

Lamar County School District
Student/Parent Handbook 2011-2012
"Helping students prepare for the challenges of tomorrow"



This handbook is property of

NOTICE
DRUG FREE SCHOOLS

The Lamar County School Board resolves to have the most Drug Free School environment possible. The District and School Board, through its Administration and Police Department, will vigorously seek out those who use, sell, or come to school under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Students who violate the School District Policies in regard to use, possession, or sale of drugs will be subject to the strongest discipline to include alternative school placement and expulsion.

The District will be using its own drug dog to conduct drug searches at all of its schools on a regular basis.

HAZING/STALKING

Student behavior that harasses or threatens other students or school personnel will not be tolerated. The Lamar County School District shall treat hazing, as defined in MS Code 37-11-37 through 45; 97-3-105 & 107.

The honor system will be used whereby those who are hazed will be expected to report the hazing or will be held just as responsible as those doing the hazing. If the hazing is related to initiation into teams, clubs, or organizations, removal from the activity will be immediate and automatic. Other consequences will be determined by the severity of the hazing.

This policy is not limited to on-campus activities.

Statements of Agreement

Directions: Please sign and return this form to the school office no later than **September 1st**.

Student Handbook

By my/our signatures, I/we state that I/we have reviewed the handbook and understand that any questions I/we have regarding its contents should be forwarded to the appropriate school office. I/we further understand that this handbook is a guide and that the rules, regulations, and policies set forth herein are approved policies of the Lamar County School District as adopted by the Board of Education of Lamar County, Mississippi. I/We understand that students will be taught and tested on the major elements in this handbook.

Parents' Consent
 YES NO

Statement of Permission

I/we hereby give my/our consent for the student named herein to have his/her picture and/or writings published during the school year. Further, the Lamar County School District participates in federal education programs (Title I, II, III, IV, and V) as part of the Improving America's Schools Act. These programs require certain surveys and evaluations to be completed by students. I/we give permission for this student to participate in such surveys and evaluations.

Parents' Consent
 YES NO

Directory Information

Certain student information may be released at the school's discretion unless a student's parent or guardian notifies the school that such information is not to be released. **SUCH NOTIFICATION MUST BE GIVEN TO THE SCHOOL BY SEPT. 1ST.** The following student information is considered "directory information" and may be released in accordance with this policy and in accordance with Section 438 1232g US Code: Student name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major area of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, awards received, photographs, heights and weights of athletic participants, dates of attendance, videos of athletic participation, and the name of the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended.

I/we have read the section titled "Directory Information" and hereby give the school permission to release information as set forth in this section of the handbook.

Parents' Consent
 YES NO

Name of Parent/Guardian (Printed) _____

Parent Guardian Signature: _____

Student Name (Printed): _____

Grade of Student: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date Signed: _____

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LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

The technology resources that you are accessing are the property of the Lamar County School District and are intended for educational purposes. These resources may include software, hardware, computer networks, online services, and the Internet. Use of these technology resources may include the opportunity to have independent access from the user's home or other remote locations. All use of these technology resources, including independent use off district premises, shall be subject to this policy and accompanying regulations. The user agrees to these terms and conditions and the user is entitled to no expectation of privacy in the use of these technology resources. The user's access to these technology resources may be monitored at any time for unacceptable and illegal use.

The Lamar County School District has taken great strides to offer access to technology and information to students whenever possible. Because much of this occurs online, there are a myriad of topics and ideas that are at the students' fingertips. Great care has been taken to ensure that students have access to timely and relevant information. Unfortunately, in a constantly changing environment like the Internet, there is the possibility that a student may be subjected to information that is undesirable to both parents and the District. The Lamar County School District is CIPA (Child Internet Protection Act) compliant. The Lamar County School District makes every effort possible to protect students while they are on school property. Likewise, users of the computer networks and Internet connections provided by the Lamar County School District must abide by certain policies as well. The roles of both users and the Lamar County School District are outlined below.

Personal Safety

- Users will not disclose, use, disseminate or divulge personal and/or private information about himself/herself, minors, or any others including personal identification information, etc.
- Lamar County School District will not disclose personal information about students on websites such as their full name, home or email address, telephone number, and social security number.

Illegal and/or Unacceptable Usage

- User agrees not to access, transmit or retransmit any material(s) in furtherance of any illegal act or conspiracy to commit any illegal act in violation of local, state or federal law or regulations and/or school district policy.
- User shall not access, transmit, or retransmit:
 - Copyrighted materials (including plagiarism)
 - Threatening, harassing, bullying, or obscene material
 - Pornographic material
 - Material protected by trade secret
 - Any other material that is inappropriate to minors
- User shall not circumvent security measures by hacking or the use of proxy servers.
- User shall not vandalize or otherwise maliciously harm or destroy technology resources, including the data of another user, or upload/create computer viruses.
- User shall not download, upload, or run any software, games, or shareware that are not installed and licensed by the district or approved by appropriate district staff.

System Resource Limits

- User shall only use the Lamar County School District system for educational and career development activities and limited, high-quality self-discovery activities as approved by Lamar County Faculty for a limited amount of time per week.
- Lamar County School District computer and network resources are not infinite, and as such each user will monitor their usage of these resources carefully so as not to intentionally disrupt other users. If a user has a unique requirement that could cause a strain on system resources, he/she will discuss this requirement with system administrator(s), in order to come up with the best solution possible.
- For Lamar County School District e-mail addresses provided for students or staff, there should be no expectation of archiving of e-mail messages.

User Rights and Responsibilities

- User agrees to immediately notify his/her teacher or other school administrator, should user access inappropriate information or cause a disruption to system services. This will assist in protecting user against a claim of intentional violation of this policy.
- User shall have the responsibility to use computer resources for academic purposes only. Therefore, as mandated by CIPA, filtering will be utilized on all computers accessing the Internet. The only exception will be for academic research by a staff member with the approval of school administration.
- Lamar County School District will fully cooperate with local, state or federal officials in any investigation related to illegal activities conducted using school district technology resources.
- Under no conditions should a user provide his/her password to another person, use another person's password, or access/change files that do not belong to the user.

e-Reader Acceptable Use

- All e-Readers must be registered with the Lamar County School District and accompanied by the **Acceptable Use Agreement Form** signed by both the parent(s) and the student.
- e-Readers are to be used **only** for the reading of school approved material (books, etc.) and not for other purposes such as communication, entertainment, music, gaming, etc. while on school property.
- All personal e-Readers must have cellular and network capabilities **disabled** (turned off) while the device is at school. All district e-Readers must have cellular and network capabilities **disabled** (turned off) at ALL times unless otherwise authorized by appropriate district personnel.
- e-Readers must be used at appropriate times in accordance with teacher instructions. The e-Reader must not be a distraction for the student or those around him/her nor be a source of any classroom or school disruption.
- The student is responsible for knowing how to properly and effectively use his/her personal e-Reader and this should not be a burden for the teachers or staff.

LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE

Student/User:

I understand and will abide by the provisions and conditions of the Acceptable Use Agreement. I understand that any violations of the provisions contained in the Acceptable Use Agreement contained in the Lamar County School District's Student Handbook may result in disciplinary action, denial of access to district technology resources, the revoking of my user account, and/or appropriate legal action. I also agree to report any misuse of the information system to the Lamar County School District (LCSD) system administrator(s). **Misuse can come in many forms, but can be viewed as any messages send or received that indicate or suggest pornography, unethical or illegal solicitation, racism, sexism, inappropriate language, and other issues described in the guidelines as set forth in the Student Handbook.**

Parent/Guardian:

Students under the age of 18 must also have the signature of a parent/guardian who has read the Acceptable Use Agreement furnished by the District and contained in the Lamar County School District Student Handbook.

As the parent/guardian of the student/user named above, I have read this policy and understand that technology resources are designed for educational purposes. While the LCSD will have in place a program to block access to inappropriate material on the Internet, I understand that it is impossible for the LCSD to restrict access to all controversial materials, and I will not hold the LCSD responsible for materials accessed on the Internet. I also agree to report any misuse of the information system to the Lamar County School District's system administrator(s). Misuse can come in many forms, but can be viewed as messages sent or received that indicate or suggest pornography, unethical or illegal solicitation, racism, sexism, inappropriate language, and other issues described in the guidelines as set forth in the LCSD Student Handbook.

Further, I agree to accept all financial and legal liabilities that may result from my child's inappropriate use of LCSD's Internet connection. I hereby certify that the information contained on this form is true and correct.

_____ I hereby give my permission to provide my child access to LCSD technology resources.

_____ I do not give my permission to provide my child access to LCSD technology resources.

Name of Parent/Guardian (printed): _____

Parent Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Name (Printed): _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

School name: _____ Grade: _____

LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
E-READER ACCEPTABLE USE

Parent/Guardian Agreement:

I authorize my child to bring their e-Reader to school within the Lamar County School District with the understanding that it is to be used as a tool for reading **only** and that my child will comply with the Lamar County School District Technology Acceptable Use Policy and specifically with the e-Reader Acceptable Use as defined therein. I understand that Lamar County School District is not responsible for any damage or loss associated with my child's e-Reader. I also understand that a violation of the e-Reader policy may result in my child losing the privilege to bring their e-Reader to school for a length of time commensurate with the nature of the violation.

Parent/Guardian Name: (Print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

e-Reader Make/Model: _____

e-Reader Serial Number: _____

e-Reader MAC Address: _____

Student Agreement:

I agree to abide by all guidelines set forth in the Lamar County School District Technology Acceptable Use Policy and specifically with the e-Reader Acceptable Use as defined therein. I understand that a violation of this policy may result in losing the privilege to bring the e-Reader to school for a length of time commensurate with the nature of the violation.

Student Name: (Print) _____

Student Signature: _____

Media Center Specialist

Media Center Specialist Name: (Print) _____

Media Center Specialist Signature: _____ Date: _____

No Fighting Contract

In Lamar County School District, the administration and faculty have the responsibility to maintain a safe and orderly campus. Our goal is to create a safe and orderly environment where our educational mission can be fulfilled. That mission states: students can learn and develop in an educational setting free of physical abuse, harassment, and intimidation. In accordance with this statement, we ask that you sign the contract below stating that you will not become a part of the problem but part of the solution.

I, _____ (student's first and last name), pledge not to engage in any type of behavior that would be considered fighting or simple assault and battery, which would cause mental or physical injury to another student on any grounds of Lamar County School District, this includes the bus, bus stop, and the way to and from school, and at any school event. In accordance with district policy, I understand that should I display this behavior or should I be involved in causing a fight, I will be placed on the district's discipline ladder. Students who have a habitual problem with fighting will be placed in alternative school. **I also understand that it is unlawful to attempt or purposely cause bodily harm to another under MS CODE 97-3-7 and that, by law, a copy of the School Violation Report form will be reported to the Lamar County Youth Court and I could possibly be placed under arrest if I am involved in a serious fight on campus.** Fighting (or spreading rumors/gossip which leads to verbal/physical confrontation/fight/disruption/disturbance) at school, school activities, and/or aboard a school bus will result in my being placed on the discipline ladder. With these consequences in mind, I will refrain from any action at school, on the way to and from school, and at school events. **I also agree not to engage in any type of behavior that threatens or harasses or injures other students, including any hazing, occurring either at school or away from school.** I understand any type of hazing – whether at school or not – is likely to affect the proper operations and conduct of the school. Therefore I will be subject to punishment for such acts.

Student..... Date

Parent Date

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Model Notification of Rights under FERPA For Elementary and Secondary Schools

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

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receiving a request for access.

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

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate.

Parents or eligible students may ask the School to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the school principal [or appropriate school official], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

[Optional] Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. [NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.]

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the *School District* to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-5901

[NOTE: In addition, a school may want to include its directory information public notice, as required by § 99.37 of the regulations, with its annual notification of rights under FERPA.]

Family Safety Information

The safety of each child is a primary concern of the Lamar County School District. Our school district has spent considerable time and effort planning and practicing safety and security measures appropriate for dealing with major critical incidents. Every school has a school safety plan. Teachers, staff, and students participate in appropriate training covering a variety of potential crises. The school district employs School Resource Officers that are assigned to the schools. The school district works closely with city and county law enforcement, the Emergency Management Agency, and other public safety departments.

We ask our families for support and assistance with our safety plan. At the beginning of the school year, review the student handbook with your children. Make sure they know the expectations the school has for their academic and social behavior. Talk to your children about the things they like at school, as well as the things that may cause them some concern. Talk to school personnel about these concerns so that they may be addressed. During the year you may hear your children discussing various drills that may occur on campus. We regularly participate in fire and weather drills, as well as lockdown and evacuation drills. It is important that you provide the school with up-to-date phone numbers and addresses, as well as vital medical information. In the event a crisis should occur at school, please be aware of the following procedures:

- Tune into the following media: WDAM-TV, WKZW-FM 94.3, WBBN-FM 95.9, WFMN-FM 97.3, WMXI-FM 98.1, WNSL-FM 100.3, WUSW-FM 103.7, WXRR-FM 104.5. These services will notify the community of school closings and possible evacuation sites.
- Please do not call the school. We will need to keep communication lines open for emergency responders.
- Please do not come to the school unless instructed to do so by the media. It is important to keep roadways clear for emergency responders.
- If the school is in a **lockdown**, students will stay on campus in a secure classroom. Teachers and school personnel have received extensive training in lockdown procedures. No one will be allowed to enter during lockdown.
- If the school must be **evacuated**, students will be evacuated to an alternate location, which will be released to you through media resources.
- No student will be released until everyone is accounted for and the superintendent's office authorizes the release.
- No student will be released until the authorized parent or legal guardian signs him or her out.

It is important that you trust and work with your school and emergency personnel in the event of a crisis so that these individuals can accurately implement the procedures that they have trained on throughout the year.

Early Dismissal for Bad Weather

In the case of an early dismissal due to impending bad weather, notification will be made through the above listed media sources and School Messenger. Students will not be counted absent if they are checked out of school after the official early dismissal announcement has been made through the media. Any check-out prior to the official announcement will be treated as a normal check-out and will be counted as an absence.

If you choose to check out your child during a tornado warning you must sign the "Severe Weather Assumption of Risk" form provided by the school.

Student Change of Address or Other Personal Information

The importance of emergency information of each student cannot be over-emphasized. The school must have accurate access to a student's home address, names of responsible parties, and telephone numbers where those parties may be reached at any time when the student is at school. Parents must notify the school when there is a change of address or any change in the above-stated information.

Violence, Threats of Violence, Hazing, Stalking, Gang Activity, or Other Activity That Disrupts the Educational Process, Etc.

Violence or threats of violence, hazing, stalking, gang activity, or any other activity that disrupts the educational process and/or threatens the health or general safety of other students or staff **will not be tolerated**. The administration and school staff will take threats of violence seriously, and violators will be dealt with swiftly and accordingly. Violent acts (including fighting) or threats of violent acts will not be viewed as pranks or "playing around" activities by students or others. Such acts are dealt with in accordance with the seriousness of the incident, the age of the student(s) involved, the number of students participating in the episode, and the extent to which the student(s) are cooperative in following the instructions of administration and staff in ending the incident. In almost all cases, some disciplinary action will be imposed by the principal/assistant principal. A parent conference will be required and a threat assessment may be recommended. For seriously violent situations law enforcement officials will be contacted, and the student(s) will be placed on Step 5 or higher of the discipline ladder. Principals/assistant principals are fully authorized to file necessary criminal charges against students involved in such acts if in their discretion the same is warranted.

Further, students and staff have a duty to report any knowledge they may have regarding the threat of a violent act to school authorities. This includes, but is not limited to, reporting knowledge of verbal or written comments by an individual or group of individuals stating their intent to commit a violent act or knowledge that an individual is in possession of an item that is considered or could be considered a weapon.

The Lamar County School District will not tolerate anyone verbally abusing or threatening to harm any staff member. Persons who do so will be subject to criminal prosecution in the appropriate judicial system. Any student in violation of this policy can face administration disciplinary action and criminal referral. Section 37-11-21

Important Notice

Section 37-11-18, Mississippi Code of 1972, as Amended

"Any student in any school who possesses any controlled substance in violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Law, a knife, handgun, other firearm or any other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm or who commits a violent act on educational property as defined in Section 97-37-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be subject to automatic expulsion for a calendar year by the superintendent or principal of the school in which the student is enrolled; provided, however, that the superintendent of the school shall be authorized to modify the period of time for such expulsion on a case by case basis. Such expulsion shall take effect immediately subject to the student's right to appeal to the local school board."

Prohibition Of The Use Of Tobacco On School Property

(As Adopted by the MS Legislature General Session 2000)

The Mississippi Legislature acted during the 2000 Legislative Session to adopt and codify the following state law as recited under Sections 97-32-25, 97-32-27, and 97-32-29. In summary, these laws prohibit the use of tobacco by any person on certain educational property and prescribe fines for violations thereof, and for related purposes. Educational property under this law means any public school building or bus, public school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used, or operated by any local school board, school, or directors of any public educational institution or during a school-related activity.

Lamar County School District Police Force

The Lamar County School District operates its own police force in accordance with the requirements and regulations of the Mississippi Department of Law Enforcement Standards. The district employs certified law enforcement officers as school resource officers. These officers are certified by the State of Mississippi and are vested with the power to keep and preserve the peace on school property, including the power to make arrests, detain violators, and execute all the powers of a constable.

Harassment, Bullying

Students of Lamar County School District shall not bully, harass or intimidate others including electronic means such as, but not limited to MySpace, the internet, text messages or related means.

Students in the Lamar County School District are protected from bullying or harassing behavior by other students. It is the intent of the Board and the administration to maintain an environment free from bullying and harassing behavior. This complaint procedure provides a process for filing, processing and resolving complaints of such conduct. Adherence to these procedures is mandatory. The failure of any person to follow these procedures will constitute a waiver of the right to pursue a complaint at any level, including review by the Board.

Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that (a) places a student in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or

damage to his or her property, or (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits.

Procedures for Processing a Complaint

Any student who feels he/she has been a victim of bullying or harassing behavior, or has witnessed or who has reliable information that a student has been subject to bullying or harassing behavior shall report such conduct to a teacher, principal, counselor or other school official. The report shall be made promptly but no later than five (5) calendar days after the alleged act or acts occurred. The school official shall complete a "Bullying/Harassing Behavior" complaint form which shall include the name of the reporting person, the specific nature and date of the misconduct, the names of the victim of the misconduct, the names of any witnesses and any other information that would assist in the investigation of the complaint. The report shall be given promptly to the principal who shall institute an immediate investigation. Complaints against the principal shall be made to the superintendent or his designee and complaints against the superintendent shall be made to the Board chairman.

The complaint shall be investigated promptly. Parents will be notified of the nature of any complaint involving their student. The District official will arrange such meetings as may be necessary with all concerned parties within five (5) working days after initial receipt of the complaint by the District. The parties will have an opportunity to submit evidence and a list of witnesses. All findings related to the complaint will be reduced to writing. The District official conducting the investigation shall notify the victim and parents as appropriate when the investigation is completed and a decision regarding disciplinary action, as warranted, is determined.

If the victim is not satisfied with the decision of the District official, he/she may submit a written appeal to the superintendent or his designee. Such appeal shall be filed within ten (10) working days after receipt of the results of the initial decision. The superintendent or his designee will arrange such meetings with the victim and other affected parties as deemed necessary to discuss the appeal. The superintendent or his designee shall provide a written decision to the victim's appeal within ten (10) working days.

If the victim is not satisfied with the decision of the superintendent or his designee, a written appeal may be filed with the Board. Such appeal shall be filed within ten (10) working days after receipt of the decision of the superintendent or his designee. The Board shall, within twenty (20) working days, allow the victim and parents as appropriate to appear before the Board to present reasons for dissatisfaction with the decision of the superintendent or his designee. The Board shall provide a written decision within ten (10) working days following the victim's appearance before the Board.

Gang/Group Activity Association

Gangs or groups which initiate, advocate, or promote activities which threaten the safety or well being of persons or property on school grounds or which disrupt the school environment are harmful to the educational process. Students who wear, carry, or display gang/group paraphernalia or exhibit behavior or gestures, which symbolize gang membership and/or participating in activities that intimidate or affect the attendance of another person, shall be subject to appropriate action. This behavior includes, but is not limited to the use of hand signals, graffiti on clothes, person, and notebooks, grooming, which by virtue of its color arrangement, trademark, or symbol, implies an affiliation with such a group.

Threatening, Extortion, Intimidation

Section 37-11-20: Intimidation, threatening or coercion of students for purpose of interfering with attendance of classes. It shall be unlawful for any person to intimidate, threaten, or coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce, whether by illegal force, threats of force or by the distribution of intimidating, threatening or coercive material, any person enrolled in any school for the purpose of interfering with the right of that person to attend school classes or of causing him not to attend such classes. Upon conviction of violation of any provision of this section, such individual shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), imprisonment in jail for a period not to exceed six (6) months or both. Any person under the age of seventeen (17) years who violates any provision of this section shall be treated as a delinquent within the jurisdiction of the youth court.

Students are not permitted to make threats whether **overt or implied**, against other students or school personnel. Students are not allowed to extort money, favors, or something of value from other students or staff, regardless of the amount of value, in return for protection or in connection with a threat to inflict harm. Such behavior is a violation of school policy and students in violation are subject to disciplinary action. This statement will apply on school grounds, before, during, and after school, or any time when the school is being used by a school group. It is also applicable off school grounds at school-sponsored events or when the prohibited behavior is a consequence of or directly related to causes or events that occurred or originated on the school campus.

Cyber stalking

1. It is unlawful for a person to participate in the following offenses:
 - a. Use in electronic mail or electronic communication any words or language threatening to inflict bodily harm to any person or that person's child, sibling, spouse, or dependent, or physical injury to the property of any person, or for the purpose of extorting money or other things of value from any person.
 - b. Electronically mail or electronically communicate to another repeatedly, whether or not conversation ensues, for the purpose of threatening, terrifying or harassing any person.
 - c. Electronically mail or electronically communicate to another and to knowingly make any false statement concerning death, injury, illness, disfigurement, indecent conduct, or criminal conduct of the person electronically mailed or of any member of the person's family or household with the intent to threaten, terrify or harass.
 - d. Knowingly permit an electronic communication device under the person's control to be used for any purpose prohibited by this section.
2. Whoever commits the offense of cyber stalking shall be punished, upon conviction:
 - a. Except as provided herein, the person is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than two (2) years or a fine of not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or both;
 - b. If any of the following apply, the person is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than five (5) years or a fine of not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), or both.

Reporting Threats, Plans, or Designs of Violence or Violent Acts

Students and staff have a duty to report any knowledge they may have regarding the threat, plan, or design of a violent act to school authorities. This includes, but is not limited to, reporting knowledge of verbal or written comments by an individual or group of individuals stating their intent to commit a violent act or knowledge that an individual is in possession of an item that is considered or could be considered a weapon. **Failure to report such knowledge to school authorities is a serious violation of school policy.**

Student Possession of a Weapon

Section 97-37-17: Possession of Weapons by Students (excerpt): It shall be a felony for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any gun, rifle, pistol or other firearm of any kind, or any dynamite, cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine or powerful explosive on educational property. Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or committed to the custody of the State Department of Corrections for not more than three (3) years, or both.

It shall be a misdemeanor for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed any BB gun, air rifle, air pistol, Bowie knife, dirk, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, switchblade knife, blackjack, metallic knuckles, razors and razor blades. Any person violating this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor shall be fined not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or be imprisoned not exceeding six (6) months, or both.

Student safety must be and shall be a foremost consideration within the schools. Any student who is in possession of a knife, handgun, other firearm, or any other instrument considered to be a weapon or considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm, shall be subject to expulsion pursuant to Section 37-11-18 of the Mississippi Code of 1972. The principal, who shall make a recommendation in regard to expulsion to the Superintendent and Board of Education, may immediately suspend any student who possesses any such device on school grounds or on board a school bus. Further, any student who uses an object that could be classified as a weapon in any fight with another student or with any school staff member shall be immediately suspended and a recommendation of expulsion shall be made to the Board of Education, who shall have sole and absolute discretion to act thereon. Any use of a weapon in a fight or other altercation or any other incident shall be immediately reported by school officials to local law enforcement as a criminal act.

Use/Possession of Drugs-Controlled Substances or Medications (Prescription or "Over-the Counter")

No student attending school or any school-sponsored activity shall be permitted to carry on his/her person or in any other manner have in his/her possession, in any way, or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages; morphine, marijuana, cocaine, opium; heroin or their derivatives or compounds; drugs commonly called LSD, "Pep" pills, designer drugs, tranquilizers, uppers/downers, medications (prescription or "over-the-counter") or any compound which, when taken orally, intravenously, inhaled or in any other manner may cause the person to be under the influence thereof, and no student shall use any of the same at any school in the district. The provisions of this policy shall not apply to any student who is under the care of a licensed physician and who is taking medication which is under the supervision and direction of such physician. However, any and all such prescription drugs shall be kept by school personnel in a numbered, labeled bottle provided by a licensed pharmacist. Further, the student's parents/guardians shall be responsible for notifying the school principal/assistant principal when the taking of such drugs/medicines is required on school grounds during the regular school day or at school-sponsored activities.

The provisions of this policy shall apply to all students during the period of time they are subject to the jurisdiction of the school district as defined by law and while participating in or going to or from school sponsored

activities and while under the supervision and direction of any teacher, principal/assistant principal, or other authority of the school district.

The principal may use observation, i.e. smell, symptoms, etc., to determine whether the student is under the influence. The parents have the right, at their own expense, to seek a drug test (to be taken within 24 hours of said observation) to contradict these findings.

Any student violating any of the provisions of the district's drug policy shall be considered to have committed a major offense and shall be subject to major disciplinary action, which may include long-term suspension, alternative school placement, and possible expulsion by the board of education. Pursuant to state law, any person who possesses any controlled substance in violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Law shall be subject to automatic expulsion. The principal/assistant principal shall suspend the student and a recommendation will be made to the Superintendent and Board of Education to expel the student.

This policy is for the sole and exclusive protection of the students of this district and their general welfare and nothing herein shall be construed to avoid any prosecution under applicable criminal laws. The principal/assistant principal shall report any violation of this policy to the superintendent and also to the proper law enforcement officials.

Notification Of Asbestos Re-inspection

In compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), in 1988 we performed inspections of each of our school buildings for asbestos-containing building materials. The inspection findings and asbestos management plans have been on file in each school administrative office since that time. The EPA requires us to perform re-inspection of the asbestos materials every three years and surveillance every six months. The last re-inspection was completed in 2007. The results of the re-inspection are on file in the management plan in the Lamar County Superintendent's Office in Purvis. The Asbestos program manager, Mr. Markel Knight, is available to answer any questions you may have about asbestos in our buildings at 794-1097.

Organization Of The District/Grievances And Conflict Resolution

The Lamar County School District operates four school zones, one center for technical education, and an alternative school at Jefferson-Todd Education Center. Schools are under the direct supervision and control of the principal, who acts as final authority in all matters at the school. Parents/Guardians/Students who are aggrieved by a school decision or action should present their grievance in writing to the principal. Any parent further aggrieved may appeal, in writing, to the Lamar County School Board. The grievance must be set forth in writing so that there is clarity in managing the grievance and so that an appropriate response may be given. In cases where a grievance is submitted, the appropriate administrator shall provide a response and document such response in a timely manner.

AnComm Service Available to Middle and High School Students Grades 6-12

AnComm's Talk About It service is an encrypted web based messaging service that allows two-way-communication between students and school administrators. The system enables students to communicate anonymously with school officials to report problems or address personal issues that otherwise may go unresolved.

Students simply log on to any Internet-connected computer using their login information (USERID – Student ID number, PASSWORD – last name). This could be done from a residence, the library or even a computer at school. The student may decide whether to report the problem anonymously or whether to give his/her name. The student composes and sends a message much the same way as they would send an e-mail. A designated school official will receive the report, acknowledge and communicate back to the student and open a dialogue on how best to address the issue. Once apprised of the issues, specific teachers and other appropriate officials can be made aware of the problem, and steps will be taken to monitor and/or intervene.

Crime Prevention

The Lamar County School District is committed to providing a safe environment at our campuses for our students, staff, and visitors. Teens are the age group most vulnerable to crime. By putting into practice some basic crime prevention tips, you and your friends can avoid becoming the victims of crime. Preventing crimes is more successful when everyone works together. Our students, staff, and visitors can assist in preventing crimes by:

- Stay alert and tuned into your surroundings wherever you are---at school or the mall, on the street, waiting for a bus, or driving.
- Don't accept rides or gifts from someone you don't know well and trust---that includes people you've met on the internet.
- Trust your instincts. If someone or something makes you uneasy, avoid the person or situation and leave as soon as possible.
- Know the neighborhoods where you live, go to school, and work.
- Do not leave any valuables unattended in your purse, or backpack, such as cell phones, iPods, and cash.
- Always lock your vehicle and never leave valuables such as your wallet, purse, cell phone, iPod, or cash where they can be seen by someone looking into your vehicle.

- Act as role models, learn how to examine and find solutions to problems. Settle conflicts peaceably and manage anger without violence.
- Notify a teacher, administrator, parent, or trusted adult if you're worried about a bully or threat of violence by another student.
- Support school policies and rules that help create and sustain a safe place for all students to learn.

District Directory Information

District Directory Information Superintendent of Education

Ben Burnett, Ph.D., Superintendent
P. O. Box 609
Purvis, MS 39475
Office: 794-1030
Fax: 794-1012

Board of Education

Dr. Kyle Hill, Dist. A
35 Greenleaf Dr.
Hattiesburg, MS 39402
Home: 264-3824

Mr. Steve Lampton, Dist. B
60 Lampton Lane.
Purvis, MS 39475
Home: 264-8139

Mr. Mike Pruitt, Dist. D, President
7 Crossroad Drive
Hattiesburg, MS 39402
Home: 268-0669

Mr. Chris Ryals, Dist. C
29 Duke Avenue
Purvis, MS 39475
Home: 794-3101

Mr. Buddy Morris, Dist. E
759 N. Black Creek Rd.
Sumrall, MS 39482
Home: 601-758-3091

Central Office
P. O. Box 609
424 Martin Luther King Dr.
Purvis, MS 39475

Office of Academic Education

Carolyn L. Adams	Assistant Superintendent of Academic Education	794-5256
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Professional Development ○ Personnel ○ No Child Left Behind ○ Secondary Curriculum/Programming 	
Nan Sumrall	Director of Federal Programs	794-5256
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Elementary Curriculum/Programming ○ Intervention Specialist 	
Terri Thomas	Director of Special Services	794-8121
	District 504 Coordinator	
June Songy	Director of Technology	794-1430
Tina Byrd	Director of Vocational Education	794-8298
Stacey Pace	Gifted Program Coordinator	794-1030
	District Test Coordinator	
Darlene Barron	Instructional Technology Specialist	794-5256
Markel Knight	Alternative Principal	794-1097

Office of Operations and Management

Johnny Downs	Assistant Superintendent of Operations	794-1030
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facilities and Maintenance Management ○ Title IX ○ School Resource Officers ○ Student Transfers ○ Student Discipline/Attendance ○ Superintendent's Office Staff 	
Chris Wooten	Director of Human Resources	794-1030
Keith Bounds	Transportation Director	264-9633
Becke Bounds	Director of Child Nutrition	794-8994
Pat Sandifer	16 th Section Land Manager	543-9200
Steve Rosser	Chief of School Resource Officers	543-2461

District Website www.lamarcountyschools.org

School Directory

Baxterville School (K-8)
 5531 Hwy. 13
 Lumberton, MS 39455
 Martha Smith, Principal (601) 796-4483
 Julie Richardson, Counselor Fax: (601) 796-5933
 Cafeteria (601) 796-4483
 (601) 796-4494

Oak Grove High School (9-12)
 5198 Old Hwy. 11
 Hattiesburg, MS 39402
 Wayne Folkes, Principal (601) 264-7232
 Jeff Vanderheiden, Assistant Principal Fax: (601) 264-0160
 Sheila Kribbs, Assistant Principal (601) 264-8309
 Helen Price, Assistant Principal (601) 264-9058
 Bob Byrd, Dean of Students (601) 264-7232
 Terry Underwood, Athletic Director (601) 264-7232
 Cafeteria (601) 264-8131

Oak Grove Middle School (6-8)
 2543 Old Hwy. 24
 Hattiesburg, MS 39402
 Tess Smith, Principal (601) 264-4634
 Arlene Barefoot, Assistant Principal Fax: (601) 264-2822
 Patrick Gray, Assistant Principal (601) 264-4634
 Leslie Thompson, Ph.D., Assistant Principal (601) 264-4634
 Cafeteria (601) 264-2279

Oak Grove Upper Elementary (4-5)
 1760 Old Highway 24
 Hattiesburg, MS 39402
 Donna Rigel, Principal (601) 264-6724
 Ricky Owens, Assistant Principal Fax : (601) 264-6771
 Vicki Brumfield, Lead Teacher (601) 264-6724
 Cafeteria (601) 264-6724 ext. 4869

Oak Grove Lower Elementary (2-3)
 1762 Old Highway 24
 Hattiesburg, MS 39402
 Teresa Jenny, Principal (601) 268-3862
 Julie Ferrell, Assistant Principal Fax: (601) 268-8852
 Wanda Boyles, Lead Teacher (601) 268-3862
 Cafeteria (601) 268-3862 ext. 4869

Oak Grove Primary (K-1)
 70 Leaf Lane
 Hattiesburg, MS 39402
 Dahlia Landers, Principal (601) 264-9764
 Heather Roland, Lead Teacher Fax: (601) 261-3393
 Angela McCarty, Assistant Principal (601) 264-9764
 Cafeteria (601) 264-3551

Purvis High School (9-12)
 P.O. Box 1089 220 School Street
 Purvis, MS 39475
 Billy Ellzey, Principal (601) 794-2708
 Stacy Johnson, Assistant Principal Fax: (601) 794-1036
 Tony Farlow, Athletic Director (601) 794-6221
 Cafeteria (601) 794-2708
 (601) 794-8919

General District Information/Policies

The School Day for District Schools

The following school day times are followed at the schools in the school district in accordance with the varying class schedules and bus route plans for the centers:

<u>School/Division</u>	<u>Classes begin</u>	<u>Classes End</u>
Oak Grove Primary	7:40 a.m.	2:05 p.m.
Oak Grove Lower Elementary	7:40 a.m.	2:20 p.m.
Oak Grove Upper Elementary	7:40 a.m.	2:25 p.m.
Oak Grove Middle	8:25 a.m.	3:25 p.m.
Oak Grove High	8:15 a.m.	3:40 p.m.
Purvis Lower Elementary	8:00 a.m.	2:55 p.m.
Purvis Upper Elementary	7:52 a.m.	3:00 p.m.
Purvis Middle School	7:55 a.m.	3:19 p.m.
Purvis High School	7:55 a.m.	3:19 p.m.
Sumrall Elementary	7:55 a.m.	3:10 p.m.
Sumrall Middle School	7:52 a.m.	3:23 p.m.
Sumrall High School	7:52 a.m.	3:23 p.m.
Baxterville School Grades K-8	7:25 a.m.	2:45 p.m.

Oath Of Allegiance To The United States Flag

Senate Bill 2321 states: "From and after July 1, 2002, the school boards of all public schools of this state shall require teachers to have all pupils repeat the oath of allegiance to the U. S. flag at the beginning of the first hour of class each day school is in session. Any student or teacher who objects to reciting the oath of allegiance shall be excused from participating without penalty.

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Conferences/School Visitation

Parents and school patrons are encouraged to visit the schools; however, such visitation must be appropriate and properly scheduled. Teachers are allocated time to meet with parents, and parents should contact the counselor if they desire a conference.

When a parent is contacted for a conference pertaining to academic or discipline concerns, it is the parent's responsibility to attend the conference in order to benefit the child's progress. (Section 37-11-53)

Classroom visits by school-aged students shall not be allowed in any of the county's schools. Other persons wishing to visit a school or specific class **MUST REPORT TO THE SCHOOL'S ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE UPON ARRIVAL AND RECEIVE PROPER CLEARANCE.** Excessive visitation is discouraged.

Operation of the District on a Non-Discriminatory Basis

The Lamar County School District offers educational/vocational opportunities on a non-discriminatory basis in compliance with the requirements of the following federal civil rights legislation: Title VI, Title IX, the Vocational Amendments of 1976 and 1979, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Public Law 108-446 of 2004. Further, the Lamar County School District offers equal educational and employment opportunities to all persons without regard to sex, race, religion, color, national origin, age, or disability. Upon request, a copy of the Lamar County Board of Education's policy regarding compliance with these federal legislative mandates may be obtained from the Office of the Superintendent or any other school district administrative office.

The Lamar County School District will not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or employment in its programs and activities or in the treatment of the individual to the extent provided by law.

The Director of Special Services has been designated as the Section 504/Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator and will handle inquiries regarding the Lamar County School District's nondiscrimination policies, the filing of grievances, and the requests for copies of grievance procedures covering discrimination on the basis of disability; The Director may be reached at (601) 794-8121.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination against persons with a handicap in any program receiving federal financial assistance. No discrimination against any person with a disability will knowingly be permitted in any of the programs or practices of the school district. To ensure the district's compliance with Section 504 as it applies to students with handicaps, the district has adopted specific policies regarding procedures in the event an individual wishes to file a complaint or grievance. This established procedure is available to the public upon request and is posted in administrative offices.

Title IX

The Lamar County School District is committed to compliance with the *Title IX* of the *Education Amendments of 1972*. The School District's *Title IX* Compliance Officer is Johnny Downs whose address is Lamar County School District, Post Office Box 609, Purvis, MS 39475-0609 and whose office is located at 424 Martin Luther King Dr., Purvis, Mississippi. His telephone number is 601-794-1030. The School District has a Grievance Procedure which is used to report possible gender inequity in respect to the School District's sports offerings.

Title IX Grievance Procedure

1. When any person believes his or her rights under *Title IX* have been violated, he or she must state "in writing" the nature of the complaint with the *Title IX* compliance officer who will respond to said complaint within ten (10) school days;
2. If the complaining party is not satisfied with the *Title IX* Compliance Officer's response, the complaining party may appeal "in writing" to the Superintendent of Education within ten (10) school days;
3. The Superintendent of Education will respond to the complaining party's appeal within ten (10) school days;
4. If the complaining party is not satisfied with the Superintendent of Education's response, the complaining party may appeal "in writing" to the Lamar County Board of Education within ten (10) school days;
5. The Lamar County Board of Education will make a final decision on the complaint at the next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting.

Enrollment of Students

In order for a child to enroll in the Lamar County School District, the student's parents/guardians must **annually** provide the information listed below. Upon receipt of this information, the school administration will make the appropriate school & classroom assignment.

1. Two proofs of the child's residence in accordance with the Student Verification of Residence Policy and state law.
2. A **CERTIFIED** birth certificate for the child.
3. A proper (Mississippi) immunization report issued through a physician or through the health department.
4. A student not living with a parent must present official documentation as to guardianship status.

Failure to present the required documents at the time of registration will result in the student being denied enrollment.

A child must have reached the age of five (5) on or before September 1 of the year of enrollment in order to enroll in the district's kindergarten program. In order for any child to enroll in first grade, the child must have reached the age of six (6) on or before September 1 of the year of enrollment.

Residence with Legal Parent/Guardian Affidavit Required

Any new student entering the Lamar County School District **must reside with his/her natural parent(s) or a court-approved legal guardian who resides in the Lamar County School District** in order to be enrolled in any school in the Lamar County School District. Requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis; however, the District generally will not accept a new student who does not meet this requirement.

Verification of Student Residence Required

The Mississippi State Board of Education adopted a verification of student residence policy on April 20, 1990. The definition of student residence for school attendance purposes is that the student physically resides full time, weekdays/nights and weekends, at a place of abode located within the limits of the school district. **This policy requires that all school districts absolutely verify a student's residence for determination as to whether the student may legally attend a school in the district.** The Lamar County School District must verify residence on each student to be enrolled. Post office box numbers are not acceptable for verification purposes. A street address/name must be provided. **Two current proofs of residence are required. Proofs of residency must be original documents and will be authenticated before being accepted as proofs; these proofs must be dated within the past 30 days. Home visits may be made to verify residence by a Compliance Officer.** Documentation may include the following:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1.) Filed homestead exemption form | 5.) Mortgage documents |
| 2.) Lease agreements | 6.) Current utility bills (power, gas, water, cable & phone; no cell phone bills) |
| 3.) Driver's license | 7.) Voter Registration Card |
| 4.) Tax receipts | 8.) Other Official Documents (as approved by the School Administrator) |

Any student whose residence is not cleared through the district using the proper procedure as adopted by the state board will be denied enrollment. **When questions arise regarding a student's legal residence, the school may request additional confirmation of information in order to meet the requirements of state law.**

The Lamar County School Board has adopted a policy establishing a Residency Committee within each attendance zone. When a question arises concerning a residency, a parent/guardian will be **required** to attend a committee hearing to establish residency.

School Attendance Zones-Assignment of Students

1. The term "School Attendance Zone" or "Home School" in the LCSD shall be defined as the school area to which a child is assigned according to his/her residence and the bus route upon which the child lives, unless otherwise approved to transfer to an alternate attendance zone by the Board of Education.
2. School Attendance Zones in the LCSD shall be designated according to bus routes established in the district. If a bus from a particular school is assigned a route in an area, then that area will be part of that school's attendance zone. Bus routes will not be altered to accommodate transferred students. Routes shall be established by the superintendent and administrative/transportation staff according to the regulations of the Mississippi State Department of Education in keeping with the most cost effective, reasonable assignment.
3. In situations where two or more buses overlap in routing or where lines separating attendance zones join, the superintendent is authorized to designate which attendance zone is applicable.
4. In regard to development of residential subdivisions in the LCSD, including Canebrake, Bridgefield, and Sandstone:
 - A. The above-named subdivisions are major developments that are platted in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Lamar County, Mississippi, as of January 1, 1999. The following shall apply:
 1. The Canebrake residential development as platted January 1, 1999, shall be considered to lie within the Oak Grove Schools' attendance zone, and bus transportation to Oak Grove will be provided.
 2. The Bridgefield and Sandstone residential developments, as platted January 1, 1999, shall be considered to lie within the Sumrall Schools' attendance zone, and transportation to Sumrall Schools will be provided; however, upon written request of the parent/guardians of students living in or moving into said subdivisions, the student will be allowed to attend Oak Grove Schools, with parent/guardians being responsible for transportation to and from Oak Grove Schools.
 3. All residents of the Big Bay Lake development shall attend Purvis Schools only.
 - B. Any subdivision platted for development and filed with the Chancery Clerk of Lamar County, Mississippi, after January 1, 1999, shall be considered to be part of the presently established school attendance zone as designated upon a map depicting the same, said map being available in the Office of the Superintendent. This same policy shall apply to other developments including mobile home parks, apartment complexes, or single-family dwellings.

Request for Transfer Between Attendance Zones

1. All students must attend school by location as designated on the District's Attendance Zone Map.
2. The Superintendent, upon completion of the District's transfer request form submitted by the parent or guardian, may allow transfers from one school and assignment to another school within the Lamar County School District for the following reasons:
 - A. The student (must be middle school age or older for this to apply) moves from one zone to another in the district and wishes to remain at the school where he/she was attending previous to the move. Parents /guardians must have lived in this area of the district for two consecutive calendar years.
 - B. Medically fragile students who have serious medical problems necessitating ready-access to specific medical facilities. Such medically fragile situations must be substantiated, in writing, by the family's physician and such substantiation must be made part of the written request to transfer.
 - C. Other reasons as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent and Board of Education based on special educational needs or to protect a student.
3. Students Previously Approved for Transfer Between Zones: Students who were approved prior to August 21, 2006, to attend a school in a zone different from his/her residence may continue to attend the approved school. Also, siblings living in the same household as the previously approved student are entitled, upon written request of the parent/guardian, to attend the same school.
4. If approved for transfer from one zone to another, transportation to and from the new school of assignment shall be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Student Transfers Into the District

Any student transferring into the district must provide sufficient proof of residence in accordance with the Student Verification of Residence Policy. Additionally, students must meet the requirements of state law as they pertain to transfers. The district does not accept students from schools or programs (including tutorial, home-study, or correspondence) that are not accredited by the state or regional agency without first administering standardized tests and/or special tests to determine proper placement of students and/or the validity of Carnegie units being presented for graduation. The district office should be contacted regarding transferring students and the appropriate Application for Transfer must be completed.

The district does not accept students who have been expelled from another school/school district until such time as the expulsion period assigned by the other school/district has ended. Any student transferring into the

LCSD who was in an alternative school program in the transferring district will automatically be placed in the LCSD alternative program until such time as LCSD personnel can make a decision as to proper placement.

Transfers and Proper Withdrawal from School of Attendance

When a student transfers either from or within the district, **he/she must properly withdraw from the school he/she is leaving.** Withdrawal shall be processed through the principal's office, and all books, fines, or other obligations that the student has with the transferor school must be cleared before the student will be considered properly withdrawn.

McKinney-Vento

To be in compliance with the federal law, McKinney-Vento, Lamar County School District has a policy to support students in grades K-12 who are lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Money has been designated in the Title I, Part A CFPA to assist the needs of these students. For more information on this policy, refer to the Lamar County School District's website under the heading of Academic Office and Federal Programs or request a copy of the policy from your child's school.

School Records

Transcripts or student records will be released to other agencies if students or parents sign a written request for such release to be made and/or according to state law and/or federal regulations. A student or his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may view his/her personal school record upon request made to the appropriate school principal. Any corrections needing to be addressed may be presented to the principal in writing and will be considered for correction. In the event of student transfer, a student's transcripts or records will be forwarded to the receiving school upon receipt of a proper request from the receiving school.

Section 9528 of the ESEA, 20 U.S.C § 7908, as amended by the NCLB, and 10 U.S.C. 503, as amended by § 544 of the *National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2002* (Pub.L. No. 107-107), require LEAs to

- ◆ Give military recruiters the same access to secondary school students as provided to postsecondary institutions or to prospective employers, and
- ◆ Provide students' names, addresses, and telephone listings to military recruiters when requested, unless a parent has opted out of providing such information. (Military Recruiter Guidance is on FPCO Web site.)

A student and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) have the right to file a complaint with the U. S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School District to comply with the requirements of Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA areas follows:

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

Copies of School Records

The schools of Lamar County shall furnish one free copy of school records/transcripts to graduates. Thereafter, an administrative fee of \$1.00 per copy of official records may be charged.

Special Programs and Services in the District

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM – APPLICATIONS AND OPERATIONS

The Goals of the Child Nutrition Program:

- To provide high quality, nutritious meals to all students in accordance with the Lamar County School District Wellness Policy adopted April, 2006.
- To keep the meal price as low as possible for paying students
- To create menus which provide students with approximately one-third of the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) which includes a variety of offerings students will like and eat.

Special Diet Requirements:

- Regulations permit substitutions for children with special needs.
- A statement from a physician supporting a student's condition and prescribed substitution **must** be submitted to the Child Nutrition Department as soon as diagnosed.
- A medical statement for food allergies is **required** for each school year.

FYI for Parents on Free or Reduced Meals:

- Applications are now available online. You can complete the online application after July 1st of each year. Go to the district website: www.lamarcountyschools.org; click on "Lunch Applications" under "Parent Links".

- Due to the large influx of applications received at the start-up of school, participating in the online application during the summer will allow more time for your child’s application to be processed.
- If you complete the online application or a paper application during the summer, you **will not** have to fill out the form sent home with all students on the first day of school.
- Your benefits will start for the current year when you receive a confirmation letter from the Child Nutrition Office.
- Families choosing not to participate in the mail out **must** fill out a lunch form sent home on the first day of school.
- Your children will eat on last year’s meal application status of free/reduced for a grace period of the first ten days of school.
- After the grace period benefits will be **discontinued**, and you will be expected to pay full price for your child’s meals **if a new lunch application is not received.**

FYI for New Families:

We encourage every family to take advantage of the Free and Reduced lunch form which is made available for you.

Requirements for Students eligible for Free or Reduced Meals:

- Fill out only **ONE application per family!** This means **all** children in your home on only one application! List each student on the application.
- Return your form to the school cafeteria if you complete a paper form or it can be done online.
- Include your mailing address and phone number.
- Applications **must** be available throughout the **entire** school year at all District and School offices and cafeterias for any family who has a change of income or who did not apply at school start-up and wishes to do so at a later date. Applications can also be completed online at any time.

Students who wish to purchase more than one lunch or breakfast tray will be required to pay the adult price for the second tray. USDA allows one meal per student for reimbursement. Meal prices are as follows:

Breakfast	\$1.75
Reduced Breakfast	\$.30
Adult Breakfast	\$2.00
Student Lunch	\$2.50
Reduced Lunch	\$.40
Adult Lunch	\$3.25

BOARD POLICY

The Lamar County School District, in compliance with USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) regulations and Wellness Policy standards has adopted the following policies in connection with the Child Nutrition Program:

1. **CLOSED CAMPUS – Students are not allowed to leave during their lunch break, nor are they allowed to send for other purchased food items during lunch. This includes any food related events held prior to 1:00 p. m.**
2. **In accordance with the Wellness Policy, NO CARBONATED beverages (packaged in any form) are allowed in the cafeterias under any circumstances by student or adult.**
3. **Any extra sales offered from the Child Nutrition Department as defined by USDA include any food items which are nutrient dense, or a part of the daily menu requirement.**
 - **Milk/milk products (ice cream) must meet USDA standards and are the only extra sales items sold to students without the purchase of a school meal in middle and high school only.**
 - **The only extra sales items available to elementary students will be menu components.**
 - **Extra sales for middle/high school students are allowed only after a meal is purchased (in accordance with USDA standards). All extra sales items which are not part of the meal must be nutrient dense.**
 - **USDA regulations require all secondary schools to implement the “offer versus serve” provision in which five (5) meal components are offered. Students can choose all 5 of the meal components but must choose a minimum of three (3) meal components in order for it to be considered a reimbursable meal. Students who purchase a tray are allowed to purchase extra items. Students who bring their lunches are allowed to purchase milk and ice cream **ONLY**. Note: Ice cream will be sold **only** to middle and high school students.**
 - **All Faculty/Adults who purchase a meal and choose to add an extra entrée **will be charged** for an additional entrée.**
 - **Students/Adults may pay cash on a daily basis or payment may be made in advance by the week, month, or year. Balances for unused meals will rollover until funds have been used.**

Charges are not allowed for adults and only for students who have misplaced or lost lunch money or parent failed to send. A Charge Policy has been developed and will be strictly enforced by all school sites. It is parental

responsibility to take care of your child’s daily needs at school. One of the most important needs is supplying funds for them to eat breakfast and lunch. *You can’t teach a hungry child.*

- Charges will not be allowed for breakfast purchases.
- **Charge Policy:**
 1. Parents will receive written notification and/or School Messenger telephone call from the school office of money owed and are expected to repay to the cafeteria within the week.
 2. If a pattern develops, parents will be encouraged to seek Federal assistance as soon as possible.
 3. When charges reach the amount of one week of lunches, a letter will be sent home from the principal; at \$20.00 charges are considered excessive. At this point, the Lamar County School District will send a letter and a possible visit from the social worker.
 4. If parents still refuse to pay and are capable of paying then a letter will be sent to Department of Human Services.
 5. All debts must be paid by the end of the year.

THE FOLLOWING POLICIES ARE STRICTLY ENFORCED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT WELLNESS POLICY:

1. All class celebrations are to be held after breakfast and one hour prior to lunch and after the last lunch period is over.
2. Healthy (nutrient dense) food selections are strongly encouraged for snacks, party food, fundraisers, and all food sales.
3. The sale of candy is discouraged, since it is unhealthy.
4. All food sold must be nutrient dense. (See Wellness Policy for guidance.)

PAYMENT PROCEDURES:

- Personal checks cannot be cashed.
- Checks will be accepted for breakfast and lunch sales only.
- Student ID numbers should be written on each check submitted.
- One check for each child is required.
- Advanced pay methods in addition to daily payment are offered.

Please check your calendar for school days before paying weekly, monthly, or yearly!

	<u>LUNCH</u>		<u>BREAKFAST</u>	
	<u>Full-Pay</u>	<u>Reduced Pay</u>	<u>Full-Pay</u>	<u>Reduced Pay</u>
Daily	<u>\$2.50</u>	\$.40	<u>\$1.75</u>	\$.30
Weekly	<u>\$12.50</u>	\$2.00	<u>\$8.75</u>	\$1.50

NOTE:

- It is the parents’ responsibility to track their child’s pre-pay lunch account balance. Money not utilized during the school year for lunch **“WILL ROLLOVER”** into the student’s account for the next academic year. Note this is an annual rollover policy.
- Please check with your principal for breakfast serving times, **WHICH** will be strictly enforced.
- All lunch accounts will be open, allowing extra sales to be pulled from a student’s account. Parents may request to close the open account for breakfast and lunch only by completing the Closing General Account Form and submitting it to the Child Nutrition Department.
- Funds can be transferred from one child’s account to another by submitting the Transfer of Funds Form.
- ***PRE-PAYMENTS** are refundable only in the event the student withdraws from the Lamar County School District or the lunch status changes to free and if the account balance is **\$5.00 or more**. The parent or guardian **MUST** complete the Request for Refund from Child Nutrition Department Form. The request and a self-addressed stamped envelope for payment must be submitted to the Child Nutrition Office. Payment will be made pending approval at the next regularly scheduled school board meeting according to State Audit regulations.
- The Child Nutrition Department accepts personal checks for payment of meals; if a check is returned from the bank for any reason, the check will be re-deposited **one** time only.
- If the NSF check does not clear the bank after being re-deposited or efforts to collect have failed, the amount of the check will be deducted from the student’s lunch account.
- All second returned checks will result in loss of checking privileges.

- All NSF checks must be cleared in a timely fashion or the check will be turned over to the bad check unit of the District Attorney’s Office.
- Checks will not be accepted in the cafeteria the last two (2) weeks of school.

AUTOMATIC PRE-PAY – MYNUTRIKIDS.COM

Paying for school lunch is now easy and convenient. You may now choose to make automatic prepayments to your child’s meal account via internet. Simply log on and use a credit card or check to fund your child’s meal account.

For your convenience:

- ◆ **Prepay with your Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or a check**
- ◆ **A convenience fee of \$1.75 per deposit.**
- ◆ **Available 24/7**
- ◆ **Easy access to your child’s account balance**
- ◆ **No more lost or stolen money**
- ◆ **Quick, easy, and secure**
- ◆ **E-mail notification when account balance is low**
- ◆ **No more handing out cash or checks to children**
- ◆ **Students never have to worry about having money to eat with prepay**
- ◆ **Rollover balance**

HOW TO USE THIS SYSTEM:

1. **Simply log on to www.mynutrikids.com**
2. **Register: login will be your email address and any password you choose**
3. **Login**
4. **Click MYKIDS to add a student**
5. **Enter student ID# (NOT LUNCH NUMBER) and initials**
6. **Click Deposit Money**
7. **Enter deposit amount and calculate**
8. **Click Make Deposit**
9. **Enter your payment information – enter credit/debit card information or login to your PayPal account (e-check can take 5-7 days to clear)**
10. **Review your payment and click Pay Now**

Curriculum Programs Offered in the Lamar County Schools

Guidance Programs

The district's guidance program is part of the total educational process. School counselors hold the philosophy that all individuals are important, that they are responsible for their own behavior, and that they can plan for their future when given specific assistance. Guidance services are available in each school in the Lamar County School District. Counselors may help students with personal, educational, or vocational problems. Information is kept in confidence.

Parent Involvement

Since Lamar County School District receives funds under Title I, Part A, it is required that the Lamar County School District and the participating elementary schools (Baxterville School, Oak Grove Primary, Oak Grove Lower, Oak Grove Upper, Purvis Lower, Purvis Upper, and Sumrall Elementary) develop a written parental involvement policy. These policies describe the plans for promoting parental involvement at the district-level and school-level. To read the Lamar County School District Title I Parental Involvement Policy, refer to the Lamar County School District’s website under the heading of Academic Office and Federal Programs or request a copy from your child’s school. Each elementary school has also developed a parental involvement policy which is available by accessing the school’s website or by requesting a written copy from the school.

Library Services

Library services are available at each school for student research and study. Teachers and students are encouraged to make use of the school libraries. Arrangements for special use of library materials should be made with the librarian in charge of the library area.

Students with Disabilities Programs

In accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (I.D.E.I.A., 2004), programs for students with disabilities are based on the philosophy that every child be provided the opportunity to participate in a program that is planned, adopted, and conducted with the training and opportunity needed to assume a meaningful place in society.

Special programs are designed to equip each student with the attitudes, skills, abilities, and knowledge that make it possible for students to develop individually. In keeping with this philosophy, the following placements are offered:

Regular classroom	Resource classroom	Full-time special class	Community-based services
Special school	Residential facility	Home/hospital placement	Inclusion

Under federal and state regulations, students may be assessed for eligibility under one of the following eligibility categories only:

Mental Retardation	Emotional Disability	Multi-Disability	Orthopedic Impaired
Hearing Impaired	Visually Impaired	Developmentally Delayed	
Specific Learning Disability	Other Health Impaired	Speech Language Impaired	
Traumatic Brain Injury	Autism	Deaf-Blind	

The Lamar County School District Pre-School Program serves children ages 3-5 who qualify as developmentally delayed in two of the following four areas: cognitive, language, motor, social, emotional and self-help. This program follows the same calendar as the regular school program, operates on one-half days, and is located at Oak Grove, Purvis, and Sumrall. Questions regarding this program should be directed to the Special Services Director at 794-8121.

Special and related services are also offered to infants and toddlers who are developmentally delayed. Services are provided in the child's home, daycare center, or other community settings.

ESL Program (English as a Second Language)

Lamar County offers the English as a Second Language program (ESL) in grades K-12 to meet the needs of students whose home or first language is other than English. The goal of the ESL program is to increase student access to quality education while providing guidance and support to other professionals within the school community who are involved in the education of English Language Learner (ELL) students.

In order to determine students' eligibility for the ESL program, all students complete a Home Language Survey when they enter the Lamar county School District. If this survey indicates use of a language other than English, the students are given an English proficiency test prescribed by the MS Department of Education. When the test indicates that students are less than proficient in English, they are scheduled into the ESL program unless the parents choose that they not participate.

Due to the linguistic diversity in Lamar County's ELL students, the ESL program uses English as the language of instruction. In the elementary grades the ESL program utilizes a pull-out model where students attend ESL class for at least 30 minutes per day. All ESL classes are taught by certified teachers who have additional training in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. While in their mainstream classes, students work toward mastery of grade level skills through modifications and accommodations from the mainstream teacher who receives guidance from the ESL Specialists regarding appropriate accommodations. In middle and high school, ELL students are served on a regular basis depending on their needs. While most are scheduled into an ESL class as a period in their regular day, others may receive support from one of the ESL tutors only 2 or 3 times per week. The students spend the rest of their day in mainstream classes where the ESL Specialist offers support and guidance to the teachers.

Students in the ESL program are evaluated for proficiency annually. Once the evaluation indicates that the students have attained English proficiency, they transition out of the ESL class but continue to be monitored by the ESL Specialists for two years to assure that the students are academically successful.

The ESL Program is funded by LCSD and a federal Title III grant. For information contact the district's ELL Coordinator, Scott Nyary, at 601-264-4634.

Title I Services

Title I funds provide schools with extra resources to help improve instruction and to ensure that poor and minority children have the same opportunity as other children to meet challenging state academic standards. Lamar County Schools that receive Title I funds are Baxterville, Oak Grove Primary, Oak Grove Lower Elementary, Oak Grove Upper Elementary, Purvis Lower Elementary, Purvis Upper Elementary, Sumrall Elementary.

Vocational-Career Path Programs

Career and Technical Education programs begin in the 7th grade with Information and Communication Technology I (ICT I), 8th grade Information and Communication Technology II (ICT II) and 9th grade Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). For the 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students, there are seven Career and Technical Education programs available, Health Sciences, Automotive Service Technology, Electronics, Teacher Academy, Building Trades, and Metal Trades. Early Childhood Education is available at Purvis High School. These courses are designed for students going to college or entering the workforce after high school. In order to ensure success

and safety in these programs, students are checked for past discipline, grades, desire to be in the program and must meet certain criteria on the TABE test. Teachers are certified and trained in their skill to assure quality instruction.

Alternative School Programs

The district offers an Alternative School Program in compliance with Section 37-13-92 of the Mississippi Code of 1972. In accordance with state law, a student may be assigned to the alternative school program for a variety of reasons as set forth in said code section. Any compulsory-school-age child whose presence in the classroom, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, is a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interests and welfare of the students and teacher of such class as a whole may be placed in the alternative school program beginning with 5th grade. A student may be placed in the alternative school by mutual agreement by parent, principal and alternative principal or through a disciplinary referral process. A student placed in alternative school is not allowed on any Lamar County School District campus, cannot participate in extra-curricular activities and are NOT allowed to attend ANY school function or athletic event. This includes ALL Lamar County School District events at home or away. Should they violate this they will be charged with trespassing. **Any senior who is assigned to the alternative school on the last day of student attendance for the school year will not be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies.** Students will be searched daily before entering the instructional area.

Parents as Teachers (PAT)

Parents as Teachers is a family education and support program that begins prenatally and extends to age 5. In PAT, the parents are supported by a certified parent educator who uses the Born to Learn curriculum that translates scientific information on early brain development into concrete suggestions on ways to teach and nurture your child. The program involves the parent in parent-child activities that encourage language development, intellectual growth, social development and motor skills, and strengthens the parent-child relationship. The PAT philosophy is that the parent is the child's first and most important teacher.

PAT families receive personal visits from the parent educator on a monthly basis; attend group meetings that allow parents to meet together to gain new insights, share experiences, and discuss parenting topics; benefit from periodic screenings that assess children's overall development as well as health, hearing, and vision; and connect with community resources that link the family to services that are beyond the scope of PAT.

The PAT program is funded by LCSD and Title I and is provided free to families residing in the school district. For information contact Becky Hurston at 601-794-5982.

Behavioral Specialists

All school campuses have an assigned behavioral specialist to provide positive social, emotional, and behavioral support for all students.

Nurses

School nurses strengthen and facilitate the educational process by improving and protecting the health status of students and staff.

Textbooks

Through taxation, textbooks are furnished for student use. Books are issued at the beginning of the school year and are to be returned at the end of the school year. Parents assume full responsibility for issued textbooks, including the proper care of these books. Book covers should be used in order to protect books from damage. Additionally, books transported in book bags where students carry water bottles or any form of liquid, must be placed in a sealed plastic bag. Students who have books that become wet during the school year will be fined according to the damage of the book. Any book with mold, more than half of the pages wet, or the cover damaged by water, will be fined as if the book is unusable. Students are strongly discouraged from abusing books. Fines are assessed for damaged books and lost books must be paid for according to the adjusted list price based on the age of the lost book. **ALL BOOK FINES MUST BE PAID BEFORE A STUDENT CAN RECEIVE TEXTBOOKS THE FOLLOWING YEAR.**

FINES:

1. Lost Books:
 - a. New full price
 - b. 1 year old 90% of original cost
 - c. 2 years old 80% of original cost
 - d. 3 years old 70% of original cost
 - e. 4 years old 60% of original cost
 - f. 5 years old or older 50% of original cost
2. Fines

- a. If pages are torn out, charge as if the book were lost. The book with pages missing is no good to the next student.
- b. Cover missing – charge as if the book were lost.
- c. Writing in the book – charge ½ of the schedule above unless there are vulgar words or pictures in the book or words marked through with ink. In these cases charge as a lost book.

All textbooks issued to students are the property of the Lamar County School District.

Health and Immunization Policies

It is imperative that the schools insure that each student is provided with a healthy and wholesome environment for learning. Any student with a communicable illness or infection must be kept at home until the family doctor or health department officer certifies that the student is completely recovered. All students enrolling in kindergarten or 1st grade must present an immunization report issued through a family physician or the health department.

Except as provided hereinafter, it shall be unlawful for any child to attend any school, kindergarten or similar type facility intended for the instruction of children (hereinafter called “schools”), either public or private, with the exception of any legitimate home instruction program as defined in section 37-13-91, Mississippi Code of 1972, for ten (10) or less children who are related within the third degree computed according to the civil law to the operator, unless they shall first have been vaccinated against those diseases specified by the state health officer.

A certificate of exemption from vaccination for medical reasons may be offered on behalf of a child by a duly licensed physician and may be accepted by the local health officer when, in his opinion, such exemption will not cause undue risk to the community.

It shall be the responsibility of the person in charge of each school to enforce the requirements for immunization. Any child not in compliance at the end of ninety (90) days from the opening of the fall term must be suspended until in compliance, unless the health office shall attribute the delay to lack of supply of vaccine or some other such factor clearly making compliance impossible.

School Clinics

The district has part-time school nurses. The school nurses are in place to help meet any health care needs that may arise with the students.

Student Medications at School

Note: As used in this handbook, the term medication shall mean prescription drugs, "over-the-counter" drugs, and supplements not requiring a doctor's prescription

It is the Lamar County School District’s goal to help keep your child healthy and safe during the school year. School nurses are in place on a part-time basis in our Lamar County Schools to help meet any health care needs that may arise with your child. General first aid will be provided along with medication administration when necessary.

If it is necessary that a medication be given during school hours, the guidelines for medication administration, listed below, must be followed to work within the realm of the Lamar County School District’s drug policy. This is for the safety of your child and others.

ABSOLUTELY NO MEDICATION SHALL BE TRANSPORTED BY A CHILD TO OR FROM SCHOOL. IT MUST BE TRANSPORTED BY A PARENT/GUARDIAN ONLY AND REGISTERED WITH THE SCHOOL NURSE OR SCHOOL PERSONNEL IN THE ABSENCE OF A SCHOOL NURSE. Asthma medication only may be carried by a student after proper documentation has been completed with the school nurse. Please see the school website for the Asthma Medication Policy and the forms to be completed.

1. Over-the-counter medication must be brought to school by the parent/guardian and registered with the school nurse. Following is a list of over-the-counter medications that we have standing orders for: Tylenol, ibuprofen, topical Benadryl, oral Benadryl, antifungal cream, Caladryl, and Robitussin DM.

When the nurse is not on campus: the parent can bring **additional** over-the-counter medication to the campus and register it with the designated school staff person. This person will keep records of medication given. The school staff will not have access to over the counter medications that are in the nurse’s office.

2. Prescription medication must be brought to the school by the parent/guardian and registered with the school nurse. No prescription medication will be given unless the physician completes and signs the appropriate form (provided by the school nurse or school personnel). This can usually be faxed to your physician for your convenience. For medications that are to be dispensed on a long-term basis, parents/guardians may send up to a 30 day supply. Prescription medication will be counted in the presence of the parent/guardian and parent/guardian signature received. School nurse/school personnel will not deviate from the prescribing doctor’s dosage and dosage

schedule as written on the prescription bottle. If the school nurse is not on campus, the medication will be administered by school personnel who have completed a medication self-administration curriculum. The medication must be in the original container with the appropriate label intact before it will be administered (ask the pharmacy for an original bottle for school).

3. Additional parent/physician signed forms will be necessary if the medication dosage is changed.
4. Any controlled medications (narcotics, i.e. lortab, etc.) administered at school must be approved by the school nurse and the site administrator. A note from the physician giving permission to attend school while taking a controlled medication will be necessary.
5. For legal purposes, all prescription medications must be picked up by an adult on or before the last day of school. All remaining medications will be destroyed.

If your school does have a school nurse, a limited supply of over-the-counter medications will be available to your child upon appropriate health history information and parent/guardian signature received (ex. Tylenol). It will be administered by the school nurse or trained school personnel in the absence of the school nurse.

Lamar County School District Extra-Curricular and Voluntary Drug Testing Policies

Student athletes and students participating in other extra-curricular activities will be subject to drug screening to test for illegal substances.

Drug Screening – The drug screening shall consist of the collection of a urine sample from the student by any assistant(s) from the contracting biomedical laboratory under the supervision of the Athletic Director/Principal, coaching staff/directors, and/or other school employees. Each specimen shall be analyzed for the presence of drugs by the contracting agency which has been approved by the Board of Education of the Lamar County School District.

The outside agency shall report all test results to the office of the Superintendent. The principal will be notified of any positive tests. For purposes of this program, a positive result shall mean a test result which indicates the presence of one or more of the listed drugs in the student athlete's urine sample. A test will not be determined positive until it is double checked and validated by a confirmatory test. The student and their parent/legal guardian shall be notified in writing if and when a student tests positive.

Random testing will be performed for athletes beginning with the second scheduled testing and continue through each subsequent testing during the school year. Random testing for all other students involved in extracurricular activities will begin with the first scheduled testing and continue through each subsequent testing during the school year. Random testing will account for approximately ten percent (10%) of all students being selected for each random testing. Also included in random testing will be any student(s) who have tested positive at an earlier date during their high school career.

EFFECTS OF POSITIVE RESULTS

- A. **First Positive:** The individual's sample will be re-tested immediately to assure no error has occurred. If the positive result is verified and confirmed, the principal will take the following steps:
 1. The student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) will be advised of the results.
 2. The Student Assistance Coordinator and Athletic Director will be advised of the results.
 3. The student will be required to attend drug counseling.
 4. Counseling for students in extracurricular activities who have tested positive will be provided through the Student Assistance Program and the Employee Assistance Program at Wesley. The counseling provided by the School District will be for four (4) hours and will include an initial assessment, and two one (1) hour follow-up sessions. If there are any recommendations for additional treatment and/or counseling, the cost shall be borne by the student and/or parent.
 5. A student who has tested positive will forfeit participation in interscholastic competition according to the following schedule:
 - a. **First Violation:** The student will be denied participation from competitions (with required practices) beginning with the first scheduled competition following the offense and concluding after 20% of that season's competitions have taken place. (Example: 2 of 10 football games or 4 of 20 basketball games)
 - b. **Second Violation:** Dismissal from that sport season without gaining letter awards or recognition.
 - c. **Third Violation:** The student will be denied participation in all extracurricular activities and programs for the calendar year.
 - d. **Fourth Violation:** The student will be indefinitely barred from participating in any event or activity and all extracurricular activities in the Lamar County School District.

NOTE: The student who participates in more than one sport/activity will forfeit participation in interscholastic contests in only the activity that is currently in season or the next sport/activity in season after the positive test. If an infraction occurs where there is an overlap in activities, the suspension from activities for the designated period will begin immediately, even though it may affect both activities.

6. Students who test positive for drugs will forfeit certain team and individual awards as determined by the head coach/director.

The student will be re-tested after the suspension period and prior to being allowed to participate in the activity again.

- B. **Second Positive:** After reinstatement and later in the academic year, the student will be re-tested. If the test is positive, the individual student will be re-tested immediately to assure no error has occurred. If the positive result is verified and confirmed, the Principal, the Student Assistance Coordinator, the Athletic Director, and the student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) will be immediately notified. A conference will then be scheduled promptly with the student, parent(s)/legal guardian(s), Principal, appropriate head coach/director, and designated counselor present. The student will immediately be suspended from participating in practice and interscholastic competition for the remaining sports season or scheduled events for the activity.
The student will be re-tested after the suspension period. If the student's test is negative the student will be reinstated to participate in athletics/extracurricular activities provided the student and the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) sign a release form releasing the LCSD from liability. Another positive will result in the student athlete being suspended from the team indefinitely.
- C. **Third Positive:** After reinstatement and later in the academic year, the student will be re-tested. If the test is positive, the Principal, the Student Assistance Coordinator, the Athletic Director, and head coach/director shall be immediately notified: A letter will be mailed to the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) from the Principal notifying them that the student has been suspended from the team/program immediately for the academic year.
Reinstatement of the student to participate cannot take place for one calendar year and then only after the provision of proof of the successful completion of a Drug Rehabilitation Program and negative testing prevails. If the student is suspended, the student has the right to appeal the decision to the Lamar County School District Board of Education for a formal determination. The student shall have the right to have counsel present at the student's own expense.

NOTE: Each positive test occurring after a student begins high school activities will be counted as a violation through the student's high school years.

Voluntary Participation

All students in grades 9-12 are eligible to **voluntarily participate** in the drug testing program upon submission of a consent form. Students who sign a consent form shall be tested at the next random testing, shall remain eligible for drug testing throughout the entire school year, and shall become part of the testing pool subject to random drug testing pursuant to the extracurricular activity drug screening policy. The LCSD will test no more than 10% of the total number of students in the testing pool annually. Students will be tested for the substances set forth in the Extracurricular Activity Drug Screening Policy.

Remedial Action Resulting from Positive Test of Students Who Voluntarily Consent to Drug Screening:

1. Students who voluntarily consent and are already in the program as a result of extracurricular activity participation are subject to the forfeit provisions of the Extracurricular Drug Screening Policy.
2. Other students who voluntarily participate shall be subject to the following:
 - a. **First Violation:** Counseling under the auspices of the Coordinator of the Student Assistance Program through the Employee Assistance Program at Wesley Medical Center. The counseling will be for four (4) hours and will include an initial assessment and two one (1) hour follow-up sessions. The school district will pay the cost of the counseling required as a result of the First Violation. All cost of additional treatment and/or counseling shall be borne by the student and/or parent.
 - b. **Second Violation:** A minimum of ten counseling sessions through the Employee Assistance programs at Wesley Medical Center.

VIOLATION of OTHER POLICIES

Any student violating other school district policies shall remain subject to discipline in accordance with the school district's policies. Students shall also abide by additional rules and regulations presented normally to all team members or members of the activity of a particular sport or activity by the coaches or activity leader.

Self-Administration of Asthma Medication

1. According to the MS Code, the Lamar County School Board shall permit the self-administration of medication by a student if the student's parent or guardian complies with the following stipulations:
 - a. Provides written authorization for self-administration to the school; and

- b. Provides a written statement from the student's health care practitioner that the student has asthma and has been instructed in self-administration of asthma medications. The statement shall also contain the following information:
 - i. The name and purpose of the medications;
 - ii. The prescribed dosage;
 - iii. The time or times the medications are to be regularly administered and under what additional special circumstances the medications are to be administered; and
 - iv. The length of time for which the medications are prescribed.
2. The statements required in subsection (1) of this section shall be kept on file in the office of the school nurse or school administrator.
3. The parent or guardian of the student shall sign a statement acknowledging that the school shall incur no liability and the parent or guardian shall indemnify and hold harmless the school and its employees against any claims relating to the self-administration of asthma medications.
4. The permission for self-administration of medications shall be effective for the school year in which it is granted and shall be renewed each following year upon fulfilling the requirements of subsections (1) through (3) of this section.
5. Upon fulfilling the requirements of this section, a student with asthma may possess and use asthma medications when at school, at a school-sponsored activity, under the supervision of school personnel, or before and after normal school activities while on school properties including school-sponsored child care or after-school programs.
6. The State Department of Education requires that each child with asthma have a current asthma action plan (AAP) on file at the child's school to be used by the school nurse, teachers, and staff. Parents/guardians of a child with asthma are to have the child's AAP developed and signed by the child's health care provider. The AAP should include the child's asthma severity classification, current asthma medication and emergency contact information. **The AAP must be updated annually.**

Head Lice

The school district's registered nurse and other school personnel routinely screen students for head lice. If a student is found to have head lice, the parent/guardian will be contacted and notified to come to the school and pick the student up to be taken home. An informative letter will be given at that time with instructions for treatment. Parents will be required to furnish evidence of treatment and, upon the child's return to school he/she will be checked prior to being allowed to return to the classroom of assignment. The third time the child shows evidence of head lice infestation (including the presence of nits in the child's hair), the child will not be allowed to return to class and the parent/guardian will be required to bring a note from the Health Department. It is imperative that parents/guardians follow instructions for treatment promptly in order that the student may quickly return to school. If evidence exists that the student continues to be infested with head lice, then the student will be removed from the class to prevent spreading the lice to others, and the parent/guardian will be notified.

Compliance With Compulsory School Attendance Law

In all respects, the district shall comply with the requirements of the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law (hereinafter called MCSAL as set forth in Section 37-13-91 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 and the reporting requirements contained therein. When violations of the MCSAL occur, reports are made to the various county school attendance officers, who are employees of the State Department of Education. The attendance officer is:

Ms. Pam Graves (758-0539)

The Lamar County School District is committed to preparing its students to be successful in the 21st Century. In addition to providing opportunities for basic and advanced content skills, schools have the responsibility to guide students in the development of many other skills needed in today's society and workplace: problem-solving, communication and collaboration, critical thinking, use of technology tools, self direction, and initiative and creative thinking.

In order for students to complete the coursework described above, skills must be measured by many types of assessments of which a paper and pencil test is only one; therefore, good attendance is a requirement for success. Many grades may come from teacher observation of student participation in and interaction with both the curriculum and others. Often concepts missed when a student is absent can never be recovered. **Therefore the Lamar County School District has established criteria for the maximum allowable number of absences for a course. After that point, too much of the curriculum will have been lost without special tutoring, which may be obtained through credit recovery during the school year or in summer school at the student's expense.**

Lamar County School Board Attendance Criteria for Receiving Course Credit

All students attending a Lamar County School must attend a minimum of 84 days in a one credit course and 42 days in a ½ credit course out of the total scheduled days in order for that student to be eligible to receive academic credit for the school year. No student will be entitled to receive academic credit for courses/classes taken should more than 6 days be missed in semester type courses or 12 days for year courses regardless of the student's grade point average. **All absences other than school activities, those accompanied by a doctor's excuse, or those due to out of school suspension are counted in the total number of absences allowed.** Middle/High School absences are counted for **EACH** class period, and the student must not miss more than one-third of the class to be counted present.

Please note that all excused absences with the exceptions noted above for full credit courses will count toward the 6 allowable absences, and for half credit courses, 3 allowable absences.

An absence is **excused** when

- the absence results from illness or injury that prevents the compulsory-school-age child from being physically able to attend school.
- isolation of a compulsory-school age child is ordered by the county health officer, by the State Board of Medical Health or appropriate school official.
- it results from the death or serious illness of a member of the immediate family. Immediate family shall include children, spouse, grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters, or stepbrothers/stepisters.
- when it results from the attendance of the compulsory-school-age child at the proceedings of a court or an administrative tribunal if such child is a party to the action or under subpoena as a witness.
- it results from a medical or dental appointment of a compulsory-school-age child where an approval of the superintendent or designee is gained prior to the absence, except in the case of an emergency.

Further, an absence may be excused and work may be made up, but it will count toward the allowable absences 6 for full credit courses, and it will count toward the allowable absences 3 for half credit courses.

- if the religion to which the compulsory-school-age child or such child's parents adheres, requires or suggests the observance of a religious event. The approval of such absence is within the discretion of the superintendent or designee, but approval should be granted unless the religion's observance is of such duration as to interfere with the education of the child.
- when it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the superintendent of the school district or designee that the purpose of the absence is to take advantage of a valid educational opportunity such as travel including vacations or other family travel. Approval of such absence must be gained from the superintendent or designee prior to the absence but such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. **Parents Note: The days missed due to these absences could cause a student to lose semester exam exemption status. Completion of the Valid Educational Opportunity Form is required prior to the absence.**
- when it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the superintendent of the school district or designee that conditions are sufficient to warrant the compulsory-school-age child's nonattendance.

Unexcused Absences

An absence is **unexcused** when any of the above excused absences is not applicable. School administrators are authorized to verify the excuses, written or otherwise, and may, in their discretion, determine that an absence is unexcused because the criterion for an excused absence is not present. The Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law as set forth in Section 37-13-91 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 defines an "unlawful absence" as an absence during a school day by a compulsory-school-age child, which absence is not due to a valid excuse for temporary nonattendance.

Out-of-school suspension as imposed by the school's administration for disciplinary reasons is considered an unexcused absence from classes. **During the student's absences due to out-of-school suspension, the student will receive a zero (0) for any work missed in each class missed during the suspension period. The zero (0) will only be assigned for actual graded work assigned to other students in the class during the suspended student's absence.** If the individual teacher gave no grades to other students in the class during the suspended student's absence, then the suspended student will not receive any O's in that class. The suspended student may be allowed an opportunity to make up zeros received only on major assignments missed during the suspension period at the discretion of the principal. **Such opportunity will be in the form of allowing the make-up during a scheduled Saturday School session.** The district's Saturday school program is designed to allow students the opportunity to make up suspension days, to allow an alternative disciplinary action, and to allow for special circumstances as assigned by the principals.

For purposes of attendance, the suspension days will not be counted towards the total days allowed prior to the student losing credit for the class under the district's attendance policy guidelines as set forth above.

For any absence, the student must bring a note from the parent/guardian or doctor to validate the absence and this note must be presented on the day of the student's return to school. This note must state the days missed, the reason for the absence and be signed by the parent/guardian with a telephone number where the parent/guardian can be contacted for verification. **All notes should be presented to the office within two (2) school days of the absence or the absence will be considered unexcused. Any note presented after the allowed 2 days must be turned into the school principal for consideration.**

If a student returns from an absence without a note, the absence will be considered unexcused; and in order for the student to receive credit for work missed, he or she may be required to attend the next Saturday school or after-school program to make up the work. Missed work for excused or unexcused absences may NOT be made up during regular class time.

General Procedures

Students/Parents/Legal Guardians are responsible for keeping up with the student's absences.

Once the student exceeds the allowable days (6 days in full credit courses, 3 days in ½ credit courses), the principal shall be responsible for timely written notification to the student/parent/legal guardian that the student has excessive absences and has lost academic credit. Even after such notification, the student/parent/guardian will continue to be responsible for presenting the required notes for any further absences incurred and such notes will be placed on file to be considered by the District Review Committee should the student/parent/guardian seek a ruling (exception) from the committee.

At the time the principal notifies the student/parent/guardian that the student has excessive absences, the principal shall also provide the proper form explaining procedures for requesting review by the attendance hearing committee. **This form must be completed and returned to the principal within five (5) days.**

If the student/parent/guardian requests a review by the attendance hearing committee, the principal shall immediately forward a copy of the request and all available information, including the principal's recommendation, to the committee chairman. The chairman will be responsible for notifying the student/parent/guardian of the time and date of the review.

Failure to appear at the scheduled time without prior notification to the Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent will represent a forfeiture of the review.

The review committee will review all statements, both written and oral, from both the school administrator and the student/parent/guardian and in a closed session will make their determination. In most cases, the committee will present its ruling on the day it hears the individual case. In some situations, the committee may feel it needs additional information and may, in its discretion, continue the matter to a special meeting by arrangement.

Make-Up Work-When Students Have Been Absent from Classes

It is the student's responsibility upon return to school to request of teachers a list of all work assignments missed during the absence. Students must turn in work within the described limits or receive a zero (0) for the work. Work shall be made up within a reasonable time as agreed upon by the teacher and student but must be completed before the end of the grading period. The length of the absence, the reason for the absence, and the length of the assignments to be made up will all be considered in determining the time allowed to make up the work missed. The ultimate goal is to have the student successfully complete missed assignments within a time that is both fair to that particular student and fair to other students who were in attendance and have completed the assignments within the regularly specified time. Students with disabilities (under I.D.E.I.A.) must follow the same guidelines for make-up work as other students, unless stipulated on the student's individualized educational plan.

Assignments may be given prior to the child's return to school if the absence is an extended one or in other special circumstances as determined appropriate by the principal.

NOTE: All make-up work must be complete prior to the end of each grading period or exams in each course. Seniors must also complete all make-up work for the last grading period prior to final exams.

Make up Work	Excused Absence	Unexcused Absence
Secondary Make up class work	May be made up at home	May be made up in Saturday School or Before/After School Program
Secondary Make up exams/tests	May be made up before school, after school, in Saturday School, or in the Before/After School Program	May be made up in Saturday School or Before/After School Program
Elementary Make up class work	May be made up at home	May be made up at home
Elementary Make up exams/tests	Must be made up before school, after school, or during recess	Must be made up before school, after school, or during recess

Absences and Participation in School Sponsored Activities

It shall be the policy of the Lamar County School Board that students who are not present for the entire school day on the day of a school sponsored activity shall not be allowed to participate in that activity occurring on the day and night of the absence. The principal may consider special, extenuating circumstances (medical absences, death in the family, etc.). All circumstances must have approval in advance, when at all possible, to be considered. The decision of the school principal in this matter shall be final.

Early Dismissal of Students From School

Students will not leave the school campus or be absent from an assigned class without permission from the principal. Teachers are not authorized to dismiss students from class or from the campus without clearance of an administrator. Dismissal requests from parent/guardians should be presented to the appropriate school office by 8:30 a.m. on the day of the intended dismissal. The decision as to whether the dismissal from classes is excused or unexcused shall rest with the administrator issuing approval for the dismissal.

Parents or their designee must pick up and sign out through the school office students seeking early dismissal. In order to avoid interruption of class activities (except in emergency situations), parent/guardians should not request dismissal prior to the end of the class period. Special situations or emergencies should be handled through the appropriate administrator's office. Photo Identification may be required.

Student Check-out Procedures

- ❖ Student must present parent note to school office by 8:30 a.m. to be verified (phone number on note).
- ❖ Parent or guardian may physically come and pick up student (no phone calls will be accepted).
- ❖ Photo identification may be required to check a student out.
- ❖ No lunch check-outs will be allowed unless a doctor's note is presented upon return.

Student Tardiness

In order to promote the concepts of timeliness and responsibility in students, the following policy shall be followed in regard to tardiness:

- Students are expected to be in classes promptly. Students are not allowed to be out of class without the permission of the principal/assistant principal.
- Students are allowed sufficient time to pass from one class to the next and should not be tardy except in cases of emergency. If an emergency should arise, the student must get an admittance slip from authorized office personnel. In the event the student needs more than the specified time, the student should report to their class first and obtain the permission of the teacher.
- An unexcused tardy from school will result in disciplinary action.
- Work missed due to an unexcused tardy may not be made up.
- A student is tardy to school if the student arrives any time after the tardy bell for first period or after the student's first class begins. Any student who is tardy to school **MUST** report to the appropriate administrative office **BEFORE** going to his/her assigned class. Elementary students must have their parent/guardian sign them in **BEFORE** going to his/her assigned class.
- No student is permitted to enter a class after the tardy bell has rung without an appropriate admittance slip issued through the principal/assistant principal's office.
- Tardiness due to personal illness, illness in the family, death in the family, or other emergencies may be approved if a written note or telephone call from the student's parent/guardian or the person responsible for bringing the student to school is presented at the time of arrival. Oversleeping, clock failure, missed rides, etc. will not be excused tardies. In all cases, the principal in charge of issuing the admittance slip may, in his/her absolute discretion, verify any such note or call.
- Students in attendance for less than two thirds a class period/day will be counted absent for that period/day.
- Excessive tardies will be turned over to the truancy officer

School principals are authorized to determine appropriate management and disciplinary techniques to be used when students are tardy to school/classes or are checked out early from school/classes. Such discipline may include placement of the student on the district discipline ladder.

Homework Policy Statement

The following shall be the district's policy on homework:

1. **Homework shall not be assigned on weekends and holidays** to avoid interfering with family, church, community, or recreational interests. However, students may use weekend time for long-range assignments or to make up work missed due to absences.
2. Teachers should make assignments according to the needs and interests of students where possible.
3. In order for homework to be meaningful, some form of teacher evaluation is mandatory.
4. Major or long-range assignments should be coordinated through the appropriate principal/assistant principal so as to avoid overloads and daily homework assignments should be reasonable and take into account other teachers' assignments or tests so as to not overload the student.
5. **Homework will not be assigned on the night preceding Statewide Testing Dates**

Progress Reporting, Grading, Grade Reporting

A well-planned and competently administered evaluation program is an essential component of the instructional program and regular, informative reporting of student progress to parent/guardians is imperative. Parent/Guardians are strongly encouraged to work with the school when questions arise regarding their child's progress. School personnel will make every effort to schedule appointments with parents/guardians to address such concerns.

Progress Reporting

Teachers make an effort to keep parents regularly informed of student progress. Primarily, this is accomplished by sending student work home for parent review, individual notes from teachers to parents, and conferences with parents. Teachers will send formal notification to parents at the end of the fourth (4th) week of each nine-week term, and a grade report at the end of each 9-week term. Parents are strongly urged to review any progress reports sent by teachers and to request a conference with the teacher if necessary.

Grading Determination

- A. A number of factors are used in determining a student's grade, including daily class work, homework, class participation, test grades, promptness in completing work, neatness in preparation of work, special project completion, portfolios, and other factors that allow the teacher to determine the student's level of performance. Many courses follow a class format which emphasizes skills that cannot be measured by paper and pencil work alone but require teacher observation (which includes participation in group work and discussions, following directions, answering questions correctly, being prepared and on time, etc.,) making attendance a factor (class participation graded daily).
- B. In an effort to better determine academic progress of students in kindergarten and first grade, Lamar County Schools utilizes a standards-based checklist to indicate students' mastery of skills. The checklist of skills will be used instead of numerical or letter grades. In the classroom teachers will use checklists, rubrics, student observation, detailed notes, and written assessments to determine student mastery. The Lamar County Standards-based Checklist includes the skills expected to be mastered at each grade level in language arts and in math, and the essential skills are highlighted. Mastery of a skill is defined as being able to use the skill appropriately 80% of the time. The goal is for all students to gain mastery of the skills so students will be given multiple opportunities to learn skills and to show mastery.
- C. Grading Scale (Grades 2-12)

A	90-100	Superior work
B	80-89	Above average work
C	70-79	Average work
D	65-69	Below average work
F	below 65	Failing work
I		Incomplete work

- D. There shall be four reporting periods each academic year.
- E. All regular education students shall be assessed on the basis of on-grade level work.
- F. In graded programs, a minimum of eight (8) grades shall be recorded in the teacher's grade book for each student in each academic course or at each grade level during each nine-week reporting period unless the Superintendent grants a written exception.
- G. Teachers will not assign grades based on student conduct.
- H. Tests may not be given early, unless the principal gives special permission. Formal term tests will not be required for students in Grades K-5.
- I. During testing, review periods will count as absences toward the number allowed for exemption.
- J. Graded Assignments and Tests-Grading Across the Continuum:

Student assessment practices must afford students with opportunities to score at all levels of the grading continuum (A-F). Evaluation practices shall allow a sufficient number of items to permit a student to satisfy successive grading increments. For example, a test with only five items valued at 20 points each would not be acceptable (unless partial credit for one item was allowed) since the student could not score at all levels on the continuum (A-F).

Note: Grades awarded to students who have been ruled eligible for students with disabilities services and who are actively participating in the district's students with disabilities program(s) shall be based on the attainment of goals and objectives set forth in the student's IEP (Individual Education Plan). Students with disabilities who attend regular classes in order to attempt to receive Carnegie units and who also attend special education classes shall be required to meet the same minimum standards in the regular education classes attended as regular education students who are in the class. Accommodations and/or assistance devices may be used as appropriate.

Three-Tiered Intervention Process (RTI)

In order to provide every student in the Lamar County School District with equitable opportunities, a Three-Tiered Intervention Process **academic and behavior** has been established at each school in the district. This process will provide an avenue to assist students who demonstrate difficulties within the school environment and is designed to intervene early before problems escalate. The final step is the Teacher Support Team (TST) where a student's needs are thoroughly analyzed and prescriptive steps are established. Administrators, counselors, teachers, parents, **behavioral specialists** and students are all involved in the process. A detailed description is available in each school's principal's office, The Office of Academic Education, and Department of Special Services

All Schools and Homebound/Hospital Bound

Any student with a disability, who does not meet course requirements, even though adjustments have been made to accommodate the student's disability, may receive a failing grade (F). If it is obvious, however, that the student with a disability cannot function socially, emotionally, or educationally in a regular classroom program, then the student should be removed from the regular class and placed appropriately. The necessary revisions in the student's IEP (Individual Educational Plan) will be made accordingly.

It is important to note that it may be necessary to provide extra assistance to disabled students or make modifications in the regular program of instruction. Regular education teachers and special education teachers must work closely together to insure that all appropriate educational methods, accommodations and modifications, and supplementary aids and services are being used to assist the student with a disability, and the student is placed in his/her least restrictive environment.

Although these modifications may need to be made, the student should be judged to be successful (graded) in the regular classroom based on mastery of the same required content skills as non-disabled students in the class. Caution must be used to reflect mastery of content, not mastery of related skills (i.e. reading)

Alternate Grading, Accommodations, Modifications Policy for Students with Special Needs

In adopting this policy, it is important that all school staff, students, and parents understand the definitions of two important terms, as follows:

- A. **“Modifications** are changes in course content, teaching strategies, standards, test presentations, location, timing, scheduling, expectations, student responses, environmental structuring and/or other attributes which provide access for a student with a disability to participate in a course/standard/test which **FUNDAMENTALLY** alter or lower the standard or expectations of the course/standard test” (Diana Browning Wright, Teaching and Learning, 2003. Any adaptation is allowed that does not change the course curriculum.
- B. **“Accommodations** are changes in course content, teaching strategies, standards, test presentation, location, timing, scheduling, expectations, student responses environmental structuring and/or other attributes which provide access for a student with/without a disability to participate in a course/standard/test, which **DO NOT** fundamentally alter or lower the standard or expectations of the course/standard/test” (Wright, 2003).
Standard #1: Modifications (changes to curriculum) should rarely be used for any student. If modifications are used for a student with a disability under Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (I.D.E. I.A. 2004), these should be included in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Grade Reporting

- A. At the end of the nine-week term each student will be issued a report which indicates the student's level of performance. Parents are encouraged to review the grade report and to contact the school principal/assistant principal if there are questions and/or concerns.
- B. Copies of grade reports shall be kept on file at the school for the current year in which the student attends. Cumulative records shall be maintained from year-to-year in the manner required by the Mississippi Commission on School Accreditation, state and federal law, and Lamar County School Board policy.
- C. Students with disabilities will receive the same progress report as regular education students; however, grade level of performance/achievement will be indicated on the progress report. The grading code for self-contained students with disabilities will be the same as with regular education students.

Mandatory Student Dress Code

Tops

Collared shirt/Turtleneck with or without pockets, short or long sleeves.

- Shirts must be of the type material so that undergarments are not visible or an undershirt is required.
- **Shirts must be tucked in at all times (Elementary K-5 shirts may be untucked as long as they do not exceed wrist length).**
- Undershirts must be crew neck and white or of color that matches outer shirt.
- **Brand logos** - one only and must be small enough to be covered by a quarter.

- **School logos** - must be on front left chest no larger than 4" in diameter.
- Allowed colors are white, gray, and navy for the entire district and for Baxterville-navy blue and red, Oak Grove-black and gold, Purvis-purple and gold, Sumrall-royal blue and gold.

Bottoms

Khaki (light or dark tan in color), Black or Navy Blue – NO DENIM

ELEMENTARY (K-5) ONLY may wear denim jeans (in shades of blue only)

Boys: Pants or shorts

Girls: Pants, skirts, capris, shorts, skorts, jumpers or dresses

Belts must be plain black or brown

Note: Students may not wear black on black, navy on black, or navy on navy (does not apply to navy on denim at elementary).

Items not allowed

- Pants with belt loops removed
- Pants that are rolled up unless cuffed
- Pants with a length that exceeds the bottom of the shoe
- Pants that are not secured at the WAIST with a belt
- Pure elastic waist pants (does not apply to Elementary K-5)
- Pants with drawstrings at waist or pants leg
- Appliqués/designs/sparkles
- Cuts or tears in clothing
- Pockets on pants, skirts, or shorts except those made into the side seams of the garment, with the exception of back pockets. No extra pockets.
- Sweatpants, wind pants, velour, overalls, skater pants, carpenter pants, cargo pants, low riders, skinny jeans, or jeggins
- Oversized pants
- Sports shorts, biking shorts, sweat pants/shorts;

Sweaters/Vests/Sweatshirts

Black, brown, navy, tan, white, or school color only.

- No hoodies allowed (i.e. pullover with hood) - ELEMENTARY (K-5) only may wear hooded shirts (hooded shirts must be removed indoors)
- School logos are acceptable on the front left chest no larger than 4" in diameter.
- Must be waist high
- A collared shirt/turtleneck must be worn underneath in order for students to remove the outer wear
- Appliqués/designs are not allowed on any clothing
- No cuts or tears are allowed in clothing

Shoes

Black, brown, navy, tan or gray. (Shoe color does not apply to Elementary K-5)

- Tennis shoes may be solid white or white with any combination of the approved colors.
- Laces must be solid in a shoe color and tied at all times. (Lace color does not apply to Elementary K-5)
- If shoes are to be laced up with shoelaces they must be worn and laced up at all times.
- Shoes must be worn at all times.
- Shower shoes and house shoes will not be allowed.
- Tennis shoes must be worn at P.E.
- No light up shoes are allowed.

Socks/Hose/Tights

Black, brown, navy, tan, gray or white. Must be solid in color.

Coats/Jackets

- No color/logo restrictions
- Must not exceed the fingertips in length
- Must be removed while in classroom

- Must be unzipped/unbuttoned when entering building

Accessories

- Belts must be plain black or brown
- Hair accessories must match dress color
- Jewelry should be unobtrusive
- Winter hats, scarves and gloves may be black, brown, navy, tan, or gray

Other Items NOT allowed

- No visible price tags are allowed
- Denim fabric except for jackets/coats/vests.
- Any items symbolic of gang attire
- Any clothing that is too revealing for male or female students.
- Hats, bandanas, visors, sunglasses, hoods, or other headwear (inside or outside of the buildings)
- Spiked accessories, chains (including those attached to wallets and/or belt loops), jewelry, or other accessories/items

Transfer students from other districts will be given five days to comply.

Reward Days – At school principal’s discretion, jeans and t-shirts may be allowed as a reward or used for special days. Jeans must be denim and a shade of blue with no extra pockets (standard 4 pocket). T-shirts must be of a district or school color. They must be crew neck, short or long sleeved.

Picture Days – On school picture days all rules apply except for colors. Student may wear any color combination. If a student is absent on school picture day, they may bring alternate clothing to change into for make-up pictures. All of the following dress code regulations apply in addition to the above:

Students attending school in the Lamar County School District must wear clothing that is comfortable, clean, in good repair, and school-appropriate. Clothing, hair, and other items that students wear to school must not disrupt the educational process nor create any form of school disturbance (i.e. no spike Mohawks and off color hair).

- No student will be allowed to wear any type of clothing that, in the opinion of the administrator, is too revealing, suggestive, provocative or otherwise inappropriate. An example is clothing that reveals skin in the midriff area or cleavage.
- Appropriate undergarments for boys and girls must be worn at all times and may not be visible.
- All shorts must be hemmed and no more than five inches (5”) above the top of the knee. All other apparel will be no more than four inches (4”) above the top of the knee. Slits in dresses and skirts must meet the four-inch requirement.
- Earrings must be worn in the ear(s) only. For student safety, no other body piercing with rings or other jewelry is permitted. No tongue studs will be allowed.
- All inappropriate tattoos must be covered.

In all instances, the appropriateness or inappropriateness of school dress will be determined by school administrators, considering the style or manner in which the clothing is worn or it’s fit.

School Bus Transportation

Bus transportation is available to students who live one mile or more from the school of their attendance. **Our buses will not go down private drives to pick up students unless they live more than 3/10 of a mile from the nearest traveled road. Our Transportation Director will set-up neighborhood bus stops and will assign students living in the neighborhood a bus stop. At no time will a student have to walk more than 3/10 of a mile to the bus stop.**

Students are expected to follow all rules regarding riding of a school bus, and drivers are authorized to instruct and otherwise control student behavior so as to insure maximum safety in the operation of the school bus. The school principal/assistant principal is authorized to implement disciplinary measures as needed to correct misconduct aboard a school bus. School bus drivers are to report any misconduct aboard the bus to the school's administration in accordance with the reporting procedures established at the individual school campus. **It is to be fully understood that bus transportation is a privilege, and students who misbehave and jeopardize the safety of other students or the driver may be denied bus transportation.** Principals/assistant principals are authorized to suspend students from bus transportation privileges for misconduct and may recommend expulsion from the bus to the board of education. Students riding a bus are not permitted to engage in the following:

1. smoke or use tobacco in any form.
2. fight or tussle.
3. strike or in any manner threaten the driver.

4. use profanity or make vulgar gestures.
5. carry any item that would be considered a weapon.
6. make excessive noise.
7. throw objects, including paper, inside or out the bus windows.
8. use or be in possession of any drug in violation of the district's drug policy.
9. distract the driver.
10. extend head, hand, arms, other body parts, or articles from the bus window.
11. use the emergency exit in normal non-emergency situations.
12. bring unauthorized/potentially dangerous articles aboard the bus.
13. be out of seat while the bus is in motion.
14. be disrespectful to the driver.
15. refuse to obey the driver's instructions.
16. harass, threaten, pester, or intimidate other students.
17. bring food or drink aboard the bus to be consumed while on the bus.
18. have hats, bandanas, visors, sunglasses, or other headwear on the bus;
19. improper use of electronic devices.
20. vandalism of the inside or outside of the bus.
21. improper boarding/departure to or from the bus

- **Interference with Operation of School Bus**

According to Mississippi Law 37-41-2, it shall be unlawful for any individual other than a student scheduled to be a passenger upon that particular bus, a member of the public school administration or faculty, or a law enforcement official, to directly or indirectly interfere in any way with passenger ingress and egress or the operation, including unauthorized boarding thereof, of a bus used in public school student transportation unless permission has been obtained as prescribed by pertinent rules and regulations promulgated by the state board of education or the local school authorities.

Upon conviction of violation of any provision of this section, such individual shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed six (6) months, or both. Any person under the age of seventeen (17) who violates any provision of this section shall be treated as delinquent within the jurisdiction of the youth court.

- **Video/Audio Monitoring**

Monitoring devices (cameras) are placed on school buses to provide one source of observation for school officials to help with the maintenance of discipline and safety practices. School officials are authorized to utilize video/audio taping on school buses to assist in the supervision of student conduct and safety.

The school is not responsible for loss of valuables or personal items that students may bring to school or leave on a school bus. Should a loss occur, administrative time will not be used to investigate video records.

- **Disciplinary Action for Misbehavior Aboard School Buses will result in action according to the discipline ladder.**

The discipline ladder does not reflect a step-to-step approach.

The following procedures are a general guide to be followed in administering discipline to students who fail to behave aboard the bus:

- 1st Offense: Parents will be contacted. Other appropriate action may be taken to include suspension from the bus, school, or both.
- 2nd Offense: Appropriate disciplinary action/suspension from the bus for 1-3 days.
- 3rd Offense: Appropriate disciplinary/suspension from the bus for 4-6 days.
- 4th Offense: Appropriate disciplinary action/suspension/expulsion from the bus.

- **Fighting Aboard a School Bus or at a bus stop may result in expulsion from the bus for one calendar year.**

Pursuant to State Law Section 37-9-71 the Superintendent of Schools and the Principal of a school shall have the power to suspend a pupil for good cause, including misconduct, in the school or on school property as defined in Section 37-11-29 on the road to and from school, or at any school-related activity or event, or for conduct occurring on property other than school property or other than at a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil, in the determination of the superintendent or principal, renders that pupil's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole, or for any reason for which such pupil might be suspended, dismissed or expelled by the school board under state or federal law or any rule, regulation or policy of the local school district.

- **General Reminder Concerning Safety Aboard the School Bus**

While buses are moving, any incident that distracts the driver's attention is considered a major disciplinary infraction. Students involved in a major infraction, including fighting, may be subject to out-of-school suspension in addition to bus suspension at the discretion of the school's administration. Further, parents/guardians and students are reminded that the punishment sequence listed above is a minimum that may occur for each offense. School administrators may, in their judgment, administer more severe punishment if they feel that the situation or infraction warrants such action.

- **Riding Bus Other Than Regularly Assigned Bus**

Students often make a request to be allowed to ride another bus to another location other than the regular bus going to the student's residence. **Such request must be made by the parent/guardian in writing to the principal/assistant principal prior to the student being allowed to board any other bus other than the bus that the student regularly rides.** Such requests must be presented to the principal/assistant principal on the day that the student wishes to board a different bus. The written request must be submitted by 8:15 a.m. on the day the boarding change is to occur. The written request must include a telephone number where the parent/guardian may be contacted for verification.

- **Meeting or Passing a School Bus Section 63-3-615**

1. The driver of a vehicle upon a street or highway upon meeting or overtaking (passing) any school bus which has stopped on the street or highway for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school children shall come to a complete stop and shall not proceed until the children have crossed the street or highway and the school bus has proceeded in the direction it was going.
2. Any person violating the provisions of subsection 1 of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than Three Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$350.00) nor more than Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00), or imprisoned for not more than one (1) year, or both. For a second or subsequent offense, the offenses being committed within a period of five (5) years, the person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00) nor more than One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00), or imprisoned for not more than one (1) year, or both. In addition, the Commissioner of Public Safety or his duly authorized designee, after conviction for a second or subsequent offense and upon receipt of the court abstract, shall suspend the driver's license and driving privileges of the person for a period of ninety (90) days.
A conviction under this section for a violation resulting in any injury to a child who is in the process of boarding or exiting a school bus shall be a violation of Section 97-3-7, and a violator shall be punished under subsection (2) of that section.
3. This section shall be applicable only in the event the school bus shall bear upon the front and rear thereon a plainly visible sign containing the words "school bus" in letters not less than four (4) inches in height.
4. If the driver of any vehicle is witnessed by a law enforcement officer or the driver of a school bus to have violated this section and the identity of the driver of the vehicle is not otherwise apparent, it shall be a rebuttable inference that the person whose name the vehicle is registered committed the violation. If charges are filed against multiple owners of a motor vehicle, only one (1) of the owners may be convicted and court costs may be assessed against only one (1) of the owners. If the vehicle that is involved in the violation is registered in the name of a rental or leasing company and the vehicle is rented and leased to another person at the time of the violation, the rental or leasing company may rebut the inference of guilt by providing the law enforcement officer or prosecuting authority with a copy of the rental or lease agreement in effect at the time of the violation.

Lamar County School District Disciplinary Policies and Procedures

Discipline Policy

It is the goal of the Lamar County School District to maintain a safe and orderly climate where all students feel secure in a positive learning environment. Every effort is made to develop and maintain harmonious relationships between students and school staff based upon mutual respect and understanding. The basic objectives of the Lamar County School District's discipline policy are as follows:

- (1) To establish conditions under which no student will be permitted to prevent any teacher from teaching or any student from learning,
- (2) To establish and maintain study conditions that are conducive to learning,
- (3) To develop, on the part of each student, the habits and skills that make him/her self-directive and to help him/her realize that he/she is responsible for his/her own behavior,
- (4) To guide students in learning how to make better behavioral choices based on decision-making skills that enable them to become self-disciplined.

As required by Mississippi law, any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a school district that refuses or willfully fails to attend a discipline conference specified in the discipline section may be

summoned by proper notification by the superintendent or the school attendance officer and be required to attend such discipline conference.

Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child who (a) fails to attend a discipline or academic (Section 37-11-53) conference to which such parent, guardian or custodian has been summoned under the provisions of the discipline section, or (b) refuses or willfully fails to perform any other duties imposed upon him or her under the provisions of the discipline sections, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not to exceed \$250.00

Disciplinary measures/punishment may follow student failure to conform to accepted standards of behavior in the school. **Significant interruptions of the educational process resulting from overt disrespect shown by students to faculty members, unruly student behavior, and vulgar or otherwise discourteous actions will not be permitted.**

Disciplinary actions as outlined in the steps on the discipline ladder will be taken as a result of the following student misbehavior: (1) refusal to follow instructions from faculty members; (2) using profane language; (3) failing to identify oneself when asked to do so by a member of the faculty; (4) insolent, contemptuous, or belligerent behavior or remarks; (5) a violation of other disciplinary rules or regulations or other good cause. (6) **The Board has special concerns about harassment of students or teachers by other students and considers this an offense, which may result in serious disciplinary action.**

Monitoring devices (cameras) are placed in school buildings and in other school campus locations including classrooms to provide one source of observation for school officials to help with the maintenance of discipline and safety practices. School officials are authorized to utilize video/audio taping of school property to assist in the supervision for student conduct and safety.

Suspension Procedures

When a principal/assistant principal or other certified administrator determines that a suspension should be invoked against a student due to the student's misconduct, as authorized under Section 37-9-71 Mississippi Code of 1972, the following procedures/guidelines will be applicable. These guidelines are applicable to out-of-school suspension or suspension of bus riding privileges that remove the student from the school setting, deny such student from attending school or school activities during the normal school day, or deny the student to ride a school bus to and from school:

1. A principal/assistant principal may suspend a student for a period not to exceed five (5) school days.
2. A student may be suspended for more than five (5) school days if approved by the principal and the Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent.
3. If the student is to be suspended immediately during normal school hours, the parent/guardian will be contacted to pick their child up immediately.
4. For any suspension, the principal/assistant principal may require a re-admission conference with the parent/guardian prior to the student being re-admitted to school or school activities.
5. At the time the administrator invokes a suspension against a student, a written notice will be provided to the student/parent/guardian. A copy of the district's suspension form shall be mailed to the parent/guardian with 24 hours of the suspension action. The form will state the reason for the suspension, the duration/dates of the suspension, the student's action to deny or admit the infraction noted, and an explanation of the due process rights available to the student/parent/guardian.
6. The days missed during an out-of-school suspension period will be counted as unexcused absences. Students must attend Saturday school in order to make up major grades missed.
7. Suspended students are not permitted to enter upon school grounds or to attend any school activity during the time of the suspension.

Student Suspension from School

Section 37-9-71, Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated as amended, recites as follows:

The superintendent of schools and the principal of a school shall have the power to suspend a pupil for good cause, including misconduct in the school or on school property, as defined in Section 37-11-29, on the road to and from school, or at any school-related activity or event, or for conduct occurring on property other than school property or other than at a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil, in the determination of the superintendent or principal, renders that pupil's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole, or for any reason for which such pupil might be suspended, dismissed or expelled by the school board under state or federal law or any rule, regulation or policy of the local school district. However, such action of the superintendent or principal shall be subject to review by and approval or disapproval of the school board. If the parent, guardian, or other person having custody of any child shall feel aggrieved by the suspension or dismissal of that child, then such parent, guardian, or other person shall have the right to a due process hearing. The appropriate superintendent or principal shall advise the parent or guardian of the child of this right to a hearing and the proper form shall be provided for requesting such a hearing.

Suspension and Students with Disabilities

In accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA, 2004 amendment):

1. Students with disabilities must not receive serial (back-to-back) suspensions.
2. Suspensions totaling over 10 days per school year are considered a change in placement, and parents must be notified and the district's positive behavior specialist must complete a functional behavior plan.
3. Suspensions involving drugs or weapons or serious bodily harm/threat require the IEP committee to conduct a manifestation determination review to decide if the behavior was a manifestation of the child's disability.
4. In incidences involving student drug or weapon possession or serious bodily harm/threat, a student may be expelled from school or receive educational services through an Interim Alternative Placement for 45 school days.
5. Students suspended for more than 10 total school days are entitled to continued special educational services, regardless of his/her recommended placement.

Appeal of Suspension Decision/Due Process

If a student/parent/guardian is aggrieved by the suspension decision of the administrator, the student/parent/guardian may appeal the decision in accordance with the following guidelines approved by the Board of Education:

1. **For appeal of suspensions lasting from 1-5 school days as invoked by principals/assistant principals, the student/parent/guardian may appeal to the principal. The decision of the principal shall be final.**
2. For appeal of suspensions lasting from 6-10 days as invoked by a principal/assistant principal, approved by the principal and authorized by the District Office, the appeal may be made to the District Discipline Committee. The decision of the District Discipline Committee and the superintendent will be final.
3. For appeal of suspensions lasting more than 10 days, appeal may be made to the Board of Education.
4. All requests must be made in writing.
5. Failure to appear at the scheduled time without prior notification to the superintendent/assistant superintendent will represent a forfeiture of the review.
6. A student may be put in parent care or classroom until issue is resolved.
7. If the decision of the committee is to uphold the principal's decision, then the student will be required to fulfill said disciplinary action.

Due Process: Appeals of Disciplinary Actions

In order to preserve a student's rights and the protection of due process of law, any student shall be given the opportunity for a hearing before appropriate school district officials should he/she or his parent/guardian desire to have a hearing. (Differences, disputes, and conflicts between students and staff are usually civil matters and not criminal ones.) When a student and/or his/her parent/guardian are dissatisfied with a disciplinary decision imposed by school staff, then the student and/or his/her parent/guardian may appeal. Appeals must be made prior to the end of the student's suspension. There is a defined method and protocol to the appeals procedure. The following is the step-by-step procedure to be used for appealing decisions/actions of school district personnel:

1. If the appeal concerns an action by a teacher, the appeal is to first be made to the teacher's supervising principal.
2. If the appeal concerns an action by a principal, then the initial appeal should be made to that administrator.
3. If, after Step 2 no consensus is reached, the appeal may be made to the District Discipline Committee. The District Discipline Committee will render its decision in the matter and submit the same to the Superintendent. The Superintendent is authorized to accept, reject, and/or modify the decision of the Committee.
4. If, after Step 3 no consensus is reached, the student or his/her parent/guardian may make written request for appeal to the Board of Education. This request must be made through the use of the proper request form, which is available in the Office of the Superintendent. The Board, in its sole and absolute discretion, will determine whether or not the appeal has merit to be heard by the Board. If so, it will be heard in the form of documents and testimony from the Discipline Hearing. If the Board determines that the Superintendent's decision and/or the decision of the Disciplinary Committee is final, then such appeal request will be denied and the student and/or his/her parent/guardian shall be notified in writing by the District Office.

District Discipline Committee

The District Discipline Committee is directed by the Assistant Superintendent of Operations or a designee, who shall organize, chair, and direct the procedural matters connected with the operation of the committee. This committee will be composed of individuals appointed by the Assistant Superintendent. The committee will meet in the District Office on a regular basis to hear student matters as necessary under the guidelines of the district's discipline plan and appeals procedures. Upon completion of the committee's responsibilities, the Assistant Superintendent or designee shall notify the Superintendent of the committee's decision. The Superintendent shall have authority to accept, reject, and/or modify the decision of the committee based upon the report of the Assistant Superintendent or a designee.

Searches by School Officials

Use of Drug Dogs in the Schools by Law Enforcement

The threat of or the use, possession, and sale of illegal drugs must be prohibited at the schools of the district. The Board recognizes that law enforcement officials make use of specially trained canines to detect the presence of illegal drugs. This practice has its benefits when used in harmony with safe handling of the canines and within the scope of proper use.

1. No drug dogs will be used in the schools of the district without the specific approval of the Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent, Principal/Assistant Principal, acting Principal or Lamar County School Board Police Department.
2. Contact with school principals/assistant principals will be made just prior to the arrival of the canines at the school.
3. The district may, at any time, utilize canines to search vehicles, possessions not on the student's person, desks, lockers and other school property, with or without reasonable suspicion. Canines utilized under the procedures of this policy will not be allowed to indiscriminately approach students or staff members.
4. Prior to entering a classroom to conduct a search using a canine, students will be instructed to leave the room.
5. A canine response indicating the presence of contraband constitutes reasonable suspicion and a more intrusive search may be conducted at the direction of the school administrators present.
6. In the event that a canine reacts during any search as herein set forth, the individual student will be summoned prior to any search of the property to which the canine issued a reaction (automobile, locker, desk, etc.). The student will be informed that the canine reacted and that a more intrusive search will be conducted in the presence of the student. In the event that the search produces evidence of illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, or other contraband, the student will be taken to the appropriate school office and the parent/guardian will be contacted to report to the school. Appropriate disciplinary action will be imposed pending presentation of the case to the Lamar County Board of Education. **The possession of illegal drugs will result in prosecution.**

Searches-Generally

The Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article 3, §23 of the Mississippi Constitution provide all people with the right to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches. However, circumstances will arise where searches of students' persons, possessions, lockers, desks, and vehicles will be necessary. Administrators have the authority and obligation to exercise discretion in the implementation of this policy, balancing the district's responsibility to maintain discipline, order, and a safe environment conducive to education with the students' legitimate expectation of privacy.

Searches Permitted

All searches must be pre-approved by the Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent, principal, assistant principal, or acting principal. No other district employee may authorize a search except where an emergency situation exists.

At least two (2) district employees must be present while a search is conducted. If, in the discretion of the administrator or employee conducting the search, the search is particularly intrusive, the person conducting the search and the witnesses, or at least one of them, should be the same sex as the student.

No student other than the student who is the subject of the search may be present during the search. All searches must be reasonable in scope. Searches are permitted as follows:

1. **Person, Possessions, Lockers:** Searches of a student's person, possessions or lockers may be conducted if a district employee has prior individualized reasonable suspicion that a student has violated or is violating a district policy, school rules or regulations or the law and that the search will result in discovery of evidence of such violation.
2. **Desks, Other School Property:** Searches of desks and other school property (except lockers) may be conducted at any time, with or without reasonable suspicion of a violation.
3. **Vehicles:** Searches of vehicles driven to school by or for students may be searched by visual inspection with or without reasonable suspicion of a violation. If a visual search results in individualized reasonable suspicion of a violation, a more intrusive search of the vehicle may be conducted at the direction of the principal or other administrator present.
4. **Group Searches:** Caution shall be exercised when a search involving a number of students is conducted. In most instances, in order to justify a search, the district's reasonable suspicion must be particularized to an individual student. Exceptions to this requirement are appropriate only where the intrusiveness of the search is minimal, such as canine searches of lockers, desks or book bags, automobiles, etc.
5. **Strip Searches:** No student shall be subjected to a strip search except where an emergency situation exists and with pre-approval of the school principal. No student shall be asked to remove any article of clothing in the presence of a member of the opposite sex or of other students.

6. **Metal Detectors:** Use of metal detectors to minimize the risk of weapons on campus is determined to be a desirable technique for campus security purposes. No student or teacher should be subject to the dangers inherent in a firearm, knife or other potentially dangerous object being carried onto the campus by another person.
 - a. **Random Use of Detector:** Metal detectors may be used either at random without cause at times to be determined by the campus principal or as otherwise prescribed by the district or they may be used for minor reasonable suspicion on a selective basis. Selection of students for a random sweep shall be demonstrably according to chance.
 - b. **Avoidance of Detection Process:** When a detector is in use at a particular entrance of a school and a student approaches the detection site and then attempts to avoid using that doorway, it shall be considered sufficient cause to immediately detain and frisk the student, following which the student and the student's belongings shall be subjected to the device.
 - c. Nothing in this policy requires the use of a metal detector, even if readily available, in preference to any other type of search.
2. Anyone who leaves campus with or without permission upon returning will be subject to search along with his or her vehicle. Anyone found in an unauthorized area of a campus will be subject to search.

Definitions

1. "Reasonable in Scope" means that the degree of the intrusion must be consistent with the objective of the search. Factors to be considered in whether the scope of a search is reasonable include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. The student's age, maturity, and sex;
 - b. The nature or level of seriousness of the suspected violation; and
 - c. The intrusiveness of the search, e.g. a canine search is less intrusive than a locker search; a locker search is less intrusive than a "pat down" search; etc.
2. "Reasonable suspicion" refers to a flexible concept requiring the application of experience and common sense. Determinations of whether reasonable suspicion to support a search exists shall be made on a case-by-case basis with due consideration of all circumstances. In all cases, "reasonable suspicion" must be supported by articulable facts.

Factors to be considered in making this determination include, but are not limited to, the following:

 - a. The reliability of the information indicating that evidence of a violation may be discovered;
 - b. The existence of reasonable suspicion that such evidence will be discovered;
 - c. The individualization of the suspicion toward the person to be the subject of the search;
 - d. The prevalence or seriousness of the problem to which the search is directed;
 - e. The exigency of the circumstances; and
 - f. In some circumstances, the student's history and record in school.
3. An "emergency situation" exists if the destruction of evidence or use of contraband is an immediate possibility. In such a case, an administrator must be notified immediately. However, if an emergency situation does not exist, employees should take steps to prevent the possible destruction of evidence or use of contraband while securing approval for a search.

Disciplinary Action

If a search reveals grounds for a reasonable belief that a violation of a district policy, school rules or regulations or the law has occurred, the student will be subject to disciplinary action as provided by district policy.

Police Searches

School officials are obligated to cooperate with law enforcement authorities who are validly carrying out their official duties. In such cases involving a student, the district shall make an immediate attempt to notify the student's parent, guardian, or custodian. The principal or the principal's designee shall attend the search if conducted on or about the school premises and shall take any disciplinary action necessary as a result of the search.

Legal Ref.: New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325 (1985)
Horton v. Goose Creek Independent School Dist., 690 F.2d 470 (5th Cir. 1982), cert. denied 103 S.Ct. 35 (1983)
Tarter v. Raybuck, 742 F.2d 977 (6th Cir. 1984), cert. denied 105 S.Ct. 1749 1985.

Interrogations by School Officials

School administrators and teachers have the right to question a student regarding his/her conduct or the conduct of others. School officials may question/interrogate a student regarding his/her conduct or the conduct of others **without the parent/guardian being present**. Principals are required by law to act in loco parentis.

Interrogations by Law Enforcement Officials

Law enforcement personnel are not permitted to interrogate students on the school campus regarding alleged activities of the student or others away from the school campus that have caused law enforcement to become involved until such time as the principal/assistant principal has obtained permission from the student's parent/guardian.

Felony Charges

Any student charged with a felony may not participate in any extra-curricular activities and could be assigned to the alternative school.

Expulsion

The Board of Education may expel any student for conduct that disrupts the educational process or endangers the health or safety of any student, his/her classmates, or any school personnel. Only the School Board may expel a student from school attendance and the School Board may only take such action after having afforded the student recommended for expulsion with all due process to which the student is entitled. Recommendation for expulsion must be made by the school principal to the Superintendent and/or District Discipline Committee to be submitted to the Board of Education for their action. Notice of the date, time, and location of the Board hearing shall be given in writing to the parent/guardian and student.

Unsafe School Choice Option

If the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) informs the Lamar County School District that a school within the district has been identified as a *persistently dangerous school* according to MDE guidelines, the Lamar County School District will implement the following actions:

1. Within 10 calendar days, notify the parents of each student attending the school that MDE has identified the school as persistently dangerous;
2. Offer students the opportunity to transfer to a safe public school within the Lamar County School District 14 calendar days prior to the opening of school;
 - a. The schools eligible to receive students will be determined by the school district based on available space;
 - b. Transfers will be limited to another Lamar County School;
 - c. Transportation by the district may be provided but is not required;
 - d. Transfers will remain in effect as long as the original school is identified as persistently dangerous. The transfer may be temporary or permanent at the discretion of the school district.
3. Those students who accept the transfer offer must complete the transfer within 20 calendar days.
4. Develop a corrective action plan within 20 calendar days of notification and implement the plan in a timely manner.
5. If a student becomes a victim of a violent criminal offense (as defined by MDE) while in school or on school grounds that the student attends, the Lamar County School District will offer to transfer the student to a safe school as outlined in section 2 within 14 days.

Upon completion of corrective action, the district will apply to MDE to remove the school from the list of persistently dangerous schools.

Other Student Information

Sexual Harassment

The Board of Education will not tolerate sexual harassment of or by students. Students who are guilty of threatening or sexually harassing other students or staff shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Disrespect/Insolence

Insolence (to be boldly disrespectful in speech or behavior) and general disrespect shall not be tolerated. Students are not permitted to intimidate or harass school personnel or other students. Students who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension.

Tobacco

Student use and/or possession of tobacco in any form **is not permitted on any campus of the Lamar County School District nor upon any school bus operated by the district.** Students in violation of this policy are subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension.

Cheating/Stealing

Students are expected to do their own work. The unauthorized giving or receiving of help in any area of schoolwork will not be tolerated. Cheating is a serious, disciplinary offense, and students should leave no doubt in this

area. The act of giving or receiving unauthorized help, including cheating, plagiarism, and copying, will result in a zero being assigned for the work. Stealing is a major violation of school disciplinary policy and may result in criminal charges.

Forged Excuses, Notes, Etc.

Forgery of an administrator's, teacher's, or parent's/guardian's name to a school document or note shall result in appropriate disciplinary action.

Defacing/Destroying School Property

Equipment, facilities, books, and fixtures that make up the school campus are paid for by the taxpayers. Willful damage or destruction of school property shall not be tolerated. State law provides in Section 37-11-19/1953 Ex. Sec., 26 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 that:

"If a pupil shall willfully destroy, cut, deface, damage, or injure any school building, equipment or other school property, he/she shall be liable to suspension or expulsion and his/her parents or persons in loco parentis (in place of the parents) shall be liable for all damages."

The punishment for such destruction of school property may include replacement of the property by the parent/guardian, renovation and/or repair of the property destroyed or damaged by the parent/guardian, and/or suspension/expulsion of the student from school.

Gambling

Gambling in any form on the school campus or at a school activity is strictly prohibited.

Cafeteria Behavior

All students must respect the rights of others in the lunch line. Students are to return trays so that the tables will be clear for those students following. Students must sit in assigned areas and behave properly at all times. Pushing, shoving, or "breaking" of the lunch line is not permitted. Disrespect to cafeteria workers will not be tolerated. Students who misbehave in the cafeteria are subject to disciplinary action by the administration and/or faculty.

Trespassing

Campuses are closed 15 minutes after school dismissal. Only those involved in supervised school activities are permitted on campus. Throughout the school campuses, video surveillance is used 24 hours a day for the safety and protection of students and staff. **Students who are found on the school grounds at unauthorized times will be placed on the district discipline ladder under school policy and will be subject to arrest.** In all instances of such vandalism, restitution will be the responsibility of the students and their parents. Students who are assigned to parent care or out-of-school suspension, recommended for expulsion, or expelled but are on campus unaccompanied by a parent/guardian will be considered as trespassing.

Leaving Campus and/or Failing to Report to Class without Permission

Leaving campus and/or failing to report to any assigned class, commonly called "skipping," is a major disciplinary offense and students leaving campus and/or failing to report to assigned areas/classes without proper permission from the school office shall be subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension.

Possession of Cellular Phones, Pagers, Radios, or Other Electronic Devices

In order to maintain a quiet and orderly learning environment, students are not allowed to use or have turned on any cellular phone/ mobile devices while at any Lamar County School beginning with the time of student's arrival to any campus and the ending bell of the school day. This includes the use in hallways, restrooms, offices or any other place on campus; students may **NOT** take a pass out of class to use their phones.

Use is interpreted as using any cell phone/mobile device function or feature (**out-going calls, in-coming calls, text messaging, camera use, game-playing, or any other use**), not just the sending or receiving of calls. Cell phones/mobile devices must be turned off, not silent or vibrate, and kept out of sight. Students may store their devices in their pockets, purse, book bag, etc. **OUT OF SIGHT AND TURNED OFF** at all times during the school day unless deemed appropriate by the instructor. A student with a cell phone/mobile device that is accidentally in sight (in an open purse/backpack, falls out of pocket or purse) but is turned off will not be subject to disciplinary action.

Violation of the cell phone/mobile device policy will be referred for insubordination and the following disciplinary action will occur:

- a. First offense: The cell phone/mobile device is confiscated and will be held until the end of the day after which time the parent/guardian will pick up the phone. The student will serve 1 day in school suspension.
- b. Second offense: The cell phone/mobile device is confiscated and will be held until the end of the day after which time the parent/guardian will pick up the phone. The student will serve one day out of school suspension.

- c. Third offense: The cell phone/mobile device is confiscated and will be held until the end of the day after which time the parent/guardian will pick up the phone. Three days of out of school suspension
- d. Further offenses will result in further suspensions.
- Parents should continue to call the school for any emergency situation. We will contact your son/daughter. Do not try to contact them by cell phone or pager.
- Students bring these devices to school at their own risk
- Lamar County School District, its schools, its faculty, and staff are **NOT** responsible for any damaged, missing, or stolen cell phones. If a student has a cell phone and it is damaged or stolen, schools WILL NOT utilize administrative time to investigate the incident nor will the District, or schools, take any financial responsibility for the cell phone or cell phone charges.

Personal Possessions

Students are expected to care for their own possessions and to keep up with personal belongings. The school district cannot be responsible for loss, theft, or damage to personal belongings. However, when properly reported, school officials will, if possible, assist the student in locating lost or stolen property within the limits of their abilities to do so.

Public Displays of Affection

Public displays of affection on school grounds are not permissible and will result in disciplinary action.

Student Demonstrations/Strikes/Sit-In Activities, Etc.

The Board is responsible for providing an appropriate education program. The right of a child to attend school and receive an educational program is mandated by law. The Board will not tolerate any disruption or interference with that right through the use of violence, vandalism, seizure of any area of school property, sit-in activities, walkouts, strikes, or other methods of demonstration that disrupts the operation of the school.

Messages and Gifts to Students from Parents/Guardians and Others

Except in the case of emergency, classes cannot be interrupted by messages to students from parents/guardians or others. PLEASE DO NOT ASK THAT THIS BE DONE EXCEPT IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS. Such disruptions interfere with instruction and result in loss of time and concentration. Arrangements for family matters should be made in the home, not at school or through the school office. No message will be delivered except from the parent/guardian. If a true emergency necessitates a message to a student, the school office will deliver that message. Further, the district recognizes the enjoyment students get by receiving gifts on special occasions. However, such deliveries to students can cause problems for school personnel and must be handled appropriately. Therefore, gift deliveries will be allowed on a limited basis, with arrangements for the management of such deliveries to be made between the vendor making the delivery and the principal/assistant principal. Because of safety issues, balloon deliveries will not be allowed at school. Students may not distribute personal correspondence at school. **All delivery of gifts will be made to a central location and be made available to students at the conclusion of the school day.**

Use of School Office Telephones

School office phones are business phones. Students will not be allowed to use school office phones except in case of an emergency/illness. Calls for missing materials, homework, etc. will not be allowed.

Student Lockers

Lockers, when available, are furnished for student convenience and are considered school property. Lockers are subject to inspection/search at any time by school officials. Students should not expect individual privacy in the use of a school locker. Further, school lockers are subject to the same care as other school property and are not to be defaced. Students are prohibited from writing on locker doors and walls and also from placing permanent stickers, pictures, or other decals on or in the locker.

Lockers are to be kept reasonably neat and students are expected to clear the locker at the end of the school year. Further, students are encouraged to place a combination lock on the locker if a built-in lock is not available. The school is not responsible for items stolen/lost that were reportedly in a student's locker. Students should not keep items of value in their locker. This includes money, band instruments, or other items of value to the student.

Field Trips-Extra Activities

The parent/guardian must grant permission for their child to make a field trip and must sign an appropriate permission form, which provides that school personnel are authorized by the parent/guardian to seek out and secure medical attention necessary should the child be injured or become ill during a trip. Further, parents/guardians must assume responsibility for payment of any costs involving medical treatment for their child. Misbehavior may result in loss of the field trip privileges. **Chaperones cannot bring any other children.**

Student Clubs and Organizations

Student clubs and organizations are encouraged; however, such clubs and organizations shall only be organized and operative after the principal/assistant principal has granted approval. No club or organization shall be formed without a proper sponsor, who shall be a certified staff member of the district. Secret clubs and organizations are not permitted in the schools of the district. Students who form, become members of, or participate in activities involving a non-approved club or organization shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Fundraising Activities

Clubs, organizations, and other school programs often wish to conduct fundraising activities to raise funds for projects, trips, convention attendance, and other operations of the group. However, such activities should be as limited as possible. Sponsors wishing to conduct such activities shall follow the procedures for making fundraising requests:

1. The sponsor is to complete a request form online.
2. The form is to be submitted to the appropriate principal for approval or denial.
3. If approved, the request form will be presented to the Superintendent who will have the final authority to either approve or deny the request.

Student Publications

Student publications are a part of the total school program. Any publication must be appropriate as to grade level and content. All publications are self-supporting and shall be sponsored by a faculty advisor. Any articles, pictures, slogans, or other written/visual material to be used in an approved publication must be cleared through the principal of the school before the publication is printed and distributed. This policy includes school newspapers, annuals, pamphlets, brochures, or any other publication associated with the school.

High School Policies

Term Exams

1. Formal cumulative tests will be administered at the end of each course.
2. Students must take each end of course test at its regularly scheduled time. In the case of emergency or illness, the student may take the test upon return to school. In the case of any other pre-approved absence, the student must take the test on the day of return. If the student must be absent during the final end of course tests in May, he/she must return the following week to take the tests missed.
3. End of course tests may be optional for students with disabilities according to the students' IEPs.

Grading Reporting**Mid-Course Progress Reporting**

50% of the student's grade will be based on student evaluation such as daily/weekly tests, unit tests, and special projects. 50% of the student's grade will be based on class work, homework, class participation, and other daily work.

End of Term Reporting

The end of term grade will be based upon the cumulative average of the exam grade (20%), the major grades (40%) and the daily grades (40%). Full credit semester grades will be determined by averaging the two term grades together for that full credit course.

Exemptions for Semester Examinations**Members of the Senior Class**

Seniors shall be exempt from taking end of course exams in any subject being taken when the student holds at least an 85 average in the course in all work attempted during the course. Additionally, the senior may not have been absent from the class for any reason except school business for more than two (2) days during a half-credit course and a total of four (4) days (2 each 9 weeks) for a full-credit course. School-business absences shall not be counted against the student. If the senior so desires, in order to attempt to improve his/her grade average in the class, he/she may elect to take the examination. If this option is elected, the end of course test grade will be averaged into the final grade. The principal, at his/her discretion can give consideration for bereavement.

Students in Grades 9-11

Students in these grades will be exempt from taking the end of course exam when the student holds at least an overall 90 average in the individual class at the end of the course. Further, in addition to the grade average required, the student cannot have been absent from the individual class for any reason except school business for more than two (2) days during the half-credit classes or four (4) days (2 each 9 weeks) during full-credit classes. School business absences shall not be counted against the student. The principal, at his/her discretion can give consideration for bereavement.

NOTE: During testing, review periods will be counted as absences.

***The days missed due to these absences could cause a student to lose end of course exam exemption status.**

Exemptions and Citizenship

Any student who meets the above exemption requirements shall automatically lose his/her right to exemption in all classes if the student reaches Step 5 or above on the District Discipline Ladder. If a student receives more than two (2) Office Disciplinary Referrals (not Teacher Misconduct Reports) from an individual teacher to the assistant principal/principal, that student **shall** automatically lose any right to exemption in that teacher's class.

Promotion and Retention

Promotion in grades 9-12 is based upon completion of the appropriate number of Carnegie units.

Requirements for Grade Level Classification

In order for a student to be classified in the following grades, the student must meet the following requirements:

Gr. 9 Promotion from Grade 8

Gr. 10 Have earned a minimum of 6 Carnegie units in Grades 8-9

Gr. 11 Have earned a minimum of 14 Carnegie units in Grades 8-10

Gr. 12 Have earned a minimum of 20 Carnegie units in Grades 8-11

Promotion/Retention for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities will be promoted based upon attainment of IEP objectives and/or placement in an age-appropriate setting as determined by the Students with Disabilities Local Survey Committee, the school's administration and in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations.

Subject Area Testing Program

The state of Mississippi requires students to pass subject area tests as a requirement for graduation. The tests that they must successfully complete are the following:

English II (Multiple Choice and Writing)
Algebra I
Biology
U. S. History

Lamar County School District SATP Remediation Program

The Lamar County School District has adopted the following policies based on State Board of Education Policy IHF-2, *Graduation Requirements*:

- **A student who passes the test but fails the course must repeat the course.**
- A student who passes the subject but fails the test must choose one of the following remediation paths:
 - A. Retake the test after taking the appropriate remediation course, chosen from the following:
 1. Learning Strategies (1 credit) and/or
 2. Individually developed In-School-Tutorial Plan
 - B. The student may also choose to be remediated through private tutoring (which must be documented) at the student's expense.
 - C. Students with a special education ruling may take an alternate assessment if eligible.

Entering Freshmen Placement CriteriaAlgebra I

1. 80% or above on the Algebra I Readiness Exam
2. Advanced for the last two years on the MCT 2 Mathematics
3. 20/90% or better on the math section of the EXPLORE
4. Grade of 90 or better in Pre-Algebra

All Year Algebra I (all year for 2 credits)

1. 50-79% on the Algebra I Readiness Exam
2. Proficient or better for two years on the MCT2 Mathematics
3. 15-19/67-86% or better on the math section of the EXPLORE
3. Grade of 85 or better in Pre-Algebra

All Year 9th Grade Math (all year for 2 credits)

1. Less than the All Year Algebra I criteria

Biology I

1. Proficient or better on the Mississippi Science Test
2. 16/60% or better on the science section of the EXPLORE
3. Grade of 85 or better in previous science

Introduction to Biology

1. Less than the Biology I criteria

Accelerated English I

1. Advanced score of 167 or above for 2 years on the MCT2 Language Arts
2. 21/93% or better on the English section of the EXPLORE
3. Grade of 90 or better in previous English

Honors English I

1. Proficient for two years on the MCT2 LA score of 159 to 166
2. 17-20/78-90% or better on the English section of the EXPLORE
3. Grade of 85 or better in previous English

All Year English I (all year for 2 credits)

1. Proficient for two years on the MCT 2 LA score of 150 to 158
2. 13-16/50-73% or better on the English section of the EXPLORE
3. Grade of 80 or better in previous English

Secondary Curriculum Program

The secondary curriculum offered in the Lamar County Schools is designed to meet the needs of both college preparatory and non-college preparatory students, including vocational-technical courses offered at the Technical Education Center in Purvis, MS. It is to be noted that not all schools in the district offer each and every course listed herein. Course offerings are based upon the ability of the district to obtain licensed teachers endorsed to teach the courses and also upon student demand. As a general rule, a course cannot be offered at a particular school unless at least fifteen (15) students can be enrolled in the course.

Students and parents are strongly encouraged to consult with the school counselor and/or high school principal in regard to course/program planning. **It is the student's responsibility to ascertain that he/she is taking the necessary coursework in order to meet graduation requirements and in order to take courses needed for enrollment at a post secondary institution.**

Scheduling Procedures

Drop a Course

A student may not drop a course under any circumstances during the year other than with a medical doctor's written statement to the effect that the particular subject is detrimental to the student's health. Any request for dropping a course must be submitted to and approved by the principal.

Schedule Changes

Students and parents are encouraged to take course selections in the spring very seriously. Teaching assignments and school schedules are developed based on the subjects selected during the spring. Therefore, courses chosen during spring course selection will remain on the students' schedules. This will ensure that students remain in required and appropriate courses and that instruction may begin on the very first day of school.

Schedules will be given out at designated times during the summer. Families will need to provide two proofs of residence (as stated in the handbook) to pick up their students' schedules. Only corrections due to incorrect scheduling will be made. The corrections will need to be made when the schedule is picked up, not after school has started. Corrections include the following:

- In a class that requires a prerequisite that you do not have.
- In the wrong level of a class
- Needing to add a senior requirement
- In the same class twice
- In a class for which you have already received credit

The administration may need to make changes in the master schedule and/or balance classes throughout the year based on the needs of the school. These administrative changes do not require parental approval or notification.

Teacher Selection

Neither parents nor students are allowed to request a particular teacher. Schedules are not allowed to be changed from one teacher to another teacher. Any personnel issues need to be directed to the principal in writing. Teacher selection is not allowed.

The Lamar County Center for Career and Technical Education

The Lamar County Center for Career and Technical Education is located in Purvis, Mississippi. Students attend the center from their parent schools based on their desire to enroll in programs offered at the center.

First, and foremost, **ALL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AS SET FORTH BY THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION APPLY TO STUDENTS ATTENDING THE CENTER.** The district administration, the center director, and the parent school principals/assistant principals work jointly to develop day-to-day procedures that provide for an effective program for students. **All students who enroll in and attend programs offered at the Technical Education Center will be given a listing of center policies and regulations. These policies and regulations represent adopted School Board policy and serve as an extension of this handbook. Students who have been suspended or remanded to alternative school at their home school are not allowed on the Technical Center Campus during their suspension or alternative school time unless approved by the Vocational Director.**

Program and Career Planning

Secondary students should consult early with the principal and/or guidance counselor in planning a program of studies that will lead to the intended goals of the students. Parents should also feel free to consult with school personnel regarding this matter. These considerations should begin in the early junior high school years with a general course of direction planned upon entrance into grade 9.

Guidance counselors are trained to provide specific career guidance and are able to answer most questions concerning college entrance or entrance into vocational programs offered at the post secondary level.

College Entrance Planning

Students and their parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to discuss college entrance requirements with the high school counselors. A review of such requirements is highly desirable early in the students' high school program (9th grade) so that students meet the entrance requirements for the community college, college, or university of their choosing. School counselors can provide the latest information since most institutions of higher learning provide such information to them. **It is the students' responsibility to plan their programs so as to meet any entrance requirements set by the post secondary institution they would like to attend.**

Career Centers

Career Centers are located at each high school. The Career Center is designed to help students make more informed decisions regarding their futures after high school. The Career Center makes computers and printers available to help students and their parents to aid in career planning and accessing college information. The Career Center provides all services free to parents and students, and offers CHOICES, a multi-task computer program. The CHOICES program is a compilation of information on over 7,000 colleges and universities across the nation. All aspects of each college are included, and schools are grouped in many different ways for easy access. Personal inventories for college searches as well as career choices are included in the program. Internet capabilities allow students to apply online for college admission as well as financial aid. The Center also offers an ACT review designed specifically for students by the ACT.

College catalogues, advisory books, and financial aid guides and listings are available in the Career Center as well. The Center distributes and announces all scholarship opportunities as well as admission and scholarship deadlines. This information is included in the daily announcements as well as being posted on the bulletin board outside the Career Center.

The Career Center is manned by a technician and is located next to the counselors' office. Hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Parents may contact the Career Center Technician by calling the counselors' office to schedule an appointment and are always welcome to use the resources provided by the Center.

Secondary Course Offerings

Agriculture

Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship
Technology
Concepts of Agriscience
Science of Agricultural Animals
Science of Agricultural Environment
Science of Agricultural Mechanization
Science of Agricultural Plants

Arts Programs

Choral Music I, II, III, IV
Art I, II, III*, IV*
Photography
General Music
Theatre Production
Theatre III
Drama Crit. & Perf.
Advanced Drama*
Band I-IV
Music, Performing Arts

Business Education

Accounting I
Communications in Business
Keyboarding
Word Processing
Personal Finance
Marketing
Employability Skills
Career Directed Learning

Compensatory Ed.

Compen. Writing I,II
Compen. Reading I,II
Compen. Mathematics
Learning Strategies

Computer Education

Computer Applications
Programming I, II
Desk-Top Publishing
Information Processing
Telecommunications
Innovative Applications
ICT II (8th)
Graphic Design
Digital Photography
Intro to Programming
Beginning Programming
Web Page I and II
Multimedia Projects*
IT Essentials

English/Writing/Lit.

English I, II, III, IV
Honors English I-IV*
Creative Writing
Intro. to Journalism
Accelerated. Eng. I-IV*
Language & Comp. AP**
Literature & Comp. AP**
Research Using Tech.*
Mississippi Writers
Short Stories
African American Literature
Mythology
Journalism Lab I, II, III
Minority Studies
Public Speaking
Oral Communications I and II
Debate I, II, III
Advanced Seminar

Foreign Language

French I, II, III*, IV*
Spanish I, II, III*, IV*
AP Spanish

Health/ Phys. Ed/Dr. Ed

Comprehensive Health
Physical Education
Driver Education

Family & Consumer Sci.

Child Care I,II
Child Development
Family and Individual Health
Nutrition and Wellness
Personal Development
Resource Management

Mathematics

Algebra I, II
AB Calculus (AP)**
Geometry
Survey of Math Topics
Pre-Algebra
Pre-Calculus*
Trigonometry*
Transitional Algebra
AP Statistics**
Introduction to Engineering

Mississippi Virtual School

Available courses and criteria listed in counselors' office.

Technical Courses (Technical Center)

Two Year Programs

Automotive Service Tech. I, II
Electronics I, II
Metal Trades I, II
Building Trades I, II
Allied Health I, II
Teacher Academy I, II

Science

Biology I
Advanced Biology
Aerospace Studies
Anatomy/Physiology*
Physics*
Marine/Aquatic Science
Physical Science
Environmental Science
Earth/Space Science
AP Biology**
Chemistry I
Chemistry (AP)**
Organic Chemistry*
Science Skills & Reasoning
Sports Medicine
Zoology

Social Studies/Social Sciences

Astronomy/Field Experiences
Economics
AP Macro Economics**
American Military Studies
Mississippi Studies
U.S. Government
U.S. History
World History
Psychology
Sociology
U.S. History (AP)**
Intro. to World Geography
Law-Related Ed
US Govt. & Politics (AP)**
Humanities I, II
Local Cultures
World History (AP)**

Technology Education

STEM

NOTE: Only one unit earned through correspondence may be counted toward graduation. The principal must approve summer school, or correspondence courses *only* for credit recovery or make-up when behind original class. Approval is at the discretion of the administrator and will not be granted for English II, English III, English IV, Biology I, US History, Algebra I or any lab based science course. *The deadline for seniors wishing to use correspondence for graduation purposes is April 1.*

Grades for Honors Classes * are multiplied by 1.05.

Grades for AP Classes ** are multiplied by 1.10 if passing and earns a 2 or better on the AP exam (if less than 2 and/or passes the class, the Honors weight).

Traditional Diploma Graduation Requirements

Each student graduating from a secondary school in an accredited school district will have earned the required Carnegie units as specified in the following listings and will have met all other district requirements stated in this handbook. Contents of each required and elective course must include the core objectives identified in the Mississippi Curriculum Structure. Enrollment in on-line and correspondence courses must have prior approval granted by the principal. No more than one (1) of the minimum required number of units may be earned through completion of an approved correspondence course.

The Lamar County School District is an accredited school district. Therefore, course offerings and course content are in compliance with the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards. Further, the Lamar County School District requires above-the-minimum number of Carnegie units and other criteria (SEA, math in senior year, attendance) for graduation and/or participation in graduation exercises. Therefore, students must select additional elective programs and meet other criteria to complete Lamar County School District graduation requirements.

In addition to the following courses, the five state subject area tests must be passed, and beginning with the seniors of 2007-2008, the LCSD will require the completion of an Exhibition of Achievement (Senior Project).

SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012 (Entering ninth graders in 2008-2009)		
Curriculum Area	Units (4x4) Schedule	Required Subjects
English	4 ¹	Senior Exhibition of Achievement
Mathematics	4 ²	1 Algebra, Geometry, & Algebra II Must take a math every school year.
Science	4 ³	Biology I Chemistry I or Physical Science
Social Studies	4	1 World History 1 U. S. History ½ U. S. Government ½ Mississippi Studies ⁴ ½ Economics ½ Geography
Health/PE	½/½ ⁶	½ PE & ½ Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health
Business & Technology	1 ⁵	1 Computer Discovery or ½ Keyboarding & ½ Computer Applications or 1 B & T Course or ICT II
The Arts	1	Any approved 500.000 course or completion of the 2-course sequence Computer Graphics Technology I and II
Electives	9	½ Public Speaking
Total	28	

- 1 Compensatory Reading and Compensatory Writing may not be included in the four English courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the 9 general electives required for graduation.
- 2 Pre-Algebra and Transition to Algebra, as well as Algebra I may be taken in eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit, Compensatory Mathematics and any developmental mathematics course may not be included in the four mathematics courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the 10 ½ general electives required for graduation. Beginning school year 2007-2008 for all entering eighth graders, at least two of the four required mathematics courses must be higher than Algebra I. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I are Geometry, Algebra II, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Discrete Mathematics, Probability and Statistics, and AP Statistics.
- 3 One unit may be in Introduction to Agriscience, Concepts of Agriscience, Science of Agricultural Plants, Science of Agricultural Animals, or Science of Agricultural Environment. Two units may be in the following courses if the student completes the 2-course sequence: Agriscience I & II; Allied Health I & II; Aquaculture I & II; Forestry I & II; Horticulture I & II; Plastics and Polymer Science I & II; and Technology Applications I & II. Two units may be earned by completing the AEST 3-course sequence: one unit in Concepts of Agriscience; one unit in Science of Agricultural Animals or Science of Agricultural Plants, or Science of Agricultural Environment; and one unit in Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship. Beginning school year 2008-2009 for all entering eighth graders, one unit must be a lab-based physical science. The allowable lab-based physical science courses are Physical Science, Chemistry I, Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, Physics I, Physics II, AP Physics B, AP Physics C – Electricity and Magnetism, and AP Physics C – Mechanics.
- 4 The credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student who enters after the sophomore year can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies or Mississippi State and Local Government. If the transfer student took a State/Local Government course in a grade level that did not award Carnegie unit credit, then any other ½ unit social studies course may be accepted. An out-of-state student who transfers after the junior year may substitute any other ½ unit social studies course.
- 5 Evidence of proficiency in Keyboarding and Computer Applications is accepted in lieu of the required courses if the student earns one unit in any of the courses listed in the *Business and Technology Framework* (academic and vocational).
- 6 Elective units in physical education include participation in interscholastic athletic activities that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association.
- 7 A completer of a 2-year program at the Lamar County Technical Center is eligible to graduate with 26 credits. All programs at the center award 2 credits per year.

Other Important Information Regarding Graduation

1. A student seeking participation in graduation exercises and the earning of a standard high school diploma must make a passing score on any required subject area tests.
2. A student seeking participation in graduation exercises must complete all requirements (including the attendance criteria) by the day following the last senior exam day.
3. If a student classified as a senior transfers into the school district during the senior year and is unable to complete all graduation requirements, the high school shall make contact with the transfer school and attempt to arrange graduation for the student from the transfer school.
4. If a student classified as a senior who has been enrolled in the district for at least one (1) year transfers during the senior year and is unable to meet the receiving school's minimum units credit required for graduation, the Lamar County School District will award the diploma upon receipt of a transcript from the receiving school showing completion of the local school district's requirements for graduation and verifying that the student did not receive a diploma from the transfer school.
5. All seniors will be required to take a math course.
6. Seniors are required to produce an Exhibition of Achievement (a project in an area of interest that demonstrates research, writing, and oral presentation skills.)
7. **No high school in the Lamar County School District will deliver a diploma (signed or unsigned) to a student if he/she fails to meet all of the requirements set forth herein.** Further a student who fails to meet all stated requirements **is not permitted** to participate (walk or sit with the class) at graduation.
8. **Any senior who is assigned to the alternative school on the last day of student attendance for the school year will not be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies.**
9. Only students currently enrolled in a Lamar County School District high school in May will be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies.
10. The last year of attendance (regular or early graduation) will be considered the senior year and all senior requirements must be met.
11. All graduates will wear school stoles. Club and achievement pins may be worn on the stole at graduation. These pins may be purchased through the respective school sponsors.
12. Honors and Special Honors graduates will wear cords.
13. Mississippi Scholars will wear medallions provided by Mississippi Economic Commission.
14. Any senior failing to meet the attendance criteria will not participate in the graduation ceremony.

Full Day for Seniors

Seniors will be limited to only the following reasons for early dismissal:

- Dual enrollment (off campus and/or after regular school hours only)
- Career Directed Learning
- School to Work (special services).

Policy for Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit

Seniors who wish to enroll in a college course **during regular high school hours** and juniors who wish to enroll in a college course after regular high school hours must meet the following requirements:

- ◆ Pre-register as a rising senior at the end of the junior year/rising junior after the sophomore year;
- ◆ Be pre-approved by the high school counselor;
- ◆ Meet all requirements for dual enrollment for the institution in which enrolling;
- ◆ Meet with the high school counselor to determine if the course meeting times are compatible with the high school schedule);and
- ◆ Limit college courses to one per semester.

Dual credit may also be earned for these courses on a two to one basis. See your counselor for complete information.

Mississippi Virtual School – On-Line Courses

Available courses and criteria are listed in counselors' office.

Eligibility Criteria for Career Directed Learning

1. Student must complete the CDL program application by the end of their Junior year that meets their chosen career pathway.
2. Student must have a minimum of a 76C average (current overall GPA) and be on track for graduation (Counselor Recommendation Form).
3. Student must show good citizenship (Assistant Principal Recommendation Form):
 - a. Must have 95% attendance or better (no more than 4 ½ days absent) for 9th, 10th, and 11th grade.
 - b. Must have shown punctuality over 9th, 10th, and 11th grade years with five or fewer tardies per year.

- c. Must have good behavior record with no more than **ONE** office referral (excluding tardies) per year for 9th, 10th, and 11th grade years.
4. Student must successfully complete a Public Speaking course with a “C” or better final average (Counselor Recommendation).
5. Student must have two recommendations: One recommendation must be from your Counselor and the other must be from your Assistant Principal.
6. Student must obtain three Teacher Evaluations recommending the student for the program. These need to come from teachers you have had in this current school year.
7. Student must sign a contract with the Internship Coordinator, parents and employer outlining the responsibilities of each.
8. Student must remain in identified work station for entire school year. Any unauthorized changes could result in the student losing the course and being taken out of the program. The student would then be placed in an academic course for the remainder of the school year.

Policy for Early Graduation

Using national standards of what high school graduates must know, the Lamar County School District has established minimum requirements for earning a diploma from the three high schools in the county. There cannot be deviation from or omission of these requirements if a standard diploma is to be awarded. If a student wishes to graduate early, the following guidelines apply:

1. Students must apply for early graduation no later than the end of their tenth grade year.
2. Students should use the district forms available in the high school counselor’s office.
3. A minimum of 18 ACT composite score taken prior to application must be documented.
4. All courses must be taken in regular school sessions or through on-line courses through Mississippi Virtual Public School.
5. The last year of attendance is considered the senior year, and all senior requirements must be met (Senior Exhibition of Achievement).
6. Students completing at mid-year (December) are not eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

All high schools in the Lamar County School District shall apply the same procedure for the selection of Valedictorian and Salutatorian of the graduating class. Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and rank in class will be determined from those students earning a traditional diploma. The Valedictorian shall be that student who holds the highest overall grade point average (numerical average “including weighted”) computed from Carnegie unit credits earned (see note below) from the time the student enters the eighth grade class through the fourth term progress report of the senior year. **In order for the student to be considered for Valedictorian and Salutatorian selection at the high school from which he/she plans to graduate, the student must have been in full-year attendance at that school during the 11th and 12th grades.**

NOTE: Carnegie unit courses will not include driver’s education for the purpose of determining grade point average. Furthermore, only one credit is counted towards grade point average in the area of fine arts (which includes art, music, drama or band) and only a half credit in the area of physical education.

Traditional Diploma Honors and Special Honors

All academic awards are based on each nine-week grade in each course, not the final averages of the courses (i.e. Honors, Special Honors, GPA, Rank, Honor Rolls, etc.). Seniors having an overall grade point average (numerical average “including weighted”) of 95 and above shall be graduated with Special Honors and those having an overall grade point average (numerical average “including weighted”) of 88-94.999 shall be graduated with Honors, both distinctions to be computed from Carnegie unit credits earned from the time the student enters the eighth grade class through the fourth term progress report of the senior year. **Selected advanced courses may be weighted. The student should consult with the administration of the particular school of attendance for detailed information regarding the weighted courses.**

Graduation Options for Students With Disabilities

Effective beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, Lamar County School District students with disabilities (under Public Law 105-17, Individuals with Disability Education Act) will have three graduation options, as follows:

1. Students with disabilities may enroll in an academic course of study aimed at obtaining a *Standard Lamar County School District High School Diploma*.
2. Students with disabilities may obtain a *Graduation Certificate of Completion* as specified in the Mississippi Code 37-16-11.

3. Students with disabilities may enroll in an occupational course of study aimed at obtaining a *Lamar County School District Occupational Diploma*. The student must have an approved portfolio, containing a collection of evidence of the student’s knowledge, skills, and abilities, related to the occupational core curriculum. The primary postgraduate goal for students enrolled in the occupational course of study is competitive employment.

Requirements for Occupational Diploma

Effective for students with disabilities as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (Public Law 101-476), students must earn the course credits outlined and successfully complete an approved portfolio in order to be awarded the Mississippi Occupational Diploma. The primary post-graduate goal for the students enrolled in the Mississippi Occupational Diploma course of study is competitive employment. Students participating in the MOD program may earn course credits by successfully completing selected courses from the general education curriculum and/or special education curriculum as agreed upon by each student’s IEP team. Both No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and IDEA set high academic standards for student’s achievement; thus, students enrolled in subject area test classes must participate in the statewide assessment system (subject area test).

▪ English/Language Arts.....	4 credits
Four credits to include the equivalent of:	
132135 Employment English I.....	1
123136 Employment English II or Comp Writing I and Eng I	1
123137 Employment English III or Comp Writing II and Eng II	1
123138 Applied Employment English IV – Senior Project*	1
▪ Mathematics	4 credits
Four Credits to include the equivalent of:	
132153 Job Skills Math I or Comp Math I/Comp Math II	1
132154 Job Skills Math II or Transition to Algebra and Algebra I.....	1
132155 Job Skills Math III or Geometry.....	1
123136 Applied Job Skills Math IV	1
▪ Science	4 credits
Four credits to include the equivalent of:	
132181 Life Skills Science I or Intro to Biology	1
132182 Life Skills Science II or Biology I.....	1
132183 Life Skills Science III or Physical Science.....	1
123184 Life Skills Science IV	1
▪ Social Studies.....	8 credits
Eight credits to include the equivalent of:	
132170 Career Preparation I or STEM or MS Studies/World Geo	1
132171 Career Preparation II	1
132124 Career Technical Education 10 th	1
132172 Career Preparation III.....	1
132126 Career Technical Education 11 th	1
123173 Applied Career Preparation IV or US Government/Economics	1
132165 Work Study ** or a two year vocational program***	2
▪ Electives	8 credits
<u>TOTAL</u>	28 credits

*Lamar County School District requires each student to complete and Exhibition of Achievement (Senior Project)
 **Work Study is early release from school for a student to obtain the 540 hours of successful paid employment.
 A work release form must be completed and signed by parents.
 ***Successful completion of a two (2) year career technical (vocational) program.

Lamar County School District students with disabilities may change from one diploma type to another if the IEP committee deems it appropriate. However, this may require the student to attend school for additional semesters/years in order to complete the requirements for the diploma type that has been chosen for that student.

Occupational Diploma Honors and Special Honors

Seniors having an overall grade point average of 95 and above shall be graduated with special honors and those having an overall grade point average of 88-94 shall be graduated with honors, both distinctions to be computed from grades earned from the time the student enters the ninth grade through the fourth term progress report of the senior year.

NOTE: Academic courses will not include physical education or driver’s education for the purpose of determining grade point average. Furthermore, only one credit in art, music, drama, or band will be counted.

P.A.C.T. Program – Program for Academic and Career Training: A GED Option Program

Lamar County will provide a program of GED preparatory instruction as a part of the Alternative Education Program. The legislation mandates that students who are enrolled in an approved GED Program shall not be classified as dropouts and that the school district will continue to receive Minimum Program funding for the students while they are enrolled in the GED Program. Students placed in the GED Program shall not be eligible to participate in regular academic courses or other programmatic activities within the school district, including athletics, choir, band, or any other extra curricular activities except that a GED student may participate in existing job and skill development programs or in programs developed in conjunction with the GED Program and the Vocational Education Director.

Minimum Student Selection Guidelines

Recommendations for student participation in the GED Program will be made by a committee of school staff consisting of campus administrators, counselors, classroom teachers, and support staff. Written approval from the parent/guardian, principal, and superintendent is required for program participation. Documentation of the committee recommendation shall be maintained for each student. The criteria for student participation in the GED Program will consist of the following:

3. The student must be at least 17 years of age (16 with special circumstances and superintendent approval);
4. The student must be at least two (2) grade levels behind or have acquired fewer than four (4) Carnegie units;
5. The student must have taken every opportunity to continue to participate in course work leading to a regular high school diploma;
6. The student must attain the approved score on the TABE test;
7. The student has attempted 9th grade;
8. Students that have been referred to the Alternative Education Program for disciplinary reasons shall not be eligible for placement in the GED Program until behavioral modification goals for exiting the Alternative Education Program have been attained.

Lamar County School District Discipline Ladder

When a student misbehaves and/or demonstrates unacceptable behavior on school grounds or at a school event, the student may be placed upon the **Discipline Ladder**. The discipline ladder **does not** reflect a step-to-step approach. In other words, if a student commits a very serious infraction (e.g. making a bomb threat) and the student has not committed any other offenses during the year, the student **will not** begin at Step 1. In accordance with the step assignments listed herein, that student will be placed on the ladder at Steps 5-7. Further, the discipline ladder is a guide. Administrators have discretion to use their professional judgment in the management of discipline based upon the circumstances. A student will be subject to one or more of the alternatives at each step based upon the circumstances of the offense. Administrators have discretion as to when students will be placed on the discipline ladder. In some situations, it is appropriate to use pre-entry warnings that may include a conference with the student, contact with the parent/guardian, written warning, or other communications that let the student and/or parent know that the student's behavior is approaching a level that will result in the student being placed upon the ladder. **This pre-entry phase is not required.** Upon parent request in writing and approval from administration, corporal punishment may be used as a discipline consequence for steps 3 and 4 of the discipline ladder.

The Discipline Ladder

STEP 1

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (may be written contact)
2. Student conference
3. Parent care assignment
4. Partial or all day assignment to IST
5. Assignment to detention
6. Saturday school assignment
7. Loss of privileges/performance of school service (temporary)
8. Removal from the ladder after 5 school days with no additional referrals

STEP 2

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (may be written contact)
2. Parent care assignment
3. Partial or all day assignment to IST
4. Assignment to detention
5. Saturday school assignment
6. Loss of privileges/performance of school service (temporary)
7. Removal from the ladder after 10 school days with no additional referrals

STEP 3

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (conduct phone or personal conference with dean of students, assistant principal and/or principal)
2. Parent care assignment
3. Detention assignment
4. Assignment to IST 1 – 3 days
5. Saturday school assignments
6. Loss of privileges/performance of school service (temporary or permanent removal)
7. Removal from the ladder after 15 school days with no additional referrals

STEP 4

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (conduct phone or personal conference with dean of students, assistant principal and/or principal)
2. Parent care assignment
3. Assignment to IST (In-School Tutorial) 1-3 days
4. Assignment to Saturday school(s)
5. Loss of privileges/performance of school service (temporary or permanent removal)
6. Parent may be requested to attend classes with the student by the administrator
7. Removal from the ladder after 20 school days with no additional referrals

STEP 5

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (conduct personal conference with dean of students, assistant principal and/or principal)
2. Parent care assignment
3. Assignment of OSS (Out-of-School Suspension) 1-5 days
4. Assignment to Saturday school(s)
5. Referral to the Superintendent's office (notice of student behavior problem) and intervention as determined by administration.
6. Loss of privileges/performance of school service (temporary or permanent removal)
7. Parent may be requested to attend classes with the student by the administrator
8. Removal from the ladder after 25 school days with no additional referrals

STEP 6

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (conduct personal conference with dean of students, assistant principal and/or principal)
2. Assignment of OSS for 6-10 days with district office approval
3. Referral to the District Discipline Committee for review and action, which may include placement of the student in the Alternative School Program (unless waived).
4. Loss of Privileges (temporary or permanent)
5. Parent may be requested to attend classes with the student by the administrator
6. Loss of exemptions in all classes (Automatic for remainder of the school year)
7. Removal from the ladder after 30 school days with no additional referrals
8. If the student returns to school after alternative school assignment has been completed, the student will be immediately assigned to disciplinary probation for 30 days and remain on Step 6 of the ladder. If the student ends the 30-day probationary period with no office referrals, the student may be removed from the ladder.

STEP 7

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (phone or personal conference with the principal)
2. Assignment of OSS 6-10+ days (approval from Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent required)
3. Referral to the District Discipline Committee for due process hearing-(parents notified by district office) The District Discipline Committee is authorized to determine a long-term placement in the Alternative School program (up to one (1) calendar year) or recommendation to expel made by principal to the Superintendent. If the principal recommends expulsion, the Superintendent may, in his discretion, direct the Assistant Superintendent or his designee to convene the District Discipline Committee to review the case prior to the Superintendent making his decision. If the Superintendent concurs with the recommendation of the principal and/or the District Discipline Committee, the recommendation will be presented to the Board of Education.
4. Loss of privileges (temporary or permanent)
5. If the student returns to school after the expulsion period has expired or the long-term alternative school assignment has been completed, the student will be immediately assigned to disciplinary probation for 35 days

and remain on Step 7 of the ladder. If the student ends the 35-day probationary period with no office referrals, the student may be removed from the ladder.

STEP 8

1. Action of the Board of Education to expel or other disciplinary action as assigned by the Board.

Other Important Information Regarding Discipline

1. No student will be placed at a given step on the discipline ladder more than two (2) times. The student will be escalated to the next higher step after his/her second placement on any step.
2. Any discipline/behavior problem resulting in the student's placement on the ladder at Steps 4-8 may be referred to appropriate law enforcement officials for action.
3. In accordance with the Mississippi Safety Act of 2000 for a student who causes a disruption in the classroom, on school property or vehicles, or at school-related activities during the school year, the principal, the reporting teacher, and the child's parent(s) will develop a Behavior Modification Plan (BMP).

Unacceptable Behaviors and Placement on the Discipline Ladder

The following chart reflects generalized unacceptable behavior and placement on the discipline ladder. This list is not all-inclusive, and other behaviors may occur that do not necessarily appear. Administrators are vested with the authority to use administrative judgment in regard to such behaviors.

Unacceptable Behaviors	High School	
1 Biting	Step 5-8	
2 Bomb threat	Step 5-8	Zero tolerance
3 Cutting/leaving class without permission	Step 3-5	
4 Defacement/Destruction of Property/Vandalism	Step 3-8	Restitution required \$20,000 maximum
5 Defiance of staff member/Disrespect/Continuous disobedience	Step 1-8	
6 Dress code violation	Step 1-5	
7 Eating/drinking in unapproved area	Step 1-3	
8 Fighting (or spreading rumors/gossip which leads to verbal/physical confrontation/fight/disruption/disturbance) at school, school activities, and/or aboard a school bus	Step 5-8	
9 Gambling/possession of gambling devices	Step 2-5	
10 Gang activity/association/secret organizations/clubs	Step 5-8	
11 Going to car without permission	Step 1-4	
12 Harassment, bullying, intimidation, hazing, stalking, or threatening another student of staff members	Step 1-8	
13 Inappropriate public display of affection	Step 1-4	
14 Improper/disruptive behavior on school grounds or at school activities	Step 1-8	
15 Improper use of internet	Step 1-8	
16 Improper use of lockers	Step 1-6	
17 Leaving campus without authorization	Step 4-6	
18 Lying to authorities	Step 1-7	
19 Misbehavior aboard school bus	Step 1-8	
20 Parking/Traffic violations	Step 1-3	
21 Pornography in any form	Step 5-8	
22 Possession of cell phones, radios, beepers, other electronic devices	Step 3-6	
23 Possession of weapon, imitation weapon or object that could be used as a weapon	Step 6-8	
24 Profanity/vulgarity (includes acts, gestures, or symbols directed at person)	Step 3-6	
25 Refusal to identify one's self when requested to do so by school staff	Step 4-5	
26 Sexual harassment or Sexual misconduct	Step 4-8	
27 Stealing/Theft/Cheating	Step 4-8	
28 Tardies (as defined in student handbook)	See Tardiness Policy	
29 Trespassing	Step 4-7	
30 Unauthorized fundraising (sale of candy, etc.)	Step 1-4	
31 Use of forged/altered documents such as parent notes, report cards, hall passes, etc.	Step 4-7	

32	Use/Possession of Dangerous Objects	Step 5-8
33	Use/Possession of Fireworks	Step 5-7
34	Use, sale, possession, or under the influence of alcohol or alcohol-related products	Step 6-8
35	Use, sale, possession, or under the influence of drugs and/or drug paraphernalia (as defined herein) or counterfeit	Step 6-8
36	Use, sale, possession of tobacco or tobacco-related products	Step 4-7
37	Violent act towards school employee	Step 5-8

Discipline Guide

The discipline guide listed below is designed to aid administrators in the consistent enforcement of all rules and procedures for Lamar County School District. While most situations will fit into one of the categories of the discipline guide the administrator still has the discretion as to where to place a student on the discipline ladder based on the severity of the incident and where the student currently is on the discipline ladder.

1. Fighting

- Level I – Pushing, shoving, wrestling, trying to throw a punch, inciting a fight
- Level II – Vicious, blood, fist fight
- Level III – Habitual discipline problem, previously warned, 2nd fight or more in a year
- Level IV – Fight with gang implications

Consequences

- Level I – Step 5 – 1 day suspension, may be referred to youth court
- Level II – Step 5 – 5 days suspension, referral to youth court
- Level III – Step 6 – 6 days suspension, 9 weeks at Alternative School, referral to youth court
- Level IV – Step 6-8 – 6 days suspension & one calendar year at Alternative School or expulsion, referral to youth court

2. Weapons

- Level I – Weapons other than a gun found on person, vehicle
- Level II – Using, threatening or brandishing any weapon, possession of a gun on person or in vehicle

Consequences

- Level I – Step 6 – 6 days suspension & 9 weeks at Alternative School, referral to youth court
- Level II – Step 7 – 6 days suspension, expulsion and/or Alternative School, referral to youth court

3. Over the Counter Medications & Supplements

- Level I – Handling, passing it to another student
- Level II – Brought to school to sell, give away, trade, or consumption on campus

Consequences

- Level I – Step 5 – 3 days suspension
- Level II – Step 6 – 6 days suspension & 9 weeks at Alternative School

4. Alcohol & Prescription drugs

- Level I – Under the influence (consumed off campus), possession
- Level II – Brought to school, consumption on campus

Consequences

- Level I – Step 6 – 6 days suspension & 9 weeks Alternative School, referral to youth court
- Level II – Step 6 – 6 days suspension & one semester at Alternative School, referral to youth court

5. Illegal Drugs

- Level I – Possession
- Level II – Use, under the influence, selling, trading, giving away

Consequences

- Level I – Step 6 – 6 days suspension & one semester Alternative School, referral to youth court
- Level II – Step 7 – 6 days suspension & one year Alternative School or expulsion, referral to youth court

- Any combination of the above will result in more severe consequences. The Alternative School assignment of days may vary based on what is best for the student to meet academic requirements.

Youth Court

Criminal behavior if committed by a student may result in referral to Lamar County Youth Court or the appropriate Judiciary. The following is a list of offenses that may be reported:

Mississippi Code 97-37-17	Possession of weapons	Mississippi Code 37-11-20	Threatening and intimidation
	Possession of drugs		Public intoxication
	Possession of alcohol		Defacing or destroying school property
	Possession of drug paraphernalia		Malicious mischief
	Simple assault		Cyber stalking
	Disorderly conduct		Vandalism
	Abuse of a Teacher or Principal		Gambling
	Rape		Trespassing
	Sexual battery		Bomb threats

And other criminal offenses of the Mississippi Code

In addition to the above listed criminal offenses, excessive unexcused absences will also be reported to the Lamar County Youth Court.

Automobile/Motorized Vehicle Use

- Students may not bring a motorized vehicle on any school campus without special permission from the parents/guardians and the school’s administration. Permission forms are to be obtained from the appropriate school office. All student vehicles must be registered with the school’s administration and must display a parking decal issued by the school on the rearview mirror.
- Students must park vehicles in designated areas as assigned by the administration. **STUDENTS MAY NOT RETURN TO THE VEHICLE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.**
- Freshmen (9th graders) are not permitted to bring their vehicles on the school campus.
- Only legally licensed drivers shall be given permission to bring any motorized vehicle to school.
- Any student bringing a motorized vehicle on campus must provide the school office with some proof of liability insurance on the vehicle. This proof may be a copy of the insurance policy or a statement from the insurance provider. Parents’ notes will not meet this requirement.
- Sitting in cars during school hours is strictly prohibited. After parking, students are to leave the parking lot immediately.
- The district shall not assume any responsibility for damage to student vehicles or theft or vandalism involving the approved vehicle.
- The parking lot is off limits during the school day. School District Police Officers will patrol the parking lot at different times throughout the day.
- Vehicles are not to be moved from one area of the campus to another during the school day.
- Students shall not play loud, vulgar, or obscene music while their vehicle is on school property.
- Students shall drive in a courteous and careful manner and obey all speed and traffic flow signs.
- All vehicles on Lamar County School District Property are subject to search. Students found with illegal or prohibited items may face disciplinary actions and criminal referral to the appropriate court.
- Bringing an automobile to school is a privilege and, therefore, may be temporarily or permanently revoked for violating the above regulations or the student code of conduct.
- Seatbelts must be worn.
- No one shall ride in or on vehicles in non-passenger compartment areas.

Proms

Within the Lamar County School District, proms are **NOT** school-sponsored activities.

Student Grade Requirements and Extra-Curricular Activity Participation

In all respects, including eligibility for participation, the Lamar County School District shall adhere to the regulations, rules, guidelines, and standards set and promulgated by the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc. (hereinafter called the Association) as expressed and set forth in the Association's Handbook during each scholastic

IV. CLASS OFFICERS AND CLUB OFFICERS ELECTIONS – Nominated and elected by their respective classes or clubs.

- **Citizenship Requirement** – Must have satisfactory conduct and good citizenship. During the previous semester and current year of election a student cannot:
 - Reach Step 5 or above on the discipline ladder
 - Receive more than two office disciplinary referrals (not teacher misconduct reports)

V. HOMECOMING COURT – All maids are nominated and selected by their respective grades.

- Two freshmen maids
- Two sophomore maids
- Two junior maids
- Two senior maids and one ethnic minority for a total of three maids at Purvis and Sumrall
- Oak Grove because of enrollment will have four senior maids and one ethnic minority for a total of five maids
- The high school football team will nominate and elect two football sweethearts, one white and one ethnic minority from the whole senior class.
- From the senior maids, a queen will be chosen – voted on by the entire student body, grades 9-12. The queen will be announced at the Homecoming football game.

For all elections, a faculty committee under the supervision of the administrator will count the votes.

- Elections will be conducted during designated times and locations determined by each school. Winners must receive the most votes. Some run-offs may be necessary to achieve this.
- **Citizenship Requirement** – Must have satisfactory conduct and good citizenship. During the previous semester and current year of election a student cannot:
 - Reach Step 5 or above on the discipline ladder
 - Receive more than two office disciplinary referrals (not teacher misconduct reports)

VI. BAND GUARD POLICIES

- The guard in the marching band is comprised of members of the high school band. The guard is considered a selection of the band and expected to function as such.
- Guard tryouts and practice for tryouts will be held during the spring of each school year. Judges will be selected from adults who are actively involved in the instruction of the guard on the high school and/or junior college level.
- Students will be assessed a tryout fee prior to the tryout. Students who are selected for membership in the guard will be assessed a uniform/equipment fee.
- Rehearsals – Additional summer and fall rehearsals and/or camps are required for guard members. Members are expected to attend.

VII. SPIRIT GROUP POLICIES – For both high school and middle school

- All candidates will be given information concerning the criteria judges will be evaluating BEFORE tryouts.
- Three judges will be provided by the MHSAA when applicable. These judges will be from out of town and will have no direct connection to the candidates or coaches.
- The number of spirit team members selected will be determined by the local school's coach with the approval of the principal.
- Coaches with the approval of the principal will determine the length of pre-tryout sessions.
- A tryout fee will be assessed to cover the expenses of the tryouts. The amount will be determined by the coach with the approval of the principal.
- No one other than official judges, spirit coaches, tabulators, administrator, and the spirit group candidates will be allowed at the tryouts.
- No video taping will be allowed during pre-tryout sessions or tryouts.
- Spirit candidates will not be allowed to check out on tryout day.
- When a student is unable to complete the tryout requirements due to injury or illness a video of the requirements can be viewed by the panel to determine if the requirements are met. The recorded skills cannot be performed on a spring floor and must be performed within the last year. Skills must be equal to or greater than the required try-out skills on the score sheet.

MHSAA Rules and Guideline as outlined in the Spirit Rules Book will be the standard to which all squads will adhere. All squad members and coaches should familiarize themselves with the policies set forth in the handbook.

1. A list of activities, games, and practice dates will be given to each squad member, and members will be expected to attend all dates unless prior approval has been given by the coach.
2. Spirit group members must meet all financial responsibilities including summer camp, camp wear, uniforms, warm-up suits, competition travel and fees.
3. Absolutely no jewelry of any kind may be worn at practice or games.
4. No glitter lotion, spray, etc., may be worn while at practice or games.
5. Exemplary conduct is expected at all times. Squad members should represent their schools in a positive manner at games and practices.
6. The coach will determine all practice, camp, and game apparel. No loose or baggy clothing.
7. Uniforms will be approved by school administration.
8. Uniforms will be worn during pep rallies at school only. Squad warm-up pants and tops may be worn during the day in accordance with the Lamar County School District dress code.
9. Squad members are responsible for their own transportation to and from games and practices.
10. Hazing is strictly prohibited. Students who participate in hazing activities shall be subject to disciplinary action.
11. Each school must follow MHSAA guidelines for routine decency. All routines should be in good taste and have administrator approval.

VIII. MR AND MISS HIGH SCHOOL – Must be a senior

Due to the nature of this award, the following additional qualifications are established:

- Must attend named high school for entire high school career.
- Must have an overall average of 90 from grades 9-11.
- Must be an active member of two school-sponsored organizations at some point during their high school 9-12 career.
- Nominations – all seniors who meet the criteria and qualifications can be nominated. The entire student body will vote for Mr. and Miss High School.
- **Citizenship Requirement** – Must have satisfactory conduct and good citizenship.
 - During the previous semester and current year of election a student cannot:
 - Reach Step 5 or above on the discipline ladder
 - Receive more than two office disciplinary referrals (not teacher misconduct reports)
 - Citizenship requirements extend through all four years.

IX. HALL OF FAME

Due to the nature of this prestigious award, the following additional qualifications are established:

- Hall of Fame is based on scholarship, leadership, and citizenship.
- Nominations are made after the second nine (9) weeks.
- A list of qualified senior students will be given to the faculty.

Qualifications are:

- Senior student must have been enrolled three (3) years at current school
- Senior student must have an overall average of 90
- Senior student must meet citizenship requirements as set forth in the Lamar County School District Handbook.

This list is to be prepared by the counselor and administration.

- Each high school teacher may nominate up to ten (10) different students. Only those receiving five (5) nominations will be listed on the Hall of Fame ballot. After this nomination process, the Hall of Fame ballot will be given to the teachers. Each high school teacher may vote for up to twelve (12) students. The top twelve (12) students who receive the most votes will be the pool of students to be selected for the six (6) or eight (8) in the Hall of Fame.
- The twelve (12) students will then complete an activity, honors, and service questionnaire. The nominees will be called into the office as a group and told of the Hall of Fame process, their nomination, and when to return the questionnaire.
- The questionnaire, student's transcript, and copies of grades will be given to the Hall of Fame committee.
- Each Hall of Fame committee will choose a maximum of eight (8) students for a 6-A school, seven (7) students for a 4-A school, and six (6) students for a 3-A school.
- Committee members will review the materials and complete the ranking sheet provided. Each person's first choice will receive points equal to the total number of nominees. After each committee member submits his/her rankings, the principal will total each candidate's scores. Hall of Fame members will be the candidates with the highest scores.

In case of a tie the counselor/principal will have each committee member vote between the two students.

- **Citizenship Requirement** – Must have satisfactory conduct and good citizens
During the previous semester and current year of election a student cannot
 - Reach Step 5 or above on the discipline ladder
 - Receive more than two office disciplinary referrals (not teacher misconduct reports)
 - Citizenship requirements extend through all four years.

Middle School Policies

Scheduling Procedures

Drop a Course

A student may not drop a course under any circumstances during the year other than with a medical doctor's written statement to the effect that the particular subject is detrimental to the student's health. Any request for dropping a course must be submitted to and approved by the principal.

Schedule Changes

Students and parents are encouraged to take course selections in the spring very seriously. Teaching assignments and school schedules are developed based on the subjects selected during the spring. Therefore, courses chosen during spring course selection will remain on the students' schedules. This will ensure that students remain in required and appropriate courses and that instruction may begin on the very first day of school.

Only corrections due to incorrect scheduling will be made. The corrections will need to be made prior to the first day of school, not after school has started. Corrections include the following:

- In a class that requires a prerequisite that you do not have.
- In the wrong level of a class
- Needing to add a senior requirement
- In the same class twice
- In a class for which you have already received credit

The administration may need to make changes in the master schedule and/or balance classes throughout the year based on the needs of the school. These administrative changes do not require parental approval or notification.

Teacher Selection

Neither parents nor students are allowed to request a particular teacher. Schedules are not allowed to be changed from one teacher to another teacher. Any personnel issues need to be directed to the principal in writing. Teacher selection is not allowed.

Semester/Final Exams

1. Semester exams will be administered at the end of 2nd nine weeks for year long courses.
2. Final exams will be administered for semester and year long courses at the end of the course.
3. Students must take each semester test at its regularly scheduled time (block or period scheduled). In the case of emergency or illness, the student may take the test upon return to school. In the case of any other pre-approved absence, the student must take the test on the day of return. If a student must be absent during the final semester tests in May, he/she must return the following week to take the tests missed.
4. Semester tests may be optional for students with disabilities according to the students' IEP's.

Exemptions for End of Year Final Examinations

Students in these grades will be exempt from taking the final examination at the end of the school year. To be exempt a student must have maintained at least a 90 average in a class/subject during each of the preceding three nine week terms and also a 90 average in the 4th term in that class/subject. Also, the student cannot have missed more than 4 days of school during the school year for any reason. School business absences shall not be counted against the student. The principal at his/her discretion can give consideration for bereavement. No exemptions will be allowed in semester classes that end in December.

Carnegie Units

Eighth grade students will receive a Carnegie unit for Pre-Algebra, Advanced Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, and ICT2.

Exemptions and Citizenship

Any student who meets the above exemption requirements shall automatically lose his/her right to exemption in all classes if the student reaches Step 5 or above on the District Discipline Ladder. If a student receives more than two (2) Office Disciplinary Referrals (not Teacher Misconduct Reports) from an individual teacher to the assistant principal/principal, that student **shall** automatically lose any right to exemption in that teacher's class.

Grade Reporting

Nine Weeks Progress Reporting

50% of the student's grade will be based on major assignments such as unit tests, long-term assignments, and special projects. 50% of the student's grade will be based on daily/weekly tests or quizzes, class work, homework, class participation, and other daily work.

Semester/Yearly Reporting

The semester grade will be based upon the cumulative semester test (10%), the first nine weeks' grade (45%) and the second nine weeks' grade (45%). The yearly grade will be the average of the two semester grades. Courses that end at the semester will be the cumulative final exam (10%), the first nine weeks grade (45%) and the second nine weeks grade (45%).

Promotion and Retention

Students will be promoted from one grade level or classification based on the following:

Promotion in these grades is based upon the student passing the required major subjects of math and language arts. (The student must pass both English and reading if they are taught as separate subjects.) Additionally, the student may not fail any two (2) other subjects.

Special Provisions Regarding Promotion/Retention in Grades 6-8

A student who fails to master readiness skills or who fails one or more major subjects after having been retained in a grade for one year will be reviewed by a committee composed of the principal, the grade level teachers, and the parent/guardian prior to the second retention decision in the same grade. A student who is significantly over-age for the grade placement resulting from a retention decision will be reviewed by the External Review Committee and considered for alternative placement. Extended school year will be offered for those students with a failing grade of no less than 60 in math or reading or languages arts or science. Extended school year will be at the student's expense and will be offered at least at one school in the district.

Promotion/Retention for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities will be promoted based upon attainment of IEP objectives and/or placement in an age-appropriate setting as determined by the IEP team in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations.

All Schools and Homebound/Hospital Bound

Any student with a disability who does not meet course requirements, even though adjustments have been made to accommodate the student's disability, may receive a failing grade (F). If it is obvious, however, that the student with a disability cannot function socially, emotionally, or educationally in a regular classroom program, then the student should be removed from the regular class and placed appropriately. The necessary revisions in the student's IEP (Individual Educational Plan) will be made accordingly.

It is important to note that it may be necessary to provide extra assistance to disabled students or make modifications in the regular program of instruction. Regular education teachers and teachers of students with disabilities must work closely together to insure that all appropriate educational methods, accommodations and modifications, and supplementary aids and services are being used to assist the student with a disability, and the student is placed in his/her least restrictive environment.

Although these modifications may need to be made, the student should be judged to be successful (graded) in the regular classroom based on mastery of the same required content skills as non-disabled students in the class. Caution must be used to reflect mastery of content, not mastery of related skills (i.e. reading)

GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM

- **Mississippi Gifted Education Act**

"The Mississippi Gifted Education Act mandates that each public school district within the state provide gifted education programs for intellectually gifted students in grades 2-6. These programs must be designed to meet the individual needs of gifted students and shall be in addition to and different from the regular program of instruction provided by the district." Artistically, creatively and academically gifted programs are optional and subject to the approval of the State Board of Education.

- **Philosophy**

The philosophy of the program for Exceptional Children's Education in Lamar County (EXCEL) is to strive to develop within the gifted student a desire for excellence and a sense of individual responsibility to self and society through a program of experiences designed with special instructional approaches and alternatives to regular academic classroom instruction.

- **Our Mission**

The mission of the Lamar County School District is to empower all students with the knowledge and skills to create their own futures; to become passionate, lifelong learners; and to contribute cooperatively to a diverse and changing world. The Lamar County School District is committed to the motivation and guidance of gifted students through enriched, quality education based on the identification of their strengths, weaknesses, and interests. To fulfill this commitment, the gifted education program is dedicated to utilizing teaching strategies that broaden the students' scope of knowledge while providing independent study skills that will enable them to become life-long learners.

- **Excel**

Exceptional Children's Education in Lamar (EXCEL) serves children who have been identified as having high intellectual abilities through enrichment opportunities to study a variety of topics not offered in the regular curriculum.

Our gifted education program seeks to provide a differentiated curriculum which

- systematically exposes the student to many fields of learning
- provides process skills for advanced levels of thinking
- allows the learner the opportunity to become a producer rather than a consumer
- incorporates the interests and strengths of the student producing motivation for learning

Students in our gifted education program receive

- assistance from a certified teacher trained in providing successful experiences in gifted education
- a minimum of five hours participation weekly in the education program with schedules and activities varying from school to school

- **Referral Policy for Excel**

Placement of gifted students is governed by specific state mandated policies pertaining to test scores and other criteria. Student must qualify through a sequential multi-factored referral process to be eligible for gifted services. The referral process may be initiated by a teacher, parent, student, or peer.

The assessment team report and recommendation profile are sent to the District Local Survey Committee for determining eligibility according to criteria set forth by the state guidelines. Once criteria are met and a written eligibility ruling has been made, the student is eligible to be placed in the EXCEL program.

The parent must give written consent to place the student in the program. No student is placed without a proper eligibility ruling and consent for placement.

- **Gifted Homework/Classwork**

"Gifted students in grades 2-6 may not be required to make-up class work missed when they are scheduled to be in the gifted classroom. Gifted students shall be held accountable for demonstrating mastery of concepts and information on regularly scheduled tests. It should be noted that some gifted students will not be high academic achievers for a variety of reasons. It is not reasonable to expect intellectually gifted students, artistically gifted students, and/or creatively gifted students, by virtue of having been granted one of those gifted eligibility rulings, to make all A's and B's. The exception is academically gifted students in grades 9-12 who have been ruled eligible based upon exceptionally high academic achievement in the pertinent area being served."

"Participation in the Gifted Education Program is an entitlement, not a reward under state law, *The Mississippi Gift Education Act of 1989*. Therefore, the student should remain in the gifted program as long as they are being successful in the program. Grades and/or success in the regular education program is the responsibility of the regular classroom teachers and should not be considered as a reason for removal from the gifted program." (Excerpt from *Mississippi State Regulations For Gifted Education Programs*)

EXCEL Participation

Students served in programs for the intellectually gifted are absent from regular classes equivalent to one full day of class per week. A student served in the intellectually gifted program will not be required to complete missed classroom work if it can be demonstrated that the student has previously mastered the skill(s) in question. Mastery shall be considered a score of 85% or above correctly completed. If mastery has not been demonstrated, it is recommended that the teacher select a small sampling of the most difficult exercises on that skill for the student to complete. If mastery is demonstrated on the sampling, no further work on that skill should be required for make-up work.

State Testing Program

The state of Mississippi requires the Grade Level Testing Program to be administered to students in grades 3-8. The following tests will be given each spring:

- Mississippi Curriculum Tests (MCT2) – tests based on the *Revised* Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks for reading, language, and mathematics; given to all students; comprehensive science test in grades 5 and 8 and writing assessment for grades 4 and 7. See mde.k12.ms.us/acad/osa for more information.

Curriculum Programs Offered in the Lamar County Schools

Middle School Programs:

The middle school programs emphasize basic coursework in math, English, social studies, and science that will provide preparation for high school work. Additionally, middle school students have alternatives in band, music, physical education, technology, ICT I, ICT II, athletic programs and other elective programs available at the school of attendance. Students should consult early with the principal and/or guidance counselor in planning a program of studies that will lead to the intended goals of the students. Parents should also feel free to consult with school personnel regarding this matter. These considerations should begin in the early middle school years with a general course of direction planned upon entrance into grade 9.

Lamar County School District Discipline Ladder

When a student misbehaves and/or demonstrates unacceptable behavior on school grounds or at a school event, the student may be placed upon the **Discipline Ladder**. The discipline ladder **does not** reflect a step-to-step approach. In other words, if a student commits a very serious infraction (e.g. making a bomb threat) and the student has not committed any other offenses during the year, the student **will not** begin at Step 1. In accordance with the step assignments listed herein, that student will be placed on the ladder at Steps 5-7. Further, the discipline ladder is a guide. Administrators have discretion to use their professional judgment in the management of discipline based upon the circumstances. A student will be subject to one or more of the alternatives at each step based upon the circumstances of the offense. Administrators have discretion as to when students will be placed on the discipline ladder. In some situations, it is appropriate to use pre-entry warnings that may include a conference with the student, contact with the parent/guardian, written warning, or other communications that let the student and/or parent know that the student's behavior is approaching a level that will result in the student being placed upon the ladder. **This pre-entry phase is not required.**

The Discipline Ladder

STEP 1

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (may be written contact)
2. Student conference
3. Parent care assignment
4. Partial or all day assignment to IST
5. Assignment to detention
6. Saturday school assignment
7. Loss of privileges/performance of school service (temporary)
8. Removal from the ladder after 5 school days with no additional referrals

STEP 2

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (may be written contact)
2. Parent care assignment
3. Partial or all day assignment to IST
4. Assignment to detention
5. Saturday school assignment
6. Loss of privileges/performance of school service (temporary)
7. Removal from the ladder after 10 school days with no additional referrals

STEP 3

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (conduct phone or personal conference with dean of students, assistant principal and/or principal)
2. Parent care assignment
3. Detention assignment
4. Assignment to IST 1 – 3 days

5. Saturday school assignments
6. Loss of privileges/performance of school service (temporary or permanent removal)
7. Removal from the ladder after 15 school days with no additional referrals

STEP 4

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (conduct phone or personal conference with dean of students, assistant principal and/or principal)
2. Parent care assignment
3. Assignment to IST (In-School Tutorial) 1-3 days
4. Assignment to Saturday school(s)
5. Loss of privileges/performance of school service (temporary or permanent removal)
6. Parent may be requested to attend classes with the student by the administrator
7. Removal from the ladder after 20 school days with no additional referrals

STEP 5

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (conduct personal conference with dean of students, assistant principal and/or principal)
2. Parent care assignment
3. Assignment of OSS (Out-of-School Suspension) 1-5 days
4. Assignment to Saturday school(s)
5. Referral to the Superintendent's office (notice of student behavior problem) and intervention as determined by administration.
6. Loss of privileges/performance of school service (temporary or permanent removal)
7. Parent may be requested to attend classes with the student by the administrator
8. Removal from the ladder after 25 school days with no additional referrals

STEP 6

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (conduct personal conference with dean of students, assistant principal and/or principal)
2. Assignment of OSS for 6-10 days with district office approval
3. Referral to the District Discipline Committee for review and action, which may include placement of the student in the Alternative School Program. (unless waived)
4. Loss of Privileges (temporary or permanent)
5. Parent may be requested to attend classes with the student by the administrator
6. Loss of exemptions in all classes (Automatic for remainder of the school year)
7. Removal from the ladder after 30 school days with no additional referrals
8. If the student returns to school after alternative school assignment has been completed, the student will be immediately assigned to disciplinary probation for 30 days and remain on Step 6 of the ladder. If the student ends the 30-day probationary period with no office referrals, the student may be removed from the ladder.

STEP 7

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (phone or personal conference with the principal)
2. Assignment of OSS 6-10+ days (approval from Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent required)
3. Referral to the District Discipline Committee for due process hearing (parents notified by district office) The District Discipline Committee is authorized to determine a long-term placement in the Alternative School program (up to one (1) calendar year) **or** recommendation to expel made by principal to the Superintendent. If the principal recommends expulsion, the Superintendent may, in his discretion, direct the Assistant Superintendent to convene the District Discipline Committee to review the case prior to the Superintendent making his decision. If the Superintendent concurs with the recommendation of the principal and/or the District Discipline Committee, the recommendation will be presented to the Board of Education.
4. Loss of privileges (temporary or permanent)
5. If the student returns to school after the expulsion period has expired or the long-term alternative school assignment has been completed, the student will be immediately assigned to disciplinary probation for 35 days and remain on Step 7 of the ladder. If the student ends the 35-day probationary period with no office referrals, the student may be removed from the ladder.

STEP 8

1. Action of the Board of Education to expel or other disciplinary action as assigned by the Board.

All Shaded Areas Indicate Changes in the Handbook from the 2010-2011 year

Other Important Information Regarding Discipline

1. No student will be placed at a given step on the discipline ladder more than two (2) times. The student will be escalated to the next higher step after his/her second placement on any step.
2. Any discipline/behavior problem resulting in the student's placement on the ladder at Steps 4-8 may be referred to appropriate law enforcement officials for action.
3. In accordance with the Mississippi Safety Act of 2000 for a student who causes a disruption in the classroom, on school property or vehicles, or at school-related activities for a second time during the school year, the principal, the reporting teacher, and the child's parent(s) will develop a Behavior Modification Plan (BMP).

Unacceptable Behaviors and Placement on the Discipline Ladder

The following chart reflects generalized unacceptable behavior and placement on the discipline ladder. This list is not all-inclusive, and other behaviors may occur that do not necessarily appear. Administrators are vested with the authority to use administrative judgment in regard to such behaviors.

Unacceptable Behaviors	Consequences Middle School	
1 Biting	Step 5-8	
2 Bomb threat	Step 5-8	Zero tolerance
3 Cutting/leaving class without permission	Step 3-5	
4 Defacement/Destruction of Property/Vandalism	Step 3-8	Restitution required \$20,000 maximum
5 Defiance of staff member/Disrespect/Continuous disobedience	Step 1-8	
6 Dress code violation	Step 1-5	
7 Eating/drinking in unapproved area	Step 1-3	
8 Fighting (or spreading rumors/gossip which leads to verbal/physical confrontation/fight/disruption/disturbance) at school, school activities, and/or aboard a school bus	Step 5-8	
9 Gambling/possession of gambling devices	Step 2-5	
10 Gang activity/association/secret organizations/clubs	Step 5-8	
11 Harassment, intimidation, hazing, stalking, or threatening another student of staff members	Step 1-8	
12 Inappropriate display of public affection	Step 1-4	
13 Improper/disruptive behavior on school grounds or at school activities	Step 1-8	Removal from activities
14 Improper use of internet	Step 1-8	
15 Improper use of lockers	Step 1-6	
16 Leaving campus without authorization	Step 4-6	
17 Lying to authorities	Step 1-7	
18 Misbehavior aboard school bus	Step 1-8	
19 Pornography in any form	Step 5-8	
20 Possession of cell phones, radios, beepers, other electronic devices	Step 3-6	
21 Possession of weapon, imitation weapon or object that could be used as a weapon	Step 6-8	
22 Profanity/vulgarity (includes acts, gestures, or symbols directed at person)	Step 3-6	
23 Refusal to identify one's self when requested to do so by school staff	Step 4-5	
24 Sexual harassment or Sexual misconduct	Step 4-8	
25 Stealing/Theft/Cheating	Step 4-8	
26 Tardies (as defined in student handbook)	See Tardiness Policy	
27 Trespassing	Step 4-7	
28 Unauthorized fundraising (sale of candy, etc.)	Step 1-4	
29 Use of forged/altered documents such as parent notes, report cards, hall passes, etc.	Step 4-7	
30 Use/Possession of Dangerous Objects	Step 5-8	
31 Use/Possession of Fireworks	Step 5-7	
32 Use, sale, possession, or under the influence of alcohol or alcohol-related products	Step 6-8	
33 Use, sale, possession, or under the influence of drugs and/or drug paraphernalia (as defined herein) or counterfeit	Step 6-8	

- 34 Use, sale, possession of tobacco or tobacco-related products Step 4-7
- 35 Violent act towards school employee Step 5-8

Discipline Guide

1. Fighting

- Level I – Pushing, shoving, wrestling, trying to throw a punch, inciting a fight
- Level II – Vicious, blood, fist fight
- Level III – Habitual discipline problem, previously warned, 2nd fight or more in a year
- Level IV – Fight with gang implications

Consequences

- Level I – Step 5 – 1 day suspension, may be referred to youth court
- Level II – Step 5 – 5 days suspension, referral to youth court
- Level III – Step 6 – 6 days suspension, 9 weeks at Alternative School, referral to youth court
- Level IV – Step 6-8 – 6 days suspension & one calendar year at Alternative School or expulsion, referral to youth court

2. Weapons

- Level I – Weapons other than a gun found on person, vehicle
- Level II – Using, threatening or brandishing any weapon, possession of a gun on person or in vehicle

Consequences

- Level I – Step 6 – 6 days suspension & 9 weeks at Alternative School, referral to youth court
- Level II – Step 7 – 6 days suspension, expulsion and/or Alternative School, referral to youth court

3. Over the Counter Medications & Supplements

- Level I – Handling, passing it to another student
- Level II – Brought to school to sell, give away, trade, consumption on campus

Consequences

- Level I – Step 5 – 3 days suspension
- Level II – Step 6 – 6 days suspension & 9 weeks at Alternative School

4. Alcohol & Prescription drugs

- Level I – Under the influence (consumed off campus), possession
- Level II – Brought to school, consumption on campus

Consequences

- Level I – Step 6 – 6 days suspension & 9 weeks Alternative School, referral to youth court
- Level II – Step 6 – 6 days suspension & one semester at Alternative School, referral to youth court

5. Illegal Drugs

- Level I – Possession
- Level II – Use, under the influence, selling, trading, giving away

Consequences

- Level I – Step 6 – 6 days suspension & one semester Alternative School, referral to youth court
- Level II – Step 7 – 6 days suspension & one year Alternative School or expulsion, referral to youth court

- Any combination of the above will result in more severe consequences. The Alternative School assignment of days may vary based on what is best for the student to meet academic requirements.

Youth Court

Criminal behavior if committed by a student may result in referral to Lamar County Youth Court or the appropriate Judiciary. The following is a list of offenses that may be reported:

Mississippi Code 97-37-17	Possession of weapons	Malicious mischief
	Possession of drugs	Cyber stalking
	Possession of alcohol	Vandalism

All Shaded Areas Indicate Changes in the Handbook from the 2010-2011 year

Mississippi Code 37-11-20	Possession of drug paraphernalia	Gambling
	Simple assault	Trespassing
	Disorderly conduct	Rape
	Abuse of a Teacher or Principal	Sexual battery
	Threatening and intimidation	Bomb threats
	Public intoxication	Defacing or destroying school property
	And other criminal offenses of the Mississippi Code	

In addition to the above listed criminal offenses, excessive unexcused absences will also be reported to the Lamar County Youth Court.

Automobile/Motorized Vehicle Use

Students younger than grade 10 may not bring a motorized vehicle on any school campus.

Proms

Within the Lamar County School District, proms are **NOT** school-sponsored activities.

Student Grade Requirements and Extra-Curricular Activity Participation

In all respects, including eligibility for participation, the Lamar County School District shall adhere to the regulations, rules, guidelines, and standards set and promulgated by the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc. (hereinafter called the Association) as expressed and set forth in the Association's Handbook during each scholastic year. The Lamar County School District will follow the Children First Act of 2009 in regard to grade requirements. Section 2 of the Act reads as follows:

"A student who is enrolled in any grade higher than Grade 6 in a school district in this state must be suspended from participation in any extracurricular or athletic activity sponsored or sanctioned by the school district after a semester in which the student's cumulative grade point average is below a 2.0 on a 4.0 scale. The suspension from participation in extracurricular or athletic activities may not be removed until the student's cumulative grade point average in a succeeding semester is 2.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale. A student with a cumulative grade point average below a 2.0 on a 4.0 scale at the semester of an academic school year shall be suspended from participation in extracurricular or athletic activities in the succeeding academic school year until the student's cumulative grade point average is 2.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale."

Retention of Students for Extra-Curricular Purposes Prohibited

It shall be the policy of the district that no student shall be retained for purposes of extra-curricular participation. This practice, commonly called "red-shirting," is strictly prohibited.

Extra Curricular Policies and Procedures

I. PURPOSE

We believe that the opportunity for participation in a wide variety of student-selected activities is a vital part of a student's educational experiences. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, the activity, to other students, to the community and to the students themselves. These experiences contribute to the development of learning skills, leadership training and emotional patterns that enable the student to achieve maximum benefit from his or her education. The Lamar County School District's extra curricular program is considered a supplement to the school's academic program which strives to provide experiences that will help to develop students physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally.

II. QUALIFICATIONS – As taken from the MHSAA Guidelines

- **General Eligibility Rules** – To be eligible to participate in interschool activities a contestant must adhere to the following:
 - Be a bona fide student, having enrolled not later than the 15th day of any semester of participation, carry five major subjects and deport himself satisfactorily.
 - Any pupil who becomes 19 years of age prior to August 1 shall not be eligible for interschool competition.
 - Not be a graduate of a four-year high school.
 - Those children whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are instructional personnel or certified employees of a school district may at such employee's discretion enroll or attend the school or schools of their parent's or legal guardian's employment regardless of the residence of the child. If a child transfers back to his home school, he must lay out a year unless his parents or legal guardian are no longer employed by the school system the child attended. Exception: Eligibility in any sport will not be granted to a student at another school once he/she has started the season in any sport at the student's home school until the parents have made a bona fide move or the

- Reach Step 5 or above on the discipline ladder
- Receive more than two office disciplinary referrals (not teacher misconduct reports)

Elections will be conducted during designated times and locations determined by each school. Winners must receive 51% of the vote. Some run-offs may be necessary to achieve this.

VI. BAND GUARD POLICIES

- The guard in the marching band is considered a selection of the band and expected to function as such.
- Guard tryouts and practice for tryouts will be held during the spring of each school year. Judges will be selected from adults who are actively involved in the instruction of the guard on the high school and/or junior college level.
- Students will be assessed a tryout fee prior to the tryout. Students who are selected for membership in the guard will be assessed a uniform/equipment fee.
- Rehearsals – Additional summer and fall rehearsals and/or camps are required for guard members. Members are expected to attend.

VII. SPIRIT GROUP POLICIES – For both high school and middle school

- All candidates will be given information concerning the criteria judges will be evaluating BEFORE tryouts.
- Three judges will be provided by the MHSAA when applicable. These judges will be from out of town and will have no direct connection to the candidates or coaches.
- The number of spirit team members selected will be determined by the local school’s coach with the approval of the principal.
- Coaches with the approval of the principal will determine the length of pre-tryout sessions.
- A tryout fee will be assessed to cover the expenses of the tryouts. The amount will be determined by the coach with the approval of the principal.
- No one other than official judges, spirit coaches, tabulators, administrator, and the spirit group candidates will be allowed at the tryouts.
- No video taping will be allowed during pre-tryout sessions or tryouts.
- Spirit candidates will not be allowed to check out on tryout day.

MHSAA Rules and Guideline as outlined in the Spirit Rules Book will be the standard to which all squads will adhere. All squad members and coaches should familiarize themselves with the policies set forth in the handbook.

1. A list of activities, games and practice dates will be given to each squad member, and members will be expected to attend all dates unless prior approval has been given by the coach.
2. Spirit group members must meet all financial responsibilities including summer camp, camp wear, uniforms, warm-up suits, competition travel and fees.
3. Absolutely no jewelry of any kind may be worn at practice or games.
4. No glitter lotion, spray, etc., may be worn while at practice or games.
5. Exemplary conduct is expected at all times. Squad members should represent their schools in a positive manner at games and practices.
6. The coach will determine all practice, camp and game apparel. No loose or baggy clothing.
7. Uniforms will be approved by school administration.
8. Uniforms will be worn during pep rallies at school only. Squad warm-up pants and tops may be worn during the day in accordance with the Lamar County School District dress code.
9. Squad members are responsible for their own transportation to and from games and practices.
10. Students who participate in hazing activities shall be subject to disciplinary action.
11. Each school must follow MHSAA guidelines for routine decency. All routines should be in good taste and have administrator approval.

VIII. MR. AND MISS MIDDLE SCHOOL – Must be an 8th grader

Due to the nature of this award, the following additional qualifications are established:

- Must attend named middle school for entire middle school career.
- Must have an overall final average in core subjects of 90 in middle school.
- Nominations – all 8th graders who meet the criteria and qualifications can be nominated. The entire student body 6-8 will vote for Mr. and Miss Middle School.
- Nominated only by the 8th grade.

Elementary School Policies

Promotion and Retention

Students will be promoted from one grade level or classification based on the following:

1. Kindergarten - Grade 1
Promotion to the next grade will require mastery of 80% of the essential skills in language arts and math. Non-mastery of one of these subjects will result in retention. Kindergarten enrollment is optional. However, once a student is enrolled, attendance and promotion policies apply. To assure the student's future success it is necessary that a student participating in the public kindergarten program master readiness skills prior to promotion to first grade. If the student has not successfully mastered these skills, a conference will be scheduled with the child's parent/guardian during the final weeks of the school year. The purpose of this conference will be to discuss retention in kindergarten.
2. Grade 2-5
Promotion is based upon the student demonstrating mastery of the required major subjects of reading, math, and language arts (grammar, writing and vocabulary). Non-mastery of one or more of the above subjects within the guidelines stated will result in retention.

Special Provisions Regarding Promotion/Retention in Grades K-5

A student in grades K-5 who fails to master readiness skills or who fails one or more major subjects after having been retained in a grade for one year will be reviewed by a committee composed of the principal, the grade level teachers, and the parent/guardian prior to the second retention decision in the same grade. A student who is significantly over age for the grade placement resulting from a retention decision will be reviewed by the External Review Committee and considered for alternative placement.

GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM

- **Mississippi Gifted Education Act**

“The Mississippi Gifted Education Act mandates that each public school district within the state provide gifted education programs for intellectually gifted students in grades 2-6. These programs must be designed to meet the individual needs of gifted students and shall be in addition to and different from the regular program of instruction provided by the district.” Artistically, creatively and academically gifted programs are optional and subject to the approval of the State Board of Education.

- **Philosophy**

The philosophy of the program for Exceptional Children's Education in Lamar County (EXCEL) is to strive to develop within the gifted student a desire for excellence and a sense of individual responsibility to self and society through a program of experiences designed with special instructional approaches and alternatives to regular academic classroom instruction.

- **Our Mission**

The mission of the Lamar County School District is to empower all students with the knowledge and skills to create their own futures; to become passionate, lifelong learners; and to contribute cooperatively to a diverse and changing world. The Lamar County School District is committed to the motivation and guidance of gifted students through enriched, quality education based on the identification of their strengths, weaknesses, and interests. To fulfill this commitment, the gifted education program is dedicated to utilizing teaching strategies that broaden the students' scope of knowledge while providing independent study skills that will enable them to become life-long learners.

- **Excel**

Exceptional Children's Education in Lamar (EXCEL) serves children who have been identified as having high intellectual abilities through enrichment opportunities to study a variety of topics not offered in the regular curriculum.

Our gifted education program seeks to provide a differentiated curriculum which

- systematically exposes the student to many fields of learning
- provides process skills for advanced levels of thinking
- allows the learner the opportunity to become a producer rather than a consumer
- incorporates the interests and strengths of the student producing motivation for learning

Students in our gifted education program receive

- assistance from a certified teacher trained in providing successful experiences in gifted education
- a minimum of five hours participation weekly in the education program with schedules and activities varying from school to school

- **Referral Policy for Excel**

Placement of gifted students is governed by specific state mandated policies pertaining to test scores and other criteria. Student must qualify through a sequential multifactor referral process to be eligible for gifted services. The referral process may be initiated by a teacher, parent, student, or peer.

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The parent must give written consent to place the student in the program. No student is placed without a proper eligibility ruling and consent for placement.

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The Discipline Ladder

STEP 1

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (may be written contact)
2. Student conference
3. Parent care assignment
4. Partial or all day assignment to IST
5. Assignment to detention
6. Saturday school assignment
7. Loss of privileges/performance of school service (temporary)
8. Removal from the ladder after 5 school days with no additional referrals

STEP 2

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (may be written contact)
2. Parent care assignment
3. Partial or all day assignment to IST
4. Assignment to detention
5. Saturday school assignment
6. Loss of privileges/performance of school service (temporary)
7. Removal from the ladder after 10 school days with no additional referrals

STEP 3

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (conduct phone or personal conference with dean of students, assistant principal and/or principal)
2. Parent care assignment
3. Detention assignment
4. Assignment to IST 1 – 3 days
5. Saturday school assignments
6. Loss of privileges/performance of school service (temporary or permanent removal)
7. Removal from the ladder after 15 school days with no additional referrals

STEP 4

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (conduct phone or personal conference with dean of students, assistant principal and/or principal)
2. Parent care assignment
3. Assignment to IST (In-School Tutorial) 1-3 days
4. Assignment to Saturday school(s)
5. Loss of privileges/performance of school service (temporary or permanent removal)
6. Parent may be requested to attend classes with the student by the administrator
7. Removal from the ladder after 20 school days with no additional referrals

STEP 5

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (conduct personal conference with dean of students, assistant principal and/or principal)
2. Parent care assignment
3. Assignment of OSS (Out-of-School Suspension) 1-5 days
4. Assignment to Saturday school(s)
5. Assignment to an alternate class
6. Referral to the Superintendent's office (notice of student behavior problem) and intervention as determined by administration.
7. Loss of privileges/performance of school service (temporary or permanent removal)
8. Parent may be requested to attend classes with the student by the administrator
9. Removal from the ladder after 25 school days with no additional referrals

STEP 6

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (conduct personal conference with dean of students, assistant principal and/or principal)
2. Assignment of OSS for 6-10 days with district office approval
3. Referral to the District Discipline Committee for review and action, which may include placement of the student in the Alternative School Program. (unless waived)
4. Loss of Privileges (temporary or permanent)
5. Parent may be requested to attend classes with the student by the administrator

6. Loss of exemptions in all classes (Automatic for remainder of the school year)
7. Removal from the ladder after 30 school days with no additional referrals
8. If the student returns to school after alternative school assignment has been completed, the student will be immediately assigned to disciplinary probation for 30 days and remain on Step 6 of the ladder. If the student ends the 30-day probationary period with no office referrals, the student may be removed from the ladder.

STEP 7

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (phone or personal conference with the principal)
2. Assignment of OSS 6-10+ days (approval from Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent required)
3. Referral to the District Discipline Committee for due process hearing (parents notified by district office) The District Discipline Committee is authorized to determine a long-term placement in the Alternative School program (up to one (1) calendar year) **or** recommendation to expel made by principal to the Superintendent. If the principal recommends expulsion, the Superintendent may, in his discretion, direct the Assistant Superintendent to convene the District Discipline Committee to review the case prior to the Superintendent making his decision. If the Superintendent concurs with the recommendation of the principal and/or the District Discipline Committee, the recommendation will be presented to the Board of Education.
4. Loss of privileges (temporary or permanent)
5. If the student returns to school after the expulsion period has expired or the long-term alternative school assignment has been completed, the student will be immediately assigned to disciplinary probation for 35 days and remain on Step 7 of the ladder. If the student ends the 35-day probationary period with no office referrals, the student may be removed from the ladder.

STEP 8

1. Action of the Board of Education to expel or other disciplinary action as assigned by the Board.

Other Important Information Regarding Discipline

1. Any student who is in the tier process for behavior and has been unsuccessful with the intervention, upon recommendation of the Teacher Support Team (TST), may be assigned to an alternate placement on the school’s campus for the tier 3 behavior intervention.
2. A student who is returning from a Behavior Health Facility will transition through the Behavior Modification Class/Day Treatment Class on campus if deemed necessary by the School Threat Assessment Team.
3. Any student who has not successfully completed a transition process by the end of the school year will be required to complete that process at the start of the next school year before moving into a homeroom setting.
4. The administration will review the behavior records of any student who transfers into the Lamar County School District to make a determination concerning class placement.

Unacceptable Behaviors and Placement on the Discipline Ladder

The following chart reflects generalized unacceptable behavior and placement on the discipline ladder. This list is not all-inclusive, and other behaviors may occur that do not necessarily appear. Administrators are vested with the authority to use administrative judgment in regard to such behaviors.

Unacceptable Behaviors	Consequences	
	Elementary	
1. Biting	Step 3-6	
2. Bomb threat	Step 3-8	Zero tolerance
3. Cutting/leaving class without permission	Step 3-5	
4. Defacement/destruction of property/vandalism	Step 1-4	Restitution required \$20,000 maximum
5. Defiance of staff member/Disrespect/Continuous disobedience	Step 1-8	
6. Dress code violation	Step 1-5	
7. Eating/drinking in unapproved area	Step 1-2	
8. Fighting (or spreading rumors/gossip which leads to verbal/physical confrontation/fight/disruption/disturbance) at school, school activities, and/or aboard a school bus	Step 4-6	
9. Gambling/possession of gambling devices	Step 2-5	
10. Gang activity/association/secret organizations/clubs	Step 3-8	
11. Harassment, intimidation, hazing, stalking or threatening another student or staff members	Step 1-8	
12. Improper/disruptive behavior on school grounds or at school	Step 1-8	Removal from activities

activities

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 13. Improper use of internet | Step 4-8 |
| 14. Improper use of lockers | Step 1-6 |
| 15. Inappropriate display of public affection | Step 1-4 |
| 16. Leaving campus without authorization | Step 4-6 |
| 17. Lying to authorities | Step 1-7 |
| 18. Misbehavior aboard school bus | Step 1-8 |
| 19. Pornography of any type | Step 4-8 |
| 20. Possession of cell phones, radios, beepers, other electronic devices | Step 3-6 |
| 21. Possession of weapon, imitation weapon, or object that could be used as a weapon | Step 4-7 |
| 22. Profanity/vulgarity (includes acts, gestures, or symbols directed at person) | Step 1-6 |
| 23. Refusal to identify one's self when requested to do so by school staff | Step 1-4 |
| 24. Sexual harassment or sexual misconduct | Step 5-8 |
| 25. Stealing/theft/cheating | Step 2-4 |
| 26. Tardies | See Tardiness Policy |
| 27. Trespassing | Step 2-6 |
| 28. Unauthorized fundraising (sale of candy, etc.) | Step 1-4 |
| 29. Use of forged/altered documents such as parent notes, report cards, hall passes, etc. | Step 2-6 |
| 30. Use/possession of dangerous objects | Step 4-6 |
| 31. Use/possession of fireworks | Step 4-6 |
| 32. Use, sale, possession, or under the influence of alcohol or alcohol-related products | Step 5-6 |
| 33. Use, sale, possession, or under the influence of drugs and/or drug paraphernalia (as defined herein) | Step 4-7 |
| 34. Use, sale, or possession of tobacco or tobacco-related products | Step 4-7 |
| 35. Violent act towards school employee | Step 3-8 |

Youth Court

Criminal behavior if committed by a student may result in referral to Lamar County Youth Court or the appropriate Judiciary. The following is a list of offenses that may be reported:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Mississippi Code 97-37-17 | Possession of weapons | Mississippi Code 37-11-20 | Threatening and intimidation |
| | Possession of drugs | | Public intoxication |
| | Possession of alcohol | | Defacing or destroying school property |
| | Possession of drug paraphernalia | | Malicious mischief |
| | Simple assault | | Cyber stalking |
| | Disorderly conduct | | Vandalism |
| | Abuse of a Teacher or Principal | | Gambling |
| | Rape | | Trespassing |
| | Sexual battery | | Bomb threats |

And other criminal offenses of the Mississippi Code.

In addition to the above listed criminal offenses, excessive unexcused absences, tardies, and early checkouts will also be reported to the Lamar County Youth Court.

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