

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

Carole L. Andrews, *Chairperson*
Stephanie Arma Kraft, Esq., *Vice Chairperson*
Judie S. Budnick
Darla L. Carter
Beverly A. Gallagher
Robert D. Parks, Ed.D.
Martin Rubinstein
Lois Wexler
Benjamin J. Williams

Dr. Frank Till
Superintendent of Schools

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT COMMITTEE

SCHOOL AND DISTRICT STAFF

Martha Archer, BTU, South Plantation High School
Jorge Balmori, Bilingual/
Foreign Language Education and ESOL Education
Florence Bastien, Diversity and Cultural Outreach
Larry Benson, Guidance, Sunset School
Minerva Casanas-Simon,
Diversity and Cultural Outreach Committee
Maria Colon, Equal Educational Opportunities
Crystal Evans, BTU, Lake Forest Elementary
Tera Faso, Career, Technical, and
Adult/ Community Education
Linda Getz, McFatter Technical High School
Laura Holt, School of Social Work and Attendance
Jana Jaffe, BTU, Plantation Middle School
Judith Lane, Psychological Services
Beth Miller-Lindsay, BTU, Seagull School
Peggy Morrison-Thurston, Dropout Prevention
Susan Rose, BTU, Nob Hill Elementary School
Dr. Dierdre Satterwhite-Wilson, Guidance,
Western High School
Leonard Sklar, BTU, Whispering Pines School
Eugene Williams, Transportation Services
Dr. F. Beatrice Womack, BTU,
William Dandy Middle School
Lida Yocum, Exceptional Student Education

PARENTS

Susan Bain, Parent-Teacher Association
Janet Bravo, District Advisory Committee
Cheryl Glenn-Cooper, District Advisory Committee
Bari Goldberg, Parent-Teacher Association
Stacey Hoagland, Exceptional Student Education
Helen Kennedy, District Advisory Committee
Mickey Lauf, District Advisory Committee
Clair Perdomo, Parent-Teacher Association
Renee Sarmieto, ESOL Leadership Council
Susan Silverberg, Parent-Teacher Association

SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEES

Tony Ash, South Area Office
Fay Clark, Student Support Services/ESE
Sharon Friedlander, Guidance,
BRACE, Academic Advisement

STUDENTS

Roberta Burke, Dillard High School
Clint Clarke, Miramar High School
Jessica Morris, Plantation High School
Andres Pena, Monarch High School
Jena Perpall, Cooper City High School
Roxanne Williams, Piper High School

SCHOOL BASED ADMINISTRATORS

Robert Becker, *Principal*, Embassy Creek Elementary School
Mark Gockel, *Assistant Principal*, J. P. Taravella High School
Darren Jones, *Assistant Principal*, Silver Trail Middle School
Joy Lasky, *Principal*, Sunset School
Jody Perry, *Principal*, Driftwood Middle School
Dan Traeger, *Principal*, Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School
Valerie Wanza, *Principal*, Lanier-James Education Center

600 Southeast Third Avenue • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 754-321-0000

Transforming Education: One Student at a Time
Broward County Public Schools Is an Equal Opportunity / Equal Access Employer

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

600 SOUTHEAST THIRD AVENUE • FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301-3125



DR. FRANK TILL
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL BOARD

Chair
Vice Chair

CAROLE L. ANDREWS
STEPHANIE ARMA KRAFT, ESQ.
JUDIE S. BUDNICK
DARLA L. CARTER
BEVERLY A. GALLAGHER
ROBERT D. PARKS, Ed.D.
MARTIN RUBINSTEIN
LOIS WEXLER
BENJAMIN J. WILLIAMS

Welcome to the 2004-2005 School Year!

Dear Students and Parents:

Broward County Public Schools is committed to providing all students with a quality education in a safe and secure learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct booklet is designed to help promote those goals.

This Code provides you with information about the rules that students are expected to follow, as well as the consequences for unacceptable and serious misbehavior.* Furthermore, the Code addresses expectations for students related to consistent and timely attendance, respect for persons and property, appropriate dress, technology usage, student publications, student activities, and student records. Students and parents are required to sign a statement that indicates they have received the Code of Student Conduct and are aware of the explanation of rules it provides.

Since there have been some changes, it is important you review this booklet even if you have read the Code in previous years. A list of the changes can be found on the reverse side of this page. Some of these changes include providing parents with important information and/or procedures regarding privacy rights, excessive unexcused absences, the Juvenile Truancy Unit and what to do if their student is tardy, as well as a clarification of time allowed to make up exams. Also, per the legislature in 2004, possessing wireless communication devices (cell phones and pagers) will be allowed for all public school students; however, use is prohibited in the absence of safety-to-life issues (see p. 11). Finally, lying to staff by intentionally providing misinformation and hate crimes were ~~also~~ added to the list of unacceptable behaviors, and further clarifications to the dress code outlining what is and is not appropriate for students to wear to school, including not allowing elementary students to wear backless shoes.

One of the school district's strategic plan objectives is to engage the public in dialog about important decisions, like the Code of Student Conduct. This year, the committee sought input from a variety of parent, student, and staff groups through committee representatives and through the browardschools.com website. If you are interested in providing input related to school boundaries, the budget, or other issues, contact the Communications, Strategic Planning and Community Relations Departments.

You can be assured that we are planning to continue our commitment to student achievement, safe and secure schools, and positive character development. Parents may view the Code of Student Conduct on the District's website, www.browardschools.com, School Board Policy 5.8, or they may view the Code's accompanying video on the School Board of Broward County cable station during the first two weeks of school.

With mutual understanding and cooperation, I know this year will be a successful one for all of us. Have a wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Frank Till
Superintendent of Schools

*For IDEA-eligible disabled students, suspension and expulsions shall follow applicable laws, School Board policies, and provisions of the Individual Education Plan (IEP). Likewise, for students determined to be disabled under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, suspension, expulsion, and other disciplinary measures shall follow applicable laws, School Board policies, and provisions of the Section 504 Accommodation Plan.

Transforming Education: One Student At A Time
Broward County Public Schools Is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access Employer

SUMMARY OF CHANGES CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT 2004-2005

- Employees of the School Board of Broward County will not be held liable for wireless communication devices (cell phones and pagers) that are lost, stolen, or confiscated.
- Per the legislature in 2004, wireless communication devices (cell phones and pagers) are allowed for all public school students, though use is prohibited in the absence of safety-to-life issues in accordance with this policy.
- Whenever the term “parent” is used, it also refers to either or both parents, any guardian of a student, any person in a parental relationship to a student, or any person exercising supervisory authority over a student in place of a parent.
- Explanation of district procedures for parents to access their student’s attendance and an outline of the consequences for unexcused absences.
- Explanation of procedures when students are taken to the Juvenile Truancy Unit (page 9).
- Explanation of procedures for parents to report a student’s tardy.
- Clarification of make up time for exams when a student’s absence is excused.
- Addition of bullets and shell casings to the list of items that are prohibited at school.
- Addition of lying to a staff member by intentionally providing misinformation as an unacceptable behavior.
- Addition of hate crimes to the list of unacceptable behaviors and the procedure for victims to report such crimes.
- Explanation of the responsibility of parents for their student’s behavior and what they can do if their students are victims of incidents that occur off of School Board property.
- Addition of backless shoes not allowed for elementary students only.
- Addition of footwear designed as sleepwear or beachwear and clothing designed as beachwear to the list of clothing that is not allowed to be worn at school.
- Addition of revealing clothing to the list of clothing that is not allowed to be worn at school.
- Elimination of wallet chains as a prohibited item when used for their intended purpose.
- Explanation of privacy rights as they relate to parents and students with regard to health, mental health, and treatment.



STOP THE SILENCE - KEEP YOUR SCHOOL SAFE

**REPORT DANGEROUS OR
THREATENING SITUATIONS
24 HOUR SECURITY HOTLINE
(754) 321-0911**

PARENT/STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT



(*Whenever the terms "parent " is used, it also refers to either or both parents, any guardian of a student, any person in a parental relationship to a student, or any person exercising supervisory authority over a student in place of a parent.

Code of Student Conduct 2004-2005

PLEASE SIGN THIS FORM AND SEND IT BACK TO SCHOOL

YOUR SIGNATURE MEANS THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS BOOKLET AND KNOW WHAT THE RULES ARE

Student Name (Please Print) _____

Grade _____

F.S.I./Social Security Number _____

This booklet lists the district rules for students in Broward County. The rules apply to all activities occurring on school grounds, on other sites being used for school activities, and on any vehicles authorized for the transporting of students. **Parents, students, school faculty, and staff need to know the rules. Since parent(s)* can be held responsible for the actions of their children, it is important that they are aware of the rules and consequences if the rules are broken.**

Parents need to become involved in the education of their children and have the responsibility to

- provide the school with current emergency contact person(s) and/or telephone numbers.
- notify the school of anything that may affect their children's ability to learn, to attend school regularly, or to take part in school activities.
- be aware that medicine must be administered in accordance with School Board Policy 6305 as may be amended.
- be aware that parents have rights with regard to the privacy and confidentiality of student records that are maintained by schools. (See FERPA and HIPAA information on pages 22-24 of this book.)
- be aware that employees of the School Board of Broward County will not be held liable for items that are prohibited and are lost, stolen or confiscated or for wireless communication devices (cell phones and pagers) that are lost, stolen, or confiscated (See page 11).
- be aware that confiscated items that are not claimed by the end of the school year will be donated to local charities.

For student safety, parents should make sure that their children do not arrive at school until the official starting time, nor remain on school grounds after the official school closing time, unless a school has a supervised before and after school child care program in which their child is enrolled. For students who ride a school bus, it is important to know that bus drivers are not permitted to let students off the bus except at the student's designated stop. Parents should also be aware that they are responsible for their students' behavior on the way to and from school and at the bus stop when the bus stop is not on School Board property. Refer incidents that are not on School Board property to law enforcement.

The school system must have proof that every student and every parent or guardian has had a chance to read this Code of Student Conduct. **Your signature means that you have received this booklet and know the rules.** (It does not mean that you agree or disagree with them.) In addition, school's discipline plans that assign specific consequences for misbehavior are school-based and are available to parents upon request.

Parent (Please Print) _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

MEDIA RELEASE FORM

I understand that my student's picture may appear in newspapers, on television, on district and school websites, in School Board publications, or other communication tools to promote Broward County Public Schools.

- I **will** allow my student to be photographed for the purposes explained above.
- I **will not** allow my student to be photographed for the purposes explained above.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____



PARENT/STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT



*Whenever the terms "parent " is used, it also refers to either or both parents, any guardian of a student, any person in a parental relationship to a student, or any person exercising supervisory authority over a student in place of a parent.

Code of Student Conduct 2004-2005

PLEASE RETAIN THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS

YOUR SIGNATURE MEANS THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS BOOKLET AND KNOW WHAT THE RULES ARE

Student Name (Please Print) _____

Grade _____

F.S.I./Social Security Number _____

This booklet lists the district rules for students in Broward County. The rules apply to all activities occurring on school grounds, on other sites being used for school activities, and on any vehicles authorized for the transporting of students. **Parents, students, school faculty, and staff need to know the rules. Since parent(s)* can be held responsible for the actions of their children, it is important that they are aware of the rules and consequences if the rules are broken.**

Parents need to become involved in the education of their children and have the responsibility to

- provide the school with current emergency contact person(s) and/or telephone numbers.
- notify the school of anything that may affect their children's ability to learn, to attend school regularly, or to take part in school activities.
- be aware that medicine must be administered in accordance with School Board Policy 6305 as may be amended.
- be aware that parents have rights with regard to the privacy and confidentiality of student records that are maintained by schools. (See FERPA and HIPAA information on pages 22-24 of this book.)
- be aware that employees of the School Board of Broward County will not be held liable for items that are prohibited and are lost, stolen or confiscated or for wireless communication devices (cell phones and pagers) that are lost, stolen, or confiscated (See page 11).be aware that confiscated items that are not claimed by the end of the school year will be donated to local charities.

For student safety, parents should make sure that their children do not arrive at school until the official starting time, nor remain on school grounds after the official school closing time, unless a school has a supervised before and after school child care program in which their child is enrolled. For students who ride a school bus, it is important to know that bus drivers are not permitted to let students off the bus except at the student's designated stop. Parents should also be aware that they are responsible for their students' behavior on the way to and from school and at the bus stop when the bus stop is not on School Board property. Refer incidents that are not on School Board property to law enforcement.

The school system must have proof that every student and every parent or guardian has had a chance to read this Code of Student Conduct. **Your signature means that you have received this booklet and know the rules.** (It does not mean that you agree or disagree with them.) In addition, school's discipline plans that assign specific consequences for misbehavior are school-based and are available to parents upon request.

Parent (Please Print) _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

MEDIA RELEASE FORM

I understand that my student's picture may appear in newspapers, on television, on district and school websites, in School Board publications, or other communication tools to promote Broward County Public Schools.

- I **will** allow my student to be photographed for the purposes explained above.
- I **will not** allow my student to be photographed for the purposes explained above.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Parent/Student Acknowledgment & Media Release Form	3/5
Section I: Attendance	7
Section II: Respect for Persons and Property	
Expected Behaviors	11
Unacceptable Behaviors Leading to Disciplinary Action.....	11
School Bus Misbehavior.....	13
Discrimination and/or Harassment and Grievance Procedures.....	15
Section III: Dress Code	16
Section IV: Technology Usage	18
Section V: Student Activities and Assembly.....	19
Section VI: Free Speech and Student Publications	21
Section VII: Privacy of Student Records	
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).....	22
Privacy Practices Related to Students and Family Medical/Mental Health Records (HIPAA)	23
Section VIII: Interventions and/or Consequences	
Possible Interventions and/or Consequences of Misbehavior.....	25
Consequences of Serious Misbehavior Leading to Suspension and/or Expulsion.....	25
Drug and Substance Abuse Offenses Leading to Suspension and Possible Expulsion	26
Other Offenses (Non-Drug and Non-Substance Abuse Offenses) Leading to Suspension and Possible Expulsion.....	27
Offenses Leading to Mandatory Expulsion	27
Alternative to Expulsion Programs	28
Workback	28
Out-of-District Expulsion.....	28
Definition of Weapons	29
Definition of Offenses	29
Section IX: Right to Appeal	30
Index.....	31

Haitian-Creole Règleman sou Kondwit Elèv disponib an kreyòl nan lekòl-la.

Spanish El Código de Conducta de Estudiantes está a su disposición en español, en la escuela.

Portuguese O Código de Conduta do Estudante encontra-se disponível em português, em sua escola.

SECTION I - ATTENDANCE

The parent of a child of compulsory age is responsible for the child’s daily school attendance. School staff, parents, students, and appropriate state agencies are expected to work together to ensure that laws are obeyed including, but not limited to, referral to the state designated agency for possible court action for extended absence or truancy (**Florida Statute 1003.27**).

Rights	Responsibilities
<p>Students have a right to know how the school defines and handles excused absences, unexcused absences, and tardies. School’s discipline plans are school-based and available to parents upon request.</p> <p>Students have a right to ask that a penalty for an unexcused absence be reviewed.</p> <p>Students have a right to make up work they missed during an excused absence.</p> <p>Students who are married, are parents, or are expectant mothers have a right to remain in the regular school program or to attend a special program designed to meet their needs.</p> <p>Students have a right to be protected from exposure to communicable diseases and infestations when in school.</p>	<p>Students have a responsibility to attend all classes.</p> <p>Students have a responsibility to be on time for school and all classes.</p> <p>Students have a responsibility to ask their parents to notify the school when they are absent.</p> <p>Students have a responsibility to ask teachers for, and to complete, make-up assignments.</p> <p>Students have a responsibility to get medical advice and/or counseling about how to adjust their schooling for marriage, pregnancy, and parenthood.</p> <p>Students having or suspected of having a communicable disease are not allowed to attend school. In order to return to school, parents must obtain a doctor’s note stating that the student is no longer contagious. Chickenpox is the only infectious disease that does not require a doctor’s note.</p>

RULE - The School Board of Broward County, Florida stresses the importance that all students attend school regularly and remain in school until they graduate from high school. However, “a child who attains the age of 16 years during the school year is not subject to compulsory school attendance beyond the date upon which he or she attains that age if the child files a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment with the district school board. The declaration must acknowledge that terminating school enrollment is likely to reduce earning potential and must be signed by the child and the child’s parent. The school district must notify the child’s parent of receipt of the child’s declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment” (**Florida Statute 1003.21**). Declaration of Intent forms are available at each school’s administration office. Also be aware that students who drop out of school are not eligible to receive a driver’s license or permit or will have their license or permit revoked (See page 8).

Absence Reports - Elementary and Middle School

Absences may be reported by telephone or written note. The report must come from a parent and give the date(s) of the absence and the reason for it. Parents **MUST** report these absences within two days following the absences, although school principals **MAY** make exceptions in cases of need. A note can be sent either the day before or not later than the second day after an absence. School staff members have a legal right to ask for a written medical excuse.

For Elementary Only, the Broward Truancy Intervention Program (BTIP) is a joint partnership program of the Broward State Attorney’s Office and the School Board of Broward County. The program is designed to prevent excessive absences through parent notification and accountability, school interventions, and daily monitoring of attendance. Parents are expected to communicate with school personnel regarding absences. Parents who do not comply are referred to the State Attorney’s Office for failure to comply with **Florida Statute 1003.27** which provides that a parent commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided by law, if the parent refuses or fails to have a child attend school regularly or refuses to participate in meetings concerning the child’s truancy.

Absence Reports - High School

High schools may **NOT** accept notes as reports of excused absences. Parents must report the absence of a high school student by telephone within two days following the absences, although school principals **MAY** make exceptions in cases of need. In the case of shared-time students, absences must be reported to both schools. School staff members have a legal right to ask for a written medical excuse.

Excused Absences

Students must be in school unless the absence has been excused for one of the reasons listed below. (A student who attends internal suspension or an alternative to suspension program is not considered absent.) **For reasons 1-5, parents must report the absence the day before, the day of, or within two school days following the absence, or the absence will be considered unexcused.** However, any absence is unexcused until the school receives a phone call or, in the case of elementary and middle school, a note is also acceptable to excuse the absence. Some situations will require written documentation from a private physician or public health unit. Excused absences include:

1. Illness. Students who expect to miss at least 15 consecutive school days due to illness, a medical condition, or for social/emotional reasons, or who would miss excessive days intermittently throughout the school year for the same reasons, and could benefit from instruction, should obtain a copy of the Homebound referral packet from the Homebound contact person at their school.
2. Illness of an immediate family member.
3. Death in the family.
4. Religious holidays of the student's specific faith.
5. Required court appearance or subpoena by a law enforcement agency.
6. Special event. Examples of special events include important public functions, conferences, state/national competitions, as well as exceptional cases of family need. Students must get permission from the principal/designee at least five days in advance.
7. Scheduled doctor or dentist appointments. The parent must notify the school of the date and appointment time prior to the absence/release time.
8. Students having or suspected of having a communicable disease or infestation which can be transmitted are to be excluded from school and are not allowed to return to school until they no longer present a health hazard (**Florida Statute 1003.22**). Examples of communicable diseases and infestations include, but are not limited to, fleas, head lice, ringworm, impetigo, and scabies. Students are allowed a maximum of five days excused absence for an infestation of head lice.

Unexcused Absences

It is the responsibility of the school principal to ensure that parents are contacted after each unexcused absence and to ensure that there are specific, appropriate consequences/interventions as a result of each unexcused absence. Parents may receive letters to inform them of their student's unexcused absences. These letters are generated from official attendance records. Attendance can be verified at any time at school or at home by contacting the school or by accessing electronic attendance records through Virtual Counselor. If there is a pattern of non-attendance the State Attorney's office also will be notified due to non-compliance with compliance with compulsory school attendance laws (See **Habitual Truant**, page 9).

1. If absences are not excused, as defined in the previous section, the absences are considered unexcused.
2. Students who have been externally suspended and choose not to participate in alternative to suspension programs will be considered unexcused.
3. Students without a completed Certificate of Immunization indicating compliance with the current required schedule of immunizations will not be allowed to attend classes until this document is provided or a waiver is obtained. Students who receive the first shot in a series of immunizations but who are late obtaining subsequent shots will be given a three-day grace period after which they will be excluded from school and resulting absences will be considered unexcused.
4. *For Secondary Only*, when a student is absent and that absence is unexcused, the student's final grade in each class missed for that marking period will be reduced by 2.2% for each unexcused absence on days when no grade is given for instructional activities. Instructional activities for which no grade is given may include, but are not limited to, lecture, video, or group discussion. However, if on the day of the unexcused absence, a student misses a test or an instructional activity for which a grade is given, the student will receive a "0" and lose the full value of that test or activity which may exceed 2.2%. (Please note 2.2% is for a 45-day marking period. When marking periods vary in length, this percentage will change slightly.)
5. *For Secondary Only*, students 14-18 years of age who drop out of school or who have 15 unexcused absences within 90 calendar days and have a driver's license will have their driver's license suspended by the Division of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles or will not be issued a license if they apply for one. Additional information about procedures and waivers is available from school administration or guidance offices.

Makeup Work

1. All students are expected to make up classwork missed during an absence. Students have two class days to make up the work for each class day absent, **not including the day of return**. However, previously assigned work is due the day of return.
2. Students who are assigned to internal suspension are expected to be in school. These students must complete assignments and turn in work daily.
3. Students who are assigned external suspension and who attend alternative to suspension programs are allowed to make up work. (Alternatives to external suspension may include school internal suspension, Saturday School, off-campus alternative to suspension programs, and community partnership alternative to suspension programs.) Students who elect not to participate in alternatives to suspension programs will be unexcused and not allowed to make up work.
4. *For Secondary Only*, when classwork is not complete for a marking period due to excused absences, a grade of "I" may be given. Students must complete the work during the next marking period prior to the 40th day and may earn a grade to replace the "I." In extenuating circumstances, the principal has the authority to extend the deadline. But, in most cases when these deadlines are not met, the "I" changes to an "F" and may cause a semester course failure. If and when the class is repeated and students earn a grade, the "I" or the "F" will not be counted in computing grade point averages.
5. *For Secondary Only*, when a semester exam is not completed, a grade of "I" is given. If students are absent (excused or suspended from school) on an exam day, the exam must be made up in order for credit to be given. For each semester exam day students are absent, they will have ~~three~~ two days to make up the exam, not including the day of return. These deadlines may be extended by the principal for extenuating circumstances.
6. When an absence is unexcused, work may not be made up.

Habitual Truant

A habitual truant is a child who has 15 unexcused absences within 90 calendar days with or without the knowledge or justifiable consent of the child's parent (**Florida Statute 1003.01**).

1. If students have five unexcused absences in a calendar month or 10 unexcused absences within a 90-calendar-day period, the principal/designee shall determine if there is a pattern of nonattendance. If there is such a pattern, the principal/designee shall refer students to the child study team to determine if early patterns of truancy are developing.
2. If the child study team finds that early patterns of truancy are developing (whether absences are excused or not), a meeting with the parent must be scheduled to identify interventions to remediate the situation. Although this meeting will focus on remediating the underlying causes of nonattendance, parents will also be provided with information regarding the potential consequences to both the student and the parent for continued nonattendance. **Note:** Child study teams may also be convened to review patterns of excessive excused absences or a combination of excused and unexcused absences.
3. If parents refuse to participate in the truancy interventions and exercise the right to appeal to the School Board because the parent believes the interventions are unnecessary or inappropriate, the school district will provide a hearing officer who shall make a recommendation for final action to the Board. If the Board determines that the interventions are appropriate and the parent still refuses to participate or cooperate, the Superintendent/designee will seek criminal prosecution for noncompliance with compulsory school attendance (**Florida Statute 1003.26**).

A child may be taken into custody by a law enforcement officer when the officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the child is absent from school without authorization or is suspended or expelled and is not in the presence of his or her parent or legal guardian, for the purpose of delivering the child without unreasonable delay to the Juvenile Intervention Facility (JIF) Truancy Unit (Florida Statute 984.13). The JIF Truancy Unit is a partnership between the School Board and the Broward County Sheriff's Office. Intake staff does a screening to determine risk factors that might lead to the cause of excessive tardiness or truancy. This is NOT a learning environment. The day spent at JIF is an unexcused absence.

Tardiness

1. Tardiness is disruptive to the learning environment and can have a negative impact on student achievement.
2. Student tardiness is considered excused if parents call the school, if they or an appropriate adult accompanies their child to school, or, *for elementary and middle school students only*, if they provide a note to the school. If you call the school to excuse the tardy, send a note with your student to indicate with whom you spoke and at what time. This note will provide a law enforcement officer or campus monitor with the necessary information to confirm that you have excused the late arrival. All other tardies are considered unexcused unless the principal determines that there are extenuating circumstances. Disciplinary action for unexcused tardiness shall be progressive and will be specifically defined in each school's discipline plan. Actions may include, but are not limited to, the consequences for misbehavior included on page 25 of this book. Further clarification may be found in the school's discipline plan that is available at each school upon parent request.
3. Excessive tardiness will be addressed on a case by case basis.
4. Tardiness to any class may be considered unexcused.

Early Sign-Outs

1. When students are signed out early on an ongoing basis, their academic performance may be negatively impacted. The school system strongly encourages parents to ensure their student is in school for the full school day every day.
2. All schools will establish procedures for early release that ensure that all students are treated consistently. Students shall not be released within the final 30 minutes of the school day unless the principal/designee determines that it is an emergency or the student has a medical/dental appointment that cannot be reasonably scheduled at another time.

SECTION II – RESPECT FOR PERSONS AND PROPERTY

Character education is woven into the policies and procedures of Broward County Public Schools. Responsibility, Citizenship, Kindness, Respect, Honesty, Self-Control. Tolerance, and Cooperation are the foundation of this Code of Student Conduct.

Rights	Responsibilities
Students have the right to be treated with respect and honesty.	Students have the responsibility to demonstrate the character education traits.
	Students have the responsibility to treat others with respect and honesty.
	Students have the responsibility to respect the rights of others.
Students have the right to a safe and orderly school.	Students have the responsibility to treat school property and the property of others with respect and to act in a way that does not interfere with the rights of others and is not harmful to the health and safety of others.

RULE - It is important for students to know their rights and responsibilities, which include obeying teachers and all other school employees, obeying each individual rule as defined by the school, and obeying bus drivers. Students are expected to honor their responsibilities and behave in ways that respect the rights of all. Consequences for unacceptable behaviors are found on page 23*.

Expected Behaviors

- Treat others with respect and honesty.
- Prepare for class by bringing paper, pencil, pen, books, and other needed supplies.
- Complete all class work and homework.
- Use class time properly.
- Take home and return necessary forms.
- Follow rules and regulations about field trips.
- Take care of and return all textbooks, library books or other school-owned materials loaned to them.
- Act responsibly on campus, on buses, on field trips, and at all school-sponsored events, regardless of location.
- Wear properly fitted safety-rated helmets when riding a bicycle. (Law enforcement officers may issue traffic citations and assess fines to riders under age 16 who do not comply (**Florida Statute 316.2065**).

Unacceptable Behaviors Leading to Disciplinary Action

- Disturbing the class or school by: being disrespectful or rude, refusing to obey any staff member, failing to follow classroom rules, running in the halls, throwing objects, possessing or igniting fireworks or smoke/stink bombs, fighting, gambling, or bringing distracting items to school including, but not limited to, skateboards, scooters, in-line skates/roller blades/heelines (sneakers with wheels), toys, playing cards, toy weapons, games, cigarette lighters, radios, audio recorders, headphones, laser pointers/pens and other laser devices, bullets or shell casings.
- The use of scooters and inline skates/rollerblades/heelines in the school building is also prohibited.
- Sole possession of wireless communication device (cell phone or pager) is not a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. However, the possession of a wireless communication device (cellular telephone or pager) which disrupts the educational process; the use of a cellular telephone or pager during school hours; the use of a cellular telephone or pager on school buses in the absence of an emergency concerning safety-to-life issues; and the possession or use of a cellular telephone or pager which disrupts or interferes with the safety-to-life issues would be a violation of the **Code of Student Conduct**, subjecting violators to progressive discipline. (Note: If students possess a cellular telephone or pager, it should be turned off and kept out of sight inside a pocket, book bag, purse, or similar container, and it may not be used or allowed to emit any ring tone or other noise on school grounds during school hours.) School Board employees will not be held liable for wireless communication devices (cell phones or pagers) that are lost, stolen or confiscated. **Florida Statute 1006.7(2)** requires school districts to notify parents that students who use wireless communication devices (cell phones or pagers) in the commission of a criminal act may face school disciplinary action and/or criminal penalties.
- Abusing another student or staff member including, but not limited to, verbal abuse, actual or threatened physical harm, extortion, destruction of personal property, intentionally making a false accusation or **intentionally** providing misinformation.
- Bullying.
- Threatening or hurting a person with a weapon.

- Having and/or hiding a weapon.
- Gambling.
- Damaging, destroying, or vandalizing school property.
- Littering.
- Starting a fire (arson).
- Possessing or using drugs, alcohol and/or tobacco products.
- Possessing drug paraphernalia.
- Committing robbery or petty theft.
- Forcing someone to give money, possessions, or other things of value to another or oneself (extortion).
- Using insulting, profane, racially or sexually offensive written or oral language, or making obscene remarks or gestures.
- Conducting, recruiting, or participating in youth gang activities on campus.
- Using gang-related or cult-related gestures and/or signs.
- Hazing.
- Taking part in physical acts of a sexual nature, engaging in sexual harassment, or offending others by indecent exposure.
- Endangering the lives of students and staff by setting off unfounded fire alarms.
- Endangering the lives of students and staff by failing to report a threat of violence against others.
- Making a bomb threat.
- Harassing others because of age, color, gender, national origin, marital status, race, religion, or sexual orientation.
- Harassing others because of a disability.
- Harassing others because of ethnicity, socio-economic background, or linguistic differences.
- Harassing others because of physical appearance or for any other reason.
- Leaving class or school without proper permission.
- Not attending school (truancy).
- Having unexcused tardies.
- Misrepresenting oneself by cheating, copying, plagiarizing, counterfeiting, using false identification, or making false reports by posing as a parent to excuse absences or tardiness, sign a report card, etc.
- Unauthorized presence on school property.
- Unauthorized possession or use of school/county documents or forms.
- Possessing and/or distributing materials prohibited by law including, but not limited to, pornographic/obscene material.
- Storing pornographic/obscene materials and drug paraphernalia in school lockers, in or on any student's personal belongings, or in vehicles parked on school property.
- Intentionally making a false accusation that jeopardizes the professional reputation, employment, or certification of a teacher or other member of a school staff.
- Threatening, stalking, hitting, or hurting a teacher or other school personnel.
- Behaving inappropriately on field trips.
- Violating the dress code.
- Displaying disruptive behavior.
- Misusing technology.
- ***For Secondary Students Only***, parking a motorized vehicle on school grounds without an official permit or in unauthorized areas.
- Committing a *hate crime.
- Committing other criminal acts.

* A hate crime refers to an attack on an individual or his/her property in which the individual is intentionally selected because of his/her race, color, religion, *national origin, gender, disability, or sexual orientation. The attack or offense may range from racial remarks or graffiti on school walls, to threats of physical harm, intimidation, hate mail and hate e-mail, vandalism, arson, physical assault, etc. Students who believe they have been victims of a hate crime must immediately report the act to a teacher and/or school administrator. **The District's Special Investigative Unit conducts hate crime investigations.**

*National origin pertains to, but is not limited to, an individual's or his/her ancestor's place of origin, as well as, physical, cultural or linguistic characteristics.

**For IDEA-eligible disabled students, suspension and expulsions shall follow applicable laws, School Board policies, and provisions of the Individual Education Plan (IEP). Likewise, for students determined to be disabled under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, suspension, expulsion, and other disciplinary measures shall follow applicable laws, School Board policies, and provisions of the Section 504 Accommodation Plan.*

School Bus Behavior

Misconduct by any student while riding a school bus represents a serious threat to the safety of all occupants of the bus as well as other motorists, pedestrians, and members of the community. All rules that apply to the school grounds and school activities also apply to the school bus. Parents are responsible for their student's behavior on the way to and from school and at the bus stop when the bus stop is not on School Board property. Refer incidents that are not on School Board property to law enforcement.

Unacceptable Behaviors on a School Bus Leading to Disciplinary Action*

Level One Violations

- Eating or drinking on the bus.
- Failing to sit in the seat assigned by the bus operator.

Level One Consequences

First Offense	Verbal or written reprimand from the school principal or designee.
Second Offense	Parent Conference.
Third Offense	3-day suspension from school bus transportation.
Repeated Offenses	Repeated Level One unacceptable behaviors will be considered willful disobedience and/or open defiance of authority, resulting in suspension from the bus for the remainder of the school year and/or suspension and/or possible expulsion from school.

Level Two Violations

- Disrupting, distracting, or disobeying a bus operator.
- Failing to utilize required safety equipment on the bus.
- Getting out of the seat while the bus is in motion.
- Loud talking, inappropriate remarks, or spitting **out of the bus window** at other students, pedestrians, or motorists.

Level Two Consequences

First Offense	Verbal or written reprimand from the school principal or designee.
Second Offense	One- to ten-day suspension from school bus transportation.
Repeated Offenses	Repeated Level Two unacceptable behaviors will be considered willful disobedience and/or open defiance of authority, resulting in suspension from the bus for the remainder of the school year and/or suspension and/or possible expulsion from school.

Level Three Violations

- Placing head, arms, or legs outside the window of the bus.
- Opening a school bus emergency door and/or exiting the bus when the bus is stopped unless directed by the school bus operator in an emergency or during an evacuation drill.
- Threats against the bus operator, bus attendant, or passengers on the bus.
- Profanity directed at the bus operator or bus attendant.
- Fighting on the bus.
- Smoking on the bus.
- Opening a school bus emergency exit door while the bus is in motion.
- Throwing objects out of the window of the bus, which may or may not cause injury to persons or physical damage.
- Throwing objects at a bus after leaving the bus, which may or may not cause injury to persons or physical damage.
- Vandalism of seats or other bus equipment.
- Boarding or attempting to board a bus route other than the student's assigned bus route or attempting to leave the school bus at other than the student's assigned bus stop without permission of the school principal or designee.

Level Three Consequences

First Offense	One to ten-day suspension from school bus transportation and/or school.
Second Offense	Ten-day suspension from school bus transportation and/or school.
Third Offense	Repeated Level Three unacceptable behaviors will be considered willful disobedience and/or open defiance of authority, resulting in suspension from the bus for the remainder of the school year and/or suspension and/or possible expulsion from school.

*For IDEA-eligible disabled students, suspension and expulsions shall follow applicable laws, School Board policies, and provisions of the Individual Education Plan (IEP). Likewise, for students determined to be disabled under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, suspension, expulsion, and other disciplinary measures shall follow applicable laws, School Board policies, and provisions of the Section 504 Accommodation Plan.

The principal or designee of all disciplinary centers may review individual cases before assigning consequences.

Discrimination and/or Harassment and Grievance Procedures

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, **prohibits any policy or procedure which results in discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, national origin, marital status, race, religion, or sexual orientation.** If any student* feels that he or she has been discriminated against or harassed, he or she may contact Equal Educational Opportunities, 600 Southeast Third Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301, (754) 321-2150. (Complaints relating to discrimination may also be addressed to the Office for Civil Rights, P.O. Box 2048, Atlanta, GA 30301, or the state or federal Office for Civil Rights.)

Forms of Discrimination

Harassment is a form of discrimination. Harassment based on age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, linguistic differences, national origin*, marital status, race, religion, sexual orientation are violations of School Board policies and civil rights laws and statutes and should be addressed in a similar manner as detailed above.

*National origin pertains to, but is not limited to, an individual's or his/her ancestor's place of origin, as well as, physical, cultural or linguistic characteristics.

Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violations

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination which violates the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and School Board Policy 4001.1. Sexual violence is a physical act of aggression that includes a sexual act of sexual purpose. Sexual violence is also a violation of these same statutes and may also represent a criminal law violation. The School District prohibits any form of sexual harassment and sexual violence.

Sexual harassment and sexual violence are unlawful and will be grounds for disciplinary action. Students who believe they have been victims of sexual harassment or sexual violence should report the alleged act immediately to a teacher and/or school administrator. Because sexual harassment can take on many forms, the following are some definitions of sexual harassment/violence.

Sexual Harassment/Sexual Violence Defined

Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct, or communication of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, the following behaviors:

- Unwelcome statements of a sexual nature.
- Unwelcome solicitation or pressure for sexual activity.
- Intentional brushing against, patting or pinching of another's body.
- Suggestive or obscene letters, notes, invitations, derogatory comments, slurs, jokes, epithets, unwanted physical contact and blocking movements.
- Leering with sexual overtones, gestures, display of sexually suggestive objects, posters, or cartoons.
- Indecent exposure.

**Whenever the word "student" appears, parents may become involved.*

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973/Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

It is the policy of the School Board of Broward County, Florida not to discriminate against any students with regard to access to programs, services, and activities on the basis of disability. The steps below have been developed to comply with the law for resolution of individual complaints under Section 504/ADA. Aggrieved persons are not required by law to exhaust the district's grievance procedures before filing a complaint at the federal or state level.

The following steps should be followed if resolution on Section 504/ADA issues through informal discussion with appropriate school personnel is not achieved. All meetings, discussions, etc., should be documented. Appropriate school personnel could include teachers, the Section 504 liaison, counselors, etc.

1. If informal discussions do not resolve the issue, students may obtain a Grievance Filing Form from the principal. The completed form should be submitted to the principal within fifteen (15) school days of the occurrence.
2. Within fifteen (15) school days of receipt of the written grievance, the principal shall render a Complaint Resolution Form which shall uphold, modify, or deny the resolution sought.
3. If the student is not satisfied with the response issued in Step 2, he or she may file a complaint with the Office of Equal Educational Opportunities, which will inform the student of his or her rights under Section 504/ADA, including a due process hearing. The Office of Equal Educational Opportunities will conduct an investigation, convene pertinent parties, including legal counsel, and make a determination as to whether probable cause exists to believe that the student was, in fact, discriminated against. A determination of probable cause will include specific recommendations for corrective behavior.

SECTION III - DRESS CODE

Appropriate dress and grooming can help to create a positive learning environment. Other attire may be allowed for special school activities with approval of the school administration. Possible consequences for violating the dress code are found on page 23. **Changes in clothing trends will not override the dress code policy.**

Rights	Responsibilities
Students have a right to wear stylish clothes of their choice as long as those clothes are appropriate for school, are not dangerous to health and safety, and do not distract or offend others.	Students have a responsibility to dress neatly appropriately, be clean, and well groomed.

RULE - All students are expected to honor their responsibilities and dress in a way which respects the rights of others.

1. Shoes must be worn at all times. For safety reasons, zoris, flip flops, and thonged sandals are not allowed. **For Elementary Only**, backless shoes are also not allowed.
2. Special clothing, including shoes, may be required for safety reasons in certain programs such as physical education, home economics, career/technical education and science.
3. Revealing clothing or clothing that exposes the torso is not allowed. Examples include, but are not limited to, see-through garments, mini-skirts or mini-dresses, halters, backless dresses, tops or dresses with spaghetti straps, tube tops or tank tops with or without overblouses, jackets, or shirts, shirts or blouses tied at the midriff, and bare midriff outfits.
4. Clothing which is not worn appropriately, is not properly fastened, or has tears that are indecent will not be permitted. All trousers, including oversized or low-hanging trousers, must be worn and secured at waist level.
5. Garments and footwear, including but not limited to pajamas, bedroom slippers, boxer shorts, bloomers, and bustiers, which were traditionally designed as undergarments, ~~or~~ sleepwear or beachwear, may not be worn as outer garments. Other clothing not allowed are leggings without overblouses that reach mid-thigh, tights, bodysuits, or hosiery including those with lace trim, and bicycle racing attire unless they are worn underneath dresses, skirts, or shorts of appropriate length. Appropriate T-shirts may be worn as outer garments.
6. Clothing that exposes the upper thigh is not allowed. Hemmed shorts that are not shorter than mid-thigh, including walking shorts, Bermuda shorts, and split skirts (culottes), are allowed. *For Pre-K through 3*, shorter shorts may be worn since these are standard attire for these ages.
7. Clothing, jewelry, buttons, haircuts, or other items or markings which are offensive, suggestive, revealing, or indecent, associated with gangs or cults, encourage the use of drugs, alcohol, or violence, or support discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, linguistic differences, marital status, national origin, race, religion, socioeconomic background, sexual orientation, physical appearance, or for any other reason are not allowed.
8. Head coverings including, but not limited to, caps and hats, are not allowed unless they are necessary for safety in programs such as home economics, technology education, vocational education, and athletics, or are worn for religious or medical reasons. Bandannas are not allowed. Hats, that do not violate #7 above, are allowed to be worn outdoors for physical education and recess as a safety precaution from sun damage.
9. Curlers and other hairgrooming aids are not allowed. Personal grooming including, but not limited to, combing, brushing, and/or spraying hair, and applying cosmetics is allowed only in restrooms and/or designated areas.
10. Sunglasses may not be worn indoors unless a doctor's authorization is on file. Sunglasses are allowed to be worn outdoors for physical education and recess as a safety precaution from sun damage.
11. Any articles of clothing or jewelry including, but not limited to, belts, bracelets, or collars with spikes, and heavy link may cause injury and are not allowed. (See page 27 Class B Weapons.)

12. Violators of the uniform policy shall be subject to the same penalties as violators of the dress code policy. For further clarification, see the school's discipline plan that is available to parents upon request at the school.

We Love Broward's Dress Code!

SECTION IV - TECHNOLOGY USAGE

Computers, networks, and online telecommunications, such as the Internet and e-mail, are becoming more commonplace in our classrooms and media centers every year. While these systems have the power to deliver a huge number of resources to our classrooms, their ability to serve students and teachers depends on the responsible and ethical use of every device and system.

Rights	Responsibilities
Students have a right to use online telecommunications and networks to increase their access to information and resources.	Students have a responsibility to understand the difference between appropriate and unacceptable uses of online telecommunications and networks.
Students have a right to use online telecommunications and networks to obtain information, create intellectual products, collaborate and communicate for educational purposes.	
Students have a right to use online telecommunications and networks without the fear that their products will be violated, misrepresented, tampered with, destroyed, or stolen.	
	Students have a responsibility to recognize that the use of online telecommunications and networks is a privilege that can be withdrawn if they engage in unacceptable or illegal use of this resource.
	Students have a responsibility to use online telecommunications and networks in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner in accordance with their educational mission.

RULE - Students are expected to use technology responsibly.

School Board Policy 5306 defines the appropriate use of technology throughout the district. This policy describes how computers and networks must be used to support research and instructional activities in our classrooms, labs, and media centers. First, it promotes the use of technology as a powerful educational tool that is increasingly becoming a common part of every student's day. Second, it provides those students who use these computers, and the networks to which they are connected, to act in accordance with prescribed rules and behavioral codes detailed in the policy. Several major provisions are noted below. The full text of Policy 5306 is available upon request from each school's media center and on the Internet www.broward.k12.fl.us/sbbcpolicies/index.asp.

Major Policy Provisions:

- Use of computers, networks, and online telecommunications systems must be related to students' educational activities.
- Students must recognize that computers, networks, and equipment used to support online telecommunication systems are shared devices and agree to use them in ways which will maintain their continued operability for all users.
- No illegal activity may be conducted using the district's computers, networks, or online telecommunications systems.
- Students must not access or distribute offensive, obscene, inflammatory, or pornographic material.
- Students shall not intentionally spread computer viruses, vandalize data, infiltrate systems, or degrade/disrupt computer and/or network performance.
- All users of computers, networks, and online telecommunications systems shall adhere to laws regarding copyright.

Illegally using school district technology and/or software to alter information is a felony.

Misusing school district technology and/or software to transmit insulting, profane, racially or sexually offensive written language or to make obscene remarks or gestures is unacceptable behavior that will lead to disciplinary action.

SECTION V - STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND ASSEMBLY

School activities give students a chance to interact in positive ways. They can learn from each other how to work together harmoniously for common goals.

Rights	Responsibilities
Students have a right to take part in extracurricular activities, assemblies, and school-approved organizations without discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, linguistic differences, marital status, national origin, race, religion, socioeconomic background, sexual orientation, physical appearance or for any other reason.	Students have a responsibility to keep their extracurricular activities from interfering with their academic work and to know and follow the rules for the activities they choose.
Students have a right to seek office in student government and/or school-approved clubs and groups without discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, linguistic differences, marital status, national origin, race, religion, socioeconomic background, sexual orientation, physical appearance or for any other reason.	Students who hold office have a responsibility to learn how to do their jobs, support the goals of the group that elected them, and to treat other members of the group fairly.
Students have a right to consult with faculty advisors of school-approved clubs and groups.	Students have a responsibility to ensure that their actions as members of school clubs and groups meet the standards that have been set by the school administration.
Students have a right to take part in electing officers for student government.	Students have a responsibility to educate themselves as to the qualities needed for leadership and choose officers who have those qualities.
Students have a right to attend educational field trips or educational school-sponsored activities. However, non-educational field trips are a privilege.	Students who participate in field trips, social and/or extra curricular activities that are school-approved and/or sponsored by school clubs or groups, have a responsibility to follow the rules set forth in the Code of Student Conduct, and where applicable, by the conferences, conventions or contests they may attend. (See Policy 6003.)
Students on field trips will have the same rights, as it pertains to make-up work, as students with excused absences.	

RULE - Many students take part in school-related activities that are extracurricular (take place outside of school's hours), social and interscholastic (engage in competition with other schools). Students must attend half of the classes on the day of an activity in which they want to take part unless they have been excused or exempted from class by the school administration in advance.

Students are expected to have prior approval from the school administration for many activities related to school-approved and school-sponsored clubs and groups. They need approval to:

- Present a program or an assembly.
- Collect funds. Items cannot be sold for personal gain, such as food, jewelry, T-shirts, etc.
- Have a fundraising project on or off school grounds. Fundraising drives among students initiated by outside organizations such as the Salvation Army, United Way, Girl Scouts, etc., are not permitted in the schools.
- Hold a demonstration.

Field Trips. Under special conditions, students may be denied participation in educational or non-educational field trips and educational school-sponsored activities (See School Board Policy 6303).

INTERSCHOLASTIC EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

RULE Students must maintain satisfactory conduct in school and in the community to participate in interscholastic, extra-curricular activities (See School Board Policy 6201).

Middle School Eligibility *(Based on an 18-week semester regardless of class scheduling format, i.e., block, and rotator)*

To participate in interscholastic extracurricular athletics, middle school students must meet the following requirements:

1. Students must have been regularly promoted and must maintain a quarterly grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale. Middle school students must pass 5 of 6, or 4 of 5 classes, depending on the schedule.
2. Middle school students may receive no more than one "U" in conduct.
3. Failure to meet requirements makes the student/athlete ineligible for contests for the entire next nine weeks. This will take effect as of report card issue date.
4. Requirements are subject to the principal's appeal based on extreme circumstances. A copy of the principal's appeal must be filed with the County Athletic Department.

High School Eligibility *(Based on an 18-week semester regardless of class scheduling format: i.e., block and rotator)*

To participate in interscholastic extracurricular athletics, high school students must meet the following requirements:

1. Students shall be progressing satisfactorily toward graduation as provided for in the District's approved pupil progression plan.
2. Students must have been regularly promoted from the 8th grade and must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent in the courses required for high school graduation. The cumulative grade point average and courses for graduation include all attempted credits in high school.
3. Students, if convicted of, or found to have committed, a felony or a delinquent act that would have been a felony if committed by an adult, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld, student participation will be disallowed.
4. Since representing a school either as an elected school officer or in extracurricular activities is both an honor and a privilege, only students meeting requirements established by their club, school, instructional services, and/or the Board shall be eligible to serve as representatives of their school.

SECTION VI - FREE SPEECH AND STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The Constitution of the United States guarantees the right to express ideas freely. A basic education should prepare students to do that in responsible ways.

Rights	Responsibilities
Students have a right to hear all sides of subjects about which people disagree.	Students have a responsibility to be informed about all sides of controversial issues.
Students have a right to give their opinions and points of view.	Students have a responsibility to listen politely to the viewpoints of others.
Students have a right to be free of censorship within a framework of mutual respect.	Students have a responsibility to use good judgment in developing student publications.
Students have a right to expect that materials listed under Section 1 below will not be allowed in the schools.	Students have a responsibility to use good judgment in selecting sources of information.

1. No printed or written materials or electronic or electro-magnetic media (hereafter "material") may be distributed in the schools or on school grounds unless the principal or his/her designee has granted permission. A principal or designee may only deny permission to distribute if the material can reasonably be interpreted as:
 - a. Obscene or pornographic;
 - b. Libelous or slanderous;
 - c. Likely to create a material and substantial disruption of normal school activity or appropriate discipline in the operation of the school. Material will not be deemed to fall within this subsection only because students, faculty or staff may disagree with or find the contents of the material offensive;
 - d. Profane, vulgar, or lewd language;
 - e. Selling a commercial product or attempting to make a commercial profit from the sale of products. (For rules governing student/school fundraisers, refer to Section V – Student Activity and Assembly.)
2. If material is denied distribution, the principal or designee must state to the student the specific reasons why such material was denied distribution.
3. If the material is denied distribution under Subsection (1)(c) as likely to cause a material and substantial disruption, the principal or designee must state to the student the specific reasons why a disruption is likely to occur as a result of the distribution and why such disruption would be material and substantial.
4. Notices of student non-curricular group meetings posted on general purpose student bulletin boards do not necessarily represent the viewpoint of the School Board and/or the administration. The Board is only offering physical space to such groups and does not promote, endorse, or otherwise sponsor such materials. Students are encouraged to be sensitive to other viewpoints and beliefs when posting such notices.
5. Students may not hand out petitions or surveys during class time unless curriculum-based.
6. A principal or designee must either approve or reject a request from a student to distribute materials within 24 hours of the request by the student. Any request to distribute materials not acted upon within 24 hours by the principal or designee is deemed approved.
 - a. For approved materials, the principal or designee may assign reasonable restrictions with regard to time, place, and manner of distribution.
 - b. For approved materials, the publication shall contain this phrase: "THE OPINIONS AND/OR ACTIVITIES ARE NOT ENDORSED OR SPONSORED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD."
7. Any student aggrieved by a decision made under this section has the right to appeal such decision as specified in Section IX of this Policy).

Revised 2/1/05

SECTION VII - PRIVACY OF STUDENT RECORDS

Rights	Responsibilities
Students have the right to expect that schools will keep student records safe, secure, and private. Students who are eighteen (18) years or older have the right to see their own school records.	Students have a responsibility to learn how the information in their school records is gathered, how it is used, and what it means.
Students have a right to expect that personal belongings will be respected by others.	

RULE - Students have the right to personal privacy and have the responsibility of respecting the rights of others.

1. Information about another person must be treated with respect and privacy.
2. Student aides may not be in areas where they would be able to read student records and files that are private.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act became a federal law in November 1974, and was further revised in 1975, 1976, 1997, 2000, and 2002. The intent of this law is to protect the accuracy and privacy of students' educational records.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), **Florida Statute 228.093**, and School Board Policy 5100 affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. They are:

- (1) *The right to inspect and review a student's education records within 30 days of the day the District receives a request for access.* Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. When the educational records contain information about more than one student, parents may review the information related only to that parent's child.
- (2) *The right to request the amendment of a student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading.* Parents or eligible students may ask the Broward County School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading.

If the District decides not to amend the record as requested, the District 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 when the parent or eligible student is 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.* FERPA permits disclosure without consent to school officials with legitimate educational interests. (Ask your principal for a copy of School Board Policy 5100 for a more detailed description of school officials with legitimate educational interests.)

The school district intends to provide, upon request and without prior written consent, high school students' names, addresses, and phone numbers to the Armed Services and to institutions of higher education. Confidentiality of the information shall be protected by the personnel receiving the information. Parents who do not wish their child's information disclosed to the Armed Services or to institutions of higher education shall provide written notification to the school principal.

- (4) *The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.* The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is **Family Policy Compliance • U. S. Department of Education Office • 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W. • Washington, DC 20202-4605.**

For additional information refer to Broward County School Board Policy 5100.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY'S NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES RELATED TO STUDENTS & FAMILY MEDICAL/MENTAL HEALTH RECORDS (HIPAA)

This notice describes how medical information about you and/or your child may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information.

PLEASE REVIEW CAREFULLY

The School Board of Broward (SBBC) County Duties

This Notice is the outcome of a new federal law that requires all organizations, including school districts, to maintain the privacy of your and your child's mental health and medical records. The law calls these records protected health information (PHI). This Notice of Privacy Practices tells you how your and your child's PHI may be used and how the school district keeps this information private and confidential. The school district has always kept this information confidential; this notice simply explains the school district's legal responsibilities, according to the new law.

The law requires the school district to give this Notice of Privacy Practices to you. The school district is required to do what this Notice of Privacy Practices says we will do. If the school district changes how it handles your or your child's records, you will be told. The most current Notice of Privacy will be posted on the SBBC website at www.browardschools.com

HOW THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL USE AND SHARE YOUR AND YOUR CHILD'S PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION?

PHI includes demographic and medical information about the past, present, or future physical or mental health of an individual. Demographic information could include your and your child's name, address, telephone number, social security number and any other means of identifying you and/or your child, as a specific person.

PHI the school district has can be information created or received by the school district. As an example, a psychological or psychosocial evaluation completed by a school district employee is PHI, as well as a report from your child's doctor.

Your or your child's PHI may be used or shared by the school district for purposes of medical and/or mental health treatment and/or payment for these services. Health care professionals may use this information in the clinics, schools and/or hospitals to take care of you or your child.

It is important for you to be aware that this law allows the school district to share your and your child's PHI without your consent under the following circumstances:

- With another health care provider for purposes of your or your child's treatment;
- To insurance companies, Medicaid, or local, State or Federal agencies to pay for the services provided to you or your child;
- Reporting abuse of children, adults, or disabled persons;
- Investigations related to a missing child;
- Internal investigations and audits by the school district or any grant funding body;
- Investigations and audits by the State's Inspector General, Department of Education and Auditor General;
- Public health purposes including vital statistics, disease reporting, and regulation of health professionals;
- Medical examiner investigations;
- Research approved by the school district;
- Court orders and/or subpoenas; and,
- Judicial and administrative proceedings.

Other uses or times the school district will share your and/or your child's PHI will require your written consent. This consent will have an expiration date, additionally; you can revoke the consent in writing at any time. Certain uses and sharing of psychotherapist (counseling) notes will also require your written consent.

INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

- **You have the right to request the school district to restrict the use and with whom your and/or your child's PHI may be shared. The school district will consider any of your requests, but is not required to agree to them.**
- **You have the right to be assured that your information will be kept confidential.** The school district may mail or call you with appointment reminders or regarding your responsibility to pay for services. We will make

contact with you in the manner and at the address or phone number you select. You may provide an address other than your residence where you can receive mail and where you may be contacted. You may be asked to put your contact information in writing.

- **You have the right to review and receive a copy of your PHI.** Your review of the PHI will be supervised and will be at a time and place that is convenient to you and a representative of the school district. You may be denied access as specified by law. This might occur if your child consented to care and the parent's consent was not required by law or if your child is receiving care at the direction of a court or a person appointed by the court. If access is denied, you have the right to request a review by a licensed health care professional who is not involved in the decision to deny access. The licensed health care professional will be designated by the school district.
- **You have the right to correct your PHI.** Your request to correct your or your child's PHI must be in writing and provide a reason to support your requested correction. The school district may deny your request, in whole or part, if it finds the PHI:
 - Was not created by school district;
 - Is not PHI;
 - Is by law not available for your review; or,
 - Is accurate and complete.

If your correction is accepted, the school district will make the correction and tell you and others who need to know about the correction. If your request is denied the school district will place your statement regarding the corrections with your PHI. You may also send a letter detailing the reason you disagree with the decision. The school district will respond to your letter in writing. You may also file a complaint, as described below in the section titled Complaints.

- **You have the right to receive a list of the individuals and/or agencies with whom** the school district has shared your PHI. The list will **not** include:
 - Information shared with you;
 - Information shared with individuals involved with your care;
 - Information you authorized to be shared;
 - Information shared to carry out treatment and/or payment;
 - Information shared for public health purposes;
 - Information shared for health professional regulatory purposes;
 - Information shared to report abuse of children, adults, or disabled persons;
 - Information shared in response to court orders and/or subpoenas;
 - Information shared for purposes of research, other than those you authorized in writing; and,
 - Information shared prior to April 14, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Requests for further information about the matters covered in this notice may be directed to the person who gave you this notice or the school district's Privacy Officer, Eric Chisem, who can be reached at 954-712-3369.

COMPLAINTS

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at 200 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C.20201/ telephone toll free 877-696-6775 or the school district's Privacy Officer, Eric Chisem at 7770 W. Oakland Pk. Blvd, Suite 206, Sunrise, FL 33351. The school district will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This notice of Privacy Practices is effective April 14, 2003, and shall be in effect until a new Notice of Privacy Practices is approved and posted.

SECTION VIII – INTERVENTION and/or CONSEQUENCES

When students do not follow the rules and expectations outlined in this Code of Student Conduct, one or more of the following actions may be taken until the problem is resolved.

Possible Interventions and/or Consequences of Misbehavior

It will not be necessary to use each consequence or to use consequences in the order listed. Individual schools may have additional rules for student behavior as part of their school's discipline plans. These plans are available at your school and will be provided upon parent request. Certain rule violations do require specific consequences (*see Bus Misbehavior and Consequences of Serious Misbehavior*).

- Guidance counselor intervention.
- Social Worker intervention.
- Time out for students.
- Teacher/student conference, including record review.
- Disciplinary action initiated by teacher.
- Restitution, work detail, etc.
- Before or after school detention (parent responsible for transportation).
- Saturday School.
- Referral to administrator.
- School/parent contact.
- School/parent conference.
- Conflict mediation.
- Alternative probationary contract.
- Confiscation.
- Principal involvement.
- Guidance/administration referral to school social worker.
- Removal from class by teacher.
- Suspension from the bus. Students must attend school and the parent(s) must provide transportation.
- *For Secondary Only*, warning, notification, or towing for motor vehicle violations:
 - a. First offense: Warning
 - b. Second offense: Parent notification
 - c. Third offense: Tow vehicle
- Administrative referral to student services, outside agencies, counseling programs, alternative education programs, and/or placement in other special programs such as a telecommunications class or state-licensed drug rehabilitation program.
- External suspension from classes and all school activities in accordance with School Board Policy 5006.
- Referral to Special Investigative Unit/police.
- Full restitution by parent(s) for damage done by student in accordance with School Board Policy 2303.
- Recommendation for expulsion in accordance with School Board Policy 5006.

Normally consequences such as suspension, detention, and Saturday School, shall occur only after other corrective measures such as parent contact, have been tried without success. If the student is suspended, the school shall provide the student's parent(s) with a written explanation of the reason for suspension.

Suspensions and expulsions of IDEA-eligible disabled students shall follow applicable laws, School Board policies, and provisions of the Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Suspension, expulsion, and other disciplinary measures applied to students determined to be disabled under Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 shall follow applicable laws, School Board policies, and provisions of the Section 504 Accommodation Plan.

Consequences of Serious Misbehavior Leading to Suspension and/or Expulsion

The Code also includes provisions for action that **MUST** be taken if there are serious problems involving weapons, drugs (including alcohol) mood-altering substances, steroids, and criminal acts. Specific action will be taken as a result of these violations as stated in School Board Policy 5006, Sections II, III, and IV. However, If the principal determines that the student uses an instrument or object in self-defense, the student will not be suspended or expelled. Self-defense is an attempt to "ward off" an attack or stop the process of confrontation. It is not self-defense when an object is used in retaliation or when the student uses an object to become an aggressor.

All violations under School Board Policy 5006 will involve the following steps:

- Principal involvement.
- Immediate parent contact.
- Suspension from school grounds, all classes, and all school activities.
- Referral to Special Investigative Unit and police.

External Suspension: When, by the *school's administration*, a student is removed from school and school-related activities on or off school grounds.

Expulsion: When, by action of the *School Board*, a student is removed from school and school-related activities on or off school grounds.

Drug and Substance Abuse Offenses Leading to Suspension and Possible Expulsion

A student's locker or other storage area may be subject to a search by a school administrator based upon reasonable suspicion of possession of prohibited or illegal materials. Reasonable suspicion may also result in a search of person, possessions, and/or vehicle.

However, any personal property brought on school grounds may be inspected by drug-sniffing dogs for alcohol, drugs, or other prohibited substances. Personal property that may be inspected includes, but is not limited to, cars parked on school grounds, desks, backpacks, lockers, book bags, and gym bags. Reasonable suspicion of improper conduct is not required to use drug-sniffing dogs to inspect personal property. Drug-sniffing dogs will not be used to inspect students for alcohol, drugs, or other prohibited substances.

FIRST OFFENSE for use, possession, or being under the influence of mood-altering substances, including alcohol and alcoholic beverages. First offense procedures: **(1)** The first-time occurrence for the use, possession or being under the influence of mood-altering substances, including alcohol and alcoholic beverages, shall be counted at any time during which the student is enrolled in Broward County Public Schools. If the student has been suspended or expelled for a prior drug offense by any in-state or out-of-state public, private, charter, or research school, then the disposition of this offense shall constitute a second offense and the procedures for second offenses shall apply. **(2)** Upon committing the first offense, a student will be referred to the area substance abuse case manager who shall refer the student to an appropriate counseling program. Up to seven (7) days of the suspension may be waived if the student attends a counseling program authorized by the principal/designee in conjunction with the area substance abuse case manager. If the student does not complete the recommended counseling program, the full ten (10) days of suspension shall be imposed.

SECOND OFFENSE for use, possession, or being under the influence of mood-altering substances, including alcohol and alcoholic beverages. Second offense procedures: **(1)** The student shall be suspended from the regular school program for ten (10) days and expulsion shall be mandatory. **(2)** The expulsion shall be held in abeyance if the student completes a state-certified drug/alcohol rehabilitation program or a treatment program with a certified addiction professional. **(3)** If the student fails to complete the state-certified drug/alcohol rehabilitation program, the full term of the expulsion shall be implemented. **(4)** The student may return to the regular school program upon successful completion of the prescribed rehabilitation program. The area substance abuse case manager shall monitor/verify that the student has completed the program.

THIRD AND SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES for use, possession, or being under the influence of mood-altering substances, including alcohol and alcoholic beverages. Third and subsequent offenses procedures: **(1)** The student shall be suspended from the regular school program for ten (10) days and expulsion shall be mandatory. **(2)** The student shall be placed in an expulsion abeyance program for a period of one calendar year, commencing with the date of the offense and shall complete a state-certified drug/alcohol rehabilitation program.

SALE, ATTEMPTED SALE, OR TRANSMITTAL of drugs or mood-altering substances, or other substances held out or represented to be drugs or mood-altering substances, including alcohol or alcoholic beverages. Procedures for sale, attempted sale, or transmittal: **(1)** Student shall be suspended from the regular school program for ten (10) days and expulsion shall be mandatory. **(2)** The student shall be placed in the Expulsion Abeyance Program for a period of one (1) calendar year, commencing with the date of the offense.

FELONY POSSESSION OF DRUGS OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES A student found to be in possession of any drugs or controlled substance which constitutes a felony under Florida statutes will be subject to the procedures for felony possession of drugs or controlled substances: **(1)** The student shall be suspended from the regular school program for ten (10) days and expulsion shall be mandatory. **(2)** The student shall be placed in the Expulsion Abeyance Program for a period of one (1) calendar year, commencing with the date of the offense.

Other Offenses (Non-Drug and Non-Substance Abuse Offenses) Leading to Suspension and Possible Expulsion

Students shall be suspended and may be recommended for expulsion when they:

- Habitually commit a serious breach of conduct including, but not limited to, willful disobedience and/or open defiance of authority.
- Commit assault.
- Commit battery.
- Commit or threaten to commit damage to property.
- Commit any act that substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of the school.
- Commit grand theft.
- Possess and/or display or transmit a Class B weapon (*see Definition of Weapons*, page 29).
- Possess, display, transmit, or handle laser pens/pointers and other laser devices in a manner that could potentially harm or injure another individual.
- Make an Internet/electronic transmission of a threat to do harm to person(s) on school grounds, or to school property that results in a substantial disruption to the school climate.
- Conduct, recruit, or participate on campus in a formal or informal manner in order to foster youth gang activity. This activity may include an association or group of three or more persons who are gang-related individually or collectively who engage in a pattern of youth or street gang activity and have a common name or common identifying clothing, jewelry, buttons, colors, signs, symbols, or markings with the intent to threaten and/or present a danger to public order and safety.
- Commit other criminal actions on school board property not set forth in this policy, including when the student is found to have committed a delinquent act which would be a felony, if committed by an adult; the student has had adjudication withheld for a delinquent act which, if committed by an adult, would be a felony; or the student has been found guilty of a felony.
- Are charged by a proper prosecuting attorney with a felony, or with a delinquent act which would be a felony if committed by an adult or found by a court of law to have committed a felony for an incident which allegedly occurred on property other than public school property, if that incident is shown in an administrative hearing to have an adverse impact on the educational program, discipline, or welfare of the school in which the student is enrolled.
- Use the school district's technology and/or software illegally.

Offenses Leading to Mandatory Expulsion

Students shall not be subject to mandatory suspension and expulsion proceedings when the principal determines that an instrument or object covered in **Definitions of Weapons** (page 27) was used solely for the purpose of defense against an aggressor. A student shall not be subject to mandatory expulsion proceedings if it is determined that the student immediately returned a firearm to the person who gave it to him/her, or if the student took a firearm to a staff member or was in the process of taking it to a staff member.

Students found to have committed the following offenses on school property, school-sponsored transportation, or during a school-sponsored activity shall receive the most severe consequences provided in this policy which shall be mandatory suspension and expulsion and referral for criminal prosecution to the local law enforcement agency. These offenses include:

- Aggravated assault.
- Arson or attempted arson.
- Sexual battery (rape) or attempted sexual battery (rape).
- Possession, display, use, sale, or transmission of a Class A weapon (*see Definition of Weapons*, page 29).
- Homicide or attempted homicide.
- Kidnapping or abduction.
- Possession, use, or sale of any explosive propellant or destructive device.
- Armed robbery or attempted armed robbery.
- Aggravated battery.
- Battery on a teacher/school district employee.
- Extortion.
- Robbery or attempted robbery.
- Threats to throw, project, place or discharge a destructive device with intent to do bodily harm to any person or with intent to damage any property, of any person.
- False reports, with intent to deceive, mislead, or otherwise misinform a person, concerning the placing or planting of any bomb, dynamite, or other deadly explosive

Alternative to Expulsion Program

1. The expulsion shall commence with the date of the School Board's final order. However, the term of exclusion from the regular school shall not exceed one calendar year from the date of the offense. If the expulsion shall be held in abeyance, the student shall be given the opportunity to participate in an established Expulsion Abeyance Program.
2. If a student enrolls in an Expulsion Abeyance Program or in a program designated by the Superintendent and successfully completes the program, all records regarding the incident shall be expunged from the student's record. The area student services substance abuse/expulsion case manager will facilitate the student's re-entry into the regular school program.
3. Refusal or failure to meet conditions specified in the Expulsion Abeyance Agreement may result in the removal of the abeyance option, and the student may be expelled from all programs and schools in the Broward County Schools until the duration of the original expulsion has lapsed.
4. The appropriate expulsion code shall be entered into the student's permanent record. This record shall be forwarded to any school requesting that record for the purpose of student admission.
5. The area student services case manager shall monitor/verify that the student has completed the program.

Workback

The Workback Program is designed to allow a student who has been recommended for expulsion to reduce the one-year period of expulsion by no more than ninety (90) school attendance days. However, students are not eligible for the Workback Program if they commit any of the following offenses:

- Arson or attempted arson.
- Sexual battery (rape) or attempted sexual battery (rape).
- Possession, use, sale, or transmittal of a firearm
- Homicide or attempted homicide.
- Kidnapping or abduction.
- Armed robbery or attempted armed robbery.
- Third and subsequent offenses for use, possession, or being under the influence of mood-altering substances including alcohol and alcoholic beverages.

For all other offenses, the principal, with approval of the area superintendent, may recommend that a student not participate in the Workback Program due to the circumstances of the expellable offense. Upon successful completion of the Workback Program, the student shall transition back to the regular school program.

Out-of-District Expulsions

Expulsion or dismissal of a student from any in-state or out-of-state public, private, charter, or research school will be honored by the Broward County School Board if the act committed is one that would be grounds for expulsion under this policy.

If a student who has been expelled or dismissed from another district wishes admission, he/she shall be placed in an appropriate Expulsion Abeyance Program or a program designated by the Superintendent for a period of time commensurate with the terms of the original expulsion.

Definition of Weapons

Class A weapons include:

- Firearms – any kind of gun (whether operable or inoperable, loaded or unloaded) including, but not limited to hand, zip, pistol, rifle, shotgun, BB gun, and starter gun.

AT NO TIME is it appropriate for any student to possess or bring a weapon of any kind onto a school campus. Federal and state laws require local school districts to notify parents, through the Code of Student Conduct, that any student who is determined to have brought a firearm to school, to any school function, or on any school-sponsored transportation will be recommended for expulsion, with or without continuing educational services, from the student's regular school for a period of not less than one full year and referred for criminal prosecution. (Firearm is defined in federal law 18 U.S.C. s.921.)

Possession of a firearm shall be defined as knowingly, intentionally, deliberately, or inadvertently (without meaning to do it) bringing a firearm on school property, school sponsored transportation, or to a school sponsored activity.federal law 18 U.S.C. s.921.)

- Explosive propellants or destructive devices.
- Dirks.
- Metallic knuckles.
- Billy clubs.
- Tear gas.
- Electric weapon or device (stun gun).
- Slungshot.
- Chemical weapon or device (any weapon of such a nature, except a device known as a "self-defense chemical spray," that is carried solely for purposes of lawful self-defense, is compact in size, is designed to be carried on or about the person, and contains not more than two ounces of chemical).

Class B weapons include:

- Toys which resemble weapons when used in a threatening manner.
- Knives – any kind of knife, including, but not limited to, pen, switchblade, or hunting knife.
- Chains – any chain not being used for the purpose for which it was normally intended, that is capable of harming an individual.
- Pipe – any length of metal or other hard substance not being used for the purpose for which it was normally intended.
- Razor blades of any kind or similar instruments with a sharp cutting edge.
- Ice picks and other pointed instruments.
- Nunchakus, Chinese stars.
- Pepper spray, a mace device with the capacity to hold two ounces or less of the chemical.

Definition of Offenses

Battery is defined as using force against another person, without that person's consent, resulting in either (1) injury or (2) an offensive touching.

Aggravated Battery is defined as committing battery (1) using a Class A or Class B weapon or (2) causing serious injury.

Assault is defined as (1) an attempt to commit a battery or (2) a threat of injury through words or actions.

Aggravated Assault is defined as an assault in which a Class A or Class B weapon is used to commit the assault.

Petty Theft is defined as taking property that is less than \$300.

Grand Theft is defined as taking property worth \$300 or more.

SECTION IX - RIGHT TO APPEAL

There may be times when students feel they have been unfairly penalized. Most problems can be solved if students speak with the teacher or staff member who was involved. If students feel uncomfortable with this person, they may request a conference with the next level of authority. Students may also request the presence of a third party, such as a counselor, assistant principal, or other staff person. Parents may also be present. If the problem is not resolved by talking things over, the following steps may be taken:

1. A written statement must be presented to the principal within five (5) school days after the last conference. The statement must tell what happened, when it happened, who was involved, and how the student would like the problem resolved. A copy of the statement should be saved. The principal has five (5) school days to present a written response.
2. If the problem still has not been resolved, students have five (5) school days to ask, in writing, for an appointment with the area superintendent. The letter asking for the appointment must include a copy of the first written statement.
3. Upon receipt of the letter, the area superintendent will schedule a meeting within five (5) school days. This meeting will include the person involved in the original action, the principal, the student, and the parent(s). An attorney may be present to represent either the student or the school. If a decision is made at this meeting, documentation of the agreed upon actions will be forwarded to all parties within five (5) school days. If a decision is not made at this meeting, the area superintendent has five (5) school days to send a written response to the student.
4. If students still are not satisfied, they may take the problem to the Superintendent following the above procedures.
5. The Superintendent will schedule another meeting to see how the matter can be resolved. If a decision is not made at this meeting, the Superintendent has five (5) school days to send a written response. If students still are not satisfied, they have five (5) school days to write to the School Board and ask for a hearing, recounting the specifics of the incident.

INDEX

- Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs 12, 26
- Alternative to Suspension Program 8, 9
- Alternative to Suspension and Expulsion Program (*see* **Consequences and Interventions**)
- Attendance**
 - Absence Report 7
 - Academic Penalties 8, 9
 - Early Sign Outs 10
 - Excused Absences
 - Communicable/contagious diseases 8
 - Doctor/Dentist Appointments 10
 - Habitual Truant 9
 - Broward Truancy Intervention Program (BTIP) 7
 - Juvenile Intervention Facility (JIF) Truancy Unit 9
 - Make Up Work 9
 - Tardiness 9
 - Unexcused Absences 8
- Broward Truancy Intervention Project (BTIP) (*See* **Attendance**)
- Bus Misbehavior 13
- Cell Phones and Pagers (*see* **Respect for Persons and Property**)
- Character Education 1, 4, 11
- Clubs and Extracurricular Activities (*see* **Student Activities and Assembly**)
- Confiscated items 3/5
- Consequences and Interventions**
 - Alternative to Expulsion Programs 28
 - Consequences of Serious Misbehavior Leading to Suspension and/or Expulsion 25
 - Drug and Substance Abuse Offenses Leading to Suspension and Possible Expulsion 26
 - Other Offenses (Non-Drug and Non-Substance Abuse Offenses) Leading to Suspension and Possible Expulsion 27
 - Offenses, Definition of 29
 - Offenses Leading to Mandatory Expulsion 27
 - Possible Consequences of Misbehavior 25
 - Weapons, Definitions of 29
 - Workback 28
- Directory Information 22
- Discrimination (*see* **Respect for Persons and Property**)
- Diseases (*see* **Attendance**/ Excused Absences)
- Doctor/Dentist Appointments (*see* **Attendance**)
- Dress Code** 16
- Driver's License Suspension 8
- Drug-sniffing dogs 26
- Drugs (*see* Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs)
- Expulsion (*see* **Consequences**)
 - Field Trips 12, 26
 - Firearms 27, 29
 - Free Speech and Student Publications** 21
 - Fundraising (*see* **Student Activities**)
 - Gangs 12, 16, 27
 - Hair (*see* **Dress Code**)
 - Harassment other than sexual harassment (*see* **Respect for Persons and Property**)
 - Hats and sunglasses (*see* **Dress Code**)
 - Health Records (**See** **Privacy of Student Records**)
 - High School Eligibility (*see* **Student Activities and Assembly**)
 - Homebound Instruction 8
 - IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 1, 12, 14, 25
 - Immunization 8
 - Juvenile Intervention Facility (JIF) (*see* **Attendance**)
 - Media Release Form 3/5
 - Medicine, administration of 3/5
 - Middle School Eligibility (*see* **Student Activities and Assembly**)
 - Motor Vehicle Violations 12, 25
 - Obscene/Pornographic Materials (*see* Pornographic/Obscene Materials)
 - Pajamas 16
 - Petitions 21
 - Physical (Body) Contact 10, 11, 13, 21
 - Pornographic/Obscene Materials (*see* **Respect for Persons and Property**)
 - Posters 21
 - Privacy of Student Records**
 - Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) 22
 - Physical/Mental Health Records (HIPAA) 23
 - Prescription Drugs (*see* Medicine, administration of)
 - Release of Records (*see* **Privacy of Student Records**)
 - Respect for Persons and Property**
 - Expected Behaviors
 - Bicycle Helmets 11
 - Discrimination and/or Harassment and Grievance Procedures
 - Forms of Discrimination 15
 - Section 504 15
 - Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violations 12, 15, 27, 29
 - Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Defined 15
 - Unacceptable Behaviors Leading to Disciplinary Action
 - Abuse of staff and/or students 11, 12, 13, 27, 29
 - Bullets and Shell Casings 11
 - Bullying 11
 - Bus Misbehavior 13
 - Cell Phones/Paging devices 3, 11
 - Damage to school property 11, 27
 - Failure to report threats 12
 - Fire alarms 12
 - Fireworks 11
 - Harassment other than sexual harassment 12
 - Hate Crimes 12
 - Hazing 12
 - Intentionally Lying to Staff 11
 - Littering 11
 - Skateboards, scooters, in-line skates/rollerblades/heelies 11
 - Right to Appeal** 30
 - Rules Violations (*see* **Consequences and Respect for Persons and Property**)
 - Sandals (*see* **Dress Code**)
 - School's discipline plan 3/5, 8, 10, 11, 18
 - Search of Persons and/or Property 26
 - Section 504 (*see also* **Respect for Persons and Property**) 1, 12, 14, 25
 - Self-Defense 25, 27
 - Sexual Harassment (*see* **Respect for Persons and Property**) 15
 - Student Activities and Assembly** 19
 - Student Records (*see* **Privacy of Student Records**)
 - Summary of Changes** 2
 - Sunglasses and hats (*see* **Dress Code**)
 - Surveys 21
 - Suspension (*see* **Consequences**)
 - Tardiness (*see* **Attendance**)
 - Tobacco (*see* Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs)
 - Toys 10, 26, 29
 - Technology Usage**
 - Computers and telecommunications 12, 18, 27
 - Uniforms (*see* **Dress Code**)
 - Weapons (*see* **Consequences**)
 - Wireless Communication Devices 1, 3, 5, 11
 - Workback (*see* **Consequences**)

