



## BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

<b>Student Conduct: Code of Conduct (High School)</b>	<b>JICDA-H</b>	<b>6/8/11</b>
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### **RATIONALE/OBJECTIVE:**

The Cobb County School District (District) is dedicated to sound discipline practices in the continuing effort to provide students in the District an effective and safe learning environment, to promote learning, and to encourage maturity during the school day as well as during all school-related activities. The District also recognizes concerns for the welfare of students from their entry on a school bus or school property to their return to the bus stop or when they leave school property. Therefore, schools will take appropriate actions in an effort to provide students and staff a safe and orderly environment.

### **RULE:**

The following code provisions apply to offenses that students commit while on school property at any time, engaging in or attending a school-sponsored event, or while using the school technology resources. As used in this Code of Conduct:

A. School property includes, but is not limited to:

1. The land and improvements which constitute the school;
2. Any other property or building, including school bus stops, wherever located, where any school function or activity is conducted;
3. Any bus or other vehicle used in connection with school functions and activities, including but not limited to, school buses, buses leased by the District and privately-owned vehicles used for transportation to and from school activities; and
4. Personal belongings, automobiles or other vehicles which are located on school property.

B. School technology resources includes, but is not limited to:

1. Electronic media systems such as computers, electronic networks, messaging, and Web site publishing, and
2. The associated hardware and software programs used for purposes such as, but not limited to, developing, retrieving, storing, disseminating, and accessing instructional, educational, and administrative information.

**The decision to charge a student for violation of this Code of Conduct shall be made by the administration of the school. If the school administration is uncertain as to the interpretation of the Code of Conduct they are to contact Student Support or their respective Area Assistant Superintendent.**

### **I. DISCIPLINE LEVELS:**

#### **A. Level 1 Discipline:**

- Level 1 discipline is used for minor acts of misconduct which interfere with the good order of school.
- Following appropriate teacher intervention, students may be referred to an administrator.
- Consequences range from administrative conference to three (3) days of In-school Suspension (ISS) and/or restitution.

**B. Level 2 Discipline:**

- Level 2 discipline offenses are intermediate acts of misconduct.
- Students should be referred to an administrator.
- Consequences range from Saturday School and/or In-School Suspension (ISS) to five (5) days Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) and/or restitution.
- Repeated violations of any Level 2 offense may result in that violation being considered a Level 3 offense which may result in long term suspension/expulsion.

**C. Level 3 Discipline:**

- Level 3 discipline offenses are serious acts of misconduct including, but not limited to, repeated misbehaviors of a similar nature, serious disruptions of the school environment, threats to health, safety, or property and other acts of serious misconduct.
- Students must be referred to an administrator. Administrators will notify the appropriate Area Assistant Superintendent, Student Support, and the Cobb County School District Department of Public Safety (Public Safety), as well as other law enforcement agencies as deemed appropriate. Consequences range from out-of-school-suspension to permanent expulsion and may include referral to apply to the District's Alternative Education Program (AEP). All students accepted into the District's AEP will be on contract, which will include behavior and attendance objectives.
- **NOTE:** Any misconduct that threatens the health, safety, or well-being of others may result in immediate suspension of the student from the school and/or school-sponsored activities for up to ten (10) school days, pending disciplinary investigation of the allegations.
- **NOTE:** Schools may recommend that a student be considered eligible to apply to attend the AEP during his/her long-term suspension/expulsion. Upon this recommendation or a decision of the District Hearing Officer/Panel, expelled/long-term suspended students may attend AEP pursuant to a contract. If the student violates the terms of the contract, he/she may forfeit the opportunity to attend the AEP during the remainder of his/her expulsion or long-term suspension, pursuant to the Order of the Hearing Officer/Panel and/or the terms of the contract. The student may appeal his/her dismissal from the AEP to the District administrator for the supervision of the AEP. The student may also receive further discipline, in addition to the reinstatement of his/her expulsion or long-term suspension.

**D. Removing Disruptive Students from the Classroom:**

- The Superintendent and principals shall, and do, fully support the authority of every teacher in his/her school to remove from his/her class pursuant to Georgia Code 20-2-738. This code applies to a student who repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with students in the class or with the student's classmates' ability to learn where the student's behavior is in violation of the District Student Code of Conduct.
- The teacher shall follow his/her school's administrative referral guidelines and, when necessary, the procedures outlined in Administrative [Rule JKF](#) (Student Conduct: Removing Disruptive Students from the Classroom).

**E. Student Attendance/Conduct Relative to Georgia Driver's Licenses:**

- In addition to penalties specified in this Code of Conduct for attendance and selected conduct, students seventeen (17) years of age and younger may find their eligibility for a Georgia instruction permit or driver's license impacted by their school attendance and/or conduct.
- Students applying for an instruction permit or driver's license must obtain from their school a letter certifying that none of the following provisions apply to them at the time the letter is generated or for the preceding year. Schools are required to report any child fourteen (14) years of age or older who do not comply with the following

provisions:

- ◇ Have dropped out of school without graduating and has remained out of school for ten (10) consecutive days;
- ◇ Have more than ten (10) school days of unexcused absences in the current academic year or 10 or more school days of unexcused absences in the previous academic year (not including absences resulting from out-of-school suspension/expulsion); or
- ◇ Have been found in violation by a Hearing Officer/Tribunal, has received a change in placement for committing one of the following offenses or has waived his/her right to a hearing and pleaded guilty to one of the following offenses:
  - Threatening, striking, or causing bodily harm to a teacher or other school personnel;
  - Possession or sale of drugs or alcohol on school property or at a school sponsored event;
  - Possession or use of a weapon (as defined in Georgia Code Section 16-11-127.1) on school property or at a school sponsored event.
  - Any sexual offense prohibited under Chapter 6 of Title 16 of the Georgia Code; or
  - Causing substantial or visible bodily harm to or seriously disfiguring another person, including another student.

#### **F. Truancy:**

When a child is absent, parents, guardians, or other persons who have control of a child enrolled in the District should comply with Administrative [Rule JE](#) (Student Conduct: Attendance) and school guidelines to report reasons for absences. Georgia law requires that after any student accrues five (5) days of unexcused absences in a given school year, the parent, guardian, or other person who has control or charge of that child shall be in violation of Georgia Code Section 20-2-690.1(b). Any child that is subject to compulsory attendance who, during the school calendar year, has more than five days of unexcused absences is considered truant. The law states the following:

“Any parent, guardian, or other person residing in this state who has control or charge of a child or children and who shall violate this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine not less than \$25.00 and not greater than \$100.00, or imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, community service, or any combination of such penalties, at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction. Each day’s absence from school in violation of this part after the child’s school system notifies the parent, guardian, or other person who has control or charge of a child of five unexcused days of absence for a child shall constitute a separate offense.”

- Schools will notify parents/guardians when a student has accumulated five (5) unexcused absences.
- Schools will also notify parents/guardians of students 14 years of age and older when the student has accumulated seven (7) unexcused absences during the school year.
- Possible consequences may also include disposition for unruly children in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 15-11-67.

#### **G. REPORTING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT:**

In addition to discipline of students by the District, student conduct may be reported to appropriate law enforcement authorities. The District encourages parents/guardians to inform their children of the consequences, including potential criminal penalties, of underage sexual conduct and crimes for which a minor can be tried as an adult.

## **II. STUDENT OFFENSES:**

A student shall not violate any of the following rules of the Cobb County School District. Pursuant to State requirements, disciplinary levels have been assigned to each offense. These levels correspond to the disciplinary levels detailed above. However, Principals or designee working in conjunction with Student Support or their Area Assistant Superintendent may give greater discipline in egregious circumstances.

### **A. ALCOHOL/ILLEGAL DRUGS/INHALANTS:**

To determine whether a second or third offense has occurred, violations shall be cumulative beginning with violations occurring in or after the eighth grade and shall carry over from grades 8 through 12.

1. No student shall possess, consume, transmit, store, or be under any degree of influence of alcoholic beverages (including related products such as "near" beer, non-alcoholic beer, and non-alcoholic wine coolers) and/or illegal drugs, narcotics, hallucinogens, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana, or any other substance listed under the Georgia Controlled Substances Act or any substance believed by the student to be alcohol or an illegal drug. Legal intoxication is not required for violation of this Code of Conduct.
2. No student shall possess, transmit, store, buy, sell, distribute or possess with intent to sell any drug-related paraphernalia.
3. No student shall falsely present or identify a substance to be alcohol or an illegal drug.
4. No student shall buy, sell, or otherwise distribute or possess with intent to distribute or attempt to buy, sell, or otherwise distribute or possess with intent to distribute alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, narcotics, hallucinogens, amphetamines, barbiturates, or marijuana, or any other substance listed under the Georgia Controlled Substances Act, or any substance falsely identified as such, or is believed by the purchaser to be an alcoholic beverage or illegal drug, narcotics, hallucinogens, amphetamines, barbiturates, or marijuana, or any other substance listed under the Georgia Controlled Substances Act.
5. No student shall sniff or be under the influence of inhalants and/or other substances.
6. No student shall be in possession or under the influence of synthetic Cannabinoids such as "K-2" (Also Known as, Spice, Blayze II, RedBird, Mojo, VooDoo Magic, Spice Gold, Yucatan Fire, Demon and Serenity.) Level 2-3

### **Consequences for Possession or Personal Use:**

- **First Offense:**
  - ◇ Minimum of ten (10) days of out-of-school suspension.
  - ◇ Maximum is a recommendation for long-term suspension for at least the remainder of the current semester, up to expulsion for a specified time.
  - ◇ Contact Public Safety.
  - ◇ Option: The student may reduce the out-of-school suspension by three days by Attending the Gaining Results in Intervention and Prevention Program, **GRIP**, consisting of one four hour Saturday session attended by the student and the parent, or another comparable program approved by Prevention/Intervention. Failure to successfully complete this program will result in the student serving the full length of the suspension.
- **Second Offense:**
  - ◇ Ten (10) days of out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for long-term suspension for at least the remainder of the current semester, up to expulsion for a specified time.
  - ◇ Contact Public Safety.
- **Third Offense:**
  - ◇ Minimum of ten (10) days out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for expulsion from school for a period of one (1) calendar year, up to permanent expulsion.
  - ◇ Contact Public Safety.

## **Consequences for Buying, Selling, Distribution and Possession with Intent to Distribute:**

### **• First Offense:**

- ◇ Ten (10) days of out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for long-term suspension for at least the remainder of the current semester, up to expulsion for a specified time.

**NOTE:** Students shall have the option to attend **GRIP** but may not receive a reduced suspension.

- ◇ Contact Public Safety.

### **• Second Offense:**

- ◇ Ten (10) days of out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion for at least the remainder of the current school year, up to expulsion for a specified time.

- ◇ Contact Public Safety.

### **• Third Offense:**

- ◇ Ten (10) days of out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion for one (1) calendar year up to permanent expulsion.

- ◇ Contact Public Safety.

## **B. ATTENDANCE VIOLATIONS:**

**NOTE: Parking privileges also may be revoked for attendance violations.**

1. A student shall not be truant by failing to attend school in compliance with the Georgia Compulsory Attendance Laws. **(Level 1)**
2. No student shall be tardy for any class or activity for which he/she is enrolled without a valid excuse. **(Level 1)**
3. No student shall miss any class or activity for which he/she is enrolled without a valid excuse. **(Level 2)**
4. Students shall not leave school grounds during the course of the regularly scheduled school day without the permission of a parent/guardian and Principal or designee. Students must follow the established procedures for checking in or out of school. **(Level 2)**

## **C. BOMB THREATS:**

**Bomb threat is defined as:** Transmitting in any manner a false alarm to the effect that a bomb or other explosive of any nature is concealed on school property creating a potentially dangerous situation.

### **• First Offense:**

- ◇ Minimum of ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.
- ◇ Maximum is a recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion for a specified time.

- ◇ Contact Public Safety.

### **• Second Offense:**

- ◇ Minimum of ten (10) days out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for long-term suspension for at least the remainder of the current semester, up to expulsion for a specified time.

- ◇ Maximum is a recommendation for expulsion for one (1) calendar year.

- ◇ Contact Public Safety.

### **• Third and Subsequent Offenses:**

- ◇ Minimum of ten (10) days out-of-school with a recommendation for expulsion for one (1) calendar year.

- ◇ Maximum of ten (10) days out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for permanent expulsion.

- ◇ Contact Public Safety.

#### **D. BULLETS, BB'S, PAINT BALL PELLETS**

Students may not possess ammunition, BB's, paint pellets, or CO2 cartridges. These items are disruptive to the function of the school and may pose a safety risk.

**(Level 2-3).**

#### **E. BUS BEHAVIORS:**

Students shall follow all student behavior policies and regulations while at the bus stop and on school-provided transportation including, but not limited to, the prohibitions on physical violence, bullying, assault, battery, disrespectful conduct, or other unruly behavior.

In addition:

1. Students must keep all body parts inside the bus at all times. **(Level 1-3 and/or suspension from the bus for a specified time)**
2. Nothing may be thrown into, within, out of, or at the bus. **(Level 1-3 and/or suspension from the bus for a specified time)**
3. **Bus Disruption:**  
No student shall act in any manner so as to interfere with a driver's ability to safely drive the bus or another student's ability to ride the bus without harassing or loud distractions. Students must remain seated at all times unless directed by the driver. Students must remain quiet at all railroad crossings. **(Level 1-3 and/or suspension from the bus for a specified time)**
4. Emergency doors and windows are to be used only at the direction of the driver. **(Level 1-3 and/or suspension from the bus for a specified time)**
5. Students may not ride a bus or disembark a bus at a bus stop other than that assigned for their residence without submitting a written request from their parent/guardian to the Principal or designee for approval. **(Level 1-3 and/or suspension from the bus for a specified time)**
6. Students shall not use any electronic devices during the operation of a school bus, including but not limited to: cell phones; pagers; audible radios, tape players, and compact disc players without headphones; or any other electronic device that may interfere with the bus' communication equipment or the driver's operation of the school bus. Students may not use any electronic device to video or audio record while on school provided transportation vehicles. **(Level 1-3 and/or suspension from the bus for a specified time)**
7. Students shall not use mirrors, lasers, flashing lights, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective surfaces in a manner, which might interfere with the operation of the school bus. **(Level 1-3 and/or suspension from the bus for a specified time)**
8. Students who commit sexual offenses, physical offenses against students, or physical offenses against District employees (as defined elsewhere in this Code of Conduct) on the school bus will receive penalties for the offense(s) as specified in this Code of Conduct for these offenses and may also be suspended from the bus for a specified time.

**If a student has been found to have engaged in battery, acts of physical violence, bullying or physical threats on the school bus, the student's parent/guardian shall be required to meet with the Principal or designee to execute a bus behavior contract. Additional bus behaviors are addressed through the District's Safe Rider Program.**

#### **F. Personal COMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONIC DEVICES:**

1. Students shall not use, display, or turn on communication beepers, cellular phones, video phones, or electronic devices during the **instructional time**. **The Principal shall determine specified times on campus when cell phones and other electronic devices may be used** and will publish this information in student handbooks, the school website, on posters, and/or by other means. No such devices may be used at any time on school-operated vehicles, including buses. **(Level 1)**

2. Students shall not use personal technology resources to distribute or display inappropriate material. Inappropriate material does not serve an instructional or educational purpose and includes but is not limited to the following:
  - Is profane, vulgar, lewd, obscene, offensive, indecent, sexually explicit, pornographic or threatening;
  - Advocates illegal or dangerous acts;
  - Causes disruption to the District, its employees or students;
  - Advocates violence;
  - Contains knowingly false, recklessly false, or defamatory information; or
  - Is otherwise harmful to minors as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act.
  - **Penalty: (Level 2-3 and contact Public Safety)**
3. Students shall not use personal technology devices to access chat rooms/social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter or My Space during the regular school day. **(Level 1-2)**
4. Students shall not use audio or visual recording devices without the permission of a school administrator or as permitted by Rule CFIA(Monitoring-Recording Staff and Students). This includes, but is not limited to, using recording devices to video or record misbehaviors or to violate the privacy of others. **( Level 1-3)**

**G. DISRESPECTFUL CONDUCT:**

1. No student shall use any type of profane, vulgar, obscene or ethnically offensive language (written or oral) or gestures. **(Level 2-3)**
2. No student shall possess or distribute profane, vulgar, pornographic, obscene, or ethnically offensive materials. **(Level 1-2)**
3. A student shall not use profane, obscene, or abusive language (written or oral) or gestures toward District personnel or other adults on school property or at school sponsored events. **(Level 2-3)**
4. **Insubordination:** All students shall comply with reasonable directions or commands of authorized District personnel or designees. **(Level 1- 3)**
5. All students shall comply with the directions of a staff member to remove themselves from the location of a disruptive situation. **(Level 1-3)**.
6. No student shall refuse to identify one's self upon request of any District employee or designee. **(Level 1-2)**
7. No student shall repeatedly violate the school dress code. **(Level 1-2)**
8. No student shall fail to attend Saturday School or In-School-Suspension. **(Level 1-2)**

**H. DISRUPTION OF SCHOOL:**

1. **Class Disruption:** No students shall intentionally make noise or act in any other manner so as to interfere with a teacher's ability to conduct a class or a student's ability to learn. **(Level 1-3)**
2. **School Disruption:** No student shall, in any manner, by the use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, or any other conduct, intentionally cause the disruption of any lawful mission, process or function of the school, or engage in any such conduct for the purpose of causing the disruption or obstruction of any such lawful mission, process or function. **(Level 1-3)**
3. Students shall not be on the campus of a school in which they are not enrolled during that school's hours or while that school is operational without permission from that school's administration. Students also may not enter a school building after hours without express permission. **(Level 2-3)**
4. Students may not return to campus or attend any school function while on suspension. **(Level 2-3)**
5. Students may not be present in an unauthorized area. **(Level 1-2)**
6. Students shall not occupy nor block the entrance/exit of any school building, gymnasium, school grounds, properties or parts(s) thereof with the intent to deprive others of its use, or when the effect thereof is to deprive others of such use.

**(Level 1-3)**

7. Students shall not prevent or attempt to prevent the convening or continued functioning of any activity or lawful meeting or assembly on the school campus.

**(Level 1-3)**

8. Students shall not prevent students from attending a class or school activity.

**(Level 1-3)**

9. No student shall, except under the direct instruction of the Principal, block normal pedestrian or vehicular traffic on a school campus or adjacent grounds. **(Level 1-3)**

10. No student shall be involved in a serious verbal altercation that disrupts the school, class or school activity. **(Level 2-3)**

**I. FALSE REPORTS:**

1. No student shall knowingly and willfully make false reports or statements whether orally or in writing; falsely accuse other students of wrong actions; falsely accuse District employees of wrong action or inappropriate conduct; falsify school records; or forge signatures. **(Level 1-2)**
2. No student shall make false calls to emergency services or report false fire alarms which create a potentially dangerous interruption to the normal school operation and to both the physical and emotional well-being of students and staff.

**a. False Call to Emergency Services:**

No student shall knowingly make or cause a false call to emergency services to be made.

**• First Offense:**

- ◇ Minimum of five (5) days out-of-school suspension.
- ◇ Maximum is a recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion for a specified time.
- ◇ Contact Public Safety.

**• Second Offense:**

- ◇ Minimum of ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.
- ◇ Maximum is a recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion for a specified time.
- ◇ Contact Public Safety.

**• Third and Subsequent Offenses:**

- ◇ Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for long-term suspension for at least the remainder of the current semester, up to expulsion for a specified time.
- ◇ Contact Public Safety.

**b. False Fire Alarms:**

No student shall knowingly give or cause a false fire alarm to be given.

**• First Offense:**

- ◇ Minimum of five (5) days out-of-school suspension.
- ◇ Maximum is a recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion for a specified time.
- ◇ Contact Public Safety.

**• Second Offense:**

- ◇ Minimum of ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.
- ◇ Maximum is a recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion for a specified time.
- ◇ Contact Public Safety.

**• Third and Subsequent Offenses:**

- ◇ Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for long-term suspension for at least the remainder of the current semester, up to permanent expulsion.
- ◇ Contact Public Safety.

**J. GAMBLING:**

No student shall participate in any type of gambling activity as defined by state law or that involves the wagering or betting of services, money or other items. **(Level 1-2)**

**K. GANG RELATED ACTIVITY:**

To determine whether a second or third offense has occurred, violations shall be cumulative beginning with violations occurring in or after the eighth grade and shall carry over from grades 8 through 12.

A "gang" is defined as any group or association of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, which encourages, solicits, promotes, urges, counsels, furthers, advocates, condones, assists, causes, advises, procures, or abets any illegal or disruptive activity or behavior of any kind, whether on or off school campuses or school property.

1. No student shall engage in any activity while participating in a gang which interferes with the orderly conduct of school activities, with discipline in the schools, or with the rights of other students or faculty members.
2. No student shall display identified gang tattoos. **(Level 2-3)**
3. No student shall hold himself/herself out as a member of a gang. **(Level 2-3)**
4. No student shall recruit or solicit membership in any gang or gang-related organization.
5. No student shall engage in any other gang-related behavior which is subversive to good order and discipline in the schools, even though such behavior is not specified in the preceding written rules.

**Penalties for Gang Related Activity: (K-1, K-4 and K-5 above)**

• **First Offense:**

- ◇ Minimum of five (5) days out-of-school suspension.
- ◇ Maximum of ten (10) days out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion for a specified time.

• **Second Offense:**

- ◇ Minimum of ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.
- ◇ Maximum is a recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion for a specified time.

• **Third and Subsequent Offenses:**

- ◇ Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for long-term suspension for at least the remainder of the current semester, up to permanent expulsion.

**L. HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, THREATS (VERBAL, WRITTEN OR ELECTRONIC), AND BULLYING BEHAVIOR:**

**Harassment is defined as:** Intentional, substantial, and unreasonable verbal, physical or written contact that is initiated, maintained, or repeated. No student shall engage in harassment, intimidation or abuse of or toward **any** other student(s), District employees or other adults for **any** reason. This prohibition includes but is not limited to harassment, intimidation or abuse of students or others based on actual or perceived race, creed, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or a physical characteristic. **(Level 2-3)**

2. No student shall threaten, either verbally, in writing, electronically, or by physical presence, expressed or implied, or conspire to cause bodily injury to any student, District employee or non-District employee. **(Level 2-3)**

3. **Bullying:**

No student shall bully another student or students. **(Level 2-3)**; If the third offense occurs within one school year, as determined by a hearing officer/tribunal, the student shall be expelled for at least one calendar year, but will be assigned to the AEP during this discipline.

**Bullying behavior is defined as:**

- Willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so or;
- Intentionally exhibiting a display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm, or;
- Any intentional written, verbal or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass or intimidate that:
  - Causes substantial physical harm or bodily harm capable of being perceived by a person other than the victim and may include, but is not limited to, substantially blackened eyes, substantially swollen lips or other facial or body parts, or substantial bruises to body parts;
  - Has the effect of substantially interfering with the victim student's education;
  - Is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
  - Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Parents/guardians of students who are victims of bullying or are found to have committed bullying behaviors will be notified via conference or letter/referral. Staff members should report instances of these behaviors to school administration immediately so that administrators may review them in a timely manner.

Employees, volunteers, students and parents/guardians/other persons that have control of students may report or otherwise provide information on bullying activity to a school administrator anonymously if they choose. No person who reports bullying behaviors will be retaliated against by any school employee. Students who retaliate against others for reports of bullying behavior are subject to discipline which may include enhanced consequences. Students who knowingly file a false report of bullying will also be disciplined.

**M. INCENDIARY DEVICES:**

No student shall possess, light, and/or discharge smoke bombs, stink bombs, fireworks, cigarette lighters, matches, or similar devices. **(Level 2)**

**N. OFF-CAMPUS OFFENSES:**

Off-campus misconduct for which a student shall be disciplined includes, but is not limited to, any off-campus conduct that is:

- Prohibited by the Georgia or United States criminal codes; **AND**
- Punishable as a **FELONY** or would be punishable as a felony if committed by an adult; **AND**
- Conduct for which a student has been arrested, indicted, adjudicated to have committed, or convicted; **AND**
- Conduct which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process. **(Level 2-3 and contact Public Safety)**

**O. OTHER BEHAVIORS:**

No student shall participate in any activity that is subversive to good order and discipline of the school not specifically addressed in the other sections of this Code of Conduct (Possession or use of counterfeit money or forged official school forms is included in this category). **(Level 1-3)**

**P. OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATION:**

Possession of all over-the-counter medication on school property must be in compliance with Administrative [Rule JLCD](#) (Student Welfare: Medication). A student is prohibited from selling, distributing, or possessing with intent to distribute any over-the-counter medication. Over the counter medications specifically include, but are not limited to, nicotine replacement therapies such as nicotine gum and candy, nicotine lozenges, nicotine patches, nicotine inhalers, nicotine nasal sprays and the like. **(Level 1-3)**

#### **Q. PARTIES TO THE OFFENSE:**

No student shall urge, encourage, counsel, further, promote, assist, cause, advise, procure, or abet any other student(s) to violate any section or paragraph of this Cobb County Code of Conduct. **(Level 1-3)**

#### **R. PHYSICAL OFFENSES:**

Principals or designees will continue to exercise professional discretion in determining incidents of horseplay, intentional spitting, physical altercation, fighting or physical bullying, or self defense as defined by Georgia law in O.C.G.A. § 16-3-21. Principals or designees will have the authority to assign consequences based on behavior related to specific incidents. This may include differentiated discipline assigned on a case by case basis. The minimum consequences for prohibited behaviors will apply as noted in this Code of Conduct and other District Administrative Rules.

**NOTE: R-6, R-7, R-9 and R-10 carry over in Grades 8-12.**

1. No student shall use any device, chemical, irritant, or substance in a manner inconsistent with its intended or prescribed use, or in a manner designed to cause harm, physical irritation, or allergic reaction. Examples include, but are not limited to, directing a laser optical pointer or similar device at another person's eyes, and applying "itching powder" or like substances to another person. **(Level 1-2)**
2. Students may not possess or use any device designed to produce a mild electrical shock. **(Level 1-2)**
3. Students shall not engage in rough or boisterous activities. **(Level 1-2)**
4. No student shall participate in any kind of physical altercation. **(Level 2-3)**
5. No student shall participate in any kind of physical harassment (This can include forms of hazing [Administrative [Rule JJ](#) {Student Activities: School Clubs/Organizations and Student Organizations}], intentionally spitting, shanking). **(Level 2-3)**
6. No student shall participate in any type of fighting.
  - **First Offense of Fighting:**
    - ◇ Minimum of five (5) days out-of-school suspension.
    - ◇ Maximum of ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.
  - **Second Offense of Fighting:**
    - ◇ Minimum of ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.
    - ◇ Maximum is a recommendation for long-term suspension for at least the remainder of the current semester, up to expulsion for a specified time.
  - **Third and Subsequent Offenses of Fighting:**
    - ◇ Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for long-term suspension for at least the remainder of the current semester, up to expulsion for a specified time which may include permanent expulsion.
7. No student shall gang up with any student or students to physically attack another student or other persons.
  - **First Offense:**
    - ◇ Minimum of ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.
    - ◇ Maximum is a recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion for a specified time.
    - ◇ Contact Public Safety.
  - **Second and Subsequent Offenses:**
    - ◇ Minimum of ten (10) days out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion for a specified time.
    - ◇ Contact Public Safety.
8. **Physical Threat of a Student or a Person who is not a District Employee:**  
**Physical Threat is defined as:**
  - When a student attempts to commit a violent injury to the person of another; or
  - Commits an act which places another in reasonable apprehension of immediately

receiving a physical injury.

- **First Offense:**

- ◇ Minimum of five (5) days out-of-school suspension.
- ◇ Maximum is a recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion for a specified time.

- **Second Offense:**

- ◇ Minimum of ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.
- ◇ Maximum is a recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion for a specified time.

- **Third and Subsequent Offenses:**

- ◇ Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for long-term suspension for at least the remainder of the current semester, up to expulsion for a specified time which may include permanent expulsion.

9. **Battery on a Student or a Person who is not a District Employee:**

**Battery is defined as when a student:**

- Intentionally causes physical harm to a person; or
- Causes or attempts to cause injury, or behaves in such a way as to cause physical injury to a student.

- **First Offense:**

- ◇ Minimum of ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.
- ◇ Maximum is a recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion for a specified time.
- ◇ Contact Public Safety.

- **Second Offense:**

- ◇ Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for long-term suspension for at least the remainder of the current semester, up to expulsion for a specified time.
- ◇ Contact Public Safety.

- **Third and Subsequent Offenses:**

- ◇ Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for long-term suspension for at least the remainder of the current semester, up to expulsion for a specified time and may include permanent expulsion.
- ◇ Contact Public Safety.

10. **Physical Offenses upon District Employees:**

To determine whether a second or third offense has occurred, violations shall be cumulative beginning with violations occurring in or after the eighth grade and shall carry over from grades 8 through 12.

a. **Physical Threat:**

**Physical Threat is defined as:** When a student attempts to commit a violent injury to a staff member; or commits an act which places a staff member in reasonable apprehension of immediately receiving a serious or violent injury.

- **Hearing:**

If a student commits an act of physical threat (assault) upon a District employee, a mandatory disciplinary hearing shall be held in accordance with Administrative [Rule JKDB](#) (Student Conduct: Disciplinary Hearings: Long-Term Suspension/Expulsion) regardless of the recommended discipline, unless the hearing is waived. A disciplinary hearing regarding a recommendation for a short-term out-of-school suspension (10 days OSS or less) may be waived by the employee. A disciplinary hearing regarding a recommendation for a long-term out-of-school suspension (11 days OSS or more) may be waived by both the employee and the parent/guardian/student over 18.

- **First Offense:**

- ◇ Minimum of ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.
- ◇ Maximum of ten (10) days out-of-school suspension with a recommendation

for long-term suspension/expulsion for a specified time.

- **Second Offense:**

- ◊ Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for long-term suspension for at least the remainder of the current semester, up to expulsion for a specified time.

- **Third and Subsequent Offenses:**

- ◊ Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for long-term suspension for at least the remainder of the current semester, up to expulsion for a specified time and may include permanent expulsion.

b. **Physical Violence Without Harm:**

No student shall intentionally make physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person of a District employee, unless such contact was in self-defense, as provided in Georgia law in O.C.G.A. § 16-3-21.

- **Hearing:**

If a student commits an act of physical violence upon a District employee, a mandatory disciplinary hearing shall be held in accordance with Administrative [Rule JKDB](#) (Student Conduct: Disciplinary Hearings: Long-Term Suspension/Expulsion), regardless of the recommended discipline, unless the hearing is waived. A disciplinary hearing regarding a recommendation for short-term out-of-school suspension (10 days OSS or less) may be waived by the employee. A disciplinary hearing regarding a recommendation for a long-term out-of-school suspension (11 days OSS or more) may be waived by both the employee and the parent/guardian/student over 18.

- **First Offense:**

- ◊ Minimum of ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.
- ◊ Maximum is a recommendation for long-term suspension for at least the remainder of the current semester, up to expulsion for a specified time.
- ◊ Contact Public Safety.

- **Second and Subsequent Offenses:**

- ◊ Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for long-term suspension for at least the remainder of the current semester, up to expulsion for a specified time which may include permanent expulsion.
- ◊ Contact Public Safety.

c. **Physical Violence With Harm:**

No student shall intentionally make physical contact, which causes physical harm to a District employee unless such physical contacts or physical harm were in self-defense, as provided in Georgia law in O.C.G.A. § 16-3-21.

- **Hearing:**

If a student commits an act of physical violence upon a District employee, a mandatory disciplinary hearing shall be held in accordance with Administrative [Rule JKDB](#) (Student Conduct: Disciplinary Hearings: Long-Term Suspension/Expulsion), regardless of the recommended discipline unless the hearing is waived by both the student's parent/guardian/the student if over 18 and the employee.

- Minimum of ten (10) days out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for permanent expulsion.
- In accordance with Administrative [Rule JKDB](#), the Hearing Officer/Panel may allow an expelled student to apply to attend the AEP.

**S. PRESCRIPTION DRUGS:**

No student shall be in possession of prescription medication not prescribed for the student. All prescription medication prescribed for a student must be in compliance with Administrative [Rule JLCD](#) (Student Welfare: Medication). In addition, a student shall not sell, distribute, or possess with intent to distribute any prescribed medication on school property. **(Level 2-3)**

**NOTE:** If the prescription drug is a controlled substance under the Georgia Controlled Substances Act, the student shall be found to have violated Section II, Paragraph A, Alcohol/Illegal Drugs/Inhalants, and shall be disciplined according to that Section.

**NOTE: Violations of this paragraph are cumulative in Grades 8-12.**

#### **T. PROPERTY RELATED OFFENSES:**

**Note:** Parents/guardians and/or students will be held responsible for restitution of the full value of any damaged or stolen property (Administrative [Rule ECAD](#) [District Property Replacement/Restitution]).

1. No student shall intentionally cause substantial damage to personal property belonging to a District employee or another student. **(Level 2-3)**
2. No student shall set fire to any private property or school property either while on school grounds or off school grounds during a school activity, function, or event. **(Level 2-3 and contact Public Safety)**
3. No student shall attempt to, threaten to, or actually damage, destroy, vandalize, or steal private property or school property on school grounds. **(Level 2-3 and contact Public Safety)**
4. No student shall attempt to, threaten to, or actually damage, destroy, vandalize, or steal private property or school property off school grounds during a school activity, function or event. **(Level 2-3 and contact Public Safety)**
5. No student shall possess stolen private property or school property on school grounds. **(Level 2-3 and contact Public Safety)**

#### **U. SEXUAL OFFENSES:**

Sexual offenses are prohibited against members of the same sex as well as members of the opposite sex. See Administrative [Rule JICK](#) (Student Conduct: Sexual Harassment), for further requirements, information and explanation.

##### **1. Sexual Misconduct:**

- a. No student shall be engaged in amorous kissing, other inordinate displays of affection. **(Level 1-2)**
- b. No student shall consent to and participate in any form of sexual activity. **(Level 2-3 and contact Public Safety)**
- c. No student shall expose one's intimate body parts or "moon" in public. Intimate body parts include the primary genital area, anus, groin, inner thighs, or buttocks of a male or female and the breasts of a female. **(Level 2)**
- d. No student shall commit any act of verbal, written, gesture-oriented, or physical sexual misconduct on school property, school buses, at school-sponsored events, or while using school technology resources. **(Level 2-3)**

##### **2. Sexual Harassment:**

**Note:** See Administrative [Rule JICK](#) (Student Conduct: Sexual Harassment), for further requirements, information and explanation.

- a. No student shall participate in verbal or visual conduct of a sexual nature (including, but not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually offensive slurs, sexually offensive drawings, photographs or posters directed towards another person) where there is a pattern of harassing behavior or a single significant incident. **(Level 2-3)**
- b. No student shall participate in physical conduct of a sexual nature (including, but not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances or gestures) where there is a pattern of harassing behavior or a single significant incident. **(Level 2-3 and contact Public Safety)**

##### **3. Sexual Battery:**

Sexual battery is defined as a student intentionally making physical contact with the intimate parts of the body of another person without the consent of that person. Intimate body parts include the primary genital area, anus, groin, inner thighs, or buttocks of a male or female and the breasts of a female. No student shall commit any

act of sexual battery on school property, school buses, or at school-sponsored events.

- **First Offense:**

- ◇ Minimum of ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.
- ◇ Maximum of ten (10) days out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion for a specified time.
- ◇ Notify Student Support and/or the Area Assistant Superintendent.
- ◇ Contact Public Safety.

- **Second Offense:**

- ◇ Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for long-term suspension for at least the remainder of the current semester, up to expulsion for a specified time.
- ◇ Notify Student Support and/or the Area Assistant Superintendent.
- ◇ Contact Public Safety.

- **Third and Subsequent Offenses:**

- ◇ Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for long-term suspension for at least the remainder of the current semester, up to expulsion for a specified time which may include permanent expulsion.
- ◇ Notify Student Support and/or the Area Assistant Superintendent.
- ◇ Contact Public Safety.

4. **Sexual Molestation:**

Sexual molestation is defined as a student doing any immoral or indecent act to or in the presence of another person, without that person's consent, with the intent to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of either the student or the other person. This includes a student forcing another person to make physical contact with the student's intimate body parts, as defined in this Section. No student shall commit any act of sexual molestation or the attempts thereof on school property, school buses, or at school-sponsored events.

- **First Offense:**

- ◇ Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for long-term suspension for at least the remainder of the current semester, up to expulsion for a specified time which may include permanent expulsion and a referral to Prevention/Intervention.
- ◇ Call Student Support and/or the Area Assistant Superintendent.
- ◇ Contact Public Safety.
- ◇ Any student found guilty of violating this provision will be subject to an administrative placement to a different school, after the term of discipline has been completed.

- **Second or Subsequent Offenses:**

- ◇ Minimum of ten (10) days out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for expulsion for one (1) calendar year.
- ◇ Maximum is a recommendation for permanent expulsion.
- ◇ Call Student Support and/or the Area Assistant Superintendent.
- ◇ Contact Public Safety.
- ◇ Any student found guilty of violating this provision will be subject to an administrative placement to a different school, after the term of discipline has been completed. Parents/guardians are responsible for transportation to the assigned school.

**V. STIMULANTS:**

**NOTE:** If the stimulant is a controlled substance under the Georgia Controlled Substances Act, the student shall be found to have violated Section II, Paragraph A, Alcohol/Illegal Drugs/Inhalants, and shall be disciplined according to the Section.

A student shall not consume, possess, sell, distribute, or possess with intent to distribute diet pills, caffeine pills, or other stimulant on school property. **(Level 2-3)**

## W. DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY OFFENSES:

All students using school technology must have a signed Internet use form ([Form JICDA-3](#) [Receipt of the *Parent Information Guide*]) on file with the school. Unauthorized access and prohibited behaviors are fully discussed and defined in Administrative [Rule IJNDB](#) (Use of Technology Resources in Instruction). School technology cannot be used for other than school related purposes.

1. Students will not purposely look for security problems because such action may be considered an unauthorized attempt to gain access to school technology resources. **(Level 2-3 and contact Public Safety)**
2. Students will not attempt to or disrupt the school technology resources by destroying, altering or otherwise modifying technology. Hacking is strictly prohibited. **(Level 3 and contact Public Safety)**
3. Students will not use school technology resources to solicit business, advertise, or engage in any other selling activities in support of non-school related fund-raising or private business enterprises. **(Level 1-3)**
4. Students will not engage in any activity that monopolizes, wastes or compromises school technology resources. **(Level 2-3)**
5. Students will not copy computer programs, software or other technology provided by the District for personal use. Downloading unauthorized files is strictly prohibited. **(Level 1-3)**
6. No student shall attempt to, threaten to, or actually damage, destroy, vandalize, or steal private property or school property while using school technology resources on or off school grounds. **(Level 2-3, restitution and contact Public Safety)**
7. Students will not use school technology resources to distribute or display inappropriate material. Inappropriate material does not serve an instructional or educational purpose and includes but is not limited to the following:
  - Is profane, vulgar, lewd, obscene, offensive, indecent, sexually explicit, pornographic or threatening;
  - Advocates illegal or dangerous acts;
  - Causes disruption to the District, its employees or students;
  - Advocates violence;
  - Contains knowingly false, recklessly false, or defamatory information; or
  - Is otherwise harmful to minors as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act.**• Penalty: (Level 2-3 and contact Public Safety)**
8. Students shall not commit any other prohibited act discussed in Administrative [Rule IJNDB](#) (Use of Technology Resources in Instruction). This includes any modification of school records. **(Level 1-3)**
9. Students may not use school technology devices to access chat rooms/social networks networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter or My Space. **(Level 1-2)**
10. Students may not use audio or visual recording devices without the permission of a school administrator or as permitted by Rule CFIA (Monitoring-Recording Staff and Students). This includes, but is not limited to, using recording devices to video or record misbehaviors or to violate the privacy of others. **(Level 1-3)**

## X. TOBACCO:

Student possession or use of tobacco or tobacco product substitutes (e.g., tobacco look-a-likes, such as "Bacoff") and cigarette look-alikes on school property and at school-sponsored events is prohibited. Offenses are cumulative during students' attendance in high school.

- **First Offense:** Out-of-School Suspension for two (2) school days.
- **Second Offense:** Out-of-School Suspension for three (3) school days.
- **Third and Subsequent Offenses:** Out-of-School Suspension for five (5) school days.

## Y. WEAPONS:

A student who wants to use a weapon or look-alike weapon in an exhibit, presentation, or

activity in a classroom or at a school-sponsored event must comply with the following requirements:

- Verbal approval of the teacher in whose class the weapon will be used;
- Prior written permission from the Principal which includes a description of the weapons authorized and the time period during which the weapons may be on campus;
- Transport of the weapon or look-alike weapon to and from the school by the parent/guardian of the student making the request; and
- The teacher or school administration storing the weapon or look-alike weapon in a secure location when it is not being used in the above classroom activities.

**Prohibition:** A student shall not possess, handle, transmit, or cause to be transmitted; use or threaten to use; sell, attempt to sell, or conspire to sell a weapon, either concealed or open to view, on school property. All weapons shall be confiscated and given to Public Safety or other law enforcement agencies as appropriate. The disposition of confiscated weapons shall be determined by the Superintendent or his/her designated school official, in conjunction with law enforcement.

**Note:** The definition of "weapon" for purposes of this Code of Conduct is one that includes, but is not limited to, the following items:

#### **Category I Weapon:**

To determine whether a second or third offense has occurred, violations shall be cumulative beginning with violations occurring in or after the eighth grade and shall carry over from grades 8 through 12.

Any loaded or unloaded firearm. A firearm includes any weapon which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by action of an explosive (e.g., pistol, starter gun, revolver, rifle, shotgun); the frame or receiver of any weapon described above; any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, which includes a bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine, or similar device; any weapon which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter; and any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described in the two immediately preceding examples, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled.

#### **• First and Subsequent Offenses:**

- ◇ **Loaded or Unloaded Firearm:** The penalty for any student possessing a loaded or unloaded firearm on school property is ten (10) days out-of-school suspension and a recommendation for expulsion for a specified time that will be no less than one (1) calendar year as provided in Georgia law and may include permanent expulsion.
- ◇ All other weapon offenses other than those involving a firearm are considered Level 3 offenses.
- ◇ The Cobb County Board of Education has the authority to modify these expulsion requirements on a case-by-case basis.
- ◇ Notify the appropriate Area Assistant Superintendent and Student Support.
- ◇ Contact Public Safety.

#### **Category II Weapon:**

To determine whether a second or third offense has occurred, violations shall be cumulative beginning with violations occurring in or after the eighth grade and shall carry over from grades 8 through 12.

Any pellet gun (including but not limited to, air soft gun paint pellet gun, or BB gun), antique firearm, or any similar weapon that does not meet the definition of a Category I

weapon; any knife having a blade of two or more inches (e.g., Bowie, Dirk, machete, switchblade knife, ballistics knife); any razor blade (e.g., straight, regular, retractable, etc.); boxcutter; any defensive device (e.g., stun-gun, laser); any bludgeon (e.g. billy club, PR-24, night stick, blackjack, club); mace, pepper gas or like substances, (mere possession of pepper gas or like substances is not a violation of this Code of Conduct unless the administration determines that the student brought it to school with the intent to harm another; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; "look-alike" bomb; any "martial arts" device (e.g., Chinese Star, nunchaku, dart, etc.) miscellaneous devices such as swords, sword/knife canes, ice picks, chains, bow and arrows, brass/metal knuckles, objects placed on fingers, in hands, or on fists or knuckles to provide a "loaded fist," etc. or any tool or instrument which the school administration could reasonably conclude as being used as a weapon or intended by the student to be used as a weapon and thus a violation of the intent of this Code of Conduct.

• **First Offense:**

- ◇ Minimum of ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.
- ◇ Maximum is a recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion for a specified time which may include permanent expulsion.
- ◇ Contact Public Safety.

• **Second and Subsequent Offenses:**

- ◇ Minimum of ten (10) days out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion for a specified time.
- ◇ Maximum is a recommendation for long-term suspension for at least the remainder of the current semester, up to permanent expulsion.
- ◇ Contact Public Safety.

**Category III Weapon:**

Any knife or instrument having a blade of less than two inches, any "look-alike" firearm, or plastic disposable razor or sling shot.

• **First Offense:**

- ◇ Minimum of five (5) day out-of-school suspension.
- ◇ Maximum is a recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion for a specified time.
- ◇ Contact Public Safety.

• **Second and Subsequent Offenses:**

- ◇ Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for long-term suspension/expulsion for a specified time which may include permanent expulsion.
- ◇ Contact Public Safety.

**III. CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS:**

The names of student clubs and organizations, as defined by Administrative [Rule JJ](#) (School Clubs and Student Organizations) the mission or purpose of such clubs or organizations, the names of the club's or organization's contacts or faculty advisors, and a description of past or planned activities will be available in student handbooks, school-provided information and/or on school Websites for each school. This information is updated periodically throughout the year and is available on the school's Website, which may be accessed at [www.cobbk12.org](http://www.cobbk12.org), and/or the school's administrative office. Also see Administrative [Rule JJIC](#) (Student Activities: Standards for Student Participation in Extracurricular Activities) and Administrative [Rule JICDD](#) (Student Conduct: Interscholastic/Extracurricular Activities).

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