama Literacy Act #2019-523, commencing with the 2021-2022 school year, third grade students shall demonstrate sufficient reading skills or qualify for a ‘good cause exemption’ for promotion to fourth grade. The following are considered the four ‘good cause exemptions’ included in the Alabama Literacy Act.

1. Student with an IEP who is exempt from participating in the state reading assessment program.
2. Student identified as English language learner who has had less than two years of instruction in English as a second language.
3. Student with IEP or 504 Plan who participates in state reading assessments, has received intensive reading intervention for more than two years but still demonstrates reading deficiencies, AND was previously retained in grades K, 1, 2, or 3.
4. Student (without an IEP) who has received intensive reading intervention for two or more years but still demonstrates a reading deficiency AND has been retained TWO times in grades K, 1, 2, or 3.”

PROMOTION FOR Grades 6th – 8th

6th – 8th Grade: A student shall be promoted if he/she meets the following criteria:

- 1) pass ELA and Math
- 2) pass either social studies or science
- 3) have a 70% cumulative average in all the core subjects*
* ELA, Math, Social Studies, and Science

NOTE: This policy does not apply if the student has an average of **60%** in each of the course attempted.

PROMOTION FOR GRADES 9 THROUGH 12

Credits required for promotions in grades 9-12: One credit of math, English, science, history, and three to seven other credits are required to pass to the next grade level, depending on the promotion year.

9th to 10th:	earn 7 units of credit	11th to 12th.....	earn 23 units of credit
10th to 11th	earn 14 units of credit	*12th to Graduation.....	earn 34 units of credit

*** Beginning with the Class of 2025 - Students will need 32 units of credit to graduate.**

GRADUATION POLICY

Effective (since the) 2017-2018 school year, in order to earn an Alabama High School Diploma, pupils must earn a minimum of the following Carnegie Units and complete all requirements and assessments as directed by the ALSDE.

NOTE: The Classes of 2022-2024 must earn 34 credits to graduate. Beginning with the Class of 2025, graduates will need to earn 32 credits to graduate.

Alabama High School Graduation Requirements Course Requirements Four credits to include:

English Language Arts

English 9.....	1 credit
English 10.....	1 credit
English 11.....	1 credit
English 12.....	1 credit

English Language Arts-credits eligible options may include: Advanced Placement /International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/ SDE-approved courses.

Three credits to include:

Mathematics

Geometry with Data Analysis or its equivalent/substitute	1 credit
Algebra I with Probability or its equivalent/substitute	1 credit
Algebra II with Statistics or its equivalent/substitute	1 credit

Mathematics-credit eligible options may include: Career and Technical Education/ Advanced Placement /International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/ SDE-approved courses.

One credit to include:

Alabama Course of Study: Mathematics or mathematics-credit eligible courses from Career and Technical Education/ Advance Placement Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/ SDE-approved courses..... 1 credit

Two credits to include:

Science

Biology	1 credit
A Physical Science (Chemistry, Physics, and Physical Science).....	1 credit

Science-credit eligible may include: Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/ post-secondary courses/ SDE-approved courses.

Two credits to include:

Alabama Course of Study: Science or science-credit eligible courses from Career and Technical Education/ Advanced Placement /International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/ SDE-approved courses..... 2 credits

Four credits to include:

Social Studies

World History	1 credit
United States History I	1 credit
United States History II	1 credit
United States Government	0.5 credit
Economics	0.5 credit

Social Studies-credit eligible options may include: Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/postsecondary courses/ SDE-approved courses.

Physical Education

Beginning Kinesiology or one JROTC	1 credit
Health Education	0.5 credit
Career Preparedness.....	1 credit
Career and Technical Education (CTE) and/or Foreign Language and/or Arts Education...	3 credits

Electives

2022-2024 Graduates.....12.5 credits

* Beginning with the Class of 2025, all graduates must earn 10.5 elective credits.

Houston County Schools Total Credits Required for Graduation

2022 Graduates	34 credits
2023 Graduates	34 credits
2024 Graduates	34 credits
2025 Graduates	32 credits

LEA Academic Honors Endorsement:

In order to earn an Alabama High School Diploma with LEA Honors Endorsement, pupils must complete all core academic honors courses (listed below), and must earn a minimum of the required (see above) Carnegie Units, and complete all requirements and assessments as directed by the Alabama State Department of Education.

***LEA ACADEMIC HONORS ENDORSEMENTS**

Completion of the Alabama High School Diploma requirements listed above, including the following: Honors English 9, 10, 11, & 12; Honors Math 9, 10, 11, & 12 including Algebra II Statistics, & Pre-Calculus: Honors Science 9, 10, 11, & 12; Honors Social Studies 9, 10, 11, & 12 and/or Dual Enrollment courses that are the equivalent and approved by the superintendent.

GRADUATION ACTIVITIES

Graduation activities and procedures for awarding exit documents (including diplomas or certificates) shall be integrated and identical with no distinctions/differentiations made in regard to the way the exit document is awarded or presented. Students will not be able to participate in graduation ceremonies if all graduation requirements are not met.

CRITERIA FOR ASSIGNING WEIGHTS TO HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Honor Students will be determined according to a Standard Grade Point Average (GPA) of 9th-12th Grade courses [taken]. One whole point will be added to the earned Standard Grade Point Average to establish the Weighted Grade Point Average.

EXAMPLE: A student who receives a 100% (Standard GPA = 4.00) will receive a Weighted GPA of 5.00. The Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Honor Students will be determined when grades are posted after the 1st Semester of his/her Senior Year. Computation for determining the Valedictorian and Salutatorian shall be carried out to a minimum of 4 decimal points. Honor Court must earn a minimum Standard GPA of [a] 3.67 or higher in grades 9th-12th when grades are posted after the 1st Semester of his/her Senior Year. The Honor Court will consist of the Top 20% of the Senior Class.

NOTE: Honor Court cannot be attained via HOPE Program or the Alabama Extended Standards. Home School Students and transfer students must enroll in a Houston County School no later than his/her Junior (11th grade) year for eligibility as Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and/or Honor Court.

COURSES TO BE WEIGHTED

ENGLISH	All Honors English
SCIENCE	All Honors Science
MATHEMATICS	Pre-Calculus, Algebra II with Trigonometry, Calculus, All Honors Math
HISTORY	All Honors History
HEALTH SCIENCE	*All Courses Weighted
PRE ENGINEERING	**All courses Weighted
ALL FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSES	
ADVANCE PLACEMENT (AP) COURSES, AND/OR DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES	
*Honors Science Credit	
**Honors Physics Credit	

FINAL EXAMS

All students in grades 7th-12th will take a FINAL EXAM.

The FINAL EXAM will count as **10% of the FINAL AVERAGE** in each core class.

EXAM EXEMPTIONS

- PERFECT ATTENDANCE** – Any 7th -12th grade student may EXEMPT one (1) FINAL EXAM-each Semester-in his/her course of choice. EXEMPTION REQUIREMENTS:
 - The student must have perfect attendance and a minimum of a 75% average for the semester/year in the class from which the exemption is requested. (No unexcused tardiness or excused or unexcused absences from class.)
 - Perfect attendance policy applies to students transferring into the Houston County School System, if there is proof that the record was maintained, prior to transfer and that no time was lost between schools during transfer.
- All A's**- A student may exempt FINAL EXAMS, each semester/year, in the course in which he/she has maintained a minimum of a 90% for either: **1)** each of the two grading sessions in a Semester long course;
2) each of the four grading sessions in a year-long course.
- CREDENTIALING IN A CAREER TECHNICAL COURSE** - A student may exempt ONE core course exam in which he/she has maintained at least an 80 average for the semester the credential was earned. The exemption can only be used during the semester the credential is earned.

HOPE SCHOOL PROGRAM CONTRACT ATTENDANCE

The purpose of participating in the HOPE School Program, which is based out of the Houston County Virtual Academy (HCVA), is to provide an alternative educational format in assisting high-risk students with passing the Alabama High School Course Requirements and Assessments. By signing this contract, the student agrees to the following conditions:

- I will attend school for three (3) hours each day Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
- I will not have more than three (3) unexcused absences and will provide written and oral communication (phone call) by a parent/guardian, when absent.
- I will continue to attend school each day until the required number of credits is earned.
- I will not work on the day or days absent from school. I will notify my employer of an absence the DAY of the absence and will furnish documentation to HCVA of the action.
- I understand that a warning letter may be sent to my parents and employer on the 4th absence from school. A conference will be scheduled with my parent/guardian to discuss my status in the Hope School Program. A phone call or personal visit may be made by the school administrator to my place of employment to discuss truancy and work attendance.
- I understand that failure to comply with these rules will result in termination from the program. No exclusions or exceptions will be granted.
- I understand that the all guidelines within the Houston County Schools Student Code of Conduct will be applicable in the HOPE School Program.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- To be accepted into Hope School Program, students must meet the following criteria:
 - Minimum 10 credits from base school
 - Must have a job and present proof of employment upon enrollment to Hope School Program
 - Must have a vehicle and present proof of auto insurance
 - Must have a reasonable attendance and discipline record
- Maximum of 12 credits can be earned during the calendar year. More than 12 credits will be applied to the following calendar school year until the student is OTG (*On Track to Graduate*) with his/her cohort.
- If failure, drop-out, or other action occurs, the student will not be allowed to re-enter any school in the Houston County School System. A recommendation will be made, for the student, to enter the Adult Basic Education Program [to earn a GED].
- Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and/or Honor Court eligibility is not attainable through Hope Programs.
- A student classified as OTG; as well as, AHSAA eligible may participate in sports at his/her local school.

HOUSTON COUNTY VIRTUAL ACADEMY

Applications must be completed each semester. HCVA students will be allowed to participate in face-to-face classes for Band, Athletic PE, Dual Enrollment, Houston County Career Academy classes, and/or any extra-curricular activities and/or events. Kindergarten and senior Students may participate in his/her base school's graduation ceremony.

HOMEWORK

Elementary - The purpose of homework is to practice newly taught skills, review previously mastered skills, develop independent study habits, or to extend and enrich the curriculum.

Appropriate time limits to devote to homework are (applicable for Monday-Thursday):

Kindergarten – limit to reading and mathematics, approximately 15 minutes.

Grades 1-2	20 minutes
Grade 3	30 minutes
Grade 4	40 minutes
Grade 5	50 minutes
Grade 6	60 minutes

High School – Purposes:

1. To encourage development of independent study habits, skills, and responsibilities.
2. To enrich, reinforce, and extend learning by providing additional educational opportunities outside the classroom.
3. To provide for advanced preparation for an upcoming classroom activity, discussion, unit of study or test.
4. To provide an opportunity for parents to be familiar with and involved in the school's educational program and their own child's progress.

Guidelines:

The amount and kind of homework will vary with each grade and subject being studied. For grades 7-12, students need to be responsible for their own learning and should put forth considerable effort in and out of class. Study times as well as time needed to complete assignments should be taken into consideration when assignments are made. Advanced classes require more rigorous homework assignments.

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

The Houston County School System will abide by all rules and regulations of the Alabama High School Athletic Association, State Department of Education, and the Houston County Board of Education Policies.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION OF RESPONSIBILITY UNDER ACT 93-672 CODE OF ALABAMA SECTION 16-28-12

The Houston County School System, in compliance with the above-referenced law of the State of Alabama, hereby notifies parents of their responsibility under this law and the penalties for failure to comply.

Each parent, guardian, or other person having control or custody of any child required to attend school or receive instruction "who fails to send the child to school, or fails to compel the child to properly conduct himself or herself as specified in the Houston County School's Code of Conduct, which may result in the suspension of the pupil shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, shall be fined not more than one hundred (\$100) dollars and may also be sentenced to hard labor for the county for no more than 90 days." The absence of the pupil without approval of the principal for reasons specified in the Code of Conduct shall be evidence of violation of this law. The administrators of Houston County Schools are required to report all such violations to the District Attorney using established procedures.

The Board of Education has charged each school principal with notification and education responsibilities of the Act. **Contact your school principal if you have questions.**

All parents, under this Act, "have a responsibility to monitor and supervise the school work and educational activity of the child."

NOTIFICATION OF RESPONSIBILITY UNDER ACT 93-368

Whenever a student 17 years of age or older withdraws from school, the attendance officer or chief attendance administrator shall notify the Department of Public Safety of the withdrawal. Withdrawal shall be defined as more than 10 consecutive or 15 days total unexcused absences during a single semester, or complete withdrawal from a school.

Within five days of receipt of a notice of withdrawal, the Department of Public Safety shall send notice of the licensee that his/her driver's license or learner's license will be suspended. The Department of Public Safety shall deny a driver's license or a learner's license, unless the applicant (1) presents a diploma or other certificate of graduation (2) is enrolled and making satisfactory progress in a course leading to a general educational development certificate (GED) (3) is enrolled in a secondary school of this state or any other state (4) is participating in a job training program approved by the State Superintendent of Education (5) is a parent with the care or custody of a minor or unborn child (6) has a physician certify that the parents of the person depend on him/her as their sole source of transportation (7) is exempted from this requirement due to circumstances beyond his/her control.

IT'S THE LAW

- * **Erin's Law (HB197):** This law deals with mental, physical, and sexual abuse.
- * **Jason Flatt Act (Act 2016-310):** This law deals with suicide prevention.
- * **Jamari Terrell Williams Act (Act 2018-472):** This law deals with bullying and cyber bullying.
- * **Annalyn's Law (AL SB26):** This law references low-risk juvenile sex offenders.

* For more information about these laws, please visit the website www.aldse.edu or visit your local school counselor.

Parental Notification of Civil Liabilities and Criminal Penalties

The following laws relate to civil liabilities and criminal penalties for violence or other misbehavior by students on school property or against school employees:

Attendance and Conduct (Act 94-782)

Each parent/guardian or other person having control or custody of a child required to attend school who fails to require the child to enroll, to regularly attend school, or to compel the child to properly conduct himself/herself as a pupil in accordance with the written policy on school behavior adopted by the local board of education shall be guilty of a misdemeanor (may be fined up to \$100 and may be sentenced to hard labor for up to 90 days).

Teacher Assault (Act 94-794)

A person commits the crime of assault in the second degree (Class C felony) if the person assaults with intent to cause serious physical injury to a teacher or to an employee of a public education institution during or as a result of the performance of his or her duty.

Drug Dealing (Act 94-783)

A person who unlawfully sells, furnishes, or gives a controlled substance to a minor may be liable for injury or damage or both suffered by a third person caused by or resulting from the use of the controlled substance by the minor if the sale, furnishing, or giving of the controlled substance is the proximate cause of the injury or damage.

Drugs, Alcohol, Weapons, Physical Harm, or Threatened Physical Harm (Act 94-784)

The school principal shall notify appropriate law enforcement officials when a person violates local board of education policies concerning drugs, alcohol, weapons, physical harm to a person, or threatened physical harm to a person. If any criminal charge is warranted, the principal is authorized to sign the appropriate warrant. If that person is a student, the local school system shall immediately suspend that person from attending regular classes and schedule a hearing within 5 school days.

If a person is found to have violated a local board of education policy concerning drugs, alcohol, weapons, physical harm to a person or threatened physical harm to a person, the person may not be readmitted to the public schools until criminal charges, if any, have been disposed of by appropriate authorities and the person has satisfied all other requirements imposed by the local board of education as a condition for readmission.

Weapons in Schools (Act 94-817)

No person shall knowingly, with intent to do bodily harm, carry or possess a deadly weapon on the premises of a public school. Possession of a deadly weapon with the intent to do bodily harm on the premises of a public school or school bus is a Class C felony. (Note: the term "deadly weapon" means a firearm or anything manifestly designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting death or serious physical injury, and such term includes, but is not limited to, a bazooka, hand grenade, missile, or explosive or incendiary device; a pistol, rifle, or shot gun; or a switch-blade knife, gravity knife, stiletto, sword, or dagger; or any club, baton, billy-club, blackjack stick, bludgeon objects, or metal knuckles.)

Vandalism (Act 94-819)

The parents, guardian, or other person having control of any minor under the age of 18 with whom the minor is living and who have custody of the minor shall be liable for the actual damages sustained to school property, plus the court costs, caused by intentional, willful, or malicious act of the minor.

Pistol Possession/ Driver's License (Act 94-820)

Any person over the age of 14 who is convicted of the crime of possession of a pistol on the premises of a public school, or a public school bus, shall be denied issuance of a driver's permit or license to operate a motor vehicle for 180 days from the date the person is eligible and applies for a permit of license. If a person over age 14 possesses a driver's license on the date of conviction, the driver's license will be suspended for 180 days.

Drop-Out/Driver's License

(Act 94-820 which amended Act 93-368 as codified in 16-28-40, Ala. Code, 1975)

The Department of Public Safety shall deny a driver's license or learner's permit to any person under 19 who is not enrolled or has not received a diploma or certificate of graduation. Exemptions are students who: are enrolled in a GED program, are enrolled in a secondary school, are participating in an approved job training program, are gainfully employed, are a parent of a minor or unborn child, or are the sole source of transportation of the parent.

Gun Free Schools (Act 1994)

The Houston County Board of Education is in full compliance with the Guns Free Schools Act of 1994. Students found guilty of bringing a weapon to school will be expelled for a period of not less than one year.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE FOR TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT, TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972 AND SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1975

The grievant, if a student, should present this grievance written or orally to a school administrator.

Grievance must be filed within twenty (20) days of the time that the grievant knew or reasonably should have known of the grievance.

Detailed procedures for filing a grievance may be found on file in each principal's office.

HOUSTON COUNTY SCHOOLS' COMPUTER, NETWORK, AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY (AUP) FOR STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES

Introduction

Houston County Schools will be offering access to the computers, computer networks, and the Internet. To gain access, each user must obtain parental permission as verified by the signatures on the form on the last page. The district implements an electronic communications system comprised of computers, networks, and the Internet that allows opportunities for students, staff, and patrons to communicate, learn, access and publish information. The School System believes that the resources available through this network and the skills that users will develop in using it are of significant value in the learning process and their success in the future. These opportunities also pose many challenges including, but not limited to, access for all users, age level appropriateness of material, security, and cost of maintaining ever more elaborate systems. The school system will endeavor to ensure that these concerns are appropriately addressed, but cannot ensure that problems will not arise. By providing these opportunities, the school system intends only to provide a means for educational activities and does not intend to create a first amendment forum for free expression purposes. The school system dedicates the property comprising these resources, and grants access to them by users, only for the educational activities authorized under this policy and procedures and under the specific limitations contained therein. ***The Houston County Board of Education does not archive e-mails.***

What is possible?

Through these resources, users can explore thousands of libraries, databases, museums, and other materials of educational value. This global network is made up of many smaller contributing networks, such as ours, connecting thousands of computers throughout the world and millions of individual subscribers. Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies and regional and state networks. Users can exchange personal communication with other users around the world. While the use of computers and the Internet is primarily instructional in nature to reach an educational goal, some users may find ways to access other materials. While there is an abundance of valuable information, the availability of material that may not be considered to be of education value in the context of the school setting also becomes available. Unfortunately, some of these resources contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive. Most educators believe the benefits to users from access to computers and the Internet exceed their disadvantages. Parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards their children should follow when using these resources. Therefore, we respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

How should it be used?

Computers, devices, computer networks, and the Internet should be used for education and research through the provision of unique resources and opportunities for collaboration among students, teachers, and administrators. Use of these resources must be in support of this and consistent with the educational objectives of the school.

What is expected?

Users are responsible for appropriate behavior while using these resources. Additionally, users are responsible for their actions while using the equipment and the resources. Use is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused. Vandalism of equipment or programs will result in punishment as defined herein.

What are the privileges and rights of a user?

All users have certain privileges and rights. Infringement of or disrespect to the rights of others may result in the loss of Internet privileges. These rights include:

Privacy – All users have the right to privacy. However, if a user is believed to be in violation of the guidelines, a system administrator may review communications to maintain system integrity and to ensure that students are using the system responsibly.

Safety – Any users who receive threatening or unwelcome communications should bring them to the attention of a system administrator or teacher.

Intellectual Freedom – Any statement of personal belief is implicitly understood to be representative of the author's individual point of view and not that of the school.

Inappropriate materials or language – No profane, pornographic, abusive, or impolite language should be used to communicate nor should materials be accessed which are not in accordance with the rules of school behavior.

Equal Access – All users will be granted free and equal access in these resources. Exploration using these resources is encouraged relative to the purposes of education and research. No single user should monopolize these resources.

What are the guidelines?

- Be prepared to be held accountable for your actions. Exemplary behavior is expected from all users at all times.
- Notify an adult immediately if you encounter materials that violate the School Code of Conduct.
- Do not use a computer or the Internet to hurt, harass, attack or harm other people or their work.
- Do not damage the computer or network. Vandalism or theft of resources (including data and files) will not be tolerated.
- Do not degrade the performance of the network through the posting of electronic chain letters or other useless information.
- Do not use the computers, computer networks, or the Internet for illegal activities, i.e. threats, instructions on how to perform an illegal act, child pornography, drug dealing, purchase of alcohol, gang activities, etc.
- Do not violate copyright laws. Copyrighted software and other instructional materials must not be copied or transferred to another except as provided under the license or copyright notice.
- Do not view, send, or display obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, disrespectful, threatening, or inflammatory language, messages or pictures.
- Do not share your password with another person. Each individual is responsible for the security of his/her password.
- Do not reveal the personal address or phone number of yourself or anyone else.
- Do not access other student's work, folders, or files.
- Do not re-post non-academic personal communications without the original author's prior consent.
- Do not install software or download unauthorized files, games, programs, or other electronic media.

ALABAMA ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

NOTIFICATION OF PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND EMPLOYEES

On October 22, 1988, President Reagan signed into law the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). This law requires all local education agencies to identify asbestos -containing materials (ACM) in their school buildings and take appropriate actions to control the release of asbestos fibers into the environment. In order to comply with this law all of our schools have been inspected and management plans have been developed by an accredited engineering firm qualified to identify findings and various approved methods of dealing with ACM.

The management plan and the result of each inspection is on file at the central office and at each principal's office. You may view these reports during office hours. If there are any questions concerning our management plan, you may contact Houston County Schools Maintenance Supervisor at 334-899-8795.

PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW (H.R. 1-37)

QUALIFICATIONS: At the beginning of the school year, a local education agency that receives funds under this part shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving said funds that the parents may request, and the agency will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers, including, at a minimum, the following:

1. Whether the teacher has met State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
4. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: In addition to the information that parents may request under subparagraph (A), a school that receives funds under this part shall provide to each parent:

1. Information on the level of achievement of a parent's child in each of the State academic assessments as required under this part: and
2. Timely notice that the parent's child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF PUBLIC RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

*Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED):

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family
3. Sexual behavior or attitudes
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom responders have close family relationships
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility

*Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of:

1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding
2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screening, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law
3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

*Inspect, upon request and before administration or use:

1. Protected information surveys of students
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from student for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes
3. Instructional material used as part of the education curriculum

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under state law.

Houston County Schools has developed and adopted policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. Houston County Schools will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. Houston County Schools will also directly notify, such as through U.S. Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

- Collection disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution.
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by the Department of Education.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above. Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with the agency listed on page 24.

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA FOR HOUSTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) afford parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student’s education record within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal [or appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate. Parents or eligible students may ask to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the school principal [or appropriate school official], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the decision is not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school personnel will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate education interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. [Optional] Upon request, the School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. [FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records.]

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Houston County Schools to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are listed below:
Houston County Schools routinely discloses names, addresses, and telephone numbers to military recruiters upon request. If you choose to opt out of this process, please notify your student's counselor, in writing, no later than the 1st day of September of the school year opting out. This procedure is for the convenience of military recruiters and bears no recourse/consequence for any student opting out of the notification process.

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

GIFTED EDUCATION

Intellectually gifted children and youth are those who perform or who have demonstrated the potential to perform at high levels in academic or creative fields when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment. These children and youth require services not ordinarily provided by the regular school program. Children and youth possessing these abilities can be found in all populations, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor.

Gifted students may be found within any race, ethnicity, gender, economic class, or nationality. In addition, some students with disabilities may be gifted. The Houston County School System shall prohibit discrimination against any student on the above basis with respect to his/her participation in the gifted program.

The program for gifted students provides learning activities including acceleration, enrichment topics, and critical thinking skills.

All students will be screened at the SECOND GRADE AND FOURTH GRADE LEVEL using multiple criteria for gifted potential. Those students displaying potential will be referred to the Gifted Referral Screening Team for further assessment.

In addition, parents or guardians, administrators, school counselors, and teachers in all grade levels may refer a child for screening or gifted assessment.

For each student referred, information is gathered in three (3) areas. These areas include aptitude, characteristics, and performance. The scores from the assessments/items used are entered on a matrix where points are assigned according to established criteria. The total number of points earned determines if the student qualifies for gifted services.

If you should need additional information or wish to make a referral, contact the Gifted Education teacher at your child's school or Gifted Education Director at 334-792-8331 ext. 1134 (Dr. Misty Freeman).

JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Students enrolled in the Houston County School System are subject to the policies of the Houston County Board of Education and to the rules and regulations of the schools. This authority applies to all school-sponsored activities including, but not necessarily limited, to the following:

Transportation on School Buses

Field Trips

Athletic Functions

Clubs and/or Organizations

School-Sponsored Social Events

School Groups that represent the School System in Educational Events

FORMAL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AND PROCEDURES

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION PROGRAM (If Available)

In-school suspension is a structured disciplinary action in which a student is removed from the regular classroom activities but is not dismissed from the school setting. The principal or his/her designee has the authority to assign students to in-school suspension for a reasonable and specified period of time.

MORNING DETENTION / AFTER SCHOOL DETENTION / SATURDAY SCHOOL

The principal or his/her designee has the authority to assign students to a designated area either before school or the end of a school day. Saturday School is an option, as well. The parent is responsible for providing transportation. A parent/guardian will be notified before a student is assigned to detention. Detention time shall be for a minimum of thirty (30) minutes per day.

Should a student fail to report to Saturday School after the 1st reassignment, the student will be referred to Alternative School for one (1) day.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

The Houston County Board of Education has no rule against reasonable and proper spanking/paddling of students for disciplinary reasons. Before corporal punishment is administered as a disciplinary method, the student will be given the reason for the punishment and an opportunity to explain his/her action. Corporal punishment must be administered by the administrator or by the teacher in the presence of a certified professional employee (not before a classroom of students). The administrator and/or teacher will prepare a written report for each incident to be sent home on the day the corporal punishment is administered. Parent/guardian must notify school in writing annually if he/she prohibits the school from paddling his/her student(s).

Reminder: [the] note must be delivered, in person, by the parent-by first day of each school year.

SUSPENSION

Suspension is defined as the temporary removal of a student from a school for violation of school rules or regulations. The authority to suspend a student from school rests entirely with the principal of each school. Only in the absence of the principal may the assistant principal assume this responsibility. All suspensions should be for a specified number of days (not to exceed 10 days). The suspension will be in accordance with prescribed board policy. Any deviation from said pattern shall require the authorization from the superintendent of schools or his designee.

PRINCIPAL'S PROBATION

Students that are persistent in not following rules of proper conduct may be assigned a period of time to improve their conduct/behavior or be subject to additional sanctions. These sanctions will include a ban from all activities on the campuses of Houston County Schools for a period of time to be determined by the school principal and approved by the superintendent.

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

Any employee of the Board of Education (including bus drivers) has the authority to use reasonable force to restrain a student from abusing or attempting to abuse self, other students, teachers, administrators, parents, or other staff members. Schools and programs that use physical restraint as allowed by law must develop and implement written policies to govern the use of physical restraint. The Houston County Board of Education has adopted a Time Out and Restraint Policy (5.30.2) to meet requirements of federal and state laws and regulations.

A copy of Policy 5.30.2 is maintained in the board office and is available for review upon request.

SCHOOL BUS SUSPENSION

The principal/designee has the authority to deny a student the privilege of riding a school bus. This denial, based on the misconduct of the student, will be for a reasonable and specified period of time. The parent/guardian will be notified prior to the suspension from the bus.

EXPULSION

Expulsion is defined as the removal of a student from a school for violation of school rules or regulations. A student may be expelled from school if an offense is serious enough to warrant such action. The authority to expel a student rests with the Houston County Board of Education. The local school principal may suspend the student pending the decision of the board to expel said student. The expulsion hearing must be held within ten (10) days from the date of suspension.

NOTIFICATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES

Officials shall be notified in accordance with the procedures herein.

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM

The Alternative School is a viable approach designed to keep students in school. It offers an alternative to out-of-school suspensions, serves as a deterrent to truancy, and helps students who are potential dropouts. **Assignments to Alternative School in elementary grades can only be made with the approval of the superintendent or his/her designee.**

OBJECTIVES:

- Reduce the number of out-of-school suspensions
- Reduce disruptive and delinquent behavior in the classroom and on school campus
- Keep students in school

PLACEMENT / DISMISSAL

Each student is placed in the program upon referral by school administrators as outlined herein.

A student may be referred to the Alternative School for a period of (3) three to (10) ten days or more, if needed. **A disciplinary referral form must accompany the student to the center.**

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL GUIDELINES

Note: K-2 students must be recommended to the superintendent or his/her designee, for placement at the Houston County Alternative School or OSS (Out of School Suspension).

* NOTE: If a K-2 student is assigned OSS, he/she will complete all assignments via online platform.

1. Attendance in the program is mandatory for students who are referred from their regular school.
2. Students sent to the Alternative School are responsible for bringing their assignments, books, and other material needed. The Alternative School teacher will check for these upon the student's enrollment. Work assigned must be completed before the student is dismissed. If the work is not completed to the assigned teacher's satisfaction the student may be sent back to the Alternative School teacher by the principal until the work is finished. In such case the student must stay for a minimum of one day.
3. All students referred to the Alternative School for the second time will not be dismissed from the program, even though time assigned is completed, until a conversation with the legal guardian is held with the Alternative School Principal. The student will then be released to the guardian to take him/her to the assigned school for re-admission.
4. Once enrolled in Alternative School, students will remain until their assigned time is completed plus any days added by the Alternative School personnel. There will be no early dismissals.
5. Extracurricular Activities - A student sent to Alternative School is not allowed to attend or participate in any extracurricular activities or practice for such on any day that he/she is in the program.
6. Transportation – The student or his/her parents/guardian must provide his/her own transportation.
7. Meals – Meals are provided by the guidelines of the CNP.
8. Exam Exemptions – Students sent to the Alternative School lose their perfect attendance exemption privileges.
9. Students who fail to follow the rules of the Alternative School personnel will be subject to having his/her time extended, suspension or expulsion.
10. Students assigned to the Alternative School at the time of semester examinations may return to their home-based school for their examinations with prior approval of the Superintendent.
11. Any test to be administered to students attending Alternative School should be sent to the Alternative School. Tests will be returned to the home school [of the student].
12. Copies of Alternative School referral will be sent to Juvenile Services.
13. Cell phones are not allowed in alternative school.

GUIDELINES FOR LONG-TERM ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

The long-term Alternative School program is a structured disciplinary action in which a student is removed from regular classroom activities for a specified time of more than ten days. Placement in this program will occur only after the policies set forth herein for short-term programs have been exhausted. Each individual should be evaluated and a program planned for that student based on the special circumstances of the situation. The goal is always to help the student.

- Long-term Alternative School assignments shall be recommended by the school administration and determined by the school's disciplinary committee (11 days to 45 days).
- Students must demonstrate appropriate behavior in order to earn the privilege of dismissal at the end of the assigned time.
- A 504 Plan, IEP, or ILP is provided to HCAS-when applicable

NOTE: The superintendent/designee will be notified in all long-term placements to HCAS.

Assignments to a long-term alternative school program can be based on; but, not limited to the following reasons based upon the recommendation of the principal or his/her designee:

1. ***Disciplinary Reasons*** – Placement must be recommended by the principal and voted on by the school disciplinary committee.
2. ***Health and Safety Reasons*** – Placement must be based on a student's, parents, and/or guardians written request; as well as, the school administration/counselor's recommendations, and concurrence of the superintendent/designee.
3. ***Parental Request, Attendance Reasons, or Court -Related Reasons*** – Placement will be based on a written request from the parent/guardian, the school administration, and the concurrence of the superintendent/designee.

NOTE: THERE IS **NO APPEAL** FOR SUSPENSION AND/OR REFERRAL TO ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL-FOR 10 DAYS OR LESS

CLASSIFICATION OF VIOLATIONS

Violations of the Code are divided into three classes: Class I Minor; Class II Intermediate; and Class III Major. Each classification is followed by a disciplinary procedure to be followed by the principal or his/her designee. In the following classes of violations and disciplinary procedures it is understood that the student will be provided with due process before any disciplinary action is taken:

CLASS I – MINOR OFFENSES

- A. Minor distraction of other students
- B. Quarreling of students
- C. Use of profane or obscene language
- D. Non-conformity to dress code
- E. Minor misbehavior on a school bus
- F. Inappropriate public display of affection between students
- G. Chewing gum
- H. Eating or drinking in unauthorized areas
- I. Locker misuse or abuse.
NOTE: Sharing lockers is not permitted. Violation of this rule, in addition to the Class I disciplinary action, will result in the loss of locker privileges. No refund of any unused portion of fees.
- J. Littering of any type
- K. Sitting in a parked vehicle after arriving at school and/or during the school day
- L. Intentionally providing false information to school personnel
- M. Minor physical conflicts
- N. Participation on campus in organizations not recognized by the school (non-gang related)
- O. Reporting to class without materials and supplies
- P. Use of an electronic device during class or in the hallways without administrative approval
- Q. Any cheating or plagiarism
- R. Any other violation which the administration may deem reasonable to fall within this cate- gory after consideration of extenuating circumstances

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FOR CLASS I OFFENSES (Minor)

First Offense: Conference with student, parental contact when warranted. Circumstances may warrant disciplinary action as outlined under subsequent offenses.

Subsequent Offenses (may include, but are not limited to the following):

- * Parent-Teacher Conference
- * ISS
- * Before School Detention (BSD)
- * After School Detention (ASD)
- * Saturday School
- * Corporal Punishment
- * Bus Suspension (applicable to bus incidents)

After three (3) Class I Offenses are earned by a student, the next Class I may be considered a Class II Offense.

Subsequent bus referrals will result in 3-10 days of bus suspension.

CLASS II – Intermediate Offenses

- A. Skipping class or leaving class without permission
- B. Gambling – Any participation in games of chance for money and/or other things of value
- C. Instigating Conflict – The deliberate attempt to incite, provoke physical conflict, or a verbal altercation between individuals
- D. Vandalism – Intentional and deliberate action resulting in injury or damages to public property or the real/personal property of another
- E. Stealing, Larceny, Petty Theft – The intentional unlawful taking or carrying away of property valued at less than \$100 belonging to or in possession or custody of another
- F. Possession of stolen property with the knowledge that it is stolen
- G. Threats, Intimidation, Extortion, Harassment – Verbally or by written or printed communication, maliciously threatening any injury to the person, property or reputation of another, or the intent to extort money or take advantage of any person, to do any act or refrain from doing any act against his/her will
- H. Trespassing – Willfully, entering or remaining on any school property without being authorized, licensed, or invited; or having been authorized, licensed, or invited after being warned by an authorized person to depart and refusing to do so
- I. Unjustified activation of a fire alarm system or fire extinguisher
- J. Written or verbal proposition to engage in sexual acts - including social media
- K. Use of obscene gestures, racial slurs, illustrations, or language directed toward another person
- L. Illegal Organizations – Any attempt to use the school day for activities that are not school related or school-sponsored (non-gang related)
- M. Mere possession of a knife, razor blade, box cutter or edged instrument, etc. (consult SRO on blade length)
- N. Truancy
- O. Touching /hitting/slapping/spitting (but not limited to the aforementioned) on another person against his/her will in a threatening or suggestive manner
- P. Major Distractions – Any behavior that prevents any activity from continuing in an orderly manner :to include, but not limited to- recording fights streaming fights, posting on social media during the school day)
- Q. Any action by a student that constitutes an inappropriate use of a computer and/or network resource
- R. Speeding or reckless driving
- S. Misuse of lunch codes
- T. Use of video/recording devices on campus are prohibited
- U. Refusal to give name or intentionally giving false information to authorized person
- V. *Possession and/or use of tobacco, e-cigarettes, vaping products (ie. nicotine/nicotine products or any paraphernalia)
- W. *Using obscene language or profanity towards a school board employee
- X. *Possession of lighters, matches, fireworks/firecrackers etc.; and/or, igniting fireworks or firecrackers
- Y. *Leaving campus without permission once on school property
- Z. *Defiance of school board employee or a substitute authority
NOTE: Overt and continuing to be determined by an administrator
- AA. *Fighting
 - a. Grades 3-12 – Any physical conflict between two or more individuals. If the aggressor can be identified/ determined, he/she could receive no fewer than two and no more than ten additional days to Alternative School
2nd offense may result in referral for anger management (principal’s discretion)
 - b. Grades K-2 – Discipline to be determined by the school administration. Discipline may include ISS, break detention, after-school detention, or Alternative School. If the aggressor can be identified/determined, he/she could receive additional punishment as deemed appropriate by the school administration. **2nd offense** may result in referral for anger management (principal’s discretion).
- BB. Any other offense which the administration may deem necessary to fall within this category after consideration of extenuating circumstances

***Automatic referral to Alternative School for a period of three to ten days (3rd – 12th grades)**

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FOR CLASS II OFFENSES (Intermediate)

First – Student conference and parental contact, disciplinary action such as corporal punishment, MSD, ASD, ISS, bus suspension, etc. Circumstances may warrant assignment to Alternative School for a period of 3-10 days.

Subsequent Offenses:

1. Parental conference
2. Referral to Alternative School for 3 days; 2nd referral – 5 days; 3rd referral – 10 days; 4th referral will constitute assignment to long-term alternative school (11-45 days - Disciplinary Committee's discretion) and could result in referral to the Superintendent of the Board of Education for expulsion (Disciplinary Committee's discretion).

NOTE: For fighting, the student may also be required to attend an anger management class at the discretion of the school administration or school counselor.

CLASS III – MAJOR OFFENSES

- A. Drugs – Use, unauthorized possession, transfer or sale of drugs, drug paraphernalia, counterfeit substances or alcoholic beverages
- B. Weapons – Any possession of any object or device that can be defined as a weapon
 1. Willfully bring a weapon with intent to threaten or do harm:
 - a. Superintendent recommends expulsion
 - b. Board of Education determines expulsion
 2. In possession of a weapon without the intent to threaten or do harm:
 - a. Assigned to Alternative School no less than 45 days
 - b. Superintendent may recommend expulsion
 - c. Board of Education may act on expulsion recommendation
- C. Battery Upon a School Board Employee – The actual unlawful and intentional touching or striking of a School Board Employee against his/her will, or the intentional causing of bodily harm to a School Board Employee
* NOTE: Superintendent recommendation for expulsion
- D. Verbal Assault Upon a School Board Employee – Verbal assault in the form of speech
* NOTE: On-going and overt – to be determined by administration and can be recommended by the Superintendent for expulsion
- E. Robbery – The taking of money or other property which may be the subject of larceny from the person or custody of another by force, violence, assault
- F. Stealing, Larceny, Extortion, Grand Theft – The intentional unlawful taking and/or carrying away of property valued at \$100.00 or more belonging to or in the lawful possession or custody of another
- G. Burglary of School Property – Entering or remaining in a structure or conveyance with the intent to commit an offense during the hours the premises are closed to the public
- H. Criminal Mischief – Willful and malicious injury or damages at or in excess of \$50.00 to public property, or to real or personal property belonging to another
- I. Possession or unauthorized discharge of any firearm or any device capable of expelling a projectile
- J. Arson – The willful and malicious burning of any part of school board property
- K. Bomb Threats – Any such communication which has the effect of interrupting the education environment
- L. Explosions – Preparing, possession, or igniting on school board property explosives likely to cause bodily injury or property damage
- M. Sexual Acts – Acts of sexual nature including, but not limited to battery, intercourse, attempted rape, or rape
- N. Aggravated Battery – Intentionally causing great bodily harm, disability, or permanent disfigurement, or use of deadly weapon
- O. Inciting or participating in a major student disorder, leading, encouraging or assisting in major disruptions which result in destruction or damage of private or public property or personal injury to participants or others
- P. Indecent exposure
- Q. Unprovoked assault or attack on another individual
- R. Possession, distribution, or manufacture of pornography
- S. Any offenses that are classified under the law as Felony Offenses
- T. Continuous Pattern of Intentional Threats, Intimidation, Extortion, Harassment

- U. Any other offense which the principal may deem reasonable to fall within this category after consideration of extenuating circumstances
- V. Threatening or continuous use of profanity towards a School Board Employee
- W. The intentional or unintentional use of an electronic device (audio and/or video) to capture nudity and/or sexual acts or demeaning visual or audio graphics
- X. Gangs -
 - The presence of any apparel, jewelry, accessory or manner of grooming which, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, symbol or any other attribute which indicates or implies membership or affiliation with such a group presenting a clear and present danger
 - Incidents involving initiations, hazing, intimidations, and/or related activities of such group affiliations which are likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to students
 - Wearing, carrying or displaying paraphernalia or exhibiting behavior or gestures symbolizing gang/group/club membership or causing or participating in activities which intimidate or affect other students

DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR CLASS III OFFENSES (Major)

1. Immediate notification of parents/guardian and Superintendent/Human Resources
2. Notification of law enforcement officials and initiate filing a petition with Juvenile Court Services
3. Immediate assignment to Houston County Alternative School
4. Initiation of procedures for long-term Houston County Alternative School or expulsion (Disciplinary Committee's discretion)
 - a. 1st offense – 11- 45 day Alternative School placement
 - b. 2nd offense – up to one (1) year Houston County Alternative School placement
 - c. 3rd offense – may result in being referred to the board/superintendent for expulsion

BUS DISCIPLINE

A system of student transportation is provided to students attending Houston County Schools. The bus is an extension of the classroom; therefore, students are required to observe all school rules while being transported to and from school. A serious or continued violation of rules may result in revoked transportation privileges. Class III Offenses will include suspension from the bus for the remainder of the year and follow Class III administrative options herein. Certain acts of misconduct will result in additional punitive action. This action will be decided, according to the administrative options for Class II or Class III offenses, as defined in the Student Code of Conduct. Parents/Guardians must provide transportation to and from school; as well as, Alternative School for students suspended from the bus. Any electronic device that is a distraction to the safe operation of a school bus will not be allowed; and, will be subject to student disciplinary action.

Bus Vandalism/ Destruction

The willful destruction of school bus property will result in restitution for parts and labor needed for repair. Students will lose transportation privileges until restitution is paid in full to the Houston County Board of Education.

** Vandalism that is considered a Class III offense will follow Class III actions outlined in the code of conduct. In addition restitution for damage will also be applied and transportation privileges will be revoked until restitution is paid in full.

The following can be in addition to any Class I or Class II offense (TBD by administration):

1st referral - may result in a 3 day suspension

2nd referral - may result in a 10 day suspension

3rd referral - may result in a 30 day suspension

4th referral – may result in a remainder of the academic year suspension

FIELD TRIPS/EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITES

Any student receiving the following may be exempt from attending a field trip and/or an extra-curricular activity (in-school games, plays, assemblies, etc.).

* Any student who commits two or more CLASS I offenses

* Any student who has been to Houston County Alternative School multiple times

* Any student who receives a CLASS III disciplinary action

NOTE: This will be determined by the school administration and the school's disciplinary committee.

PENDING CRIMINAL CHARGES

Any student charged with violating a local, state, and/or federal law which constitutes a felony offense, or that involves any violent crime or use of any type of weapon, shall not be allowed to return to school until the superintendent approves the return. The student may be allowed to attend Alternative School until the issue has been resolved through the court system pending superintendent's approval. Any work missed shall then be classified as excused and the student given an opportunity to make up work following the policies set forth by the Houston County Board of Education.

IDEA students who violate this policy shall be dealt with in accordance with the disciplinary methods outlined in the IDEA and Alabama Administrative Code 290-8-9-09 (1).

TRANSFER STUDENT WITH DISCIPLINE ISSUES

The Houston County Board of Education reserves the right to uphold any discipline action taken by student's previous school system. Students with discipline issues enrolling in a Houston County School must complete all discipline assignments before attending regular classes. This includes suspensions, alternative school placement, etc. **Students permanently expelled from another school system shall not be permitted to attend school in Houston County.**

DRESS CODE

School is a place of business and all school personnel and students should dress accordingly. Students are expected to maintain the highest possible standard of personal hygiene. This includes cleanliness (for example, daily bath and oral hygiene) as well as wearing neat and clean clothes. Students are also expected to choose their clothes in good taste, wearing only those clothes that are appropriate for an educational environment.

All school personnel and students are expected to comply with the dress code. The school administration, school counselor, or designated central office personnel may review an individual situation to determine whether a modification of a provision is required for the health and safety of a particular student or other compelling reasons.

The school administration will judge the appropriateness of any article of apparel.

Health and Safety

- A. Proper foot attire must be worn
- B. Students will not wear dark glasses inside the school building unless required to do so for medical reasons pursuant to doctor's written orders
- C. Jewelry (including piercings) that creates a hazardous condition (studded bracelets, necklaces, oversized earrings, etc.) will not be worn to school

The school administration will judge the appropriateness of any article of apparel.

Common Courtesy

- A. No head coverings on campus. Toboggans may be worn during cold weather outside of buildings and on the bus. Approval may be given for medical, religious, or safety reasons
- B. No Blankets

Dress vs Costume

- A. No halter tops, togas, hospital gowns, pajama outfits, bedroom slippers, etc.
- B. No costumes are allowed except when approved as a school-sponsored activity and must follow the guidelines of the Houston County Code of Conduct

Decency and Modesty

1. No see-through shirts, blouses, or pants; no clothes that bare the midriff or sides. Sundresses and backless dresses must be worn with jackets. No clothing with decals or slogans of unacceptable groups or language that contains and/or refers to suggestive or immoral behavior or profanity, gang activity, alcohol, drugs, or tobacco advertisements will be allowed
2. No lewd or vulgar sayings on clothing will be allowed. Clothing or insignia that could incite ill-feelings and racial problems will not be allowed
3. No short-shorts or tight shorts are allowed. Shorts may be worn if they are not shorter than mid-thigh in length and must be worn at the waist and no holes or mesh leggings above mid-thigh. This is applicable to males and females
4. Dress lengths that expose underclothing when sitting or standing are prohibited. Dresses/ Shirts worn over Pants must be worn securely above the hips and all belts fastened. Pants or shorts below the waist (SAG), suspenders, overalls and pants with snaps unfastened or undergarments visible above the waistband of the pants or shorts will not be allowed-applicable to males and females
5. Tops, blouses, shirts, and dresses must be at least 2" in width at the shoulders. No students will be allowed to wear spaghetti straps, racer backs, sleeveless muscle shirts, tank tops, etc.
6. Proper undergarments must be worn with all clothing
7. Clothing shall not be so tight or so low cut as to be revealing
8. Trench coats or any coat below hip length shall not be worn inside buildings
9. Shirts must cover the bottom when wearing leggings or jeggings.

Teachers have the authority to enforce the dress code and send the student to the office. The administration has the final authority to determine inappropriate dress. Exceptions may be made by the administration to any of the above when physical or other circumstances warrant or for certain groups during performance or special activities. Nonconformity to the dress code is a Class I Offense. After three (3) Class I Offenses, the next Class I will be classified as a Class II Offense.

NOTE: Principal's discretion for Grades 1st-5th.

Grades 6th -12th will adhere to the dress code as adopted.

MEDICATION

A student non-compliant with this policy is subject to disciplinary actions as determined by the principal / superintendent.

Medication Guidelines

If possible, all medications should be administered at home. When it is necessary for medications to be given at school, the following guidelines apply:

- All medications, whether prescribed or over-the-counter, must be brought to the school by the parent or guardian.
- Only medications in **unopened original packaging** can be accepted by the school. Please make your pharmacist aware of your need to have medicine taken at school and at home. Most will provide separate packaging.
- If prescription pills or tablets are brought to the school, both the parent and a staff person designated by the principal must count them together.
- Students may carry and use inhalers only with a physician's order.
- A medication can be administered at school only if Physician/Parent Authorization (PPA) to administer is on file with the school nurse. This includes prescription medications, cough drops or other over-the-counter products. Separate medicines require separate permission forms. Permissions expire at the end of the school year.
- A medication can be given only to the child for whom it is prescribed or purchased. Students, even from the same family, may not share medications.
- Medications not picked up by the last day of school or which go out of date during the school year will be destroyed. Prescription medications must be counted, measured and destroyed in the presence of at least two school staff members.
- Strengths, dosages, and methods of administration of over-the-counter medicines must be appropriate for student's age, weight, and condition.

School personnel are permitted only to use soap and water to clean cuts and abrasions. They may not use peroxide, alcohol, or other antiseptics.

Classroom Observations and Visits Procedure for Parents and Visitors

In order to maintain orderly, respectful, and secure educational environment for the students and staff of Houston County Schools, it is essential that all parents and visitors to our buildings and campuses be aware of their responsibilities and adhere to the policies set forth in the Houston County Schools' Policy Manual.

Campus Visits: All visitors must present a form of ID prior to being admitted beyond the office.

- d. All visitors must have the consent and approval of the principal/designee. Visitors are not permitted to go to any location on the school campus unannounced.
- e. All visitors must report immediately to the front office. They will be required to sign a visitor's register and obtain a visitor's pass. The pass must be displayed at all times while on campus. The visitor must sign out and return the visitor's badge/pass prior to the visitor's departure from campus.
- f. Children who are not enrolled in the school are not to be on the campus unless prior approval of the principal/designee has been obtained.
- g. Visitors will not willfully interfere with the discipline, order, or conduct in any school, classroom, or activity.
- h. Visitors will not disrupt class work, extracurricular activities or cause substantial disorder in a place where a school employee is required to perform his/her duties.
- i. Teachers are expected NOT to take class time to discuss individual matters with visitors. Those visitors should be sent to the main office to schedule appointments.
- j. Parents or guardians who come to the school building to drop off an item for a student must leave the item in the school office. Parents/guardians are not permitted to walk the item to the student, nor are they permitted to walk a student to his/her classroom.

Houston County Student Harassment/Bullying Report

Harassment/Bullying means a continuous pattern of intentional behavior that takes place on, or off, school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function including, but not limited to, written, electronic, verbal, or physical acts that are reasonably perceived as being motivated by any characteristic of a student, or by the association of a student with an individual who has a particular characteristic, if the characteristic falls into one of the categories of personal characteristics set forth below. To constitute harassment, a pattern of behavior may do any of the following:

- Place a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property.
- Have the effect of substantially interfering with the educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of a student.
- Have the effect of substantially disrupting or interfering with the orderly operation of the school.
- Have the effect of creating a hostile environment in the school, on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function.
- Have the effect of being sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.

The term “violence” as used in this policy means the infliction of physical force by a student with the intent to cause injury to another student or damage to the property of another student. The term “threat of violence” as used in this policy means an expression of intention to inflict injury or damage that is made by a student and directed to another student.

The term “intimidation” as used in this policy means a threat or other action that is intended to cause fear or apprehension in a student, especially for the purpose of coercing or deterring the student from participating in or taking advantage of any school program, benefit, activity or opportunity for which the student is or would be eligible.

The term “student” as used in this policy means a student who is enrolled in the Houston County School System.

Students are expected to treat other students with courtesy, respect, and dignity and comply with the Student Code of Conduct. Students are expected and required (1) to comply with the requirements of law, policy, regulation, and rules prohibiting harassment, violence, or intimidation; (2) to refrain from inflicting or threatening to inflict violence, injury, or damage to the person or property of another student; and (3) to refrain from placing another student in fear of being subjected to violence, injury, or damage when such actions or threats are reasonably perceived as being motivated by any personal characteristic of the student that is identified in this policy.

Violence, threats of violence, harassment, bullying, and intimidation are prohibited and will be subject to disciplinary consequences and sanctions if the perpetrator of such action is found to have based the prohibited action on one or more of the following personal characteristics of the victim of such conduct: race, sex, religion, national origin, or student’s disability.

Acts of reprisal or retaliation against any student who has reported a violation of this policy or sought relief provided by this policy are prohibited, and are themselves a violation of this policy. Any confirmed acts of reprisal or retaliation will be subject to disciplinary sanctions that may include any sanction, penalty, or consequence that is available to school officials under the Student Code of Conduct. A student who deliberately, recklessly, and falsely accuses another student of a violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary sanctions as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

HOUSTON COUNTY SCHOOLS HARASSMENT/BULLYING REPORT

DATE:

PERSON FILING REPORT:

Relationship to student- If not the student:

(parent, guardian, friend, etc.)

Contact information: Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone Number:

Description of harassing behavior:

If this is a minor allegation, do you wish for this incident to be presented and resolved informally? (**circle one**) YES or NO

Is there evidence of a threat of suicide by a student? If so, please explain:

**A student who deliberately, recklessly, and falsely accuses another student of a violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in the Houston County Student Code of Conduct

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Acknowledgment

I _____ enrolled in _____ School and my parent(s)/guardian hereby acknowledge by our signature that we have received and are responsible for reading, or having read to us, the foregoing Student Code of Conduct.

MEDIA WAIVER: The Houston County School System has permission to use my child's picture in publications and video for the purpose of promoting the Houston County School System and its programs.

(Signed) _____
PARENT/GUARDIAN

(Signed) _____
STUDENT

(Signed) _____
PARENT/GUARDIAN

(Signed) _____
PARENT/GUARDIAN

DATE: _____

NOTE: Please detach this page after reading and signing and have the student return it to their homeroom teacher. This ACKNOWLEDGMENT WILL BECOME A PART OF THE STUDENT'S CUMULATIVE FILE