



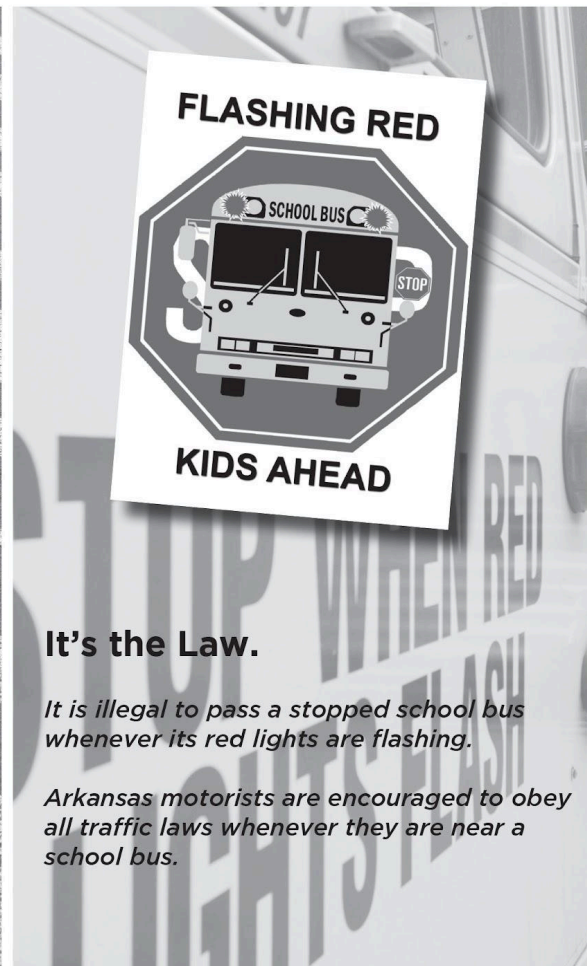
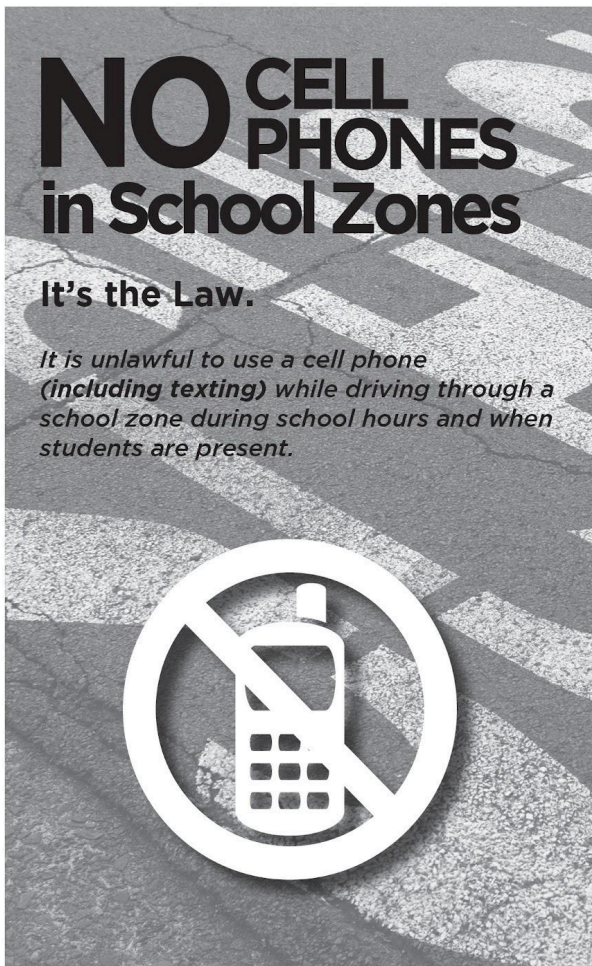
**BRYANT
COLLEGEVILLE
DAVIS
HILL FARM
HURRICANE CREEK
PARKWAY
SALEM
SPRINGHILL**

BRYANT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**2025-2026
ELEMENTARY
HANDBOOK**

BRYANTSCHOOLS.ORG

HELP KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE



1511 North Reynolds Road
Bryant, AR 72022
501 847 5600



BRYANT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ELEMENTARY STUDENT PARENT/GUARDIAN HANDBOOK

VISION

Bryant Public Schools will be the state's premier provider of educational services.

MISSION STATEMENT

Bryant Public Schools creates opportunities for academic and personal success to ensure all students are future ready.

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

This handbook contains policies for students at all elementary schools in the Bryant Public Schools including discipline, homework and attendance policies. Also included is a summary of our district parental involvement plan. These policies will be enforced. Parents and/or students should read them carefully. Please contact the building principal or assistant principal if clarification is needed. By our signatures below, we signify that we have access to a copy of the Elementary Student-Parent/Guardian Handbook. We understand that these policies will be enforced.

Student's Signature_____ Date_____

Parent's Signature_____ Date_____

To access a copy of the elementary handbook online visit: bryantschools.org/parents/handbooks.

FIELD TRIP PERMISSION

My child,_____, has permission to attend all school field trips pertaining to him/her that are chaperoned by school officials/employees and have students transported on a school bus.

Parent's Signature_____ Date_____



Media, Publications, Video, Internet Consent and Release Agreement for Parents/Guardians and Students

Parents, guardians and students who attend or participate in Bryant School District programs or events are occasionally asked to be part of district, county, statewide and/or national publicity, promotion, marketing and/or public relations activities or projects, and/or appear in educational and curriculum material developed by the District.

1. My school has permission to use my child's images and name in the school yearbook.
Check one: ☐ YES ☐ NO
2. My school has permission to use my child's images and name on the school's social media accounts and website. Check one: ☐ YES ☐ NO
3. My school has permission to use my child's images and name on the teacher's and school's communication platform (Rooms). Check one: ☐ YES ☐ NO
4. Bryant Public Schools has permission to use my child's name, image (still or video), art, written work, voice or verbal statements in any educational and /or promotional printed or electronic piece (including social media and website) that furthers the district's education and/or public relations efforts. Check one: ☐ YES ☐ NO

If the Parent/Guardian and/or Youth wish to rescind this agreement, they may do so at any time with written notice.

Youth's Name (print)

Grade

School

Youth's Signature (if at least 18 years old)

Date

Parent/Guardian Name (sign)

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Each student should have a copy of this form at the school the child attends.



OBJECTION TO PUBLICATION OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

I, the undersigned, being a parent of a student, or a student eighteen (18) years of age or older, hereby note my objection to the disclosure of publication by the Bryant Public Schools of directory information, as defined in district policy, concerning the student named below.

I understand that the participation by the below-named student in any interscholastic activity, including athletics and school clubs, may make the publication of some directory information unavoidable, and the publication of such information in other forms, such as telephone directories, church directories, etc. is not within the control of the District.

I understand that this form must be filed with the office of the appropriate building principal within ten (10) school days from the beginning of the school year or the date the student is enrolled in school in order for the District to be bound by this objection. Failure to file this form within that time is a specific grant of permission to publish such information.

I object and wish to deny the disclosure or publication of directory information as follows:

____ All public and school sources

Selecting this option will prohibit the release of directory information to the categories listed above along with all other public sources (such as newspapers), AND result in the student's directory information NOT being included in the school's yearbook and other school publications.

____ All public sources

Selecting this option will prohibit the release of directory information to the categories listed above along with all other public sources (such as newspapers), but permit the student's directory information to be included in the school's yearbook and other school publications.

Name of Student (print)

Grade

Signature of Parent (or student, if 18 or older)

Date of Submission

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) generally requires the Bryant School District to obtain a parent or guardian's written consent prior to disclosing personally identifiable information (PII) from a student's education records. One of the exceptions to this general rule applies to "directory information." Unless the parent or guardian of a student (or student, if above the age of 18) objects, directory information may be made available to the public, military recruiters, post-secondary educational institutions, prospective employers of those students, as well as annual yearbooks and graduation announcements. Directory information includes, but is not limited to, a student's name, address, telephone number, electronic mail address, photograph, date and place of birth, dates of attendance, his/her placement on the honor roll (or the receipt of other types of honors), as well as his/her participation in school clubs and extracurricular activities, among others. If the student participates in inherently public activities (for example, basketball, football, or other interscholastic activities), the publication of such information will be beyond the control of the District. Directory information also includes a student identification (ID) number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by a student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems and a student ID number or other unique personal identifier that is displayed on a student's ID badge, provided the ID cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a personal identification number (PIN), password or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user. A parent or guardian may opt out of the District's disclosure of directory information by signing the form below. For additional information about FERPA, please review Bryant School District Board Policy #4.13



2024-25 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

STUDENT HANDBOOK

This handbook has been prepared for the purpose of assisting all elementary students and their parents in Bryant Public Schools in becoming familiar with the rules and regulations, which apply to all students. A committee of parents, students, and teachers review this handbook annually.

All rules (and consequences) in this handbook apply to children en-route to and from school including transported and non-transported students.

We invite you to visit your school and consult with your child's teacher and principal when we may be of service in meeting the needs of your child. You may call the school office to set up an appointment with your child's teacher or to see the principal. Visitors must check in at the office upon arrival to the building to let us know when and why you are visiting and to pick up a visitor's pass.

Bryant Elementary, 501-847-5642 <u>Leslie Penfield, Principal</u> lpenfield@bryantschools.org John Rountree, Asst. Principal jroutree@bryantschools.org	Hurricane Creek Elementary, 501-653-1012 <u>Shannon Williams, Principal</u> sswilliams@bryantschools.org Jillian Henley, Asst. Principal jhenley@bryantschools.org
Collegeville Elementary, 501-847-5670 <u>Victoria Carter, Principal</u> vcarter@bryantschools.org Justin Leaton, Asst. Principal jleaton@bryantschools.org	Parkway Elementary, 501-653-5128 <u>Dr. Lindsey McBride, Principal</u> lmcbride@bryantschools.org Jennifer Rankin, Asst. Principal jrankin@bryantschools.org
Davis Elementary, 501-455-5672 <u>Julie Roark, Principal</u> jroark@bryantschools.org Tiefa Cooley-Hester, Asst. Principal tcooley-hester@bryantschools.org	Salem Elementary, 501-316-0263 Leslie Smith, Principal <u>lmsmith@bryantschools.org</u> Morgan Huggins, Asst. Principal ahuggins@bryantschools.org
Hill Farm Elementary, 501-653-5950 <u>Amie Horn, Principal</u> ahorn@bryantschools.org Richard Wrightner, Asst. Principal rwrightner@bryantschools.org	Springhill Elementary, 501-847-5675 <u>Deborah Tazelaar, Principal</u> dtazelaar@bryantschools.org Chardae Creggett, Asst. Principal ccreggett@bryantschools.org



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BRYANT
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-26

District Calendar

ALTERNATE CALENDAR (BASED ON INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS VS. DAYS)

SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STUDENTS

Labor Day	Sept 1
Fall Break for Students	Oct 17-21
Professional Development	Oct 21
Thanksgiving Holiday	Nov 24-28
Christmas Holiday	Dec 22-Jan 2
Professional Development	Jan 5
Dr. Martin Luther King Day	Jan 19
Professional Development	Mar 20
Spring Break	Mar 23-27
Last Day for Students	May 21*
Memorial Day	May 25

* Five snow days are built into the calendar. If more than five days are missed, days will be added at the end of the school year.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Early Dismissal ALL Students (2pm)

September 16, 2-7:30pm
(Middle, JH & High School)

October 16, 2-7:30pm
(Elementary)

February 19, 2-7:30pm
(Middle, JH & High School)

March 19, 2-7:30pm
(Elementary)

BRYANT PUBLIC SCHOOLS APP INFORMATION + COMMUNICATION

- Chat
- Events
- Documents
- Stream
- Classes
- Notifications



GRADING PERIODS

1st Quarter (ends 10/10) 2nd Quarter (ends 12/19) 3rd Quarter (ends 3/13) 4th Quarter (ends 5/21)*

FIRST DAY FOR STUDENTS: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13

LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS: THURSDAY, MAY 21*

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CONNECT



bryantschools.org

APPROVED 10/17/24



BOARD OF EDUCATION MESSAGE

The Bryant School Board would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Bryant Public Schools.

The Board is responsible for ensuring that the administration operates in a manner that reflects sound and cost-efficient management principles. This oversight role includes monitoring the District's compliance with all relevant state and federal guidelines. Ultimately, our goal is to facilitate each student receiving a quality, comprehensive education.

The Board also performs some specific functions regarding student disciplinary action and a variety of personnel measures. These activities are part of a specific chain of command that must be adhered to in order to guarantee that the rights of all staff, faculty, and students are protected.

It is important for all patrons of the school district to understand that the authority and responsibility of the Board Members exist only on a collective basis. Individually they have no authority.

If you have a concern regarding your child, contact his/her teacher(s). If you still have a concern regarding your child and his/her education, contact the teacher's supervisor. (This is typically the principal.)

If you still have concerns regarding your child, contact the Superintendent of Schools. If at this level a satisfactory resolution cannot be reached, the Board may become involved as indicated by policy.

The Bryant School Board Members consider it a vital element of their role to reflect the desires of the community with respect to the school system. Listed below are the names of the school Board Members. If you have any suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact any board member.

Nelly Valentin 787-603-4402 bryantzone3@gmail.com	Dr. Scott Walsh 501-847-9282 dscottwalsh@yahoo.com
Craig Leone 501-920-1274 bryantzone.a@gmail.com	Ben Lewellen 501-847-6559 ben.lewellen@outlook.com
Dr. Tyler Nelson (501) 213-9764 bryantzone1@gmail.com	Patrice Muldrow 501-353-5872 bryantzoneb@gmail.com
Kim Billingsley (501) 940-2909 bryantzone2@gmail.com	

We are sure that you will find all teachers, administrators and staff members willing to assist you in resolving any problems that may arise.



ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

AGE REQUIREMENTS

Students may enter kindergarten if they attain the age of five (5) years on or before August 1 of the year in which they are seeking initial enrollment.

Any student who has been enrolled in a state-accredited or state-approved kindergarten program in another state for at least sixty (60) days, who will become five (5) years old during the year in which he or she is enrolled in kindergarten, and who meets the basic residency requirement for school attendance may be enrolled in kindergarten upon written request to the school district.

PARENTS RIGHT-TO-KNOW

In accordance with ESEA Section 1111(h)(6) *PARENTS RIGHT-TO-KNOW*, the Bryant School District is notifying every parent of a student in a Title I school that you have the right and may request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher. This information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teachers includes, at a minimum, the following:

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

If at any time your child has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by a teacher not highly qualified, the school will notify you.

ENROLLMENT DOCUMENTS

Prior to a student's admission to school, the parent or guardian shall provide the school with an official, up-to-date immunization record. For all information regarding requirements for enrollment in the Bryant Public Schools and to view the full policy, please click on the links below:

To view the full policy, please click on the link below:

[Policy 4.1 – Residence Requirements](#)

[Policy 4.2 – Entrance Requirements](#)

[Policy 4.57 – Immunizations](#)

KINDERGARTEN WAIVER

Any parent, guardian, or other person residing within the State and having custody or charge of any child or children may elect for the child or children not to attend Kindergarten if the child or children will not be age six (6) on August 1 of that particular school year. If such an election is made, the parent, guardian, or other person having custody or charge of the child must file a signed Kindergarten waiver form with the local District administrative office.

Such a form shall be prescribed by regulation of the State Department of Education. On filing the Kindergarten waiver form, the child or children shall not be required to attend Kindergarten in that school year. (ACT 570 of 1999)



STUDENT ATTENDANCE ZONES AND INTRADISTRICT TRANSFERS

The children of Bryant Public Schools will attend school according to the zones in which they reside unless a different assignment is made by District administration to comply with state regulations or for educational reasons.

To view the full policy, please click on the link below:

[Policy 4.2.1 – Student Attendance Zones and Intradistrict Transfer](#)

EMERGENCY FORMS

CURRENT TELEPHONE NUMBERS MUST BE FURNISHED - include four numbers if possible. Address changes should be sent immediately. In the event your child should be injured and neither parent can be reached, Bryant Public Schools officials will contact the named physician on the medical information card and authorize any treatment deemed necessary in an emergency for the health and safety of the child. If physicians or any named person cannot be contacted, the officials are authorized to take whatever action is necessary in their judgment for the health and safety of the child. Bryant Public Schools will not be held financially liable for the emergency care and/or transportation of the child.

PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT

Enrolling kindergarten students shall be evaluated with the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) or its equivalent. Any pupil may be excused from the examination on presentation of a physical assessment form from a physician. Physical assessment forms may be obtained from the school office or school nurse. (AR 6-18-701)

PERTINENT INFORMATION

All pertinent information concerning the child's health (well-being) record should be furnished to school authorities such as an immediate teacher, principal, or school nurse. This includes the health information given at registration, records furnished by the family physician, and information provided on emergency call cards. If a change of custody occurs or disputes in custody exist, parents will provide court documents clarifying custody arrangements. Updated contact information should be made in person.

Schools will not be held responsible for keeping up with a visitation schedule and the release of a child to the correct party each weekday. If a parent is listed on the child's birth certificate they may be given educational information unless otherwise indicated by court order. If an adult is listed on the pick up list then the child may leave school with that person unless otherwise stated in court documentation.

PRIVACY OF STUDENT RECORDS/DIRECTORY INFORMATION

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.

To view the full policy, please click on the links below:

[Policy 4.13 – Privacy of Students' Records/Directory Information](#)

[Policy 5.25 - Marketing of Personal Information](#)

[Bryant Public Schools Annual Notification of Rights Under FERPA](#)



STUDENT ATTENDANCE

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ELIGIBILITY

The schools of Bryant Public Schools are open and free through completion of the secondary program to all persons from the age of five (5) through age twenty-one (21) whose parents, legal guardians, or other persons having lawful control of the person under an order of a court whom reside within the school district and to all persons between those ages who have been legally transferred to the district for education purposes.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

Every parent, guardian, or other person having custody or charge of any child age five (5) through seventeen (17) years on or before August 1 of that year who resides, as defined by policy, within the District shall enroll and send the child to a District school with the following exceptions:

- The child is enrolled in private or parochial school.
- The child is being homeschooled and conditions of that policy have been met.
- The child will not be age six (6) on or before August 1 of that particular school year and the parent, guardian, or other person having custody or charge of the child elects not to have him/her attend kindergarten. A kindergarten waiver form prescribed by regulation of the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must be signed and on file with the District administrative office.
- The child has received a high school diploma or its equivalent as determined by the State Board of Education.
- The child is age sixteen (16) or above and is enrolled in a post-secondary vocational-technical institution, a community college, or a two-year or four-year institution of higher education.
- The child is age sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) and has met the requirements to enroll in an adult education program as defined by A.C.A. § 6-18-201(b).
- If any student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan conflicts with this policy, the requirements of the student's IEP or 504 Plan take precedence.

To view the full policy, please click on the link below:

[Policy 4.3 – Compulsory Attendance Requirements](#)

ATTENDANCE SPECIFICATIONS

Regular school attendance is vital to the overall academic success of every student. The responsibility of regular attendance rests with the student and his/her parents/guardians. An absence from school is categorized as excused, unexcused, or excessive.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Excused absences are those where the student was on official school business or when the absence was due to one of the following reasons and the student brings a written statement to the principal or designee upon his/her return to school. All documentation for excused absences must be submitted within five (5) days of returning to school.

- Student illness (note from medical professional required)
- Death or serious illness in their immediate family
- Observance of recognized holidays observed by the student's faith
- Attendance at an appointment with a government agency
- Attendance at a medical appointment
- Exceptional circumstances with prior approval of the principal



- Participation in FFA, FHA, or 4-H sanctioned activity
- Participation in the election poll workers program for high school students
- Absences granted to allow a student to visit his/her parent or legal guardian who is a member of the military and has been called to active duty, is on leave from active duty, or has returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting. The number of additional excused absences shall be at the discretion of the superintendent or designee.
- Absences granted, at the Superintendent's or designee's discretion, to seventeen (17) year-old students who join the Arkansas National Guard while in eleventh grade to complete basic combat training between grades eleven (11) and twelve (12).
- Absences for students excluded from school by the Arkansas Department of Health during a disease outbreak because the student has an immunization waiver or whose immunizations are not up to date.
- Students who serve as pages for a member of the General Assembly shall be considered on instructional assignment and shall not be considered absent from school for the day the student is serving as a page.

Students are responsible for seeing that work missed during an excused absence is made up. The normal time allowed to make up work will be one (1) day per absence.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Absences not defined above shall be considered as unexcused absences. Students with six (6) unexcused absences in a course in a semester may not receive credit for that course. At the discretion of the principal after consultation with persons having knowledge of the circumstances of the unexcused absences, the student may be denied promotion or graduation. Excessive absences shall not be a reason for expulsion or dismissal of a student.

- Notification shall be made for all absences by the automated phone system in the evening in which such absence occurred. It is the parent's obligation to ensure the school office has all current phone numbers.
- When a student receives three (3) unexcused absences, his/her parents, guardians, or persons in loco parentis shall be notified through a mailed letter. It is the parents' obligation to ensure the school office has a current mailing address.
- When a student receives five (5) unexcused absences, parents, guardians, or persons in loco parentis shall be contacted by the principal or his/her designee.
- When a student receives six (6) unexcused absences per semester, the school shall notify the parent, guardian, or persons in loco parentis in writing.
- When a student receives seven (7) unexcused absences per semester, the school shall notify the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. The parent, guardian, or persons in loco parentis shall be contacted to schedule a meeting to determine appropriate actions.
- Students may not receive credit for the course(s) in which they have eight (8) unexcused absences.

At any time prior to when a student exceeds the number of unexcused absences permitted by this policy, the student, or his/her parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis may petition the school or district's administration for special arrangements to address the student's unexcused absences. If formal arrangements are granted, they shall be formalized into a written agreement to include the conditions of the agreement and the consequences for failing to fulfill the agreement's requirements. The agreement shall be signed by the student, the student's parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis, and the school or district administrator or designee.

**Excessive Absences & Excessive Tardies**

Seven (7) unexcused absences or ten (10) unexcused tardies per semester is considered excessive.

A truancy petition will be filed with the Saline County Juvenile Court for students with excessive absences or tardies. If excessive absences or tardies continue, a FINS petition (Families in Need of Services) could be filed.

Exceptions to student attendance will be allowed as necessary to satisfy Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plans.

[Policy 4.7 Absences](#)**INSTRUCTIONAL TIME/TARDIES**

A student must be present six (6) hours of instructional time to be counted present all day. A student must be present three (3) hours of instructional time to be counted present one-half day. A student arriving one hour or more late or checking out one hour or more early will be counted present one-half day. Students considered for perfect attendance awards shall receive no more than two (2) tardies per nine-week grading period. Tardy is defined as a student not being in his/her assigned classroom when the tardy bell rings each morning, a student checked out during the day and missing instructional time, or a student leaving before the end of the day. Instruction missed due to excessive tardies will not be made up during regular instructional time.

CHECK IN/OUT PROCEDURES

Students arriving late must be accompanied by a parent to check in through the office. A late notice will be issued to the student for teachers to admit them to class. Parents/Designees may pick up a student by checking them out through the office. Teachers will require a notice from the office before allowing a student to leave. A student will be released directly to the parents at any time. If parents call or send a note giving permission, another adult may pick up a student if that adult is on the pick-up list. For the safety of your child, a student check out card will be sent home to list authorized individuals to pick your child up from school early. Adults checking children out early will be required to show identification to school personnel. All transportation changes must be called into the office no later than 1:30 PM in order to allow time to notify your child of the change.

Schools will not be held responsible for keeping up with a visitation schedule and the release of a child to the correct party each weekday. If an adult is listed on the pick-up list then the child may leave school with that person unless otherwise stated in court documentation.

SCHOOL HOURS

School hours are available on the district website for all campuses. Each school will also distribute this information to parents including times when doors are open and supervision is provided. Parents are to adhere to school hours because school personnel are not present to supervise children outside of the listed times.



STUDENT CONDUCT

A student's behavior should conform to acceptable standards of conduct. The staff requests support in maintaining appropriate conduct in school. Students' behavior should reflect self-respect, respect for authority, and consideration for the rights, feelings and property of others.

The school staff has the authority and the responsibility to take customary and reasonable measures to maintain proper control and discipline among students. This may include reasonable force to stop or restrain a student from causing physical injury to himself/herself or others.

Students involved in disciplinary action may be subject to one or more of the following consequences: conference with student or parent/student, detention during or before school, denial of privileges, denial of recess, work detail, placed on probation, in-school suspension, isolation, Saturday School, removal from the classroom setting temporarily, suspension, expulsion, student pays for damages, sentence/theme writing, or other appropriate consequences. In the case of students assigned to a special education self-contained classroom, the self-contained teacher or supervisor in cooperation will handle all discipline infractions with the principal as determined by the student's individual education plan.

A student will be informed of the offense and given an opportunity to tell his/her side before disciplinary action is taken. The school district reserves the right to provide consequences for inappropriate behavior, even though such behavior is not specified in the rules.

Social contracts, individual consequences and rewards are posted in each classroom. All elementary campuses follow the rules listed below:

CAFETERIA RULES

- Classes will enter the cafeteria as a group and sit as a class.
- Do not leave food, napkins or utensils on the table or floor.
- There shall be no playing, loud talking, or loud noise in the cafeteria.
- Do not take food or paper products from the cafeteria without permission from the school staff.
- Students may not share food from home lunches or trays due to the high number of food allergies.
- Food drop off will not be allowed. Parents may obtain prior approval from site administration for extenuating circumstances. Principals have the discretion to further restrict this provision should circumstances warrant.
- Drinks that contain high levels of caffeine when used in excess can cause health related issues including irritability, anxiety, arrhythmia (irregular heartbeat), and dehydration. Because of this, we request that parents not allow students to bring them to school to consume.

HALLWAY RULES

- Students shall walk quietly and orderly at all times..
- Students report directly to their rooms. There should be no roaming the halls or standing in the halls visiting.

CLASSROOM RULES

- Follow Social Contracts.
- Follow all directions of the teacher.
- Be in your room and ready to work when class begins.
- Have materials for class and assignments every day.



- Keep hands, feet, books, and other objects to yourself.
- Do not use bad language, rude gestures, cruel teasing, put-downs, or bullying.
- Body spray, perfume, or other scented items are not to be sprayed in the building and on the bus.

PLAYGROUND RULES

- Use playground equipment in a safe and proper manner.
- Remain within assigned playground areas.
- No tackle football or other contact sports.
- No hard balls, wooden or metal bats.
- No riding toys such as skateboards, rollerblades, hoverboards, etc.
- No jumping or riding on each other's backs. No cheer stunts.
- No climbing trees or fences.
- No playing war or gangs.
- Keep hands and feet to yourself. No karate, games involving kicking or punching, including wrestling.
- No throwing of objects (rocks, sticks, pine cones, etc.).
- No teasing, making fun of others, harassment (verbal or physical), or bullying.
- Stay away from animals on the playground.
- For the safety and well-being of our children, only school personnel should be on the playground with the children at recess, unless approved by the principal.

Personal toys and other play items will not be allowed at school or on the playground unless permission is granted by the classroom teacher. The school will not be responsible for these items. Unauthorized items will be confiscated. Parents may pick up these items in the front office.

DRESS CODE

Student dress, grooming and appearance should be the responsibility of the student and the student's parents under the following guidelines:

- Dress and grooming should be clean and in keeping with health, safety, sanitary practices, and according to weather conditions. Appropriate shoes and clothing for physical education classes will be worn.
- Dress and grooming will not be allowed to disrupt the educational process.
- Clothing or articles that advertise drugs, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, suggest obscenities, violence, or present double messages may not be worn.
- Students may not wear midriff tops, spaghetti strap tops, or tops that leave the stomach, sides, cleavage, or back exposed. Students may not wear any garment that exposes the body between the shoulder and the accepted length of shorts according to the current dress code. The school reserves the right to regulate the wearing of articles with holes, tears, splits, or cuts in garments.
- Students wearing sheer or 'see through' shirts must wear an 'undershirt' that complies with the dress code. Students may not wear clothing or hairstyles that can be distracting or disruptive to the educational process.
- A student shall not wear or display emblems, insignias, badges, tattoos, or other symbols if the message is intended to mock, ridicule, or otherwise demean or provoke others because of race, religion, national origin, or other individual views.
- Students must wear shoes. Every school will have a minimum of 40 minutes of daily physical activity. (Act 1220 of 2003) For safety requirements, we recommend that students wear tennis shoes, not flip flops or sandals. No cleats or skate shoes allowed.
- No caps, hats, hoods, masks (except for a medical mask) may be worn in the buildings.
- Students shall not wear clothing that exposes underwear, no sagging.
- With the exception of earrings, no body piercings will be allowed.
- Students shall not wear clothing depicting violence toward persons.
- Students shall not wear trench coats on campus.



- Halloween-type outfits (wigs, costumes, masks, face paint, etc.) may not be worn without administrative approval.

Students will be permitted to wear shorts throughout the school year under the following restrictions:

- Absolutely no short shorts or skirts. (Length must be longer than fingertips with arms dropped at the side of the body.)
- Spandex, leggings, dance or exercise clothing may be worn underneath clothing which does not meet fingertip regulation.

Students must be dressed in good taste. It is the discretion of the administration to determine acceptable dress.

COMMUNICATION DEVICES

The use of communication devices, including but not limited to cell phones, during regular school hours is forbidden except for authorized educational purposes in Policy 4.47. If brought to school, communication devices must be turned off, and secured in the student's backpack until the end of the school day. All communication devices in a student's physical possession or heard by school personnel during the school day may be confiscated, and parents will be allowed to pick up items in the school's office.

No student may use any electronic device to photograph, audio record, video record, or live stream (or otherwise transmit) the words, likeness, image, or actions of any other person on school grounds during school hours, on school buses, at school bus stops, or at any school activity during school hours unless such photographs, transmissions, or recordings are made with the permission of the student's teacher or a Bryant School District administrator.

Note: Arkansas law prohibits all drivers from using hand held cell phones in school zones at any time. This also prohibits all drivers from text messaging while in school zones.

To view the full policy, please click on the link below:

[Policy 4.47 – Possession and Use of Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices](#)

SCHOOL PROPERTY

Restitution will be made for theft, loss, or destruction of school or personal property or damage to such property.

BULLYING

Bullying is a form of harassment. Every student has the right to receive his or her public education in a public school educational environment that is free from substantial intimidation, harassment, or harm or threat by other students.

To view the full policy, please click on the link below:

[Policy 4.43 – Bullying](#)

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

The Bryant School District is committed to having an academic environment in which all students are treated with respect and dignity. Student achievement is best attained in an atmosphere of equal educational opportunity that is free of discrimination. Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination that undermines the integrity of the educational environment and will not be tolerated.



To view the full policy, please click on the link below:

[Policy 4.27 – Student Sexual Harassment](#)

DRUG POLICY

A student shall not (a) sell or distribute legal or illegal drugs, alcohol, and/or look-alike drugs, (b) purchase, use, possess, or be under the influence of drugs, alcohol, narcotics, hallucinogens, and/or illegal drugs, or (c) misuse over-the-counter or prescription medications.

Any student who sells or distributes drugs (legal or illegal), look-alike drugs (items represented as controlled substances), or alcoholic beverages at school or at any school sponsored activity on or off campus will be disciplined under the “Management for Discipline Infractions” section of this handbook.

A student shall not purchase, use, or possess rolling paper, roach clips, pipes, or any other drug paraphernalia, or be under the influence of look-alike drugs.

Any student who uses, possesses, purchases, or is under the influence of illegal drugs, look-alike drugs, alcohol, or hallucinates at school or at a school sponsored activity which is held on or off campus will be disciplined under the “Management for Discipline Problems” section of this handbook.

The law enforcement agency will be notified of any criminal activity with full cooperation from school officials.

To view the fully policies, please click on the links below:

[Policy 4.24 – Drugs and Alcohol](#) and

[Policy 4.23 – Tobacco, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems and Related Products](#)

MANAGEMENT FOR DISCIPLINE INFRACTIONS

**Any conduct that tends to be disruptive of the educational program will be grounds for disciplinary action.
Per to AR Law**

Number	Infraction	Minimum Consequence	Maximum Consequence
1	Dress Code Violation	Student conference with parent notification	One (1) day suspension
2	Cheating	Student conference with parent notification	Three (3) day suspension
3	Truancy or leaving school grounds at any time without permission	Student conference with parent notification	Report to prosecuting authority
4	The unauthorized use of a cell phone or other non approved electronic device on the campus during school hours	Confiscation of device, to be returned to the student	Five (5) day suspension



		following parent notification	
5	Indecent exposure, sexual harassment, including inappropriate language, gestures, teasing, sexual acts, art, or writings.	Student conference with parent notification	Ten (10) day suspension with the recommendation for expulsion for the remainder of the semester.
6	Insubordination or disrespect toward any school employee.	Student conference with parent notification	Ten (10) day suspension with recommendation for expulsion for the remainder of the school year.
7	Refusing to identify self to school personnel or giving wrong identification	Student conference with parent notification	Ten (10) day suspension with recommendation for expulsion for the remainder of the school year.
8	Disruption: Conduct that causes a disruption such as scuffling/ rough-housing, inappropriate language/gestures, disrespect toward other students, throwing objects etc.	Student conference with parent notification	Ten (10) day suspension with recommendation for expulsion for the remainder of the school year.
9	Disorderly Conduct: Conduct that causes a major disruption to the school day.	Student conference with parent notification	Ten (10) day suspension with recommendation for expulsion for the remainder of the school year.
10	Possession or use of any tobacco or tobacco products, vaping, or any nicotine delivery system. *Any student who brings or uses any tobacco, vape, and/or e-cigarettes may be cited and fined by the Bryant Police Department. Administration may require students to participate in prevention activities including on Saturdays.	Student conference with parent notification	Ten (10) day suspension with recommendation for expulsion for the remainder of the school year.
11	Participation in gambling or wagering where the stakes are money or any other objects of value.	Student conference with parent notification	Ten (10) day suspension with recommendation



			for expulsion for the remainder of the school year.
12	Gang, secret organization (Use of gang signs, symbols, paraphernalia, etc	Student conference with parent notification	Ten (10) day suspension with recommendation for expulsion for the remainder of the school year.
13	Inappropriate use of technology or media	Student conference with parent notification	Ten (10) day suspension with recommendation for expulsion for the remainder of the school year.
14	Damaging, destroying or stealing of school or another individual's property	Student conference with parent notification	Ten (10) day suspension with recommendation for expulsion for the remainder of the school year.
15	Fighting	Student conference with parent notification	Ten (10) day suspension with recommendation for expulsion for the remainder of the school year.
16	Bullying, cyber-bullying, threatening, attempting or causing physical injury or violence toward any school employee, student, or other individual	Student conference with parent notification	Ten (10) day suspension with recommendation for expulsion for the remainder of the school year.
17	Possession of a weapon (or look-alike weapon), air gun, pellet gun, splat or orbeez gun, ammunition, or instrument of crime that can reasonably be considered capable of causing bodily harm to another individual.	Student conference with parent notification	Ten (10) day suspension with recommendation for expulsion for the remainder of the school year.
18	Possession of a firearm, explosive, pistol, etc. Firearm means any device designed to expel a projectile by action of an explosive or any device readily convertible to that use, including such a device that is not loaded or	Recommended Expulsion *Any student who brings a firearm, air gun, pellet gun, or other weapon prohibited on school campuses by law will be referred to the local criminal justice and /or juvenile delinquency	



	lacks a clip to render it immediately operable.	system. The superintendent has the discretion to modify the expulsion requirement for a student on a case-by case basis. Parents, guardians, or other person in loco parentis of a student expelled for possession of a firearm or other weapon will be required to sign a statement acknowledging that the parents have read and understand the current laws regarding the possibility of parental responsibility for allowing a child to possess a weapon on school property, prior to re-admitting a student or enrolling a student in any public school immediately after the expiration of an expulsion period.	
19	Possession of fireworks, matches, etc	Student conference with parent notification	Ten (10) day suspension with recommendation for expulsion for the remainder of the school year.
20	Purchase, possession, using, offering for sale or selling alcoholic beverages or other illicit drugs or look-alike drugs or the inappropriate use or sharing of prescription or over the counter drugs or other intoxicants or anything represented to be a drug to include any related drug paraphernalia on school property *The district strongly encourages the student to get a drug and alcohol assessment by a Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor.	Seven (7) day suspension with parent conference.	Ten (10) day suspension with recommendation for expulsion for the remainder of the school year.
21	Threats of mass violence such as bomb threats, shootings, etc	Possible ten (10) day suspension with recommendation for expulsion for the remainder of the school year and/or following semester/term or permanently. A report will be filed with the appropriate law enforcement agency.	

Bryant ALE/PACE

Principals will have the authority/discretion to refer students to the Bryant ALE/PACE program in lieu of recommending expulsion, if, in the principal's judgment, such a referral is warranted and appropriate.

The School district reserves the right to punish behavior, which is subversive to good order and discipline in the schools, even though such behavior is not specified in the preceding written rules. The minimum consequences will be a verbal reprimand and the maximum will be a recommendation for permanent expulsion. All consequences will be at the discretion of the administrator except where law dictates.



SUSPENSION

Suspension is prohibition of a student from entering the school or grounds (except for a prearranged conference with an administrator) for a period of time set by the principal of the school or the superintendent.

Suspensions will not be longer than ten (10) days including the day on which the offense occurred. Suspension does not carry with it loss of credit for the semester. Receiving credit for work missed during a suspension from school is left to the discretion of the principal. School closings due to inclement weather will not be counted as part of the suspension days.

Out-of-school suspension (OSS) shall not be used to discipline a student in kindergarten through fifth (5th) grade unless the student's behavior:

- a. Poses a physical risk to himself or herself or to others;
- b. Causes a serious disruption that cannot be addressed through other means; or is the act of bringing a firearm on school campus.

To view the full policy, please click on the link below:

[Policy 4.30 – Suspension from School](#)

IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS)

ISS is a short-term alternative learning situation designed to allow students to stay in school. The class is held in a designated classroom at a designated campus. A school administrator assigns time in ISS in lieu of out-of-school suspension. Regular classroom assignments will be maintained and credit for work will be given. Students must follow all rules in ISS in order to get credit for the time served. If a parent/guardian checks a student out of school before the student completes ISS, the student will complete ISS upon return to school.

Because ISS constitutes a suspension, students will be allowed on the school campus only during regular school hours. Attendance at any extracurricular activities while serving in ISS is strictly forbidden. If a student is assigned to ISS more than four (4) times during a semester, consequences could result in out of school suspension. Unless good cause is shown, and at the discretion of the school administrator, a student who is absent from school during a term of ISS will receive unexcused absences for all such days missed and will be required to serve any remaining ISS upon the student's return.

ISS is located at Bryant Elementary School, however there may be times when ISS will be at the student's home school. Students will be transported to BES from the school they attend, or the parent will transport their child.

EXPULSION

Expulsion is the exclusion of a student from school for the remainder of the term or semester. The authority for expelling a student from school rests with the Board of Education upon recommendation of the principal and the superintendent. Students who bring firearms or other weapons to the school campus shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year. (Act 567 of 1995).

Expulsion shall not be used to discipline a student in kindergarten through fifth (5th) grade unless the student's behavior:

- a. Poses a physical risk to himself or herself or to others



- b. Causes a serious disruption that cannot be addressed through other means; or is the act of bringing a firearm on school campus.

To view the full policy, please click on the link below:

[Policy 4.31 – Expulsion](#)

SUSPENDED EXPULSION

Suspended Expulsions: In appropriate cases when a student may ordinarily be recommended for expulsion, the Superintendent of Schools may request that the Bryant School Board suspend a recommended expulsion contingent upon the student meeting certain written requirements. The suspended expulsion will be entirely voluntary on the part of the student, school administrator, Superintendent of Schools, parents/guardians of the student and the Bryant School Board. A student or student's parent/guardian may decline to agree to the terms of the suspended expulsion, in which case the Bryant School Board will hold a hearing on the recommended expulsion. Any written requirements for the student to serve the suspended expulsion will be reduced to writing and signed by the student, school administrator, Superintendent of Schools, parents/guardians of the student and the Bryant School Board President. Any suspended expulsion must be approved in advance by the Bryant School Board. If the student fails to meet any written requirement of the suspended expulsion, the Bryant School Board may give the Superintendent of Schools the authority to immediately remove the suspended expulsion and expel the student without further hearing.

SATURDAY ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL (SAS)

SAS is supervised study conducted on Saturdays and will be considered as an alternative to out-of-school suspension. SAS will not be offered for violations regarding drugs, alcohol, weapons, or abuse of school employees. Each session of SAS will equal one day of out-of-school suspension. Saturday School sessions will be held at designated campuses from 7:30am to 11:30am. Absent good cause provided to the principal, a student who is absent from required SAS will receive unexcused absences for the day missed and will be required to serve any remaining SAS upon the student's return. Parents and guardians will be responsible for transporting their children/wards to and from school during days of SAS.

WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENT PRIVILEGES

Withdrawal of student privileges is the withdrawal of any activity deemed as a privilege to attend, not a school requirement. A few examples include, but are not limited to: school trips, class parties, carnivals, assemblies, social events, athletic events, etc.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Bryant Public Schools respects the rights of its students against arbitrary intrusion of their person and property. At the same time, it is the responsibility of school officials to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all students enrolled in the District in order to promote an environment conducive to student learning.

To view the full policy, please click on the link below:

[4.32 – Search, Seizure, and Interrogations](#)

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

Bryant Public Schools has a responsibility to maintain discipline, protect the safety, security, and welfare of its students, staff, and visitors while at the same time safeguarding district facilities, vehicles, and equipment.



As part of fulfilling this responsibility, the board authorizes the use of video/audio surveillance cameras at school and on school buses.

To view the full policy, please click on the link below:

[4.48 – Video Surveillance and Other Student Monitoring](#)

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (SRO) and SCHOOL SECURITY OFFICERS (SSO)

School Resource Officers or School Security Officers will be in use throughout the district to provide additional security and to serve as an instructional resource to our students. While the role of SROs and SSOs is not to enforce student discipline policies, they do have the authority to enforce existing laws and may assist school administrators when needed to help maintain a safe school environment. Questions about the school resource officer program may be directed to the Superintendent of Schools or the Chief of Police. Questions about the school security officers can be directed to the District Security Coordinator.

DISCIPLINE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

When disciplining students with disabilities, it is necessary that faculty and staff follow all applicable due process procedures mandated in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and Arkansas laws.

DUE PROCESS

Students have the responsibility to know and obey school rules, to express grievances in a polite and respectful manner, and to give parents correct information concerning misconduct. Principals and teachers have the responsibility to follow board-established policies and procedures in disciplinary actions involving students. Principals are responsible for notifying and conferring with parents and students in cases involving suspension and expulsion recommendations. Once notified by school personnel, parents have the responsibility to call principals for a conference when needed and to arrange with proper school authorities for desired student hearings. Students are entitled to due process when the disciplinary procedure involves suspension or expulsion.

CONTACT WITH STUDENTS AT SCHOOL BY INDIVIDUALS

Student instructional time will be protected and disruptions will be kept to a minimum; however, there are times that parents need to communicate with their children during the school day. When this occurs, parents should register with the administrative office of the student's school. To view the full policy including contact by non-custodial parents, law enforcement, and social services, please see Appendix:

To view the full policy, please click on the link below:

[Policy 4.15 – Contact with Students While at School](#)

PACE (POSITIVE ACTION CHANGES EVERYTHING) AND ALE (ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT)

Purpose

The purpose of the PACE/ALE program is to establish an alternative educational and behavioral environment for students with behavioral or learning difficulties, which prevent them from functioning in a regular classroom setting.

Criteria



- Students in kindergarten through sixth grade in the Bryant Public Schools are eligible for referral.
- Students must demonstrate specific behavioral, emotional, or learning difficulties that make him/her unable to function in the regular classroom setting.
- Sufficient evidence must be provided to show that the student has not responded to standard disciplinary procedures and/or behavioral interventions.
- Classroom intervention strategies must be attempted before placing the student in a more restrictive setting.
- The parent/guardian will be notified prior to the student being placed in an alternative program.
- ALE/PACE handbooks will be provided upon parent request.

ACADEMIC NOTES

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

Grades assigned to students for performance in a course shall reflect only the extent to which a student has achieved the expressed academic objectives of the course. Report cards are issued each nine-week period. Interim reports are sent at four and one-half weeks for all students.

When a student transfers in grades from another school/district, the grades will be averaged into the work evaluated by his/her new teacher when nine-week grades are issued. An elementary student who does not transfer in grades must attend Bryant Schools a minimum of thirty (30) days before a grade can be given for the nine-week period.

Elementary teachers shall meet with the parent/guardian of each student at least once a semester through a parent-teacher conference, telephone conference, e-mail, Zoom, or a home visit to discuss student academic progress. Home visits will be conducted by two certified staff members. Please contact your child's teacher if you feel additional conferences are needed.

GRADING SCALE KINDERGARTEN-5TH

A standards based report card is used for students in grades Kindergarten-5th. This allows teachers to provide specific feedback to parents regarding the skills in which students excel or need more reinforcement.

3: Meets Mastery: Student shows understanding and application of the standard independently

2: Progressing: Student shows partial understanding and/or application of the standard

1: Not Yet Mastered: Student shows minimal understanding of the standard

To view the full policy please click on the link below:

[Policy 5.15—Grading](#)

HOMEWORK POLICY NOTIFICATION

The Bryant Public Schools believes homework should be an integral part of the instructional program and a means by which students are provided extended time to master learning concepts and objectives.

Homework should be a positive experience and provide students the opportunity to:

Reinforce the concepts taught in class and/or lesson preparation.

Manage learning time away from the school setting.

- Involve other adults in helping students learn.



- Inform the parents of the learning activities provided during the school day.
- Develop independent study habits, skills, and responsibilities.
- Homework shall be monitored and credit may be given as part of the student's grade.
- Division of average amounts of homework per week shall be left to the discretion of the building principal and classroom teacher.
- Inter-departmental planning and coordination shall be necessary for long-range assignments such as research papers, science projects, television assignments, etc.

To view the full policy, please click on the link below:

[Policy 5.14 – Homework](#)

GRADE ASSIGNMENT – TRANSFER STUDENTS

Any student transferring from a school accredited by the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to the Bryant Public Schools shall be placed into the same grade the student would have been in had the student remained at the former school.

To view the policy in its entirety, please click on the link below:

[Policy 4.4 – Student Interdistrict Transfers](#)

RETENTION

Retention or the possibility of retention will be conveyed to the parent/guardian in a personal conference prior to the end of the school year. The decision to retain or promote a student in the elementary grades will be the responsibility of school personnel. The promotion or retention of a student must be substantiated by current grades, standardized achievement scores, and permanent records. The final decision to promote or retain a student shall rest with the building principal.

Retention Under Arkansas LEARNS Act

Under the Arkansas LEARNS Act, students who do not meet the third-grade reading standard may be retained if they do not qualify for a good cause exemption. These exemptions apply when a student does not meet the reading standard but meets specific criteria that warrant promotion. See Arkansas LEARNS website for more information.

To view the policy in its entirety, please click on the link below:

[Policy 4.55 – Student Promotion and Retention](#)

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND SUMMER SCHOOL

Before and after school programs and summer school may be offered to elementary students as an extended service. Academic remediation will be the primary focus of these programs.

Disciplinary problems will NOT be tolerated. Students may be dismissed from the program due to excessive absences. It is the responsibility of parents to pick up their child on time. For more information, please contact the building principal.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special Education students entering the district will receive services according to their current Individual Education Plan (IEP) while records are gathered to confirm eligibility for services according to state and



federal regulations. A full continuum of service options and related services are available to meet the needs of identified students from 3-21 years of age. Information regarding district special education services to include a notice of procedural rights may be found on the Bryant School District Education website.

To view the policy in its entirety, please click on the link below:

[Policy 4.49-Special Education](#)

PARENTAL NOTICE

This notice is to inform you of your rights and protections under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), as a parent of a child with a disability, so that you can make an informed decision about whether you should give consent to allow the school district to access your or your child's public benefits or insurance, such as Medicaid, to help pay for health services provided by the school district. This notice must be provided before the school district obtains your consent for the first time and annually thereafter. These rights include:

1. **Your Child's Confidential Information Cannot be Disclosed Without Your Consent** - under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the IDEA, parental consent must be obtained before the school district discloses your child's personally identifiable information to the Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Services, Arkansas Medicaid, or Medicaid billing agencies, for the purpose of billing for Medicaid reimbursement. The personally identifiable information that may be disclosed could include: student's name, date of birth, social security number, Medicaid ID, disability, IEP and evaluations, type of service(s), times and dates services were delivered, and progress notes.
2. **Your Child Has a Right to Special Education and Related Services at No Cost to You** - This means that, with regard to services required to provide a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to an eligible child under IDEA, the school district:
 - a. May not require parents to sign up for, or enroll in public benefits or insurance programs in order for their child to receive FAPE;
 - b. May not require parents to incur an out-of-pocket expenses such as the payment of a deductible or co-pay amount incurred in filing a claim for services provided, but may pay the cost that the parents otherwise would be required to pay;
 - c. May not use a child's benefits under a public benefits or insurance program if that use would:
 - i. Decrease available lifetime coverage or any other insured benefit;
 - ii. Result in the family paying for services that would otherwise be covered by the public benefits or insurance program and that are required for the child outside of the time the child is in school.
 - iii. Increase premiums or lead to the discontinuance of benefits or insurance; or
 - iv. Risk loss of eligibility for home and community-based waivers, based on total health-related expenditures.
3. **You May Withdraw Consent at Any Time** – once you have given consent for disclosure of confidential information about your child to the Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Services, Arkansas Medicaid, or Medicaid billing agencies, you have a legal right under the FERPA and IDEA regulations to withdraw that consent at any time.
4. **If You Refuse Consent, or Withdraw Consent, the School District Must Still Provide Required Services at No Cost to You** – if you refuse to provide consent for the disclosure of personally identifiable information for the purpose of billing Medicaid, or if you give consent but then later withdraw consent, that does not relieve the school district of its responsibility to ensure that all required services under IDEA are provided at no cost to the parents.



SCHOOL ISSUED LEARNING MATERIALS

Students may be issued various books, materials and technology devices for use in their classroom. Parents are responsible for the replacement cost of any items lost or damaged due to misuse by the student. The prices for specific school issued materials will be available to parents through the office as needed.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS SELECTION PROCEDURES POLICY

Bryant Public Schools subscribes in principle to the statements of policy on library philosophy as expressed in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and the American Library Association Library Bill of Rights. Whenever a student or a student's parents find books or other teaching materials to be offensive, he/she should contact the principal of the school.

To view the policy in its entirety, please click on the links below:

[Policy 5.5 – Selection of Instructional Materials](#)

[Policy 5.6 – Challenge to Instructional/Supplemental Materials](#)

[Instructional Materials Challenge process](#)

[Instructional Materials Challenge Form](#)

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

SCHOOL NURSE

Our Health Services Department has a licensed nurse supervising medical care in every school to assist you in meeting the health needs of your child.

Medical & Information Card (HIPAA/FERPA)

A Medical & Information Card must be completed annually and updated as needed by the parent or guardian. It is important for the parent to bring to the nurse's attention any medical concerns either physical or emotional. The nurse may need to share this information to ensure the safety and welfare of your child, but also to possibly modify activities if needed.

Parent Contact

A parent/legal guardian will be notified by either email, phone call, text or yellow portion of the Health Room Assessment Form which will be given to the student to take home. Any communication from parent to nurse outside of school hours will be addressed the following school day. Some minor needs such as: lost tooth box or replacement of band aids may not require parent contact.

CHRONIC ILLNESS/INDIVIDUAL HEALTH CARE PLAN

Contact your school nurse if your student has a diagnosis of asthma, diabetes, seizures, anaphylaxis, or any other medically diagnosed health condition. An Individual Health Care Plan will need to be developed and kept on file. Check with your school nurse to see if your student's condition qualifies.

In order to receive care, all medications, medical treatments, and procedures must have a signed-written medical order from an Arkansas licensed medical provider. These are valid for one year from the signature date.



ACUTE ILLNESS

If a student develops a temperature of 100.0 degrees or above, is vomiting, and/or has diarrhea, the school nurse or nurse delegate will notify parents to promptly (within the hour) remove the child from school.

Students should be symptom free for 24 hours, which is one entire school day from the day of dismissal, without requiring medication for fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or other symptoms prior to returning to school. If the school nurse determines that a student is too ill to remain in class and/or could be contagious to the other students, the school nurse or designee will attempt to notify the parent or legal guardian for pick up. If a student is ill and should not participate in physical activities, a note is required from the parent. Continued physical limitations (3 days), will require a medical provider's written excuse and kept on file. If a student requires dismissal from school due to an illness, and does not go through the nurse, the absence will not count as medically excused unless a medical provider note is obtained.

STUDENT ILLNESS/ACCIDENT

If the school nurse determines that a student is too ill to remain in class and/or could be contagious to other students, the school nurse or designee will attempt to notify the student's parent or legal guardian. The student will remain in the school's health room or place where he/she can be supervised until the parent/legal guardian can check the student out of school.

To view the full policy please click on the link below:

[Policy 4.36 – Student Illness/Accident](#)

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

When your child is absent due to chickenpox (varicella), measles, influenza, pertussis, COVID, etc, the parent/guardian should call their school nurse with the information. Written documentation from a medical provider should accompany your child when they are cleared to return to school. The school nurse will inform the Arkansas Department of Health of all cases that are reportable and will follow their protocol. Policy 4.34 – Communicable Diseases and Parasites

Head Lice

Students found with active head lice are to be excluded from school until appropriate proof is provided that the student has been adequately treated. The students will not be excluded from school because of nits in the hair. Decisions concerning head lice will be made by the school nurse. One (1) day excused absence will be allowed for the treatment of head lice. A parent should accompany the student to school to be readmitted. After more than two occurrences of head lice, a referral may be made to the school social service worker to contact the parent by phone call or personal visit to offer lice prevention training.

To view the full policy, please click on the link below:

[Policy 4.34 – Communicable Diseases and Parasites](#)

INJURED STUDENTS

The following procedures will be followed when students are injured:

- If, at any time, either in the school building or on the school campus a student is suspected of having serious injury the principal and/or other school personnel are directed to do what is expedient and safe for the injured student.
- The school nurse should be contacted immediately, during school hours, followed by a call notifying the parents/guardian and/or 911 if necessary.



- An accident report shall be filed providing details of the nature of the accident. The school assumes no financial responsibility for treatment.
- Emergency Services will be contacted at the discretion of the school nurse or other designated school official.

FLU SHOT CLINIC

In conjunction with the Saline County Health Unit and according to the guidelines set forth by the state of Arkansas, flu shot clinics are held at each school within the school district. This is on a voluntary basis and written parental permission is required to take part in this clinic.

FOOD ALLERGIES

A doctor's note is required to be on file with the school nurse stating the student's allergies to any food item before a food substitution can be made.

MEDICATION POLICY

School nurses are not permitted to diagnose medical conditions or prescribe medications, including over-the-counter medications (ibuprofen, acetaminophen, etc.). All actions by school nurses shall be in accordance with the Arkansas Nurse Practice Act and the rules and regulations of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing. To the extent that this policy is in conflict with federal or state laws or regulations, the federal or state laws or regulations shall control.

To view the full policy, please click on the link below:

[Policy 4.35 – Student Medications](#)

To view all health services policies in their entirety, please click on the links below:

[Policy 4.34 – Communicable Diseases and Parasites](#)

[Policy 4.35 – Student Medications](#)

[Policy 4.36 – Student Illness/Accident](#)

[Policy 4.41 – Physical Examinations or Screenings](#)

[Policy 4.41F – Objection to Physical Examinations or Screenings](#)

[Policy 4.57 - Immunizations](#)

HEALTH SCREENINGS

HEALTH SCREENINGS are state mandated and listed below:

Hearing and Vision Screenings are provided as required by Arkansas state law for students in grades Pre-K, K, 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, transfer students, and students by teacher or parent request. Parents will be notified if further examination by a doctor is indicated.

Height and weight is assessed according to Arkansas state law to determine **Body Mass Index (BMI)**. These results can be requested by the parent/guardian. Parents may submit a written request for their student(s) to be exempt from BMI screenings.



Scoliosis (curvature of the spine) screenings are required by Arkansas state law. Students are exempt from this screening only if written notification from a parent is received prior to screening. Parents will be sent an informative letter stating the need to see a licensed physician if their student fails the screening.

To review additional Screen requirements, please click on the links below:

[Policy 4.41 – Physical Examinations or Screenings](#)

[Policy 4.41F – Objection to Physical Examinations or Screenings](#)

[Parent/Guardian Objection to Health Screenings and/or Medicaid Billing](#)

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

In order for a student to attend school, the following immunization guidelines must be followed. Failure to meet these requirements will result in your child's exclusion from school according to Arkansas State Law.

Periodically, statewide changes are made to the immunization requirements and additional immunizations may be necessary. When this occurs, the Bryant School District will notify parents.

Kindergarten - 12th Grade	DTap/DT /Td	4 doses - with 1 on/after 4th birthday
	Polio	3 doses - with 1 on/after 4th birthday, 6 months between last two doses
	MMR	2 doses - dose 1 on/after 1st birthday and dose 2 at least 28 days after dose 1
	Hepatitis B	3 doses - allowance for 2 dose schedule with specified age and spacing - see law
	Varicella	2 doses - dose 1 on/after 1st birthday and dose 2 at least 28 days after dose 1

Students meeting the age or grade level criteria below are required to have the following additional immunizations.

Kindergarten and 1st Grade	Hepatitis A	1 dose on/after 1st birthday
Age 11 or older on/before September 1st	Tdap	1 dose - any student 11-21 years of age
7th Grade	Meningococcal	1st dose
Age 16 on/before September 1st	Meningococcal	2nd dose - at least 8 weeks after 1st dose OR 1st dose - if missed 7th grade dose

Immunization Exemption in the State of Arkansas:

Parents may obtain information from the Arkansas Department of Health at <https://onlineimmunizationexemption.adh.arkansas.gov> or call (501)661-2000

To view full policy for immunization requirements, please click on the link below:

[Policy 4.57 – Immunizations](#)



HYDRATION

Bryant Public Schools seeks to promote drinking water availability as an essential component of student wellness by improving access to free, safe drinking water in varied locations on its school campuses. Bryant Public Schools encourages students to consume water throughout the school day and to choose water over less healthy drinks.

Consistent with other provisions of this handbook, Bryant Public Schools allows students and employees to carry plastic water bottles while on campus. Bryant Public Schools provides students with access to clean, safe drinking water on school property throughout the school day and during before- and after-school activities. Juice, carbonated drinks, flavoring packets, or other beverages are not allowed.

Bryant Public Schools will allow students to refill water bottles at water bottle filling stations and fountains before school and in between classes, and to take water bottles into the classroom (provided that the water bottle is capped to prevent spills). Water is not permitted in close proximity to technology equipment, during science labs, or in the library. Bryant Public Schools reserves the right to limit a student's possession of a water bottle if the student's possession of the water bottle serves to disrupt the school environment or if the student uses the water bottle in any manner other than to remain hydrated during the school day.

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE

It is the policy of the Bryant Public Schools to comply with the state's child abuse and neglect reporting laws and with the mandatory reporting section of those laws.

Any school official or employee mandated by law who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect, or observes reasonable results of abuse or neglect, as defined by law shall immediately report to the Department of Human Services as required by law.

The District will always consider the welfare of the child and state law regarding parent/guardian notification whenever outside agencies interview a student at school.

CHILD FIND

Annually, the District will utilize varied methods to locate children with special health care needs. These students may require individualized health care intervention to enable participation in the educational process.

PARENT CENTER

Mission Statement: Bryant Public Schools—in close partnership with family and community—is committed to the concept of parents becoming directly involved in their student's education process. We are committed to providing each student with a safe, educationally stimulating, learning environment so that all students will learn.

The Bryant Parent Center supports parents as both learners and teachers. The district's center provides materials and a space where parents can gather with other parents and school staff to learn how to assist in their children's at-home learning. Parents can come to the center for educational materials, training, informal meetings, and even for referral to other community services.

For more information, contact the District Social Service Department at 501-653-5083.



ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS

Under federal law, we are required to provide annual notification to parents, students, and staff members about asbestos in school buildings and the district procedures being used to maintain it safely. While many schools/buildings in the district are asbestos-free, it can be found in several locations in the district.

A copy of the district Asbestos Management Plan can be found at each school, as well as in the District Maintenance Office. This plan gives the location of asbestos-containing materials at schools where it exists and the methods/procedures being used to maintain it safely. Any questions concerning our asbestos plan can be directed to District Maintenance Director at 501-847-5640.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES

PARENT NOTIFICATION

All of our schools use the Apptegy (ROOMS) parent notification system to send automated phone calls, email messages and SMS text messages to parents/guardians of students currently enrolled in our district.

IMPORTANT: The contact information provided at the beginning of the school year is used in this system. Contact your child's school office at any time during the year to update your information.

MOBILE APP

Bryant Public Schools offers a mobile app for the latest news and events. Download the free app in the iTunes App Store® or Google Play by searching for "Bryant Public Schools".

SCHOOL CRISIS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Each school is required to develop and maintain a handbook of emergency policies and procedures to help protect and sustain life of students and staff and prevent and/or minimize personal injury and/or damage to school facilities. Bryant Public Schools has the authority to withhold or limit the review of any security plans and specific vulnerability assessment components as provided in the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act.

When an emergency has occurred at school, parents and guardians may obtain critical information through one of the following:

- a. By electronic notification through email, phone, or text
- b. On local television stations
- c. On Bryant Public Schools website (bryantschools.org)
- d. On Bryant Public Schools social media channels (Facebook/Twitter/Instagram)

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Under certain conditions, it may be determined that our schools will be closed because it is unsafe to operate school buses. Announcements of school closings will be made as follows:

- a. On local television stations
- b. On Bryant Public Schools website (www.bryantschools.org).
- c. On Bryant Public Schools social media channels (Facebook/Twitter/Instagram)
- d. By electronic notification through our mobile app, email, phone, or text



All days missed because of inclement weather will be made up at a later date.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be no announcement if schools are open on a regular schedule. Unscheduled closings due to equipment failure or weather may occur.

Early school closings will be announced over the radio and television stations, AppTegy ([ROOMS](#)), district app, social media and website, stating the time of dismissal. Each child should know where to go if an emergency arises, and school is dismissed early. Each school's crisis plan provides emergency checkout procedures, i.e. inclement weather.

FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Meal prices can be found at bryantschools.org/page/food-service.

Lunch applications may be picked up at the Food Service Office in Building 37 at Bryant Middle School after July 1. Completed applications may be returned to the Food Service Office or mailed to: Food Service Director, 200 NW 4th Street Bryant, AR 72022. Applications are also available at any school office.

The first week of school will be used to set up student accounts so that everyone will have a meal balance. Your child(ren) will need to bring lunch money on the first day of school. Please enclose lunch payments in an envelope with your student's name, grade, and teacher on the outside of the envelope.

Please do not include snack money, book money, etc. with your child's lunch payment. If you have more than one child in your school and send one check for both students, please specify name, grade, teacher and the amount for each. Elementary students will be allowed to charge two (2) meals to their account. In the instance that siblings are linked in accounts this rule will be two (2) meal charges per student. This may be a breakfast and lunch, two lunches or two breakfasts. The cashier will tell students that a charge has occurred. The charge must be reimbursed the following day. Parents can access student accounts anytime at www.ezschoollpay.com.fsc

Breakfast is served at all elementary campuses. Schedule will be provided by each campus.

To view the full policies, please click on the links below:

[Policy 4.50 – School Meal Modifications](#)

[Policy 4.51 – Food Service Prepayment](#)

FOOD ALLERGY POLICY

An annual doctor's note is required to be filed with the school nurse stating the student's allergies to any food item before a food substitution can be made.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

DISTRICT PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT SUMMARY

Bryant Public Schools recognizes the shared responsibility between the school and family during the time your child spends in school. Engaging parents is essential to improving student achievement. Effectively engaging parents and families in the education of their children has the potential to be far more effective in the success of a child than any other type of educational reform.



Bryant Public Schools recognize:

- a. That a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family during the entire time the child spends in school;
- b. That to support the goal of the schools to educate all students effectively, the individual schools and parents must work as knowledgeable partners;
- c. That although parents are diverse in culture, language, and needs, they are an integral component of a school's ability to provide for the educational success of their children;
- d. That engaging parents is essential to improve student achievement; and
- e. That our schools will foster and support active parental involvement.

With this in mind, Bryant Public Schools shall:

- a. Support partnerships with schools, parents, and the community.
- b. Assist schools in implementing effective parental involvement.
- c. Help build each school's capacity for parental involvement.
- d. Survey parents and evaluate their responses to help improve the educational programs at the schools.
- e. Involve parents in developing each school's improvement plan.
- f. Provide informational materials to parents to assist them in being involved with their child's education.

To view the Parental Involvement Plan for each individual school, visit Bryant Public Schools website at www.bryantschools.org.

To view the full policy, please click on the link below:
[Policy 6.11 – Parental/Community Involvement](#)

PARENT AND VISITOR GUIDELINES

Parents/guardians are welcome on our school campus. All visitors must show an ID, sign-in at the office and pick up a visitor badge. Visitors under the age of 18 who are not parents or guardians may not be allowed in classrooms, playground, school parties, and/or field trips without prior permission of the teacher or building principal.

Parent/guardian may eat with their child in the designated area of their respective school. Visitors (parent/guardian) will not be allowed the first 4 weeks of school. This time is needed for students to learn cafeteria rules and procedures.

Before a visitor other than the parent/guardian will be allowed to eat lunch with the student, the visitor must be on the student contact card and the parent/guardian provides permission on the day of the visit.

Administration has the right to pause visitors based on health and safety concerns.

To view the full policy, please click on the link below:
[Policy 4.15 – Contact With Students While At School](#)

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

A volunteer program is organized in each elementary school. Any parent wishing to know more about the program may get further information by calling the Parental Involvement Designee at each school. Arkansas law requires that all volunteers be trained in student discipline procedures.



GENERAL INFORMATION

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Birthday parties are not allowed at school. Birthday party invitations can be given out at school if an invitation is given to all students in the class.

CLASS PARTIES

Class parties are limited to two per year: Christmas and Valentine's Day. Please remember all food must be store bought or from a bakery. All candy must be in a sealed package, individually wrapped. Only students from the classroom are allowed to attend class parties. Siblings and pre-school children are not allowed at parties.

FLORAL OR BALLOON ARRANGEMENTS

Floral or balloon arrangements and other deliveries are not permitted at school.

FUNDRAISING

Student participation in fundraising events is voluntary. All students that participate must have written parental permission on file at the school. No student can sell door to door without parental supervision or parent designee.

To view the full policy please click on the link below:

[Policy 6.6 – Fundraising](#)

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students in grades K-12 who meet academic, discipline, and attendance requirements may be eligible to participate in school sponsored activities and other educational experiences during the school year.

To view the full policy please click on the link below:

[Policy 4.56.1 Extracurricular Activities – Elementary](#)

FIELD TRIPS

A field trip is an educational experience that is an extension of the regular classroom environment. The following guidelines will apply to field trips:

- Written parental permission must be given before a student participates in a field trip. A permission slip is in the front of the Elementary Handbook.
- Only students from the classroom are allowed to attend field trips. Siblings and pre-school children are not allowed on field trips.
- As a part of the field trip experience, all students are expected to ride the school bus. If a parent does not want their child to ride the school bus, parents may transport their child in an automobile. Bryant Public Schools accepts no liability involving privately transported students on school field trips. No other student can ride with another parent even if there is written permission.
- All school discipline procedures and consequences apply on field trips.
- Parents can check out a student during a field trip if the student is signed out with a school official.
- Attendance policies will be followed.



- Generally, parents must provide their own transportation to field trips unless authorized to ride the bus by the principal.

To view the full policy please click on the link below:

[Policy 4.56.3 – Field Trips](#)

TOBACCO USE ON CAMPUS

The use of intoxicants, drugs, vapes or tobacco in any form is prohibited by students or adults on any school property/building owned and operated by Bryant Public Schools.

To view the policy in its entirety please click on the link below:

[Policy 4.23 – Tobacco, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems and Related Products](#)

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE

Students attending school in Bryant Public Schools may exercise their right of expression within the framework of this publication's policy, as outlined in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-1203: "Student publications policies shall recognize that students may exercise their right of expression, within the framework outlined in § 6-18-1202. This right includes expression in school-sponsored publications, whether such publications are supported financially by the school or by use of school facilities, or are produced in conjunction with a class, except as provided in § 6-18-1204."

To view the policy in its entirety please click on the link below:

[Policy 4.14 – Student Publications and the Distribution of Literature](#)

COMPUTER SYSTEM/INTERNET APPROPRIATE USE POLICY

Bryant Public Schools is pleased to provide students access to interconnected computer systems within the district and to the Internet, the worldwide network that provides various means of accessing educational materials and opportunities.

To view the full policy please click on the link below:

[Policy 4.29 – Internet Safety and Electronic Device Use Policy](#)

FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS NOTIFICATION

Bryant Public Schools abides by all federal nondiscriminatory laws.

To view the full policy please click on the links below:

[Policy Section 0](#)

[Policy 4.11 - Equal Educational Opportunity](#)

RELIGIOUS RIGHTS AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

To view the full Act, click on the link below:

[Religious Rights at Public School Act of 2025](#)



PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, requires Bryant Public Schools to notify you and obtain consent or allow you to opt your child out of participating in certain school activities. The activities include a student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight areas ("protected information surveys"):

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

This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure or use of student information for marketing purposes ("marketing surveys"), and certain physical exams and screenings.

Bryant Public Schools will provide parents, within a reasonable period of time prior to the administration of the surveys and activities, notification of the surveys and activities and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out, as well as the opportunity to review the surveys. *(Please note that this notice and consent/opt-out transfers from parents to any student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.)*

QUESTIONNAIRES AND SURVEYS

The Bryant School District will not administer, or permit to be administered, a questionnaire or survey that requests or requires a student to supply any personal identifying information unless written permission is obtained from the student's parent or legal guardian prior to the administration of the questionnaire or survey.

To obtain written permission to administer a questionnaire or survey that requests or requires a student to supply any personal identifying information, the Bryant School District will give the student's parent or legal guardian an opportunity to review the questionnaire or survey and will give the parent or guardian written notice specifying:

- (1) How the questionnaire or survey will be administered to the student;
- (2) How the results of the questionnaire or survey will be utilized; and
- (3) The persons or entities that will have access to the results of the completed questionnaire or survey.

A student's parent or legal guardian may refuse to allow the student to participate in any specified questionnaire or survey.

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

No student in Bryant Public Schools shall, on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under



any educational program or activity sponsored by the District. The District has a limited open forum granting equal access to youth groups such as the Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts, etc.

Inquiries regarding issues related to Title IX shall be directed to Bryant Public Schools Deputy Superintendent, who may be reached at (501) 847-5600. Inquiries related to Section 504 shall be directed to the Bryant Public Schools 504 Coordinator at (501) 847-5660

If a student or parent believes he/she has been discriminated against based on any grounds named in this policy, the following procedure should be followed

1. Report the alleged incident to the principal as soon as possible, but no later than thirty (30) days, after the event(s) in question. If the complaint involves the principal, the complaint may be made to the assistant superintendent.
2. The complaint will be investigated and, when possible, the complainant will be advised of what action, if any, has been taken to resolve the complaint.
3. If the student is not satisfied with the principal's resolution of the complaint, he or she may appeal to the assistant superintendent.
4. If the student is not satisfied with the assistant superintendent's resolution of the complaint, or if the complaint was originally made to the assistant superintendent, he or she may appeal to the superintendent. The appeal must be made in writing ten (10) working days from the decision of the assistant superintendent. The decision of the superintendent shall be final.

Additional information about Bryant Public Schools Equal Educational Opportunity policy may be found in the Appendix:

[Policy 4.11 – Equal Educational Opportunity](#)

BUS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

PARENTS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

To have an effective safety program, safety awareness must begin and be constantly reinforced at home. Bus drivers must operate the bus safely in traffic with many students behind them. There is only a minimal amount of time for drivers to participate in the area of bus safety instruction.

The following points are suggested to parents:

- Stress the importance of remaining seated and reasonably quiet while the vehicle is in motion.
 - Students should not automatically expect traffic to stop for the overhead flashers on the bus.
 - Students shall wait until the driver directs the students to get on the bus.
 - Find an established time--not too early and not too late--to have your children leave home for AM pick-up.
 - Warn students about strangers who hang around the bus stop and may offer rides or candy.
 - Discuss the safety hazards involved in throwing anything out of a bus window.
 - As a Parent/Guardian, support Bryant Public Schools policies and procedures for riding the bus.
- Riding a school bus is a privilege, not a right.**
- As a Parent/Guardian, instill in your child that they are to obey all school rules at the bus stop. Misbehavior at the bus stop will be reported to the building administrator.

While at the bus stop, students will:

- Be at the bus stop before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Choose a spot that is about 10 feet off the road to wait for the bus.



- Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and the driver has given directions to board before crossing the street in front of the bus.
- Not gather on private property without permission from the landowner.
- Obey all rules and regulations at the bus stop as if in a school classroom. **The bus stop is considered part of the grounds** and all school rules apply.

When boarding and exiting the bus, students will:

- Get on and off the bus only at their assigned bus stop or school, unless they have a permission slip from the building administration office. Students will exit the bus quietly in an orderly manner.
- Board the bus and go to their assigned seat. Students must sit in assigned seats.
- Not board or leave the bus except when instructed by the driver. Students will not exit through the emergency exits unless instructed by the driver.
- Go to a point on the shoulder of the street approximately ten feet in front of the bus and wait for the driver's signal before crossing the street.
- Not attempt to retrieve a dropped object until the bus has left the scene and the street is clear of other vehicles.
- Not get in the way of exiting students.

While riding the bus, students will:

- Follow all rules and regulations in the student handbook.
- Follow the driver's instructions and not distract his/her attention.
- Go to and remain in their assigned seats until they arrive at their school or bus stops. Students are responsible for the seat they are assigned.
- Face the front of the bus and talk quietly (no screaming or yelling).
- Carry on the bus only items that can be placed on their laps and keep all belongings out of the aisle of the bus.
- Not bring opened beverage containers, knives, firearms, sharp objects, clubs, glass objects, or animals on the bus.
- Keep hands, feet, objects etc. to themselves and inside the bus windows.
- Not eat or drink on the bus.
- Not open or spray fragrances or other substances on the bus.

All rules that are followed at school are also to be followed on the school bus and/or at the school bus stop.

If a child breaks a rule other than the safety rules mentioned above, the violation(s) will be reported to the school administrator who will then follow the school's student handbook. This violation will also count as one of the five (5) bus discipline steps before a student is denied bus-riding privileges for the semester or year.

Students who ride a bus while suspended, will have their bus suspension time doubled.

When riding a Bryant school bus, students are subject to videotaping. The videotape will be used to help maintain discipline and student safety.

Disciplinary Incidents will be referred by the driver to the campus administration. Disciplinary measures will be administered according to the Student Handbook.

DISCIPLINE

The following discipline policy will be used at the DISCRETION OF THE PRINCIPAL AND/OR ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, depending upon the severity of the offense. If a child chooses to break the safety rules and procedures above, the following will occur:



1st Offense - probation notice sent home.

2nd Offense - three (3) day suspension from riding ALL buses or left to the discretion of the building level administrator.

3rd Offense - five (5) day suspension from riding ALL buses.

4th Offense - ten (10) day suspension from riding ALL buses.

5th Offense – suspension from ALL buses for the remainder of the semester or year.

BUS RESTITUTION

Students that damage school property on the school bus will receive the discipline in addition to paying the cost of repairing or replacing the damaged property. The student will not be allowed to ride the bus until restitution has been made and discipline has been served.

Afternoon Bus Stop Pick-Up for Kindergarten and First Grade Students

To ensure the safety of our youngest students, the Bryant School District requires that an adult be present at the designated bus stop when kindergarten and first grade students are dropped off in the afternoon. The responsible adult may be a parent, guardian, older sibling or another authorized individual designated by the parent/guardian. Repeated failure to pick up a kindergarten or first grade student from the bus stop in the afternoon may result in further action as follows:

First Occurrence: Written notification to parent/guardian detailing school policy/procedure.

Second Occurrence: Second written notification to parent/guardian, along with a conference involving school administration and parent/guardian to discuss concerns and potential solutions.

Third Occurrence: The student may lose afternoon bus privileges for a period of up to five (5) school days. The parent/guardian will be responsible for arranging alternative transportation during this time.

Fourth Occurrence and Beyond: Possible suspension of the student's afternoon bus privileges for the remainder of the semester or school year, at the discretion of school administration.

In cases involving extenuating circumstances, parents/guardians should contact the school as soon as possible to discuss potential accommodations. Our priority is student safety, and we appreciate parental cooperation in ensuring a secure bus drop off process.

BUS TRANSPORTATION PROCEDURES IN SEVERE WEATHER

If inclement weather occurs (SIRENS HAVE SOUNDED) while school is in session, students are to follow written tornado drills procedures.

AFTERNOON

1. If the high school students are already on buses and headed toward BMS/BES, BEMS, SES, SPES, CES, HFES, and DES the following steps need to be followed until the area has been cleared by the Weather Service:
 - The elementary and middle school students will remain in their building in a safe location and follow tornado drill procedures.
 - The junior high and senior high students will follow emergency evacuation procedures and enter the designated school building. Students will assume the tornado position (sit facing an inside wall of the building away from all doors and windows with heads down).
 - In the event students must be unloaded from buses, drivers will assist building administrators and teachers in the supervision of their respective passengers.



2. If the buses have already loaded and are en route to BEMS, SPES, CES, SES, HFES, or DES buses will proceed to the satellite schools, students will follow emergency evacuation procedures, enter the school, and assume the tornado position until the area has been cleared by the Weather Service.
3. If buses have already left BEMS, SES, SPES, CES, HFES, and DES (or for buses that do not stop at these schools), drivers will proceed to a "safe haven" as designated by the bus transportation office, follow emergency evacuation procedures, and enter the safe haven. Safe havens will be designated on each route and be made known to parents. If weather circumstances are such that something needs to be done immediately, drivers are to pull off the road and have students get down below the windows as much as possible.

MORNING

The procedures for morning will be in reverse order of those listed above for afternoons. Bus drivers do not always hear the sirens over the noise of the bus engine and children on the bus. The District Transportation Office and/or Central Office Administration will be responsible for calling the Weather Service and relaying information to schools. Local fire department and police officials with access to emergency communication systems can also give schools information needed to allow buses to proceed.

NOTE: Students riding buses other than the bus to which they are assigned by residence has caused overcrowding on some of our buses. Students will only be allowed to ride the bus to which they are assigned by residence.

- Students are not to get off the bus at any stop but their own, unless they have a permission slip from the principal's office. Safety takes place over convenience in selecting school bus stops. Bus stops are not made over 2 per one-quarter mile or four per mile. Exceptions to this policy may be considered in case of hardship, dangerous stops, and bad weather.
- Students must be walking over one mile to a bus stop before the Board will consider entering an area. There must also be at least seventeen (17) students in the area. The administration will be given the authority to consolidate bus stops according to the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recommendations; stops one-fourth mile apart in rural areas and one stop every three blocks in urban areas.

Passing a school bus while flashing red lights are on is in direct violation of Arkansas law regulating the unlawful passing of a school bus. Violators will be reported to law enforcement officials.

- When a student chooses to misbehave and the school administrator suspends the bus riding privileges of a student, the administrator will attempt to contact the parent. Suspension will begin once the parent is notified.
- Parents with concerns or questions about bus discipline involving their students should first call the school's principal in charge of discipline. If the problem remains unresolved, parents may then contact the district's Director of Administrative Services. If parents are still unsatisfied at this point, the Assistant Superintendent may be contacted.
- Parents with concerns or questions about the bus driver when it involves their children should first call the Transportation Director at 847-5641. If the problem remains unresolved, parents may then contact the district's Director of Administrative Services. If parents are still unsatisfied at this point, the Assistant Superintendent may be contacted.

A note signed by the parent/guardian or a phone call will be required for ANY transportation change.

To view the policy please click on the link below:

[Policy 4.19 – Conduct to and from School and Transportation Eligibility](#)



CAR RIDERS

Afternoon Car Riders

Students must be picked up from school within thirty (30) minutes of dismissal unless they are enrolled in an approved after-school program or extracurricular activity. Students who are not picked up from school within this timeframe will be supervised by school personnel in a designated area. However, repeated late pick-ups may result in further action as follows:

First Occurrence: Verbal reminder to parent/guardian.

Second Occurrence: Written notification to parent/guardian detailing school policy/procedure.

Third Occurrence: School administration conference with parent/guardian to discuss concerns and potential solutions, which may include arrangements for bus transportation, if available.

Fourth Occurrence and Beyond: The school may contact local authorities, including the Department of Human Services (DHS) or law enforcement, if a pattern of neglect is suspected or if a child is left without appropriate supervision repeatedly, or for an extended period.

Board Policies

All policies can be found at bryantschools.org/policies.