Dooly County School System
Unified Parent & Student Handbook/Code of Conduct

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Dooly County Board of Education

Dooly County School System Board of Education

Mrs. Miranda Barron, Board Chair

Ms. Sherri Taylor, Vice Chair

Mr. Michael Bowens

Ms. Minnie Harper

Mr. Norman Dexter, Sr.

Superintendent's Message

Greetings Bobcat Families,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year. On behalf of the Dooly County Board of Education, our principals, teachers, support staff, and district leadership team, I am pleased to present the Dooly County School System Parent and Student Handbook and Code of Conduct.

This publication represents more than a collection of rules and procedures. It reflects our shared commitment to creating schools where every student feels safe, valued, challenged, and supported. It outlines the expectations, opportunities, and resources available to students and families while serving as a guide to help us work together in support of student success.

This year marks an important step forward for our district as we transition from multiple school-based handbooks to one unified district handbook. This change promotes consistency, improves communication, and ensures that all students and families have a common understanding of expectations across our schools.

As we continue implementing The Dooly Way Forward, our strategic plan serves as the foundation for everything we do. Through our focus on student achievement, positive school culture, staff learning and growth, stakeholder engagement, and efficient operations, we remain committed to empowering every student to reach their highest aspirations and thrive in an ever-changing world.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, we will continue building a school system and community that our students deserve.

Respectfully,

Dr. Sherrod Willaford

Dr. Sherrod Willaford
Dooly County Schools
Superintendent

Dooly County School System's Principals Message

To our families:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the new school year at Dooly County K-8 Academy! My name is Dr. Hollie Walters, and I am honored to be part of this dedicated team. As we begin this academic year, I am committed to ensuring that our students receive an exceptional educational experience. Our mission at Dooly County K-8 Academy is to build a foundation of excellence! We are committed to providing students with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in school and beyond. This year, we will focus on Georgia's Continuous Improvement Cycle, specifically in the following areas:

1. Coherent Instruction
2. Professional Capacity
3. Supportive Learning Environment
4. Family and Community Engagement
5. Effective Leadership

By continuously improving these areas, we aim to create a thriving environment where our students, families, and community can excel. I am excited to embark on this new school year with all of you. Together, we can achieve great things and build a foundation of excellence for our students. Thank you for your support, and I wish you a successful and rewarding school year!

Best regards,

Hollie Walters

Hollie Walters, Ed.D.

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

It is with great excitement and optimism that I welcome you to the 2026-2027 school year!

We are excited to begin another school year together and look forward to supporting each student's growth and success. This handbook provides important information about our policies, expectations, and procedures. We encourage you to review it carefully so we can maintain a safe, respectful, and productive learning environment.

At DCHS, we are committed to excellence, responsibility, and respect. Students are expected to take pride in their work, treat others with kindness, and contribute positively to our school community. Parents and guardians play a vital role, and we value your partnership in supporting student achievement.

Thank you for being part of our school community. We look forward to a successful year ahead.

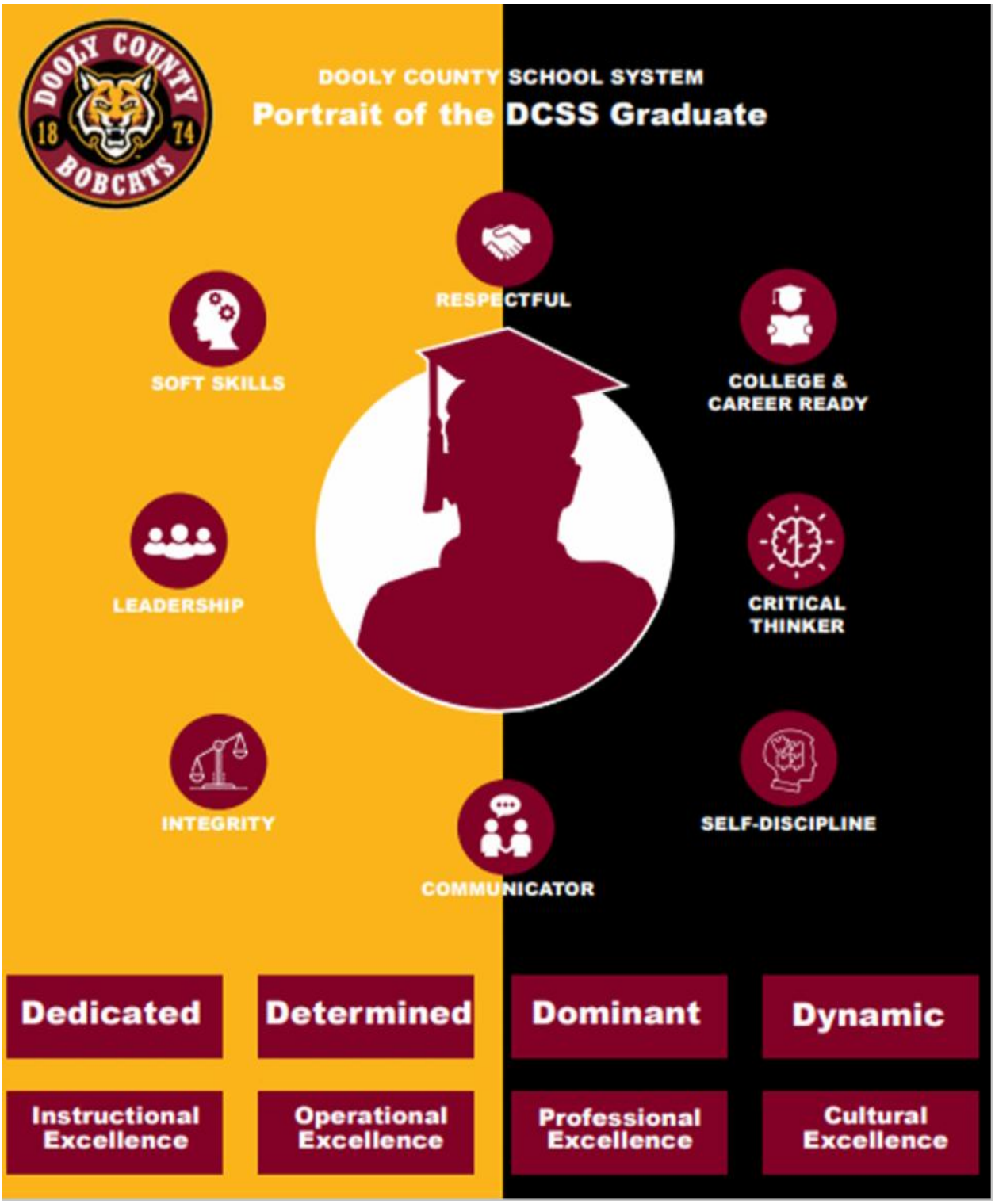
Sincerely,

Alvin Williams

Principal, Dooly County High School

DCSS Strategy Map

DCSS Portrait of Graduate



DCSS Portrait of Learner – UNDER CONSTRUCTION

DCSS School Calendar Dates

August 3, 2026 ..... First Day of School
August 28, 2026 ..... Independent Learning Day/PL Day
September 7, 2026 ..... Labor Day Holiday (schools closed)
October 2, 2026.....Early Dismissal/Parent Conferences
October 12-16, 2026 ..... Fall Break (schools closed)
November 20, 2026 ..... Independent Learning Day/PL Day
November 23 - 27, 2026 ..... Thanksgiving Break (schools closed)
December 18, 2026 .....Last day of 1st semester/Early Dismissal/Parent Conferences
December 21, 2026 - January 1, 2027 ..... December Break (schools closed)
January 4, 2027 ..... Teacher Workday/Student Holiday (no school for students)
January 5, 2027 ..... First Day of 2nd Semester – Students Return
January 18, 2027..... Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (schools closed)
February 15 - 16, 2027 ..... Winter Break
February 17, 2027 .....Independent Learning/PL Day
March 12, 2027 ..... Early Dismissal/ Parent Conferences
March 29 – April 2, 2027 ..... Spring Break (schools closed)
May 21, 2027 ..... Last Day of School / Early Dismissal
May 22, 2027 ..... Graduation
May 24 – 27, 2027.....Post-Planning
May 31, 2027.....Memorial Day (system closed)
June 18, 2027.....Juneteenth (system closed)

Accreditation

Dooly County Schools is accredited at the highest tier by COGNIA and with quality by the Georgia Accrediting Commission (GAC).

Alternative School/Prep Academy

A student may be assigned to the PREP Academy for the following violations, but are not limited to:

1. Using, possessing, distributing or being under the influence of controlled substances i.e.: alcoholic beverages, marijuana, narcotic drugs, stimulants, and/or tobacco products.
2. Fighting, physical abuse, assault and/or battery, or threats to students or staff.
3. Continuous disruption to the learning environment and safe operation of the school and/or staff.
4. Any other behavior considered to be disruptive of school order.

NOTE: A student attempting to enroll/re-enroll into school that is or may be criminally charged with a felony or a designated felony (O.C.G.A 15-11-63) must be referred directly to the administration and/or Dooly County Student Services and may subject to alternative placement.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Guidelines for Students

It is critical for students to understand how Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools are created and why they produce the results they do. Students should use AI critically and thoughtfully; asking whether it should be used in the classroom during instruction, assessment, and/or to support homework and other assignments.

NOTE: Use of AI in Dooly County Schools will align with our Student Code of Conduct, Internet Acceptable Use Agreement, Electronic Communications policy IFBGA, and other existing local, state, and federal regulations to protect student privacy, ensure accessibility to those with disabilities, and protect against harmful content.

The DCSS Internet Acceptable Use Agreement and policy IFBGA Electronic Communications serve as foundational guides for determining appropriate and ethical use of digital tools, including generative AI. Because generative AI tools rely on internet connectivity and often process user data, their use falls under the same expectations for privacy, security, and responsible behavior outlined in the policy. Staff and students should apply this policy when engaging with AI tools to ensure compliance with district, state, and federal regulations, protect personally identifiable information, and maintain academic integrity. The policy provides clear standards for acceptable online conduct, and these standards extend to emerging technologies such as AI to safeguard against misuse, bias, and harmful content while promoting equitable and purposeful integration of AI in learning environments. School Board Policy IFBGA: Electronic Communications.

In addition to criteria established in the DCSS Internet Acceptable Use Agreement and the Student Code of Conduct, the following guidelines should be followed when using generative AI:

Cheating, Plagiarism, or Academic Dishonesty

- Prohibited Use: Submitting AI-generated work as your own or using AI for unauthorized assistance is considered cheating, plagiarism, or forgery and will result in consequences outlined in the Student Code of Conduct and Rule 21: Cheating, Plagiarism, or Academic Dishonesty.
- Attribution: When AI use is permitted, students must clearly cite the tool and describe how it was used.

AI GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS:

- Guidelines for Responsible AI Use: Teachers, with guidance from the administrator, have the authority to determine whether the use of AI constitutes cheating, plagiarism, or academic dishonesty based on observation and evidence.
- Classroom expectations for AI use will be communicated clearly. Prior to using AI tools, students should refer to teacher guidance regarding appropriate use in academic settings. Guidance may change based on the assignment and the learning target. When AI use is permitted, students are expected to clearly cite how AI was used in the assignment.
- Data Privacy: Always protect your personal information when using AI tools. Never enter details like your name, address, phone number, or student ID into any AI

system. Follow all district privacy rules and keep sensitive information safe. If it's private, don't share it.

- Ethical and Responsible Use: Students should use AI tools only for appropriate educational purposes, avoid generating or accessing inappropriate content, and always follow teacher instructions and the Student Code of Conduct and the Internet Acceptable Use Policy

PROHIBITED AI USE:

- Plagiarism, Cheating, and Misrepresentation: Submitting AI-generated answers or reports without meaningful revision or citation is considered academic dishonesty. Students should never present AI-created work as their own work. Always follow teacher guidance and cite AI use when permitted.
- Unauthorized Use of AI: Using AI to complete major projects, presentations, or exams without explicit permission is prohibited. AI should only be used when your teacher allows it and within the guidelines provided.
- Data Privacy: Entering confidential, copyrighted, personal, or proprietary information into third-party AI systems is not allowed. Protect your privacy and follow district data security rules at all times.
- Fake Information: Creating fake citations, data, or sources using AI tools is strictly prohibited. Students must ensure all information and references are accurate and verifiable.
- Impersonation: Impersonating others using AI tools is unacceptable. This includes creating content that misrepresents someone's name, image, or likeness.

Assessments

A variety of assessments are used to measure student achievement and program effectiveness. State administered tests include Norm Referenced Tests, Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests, and Universal screeners:

- Universal screening will occur two to three times per year using the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment for the purpose of assessing students' reading and mathematics proficiency levels, identifying learning needs, monitoring growth, and informing instructional decisions.

- CTAE End of Pathway Assessments (EOPA) will be administered after completing three courses in a sequence for the specific pathway.

- ACCESS for ELLs is administered, annually, to all English learners in Georgia. ACCESS for ELLs is a standards-based, criterion referenced English language proficiency test designed to measure English learners' social and academic proficiency in English.

- The Georgia Alternative Assessment (GAA) is a portfolio of student work for students with significant cognitive disabilities in kindergarten, grades 3-8, and

grade 11. The GAA enables the demonstration of achievement and progress relative to selected skills that are aligned to the Georgia curriculum.

- The students in kindergarten are administered the GKIDS Readiness Check and the Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developmental Skills (GKIDS). The results of each test are used to identify students' strengths and weaknesses in academic areas and to evaluate the effectiveness of educational programs.

- The Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS) is a comprehensive summative assessment program spanning grades 3 through high school. Georgia Milestones measures how well students have learned the knowledge and skills outlined in the state-adopted content standards in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Students in grades 3 through 8 will take an end-of-grade assessment in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Additionally, students in Grades 5 & 8 will take an end-of-grade assessment in Science, and students in grade 8 will take a Georgia Studies assessment.

Attendance Policy

School attendance has an enormous impact on a student's academic success. In accordance with Georgia Board of Education Rule 160-5-1.10, students *will* receive an excused absence from school for the following reasons pending appropriate documentation of the absence:

1. Personal illness or when attendance in school endangers the student's health or the health of others.
2. Illness or death in the immediate family.
3. A court order or an order by a government agency, including preinduction physical examinations for service in the armed forces, mandating absence from school.
4. The observation of religious holidays, necessitating absence from school.
5. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety.
6. Registering to vote or voting in a public election, which shall not exceed one day.
7. A student whose parent or legal guardian is in military service in the armed forces of the United States or the National Guard, and such parent or legal guardian has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted excused absences, up to a maximum of five (5) school days per school year, for the day or days missed from school to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian prior to such parent's or legal guardian's deployment or during such parent's or legal guardian's leave.
8. A student whose parent or legal guardian is currently serving or previously served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States, in the Reserves of the armed forces of the United States on extended active duty, or in the National Guard on extended active duty may be granted excused absences, up to a maximum of five (5) school days per school year, not to exceed two (2) school years, for the day or days missed from school to attend military affairs sponsored events, provided the student provides documentation prior to absence from:

a) A provider of care at or sponsored by a medical facility of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; or
b) An event sponsored by a corporation exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code.

9. Serving as pages of the Georgia General Assembly, successful participation in the Georgia Student Teen Election Participation Program.
10. A foster care student who attends court proceedings relating to the student's foster care shall be credited as present by the school and shall not be counted as an absence, either excused or unexcused, for any day, portion of a day, or days missed from school as set forth in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-692.2.
11. A student who participates in an activity or program sponsored by 4-H shall be credited as present by the school in which enrolled in the same manner as an educational field trip, and such participation in an activity or program sponsored by 4-H shall not be counted as an absence, either excused or unexcused, for any day, portion of a day, or days missed from school. Upon request from a school principal or the principal's designee, a 4-H representative shall provide documentation as proof of a student's participation in an activity or program sponsored by 4-H. As used in this subsection, the term "4-H representative" means an individual officially recognized or designated by the University of Georgia Extension 4-H Program as a 4-H professional or a 4-H adult volunteer.

Please note that while an absence may be classified as excused, it is still recorded as a missed day of school. Every day of attendance is important to student learning and academic success.

Attendance Protocol

- **1 - 2 Absences**: Teacher communicates with parent and document in Infinite Campus
- **3 Absences:** Teacher makes additional contact; Attendance Clerk notifies Attendance Team member to make contact. Attendance Letter Mailed
- **5th Absence:** Teacher contacts the Counselor; Counselor and/or Administration will contact Parent/Guardian. 2nd Attendance Letter Mailed 22
- **10+ Absences:** Administration and/or Counselor will hold a meeting that includes Student Advocacy Specialist; Based on the data, a decision for next steps will be made.
- No improvements: If attendance does not improve, a formal review will take place and may result in court referral.

Bus Transportation

Dooly County Schools operates one of the safest and most efficient fleets in Georgia. Our drivers are properly qualified and well trained. The following Bus Conduct Regulations have been developed to keep students safe while in transit by reducing danger and opportunity for injury to the greatest extent possible.

Bus Conduct Regulations

1. The driver is in complete charge of the bus.
2. Drivers have authority to assign students specific seats.
3. Students may disembark buses only at school and at their regular stops. Any exception will require authorization of parent(s)/ guardian(s), school administrator, and the transportation department.
4. No eating or drinking is allowed on the bus.
5. Radios, glass items, animals, skateboards, baseball bats, hockey sticks, or any other item of safety concern shall not be transported. Bagged athletic equipment may be transported but must be under the control of the bus driver.
6. For minor student behavior offenses, bus drivers will follow the established process for intervening to include warning and re-direction as appropriate.
7. Serious problems must be reported promptly by the driver, in writing, to the administration of the student's school.
8. The administration will address the matter with the student and, if necessary, the parent(s)/guardian(s).
9. If the problem cannot be resolved, the administration will notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) that the privilege of bus transportation has been forfeited.
10. Forfeiture of the bus transportation privilege does not change the requirement of compulsory attendance. It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to transport the student to and from school.
11. The student's privilege of bus transportation may be restored by the principal, but only after a satisfactory agreement has been established with the Transportation Director.

Specific Rules for Students While On the School Bus

1. When boarding a bus, students should go directly to their seat and be seated.
2. Students must conduct themselves in an orderly manner at all times.
3. Students are not to move around while the bus is in motion.
4. Students will not extend any part of their body out of the bus windows at any time.
5. Loud talking, throwing of objects, or any other act of distraction to the driver is strictly forbidden.
6. Tobacco/tobacco products are prohibited.
7. Writing on, cutting, or defacing any part of the bus is prohibited. Students responsible for such actions will pay for damages.
8. Students are to keep the bus clean and leave no litter. The bus driver is responsible for cleanliness and ventilation.
9. Students may not bring anything on the bus that would block an additional seat, aisle or doorway.

Dooly County Schools authorizes the use of video cameras on school buses and on district property to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all persons and to safeguard district facilities and equipment.

Carnegie Units

Awarding Carnegie Units of Credit

A unit of credit for graduation shall be awarded only to students in grades 8–12. Specific courses transferred from other school systems shall be determined to meet core curriculum requirements by evaluating course content. This evaluation shall be done by a school administrator or counselor. Information about course content should be obtained from former schools. Credit will be granted when the judgment of the course substantially meets the requirements. Equivalency credit will be shown on the student's transcript. Should the Dooly County Board of Education choose to grant unit credit for learning that has occurred outside the 9-12 classroom, it shall use the following assessment procedures to award or exempt unit credit in lieu of class enrollment: evaluation of the student's transcript for course equivalency and/or a proficiency test and/or actual classroom performance to determine mastered prerequisite skills. Equivalency credit shall be shown on the transcript. Any credit awarded must be approved in writing by the Chief Academic Officer.

Cell Phones and Other Personal Electronic Devices
(Distraction Free Education Act)

The Distraction Free Education Act restricts the use of cell phones and other personal devices during the school day and at school sponsored events by students in kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12). In accordance with the law, DCSS defines a personal electronic device as any portable electronic device that is capable of transmitting, receiving, or accessing communications, data, or media. This includes but is not limited to smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, e-readers, headphones, and other devices with functionalities such as wireless communication, internet access, messaging, video recording, gaming, social media access, or data transmission.

It also requires local school systems and S schools to enact policies and procedures for use of personal electronic devices at school and school sponsored events by students in kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12); not limited to cell phone, tablets, smart glasses, and smartwatches to provide for permissible student use of personal electronic devices; with the exception for documented IEPs, 504s, or medical plans to authorize the Department of Education to provide guidance and technical assistance; to prohibit certain waivers; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

The Dooly K-8 Cell Phone Policy requires students to turn in cell phones at the beginning of class to the homeroom teacher (if phone is brought to school) to be placed in a locked box provided by all classroom teachers. The phones will be redistributed to students at the end of the day prior to dismissal. Failure to turn in cell phones and use of cell phones during the day (unless authorized for a learning opportunity documented in the lesson plan) may result in an infraction of the Dooly K-8 Code of Conduct. <u>At DCHS, students will be asked to turn off their personal device upon entering the school building.</u>

Students with 504s, IEPs, and documented medical management plans may maintain possession of their device during the school day and at school sponsored events. Parents and guardians should contact their school to discuss individual needs and arrangements.

For urgent or emergency matters, parents may call the school to contact a student. School staff will facilitate communication or summon the student as needed.

Cell Phones During State Mandated Testing

Students are not permitted to use, or bring into the testing environment, any electronic device that could allow them to access, retain, or transmit information (For example, but not limited to: cell phone, smart phone/watch, PDA, electronic recording, camera, or playback device). Announcements will be made prior to testing that such devices are not allowed in the testing environment and that possession or improper use of such devices during testing may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the DCSS Code of Conduct and /or test invalidation.

Check-In and Check-Out Procedures

Students are expected to remain in class each day until the dismissal bell rings. This does not, of course, prevent a parent from occasionally picking up his/her child from school for a valid reason. Students leaving and returning to class are distractions to the learning process. Therefore, we discourage students from leaving during the school day. We encourage parents/guardians to schedule appointments outside of school hours.

Check-In: At the Dooly County K-8 Academy, breakfast is served from 7:30 AM to 8:00 AM. Instruction begins promptly at 8:00 AM, and students are expected to be in their classrooms and ready to learn at that time. Students arriving after 8:05 AM will be considered tardy and must have a parent check them in at the front office. In order for tardiness to be excused, students must have a written excuse signed by a parent stating the reason for being late. Only reasons listed for excused absences can be counted as excused tardies.

At the Dooly County High School, to maintain a safe and secure learning environment, all students are required to pass through the school's metal detectors upon entering the building each day.

Car Riders: Students who are transported to school by car should be dropped off at the main entrance located at the front of the school. After exiting their vehicle, students should proceed to the bus ramp area and enter the building through the designated side entrance.

Bus Riders: Students arriving by school bus should exit the bus at the bus ramp and enter the building through the designated side entrance. To ensure a smooth start to the school day, students should arrive no later than 7:45 AM. Students may retrieve their laptops from 7:45 AM – 7:50 AM and should transition directly to first period from 7:50 AM–7:55 AM. First period begins promptly at 7:55 AM. Students are expected to report directly to their assigned classroom and be prepared for instruction when the tardy bell rings.

Students enrolled in Dual Enrollment (DE) courses that are not offered on the Dooly County High School campus are not required to report to campus during the scheduled time of their Dual Enrollment class. Students may arrive on campus before their next scheduled DCHS class period.

Students enrolled in Dual Enrollment courses offered on the Dooly County High School campus are required to report to campus and attend class during their assigned Dual Enrollment class period. These courses are considered part of the student's regular instructional schedule, and attendance requirements apply.

Students are responsible for ensuring they attend all required Dual Enrollment classes and comply with both Dooly County High School and the partnering college's attendance expectations. Failure to attend scheduled Dual Enrollment classes may result in attendance consequences and could impact eligibility for continued participation in the Dual Enrollment program.

Check-Out: All students are expected to remain in class each day until the dismissal bell rings. This does not, of course, prevent a parent from occasionally picking up his/her child from school for a valid reason. If your child must leave school before the regular dismissal time, he/she will be paged from the office to meet you. Teachers are not permitted to release any student until the office contacts them.

The school system strongly recommends that parents schedule appointments for students at times other than school hours. *Students are not permitted to check out during lunch (DCHS only). Once a student checks out of school for the day, the student will not be permitted to return to school without written verification from a doctor or without prior administrative approval.*

Students will be permitted to be checked out early only by people whose names are on the authorized checkout list for that student and who can present a valid photo I.D. There will be no early checkouts after 2:15 pm at all campuses. Students will not be released to anyone other than the custodial parent, guardian, or authorized person on the campus check-out list.

Chain of Command

Constructive feedback of the schools is welcomed by the Dooly County Board of Education whenever it is motivated by a sincere desire to improve the quality of the educational program or to equip the schools to complete their tasks more effectively.

Members of the Dooly County Board of Education have confidence in the professional staff and desire to support their actions in order that they are free from unnecessary, spiteful, or negative criticism and complaint. These statements do not supersede any employee's or citizen's rights to contact Board members directly. However, whenever a complaint is made directly to the Board as a whole or to a Board member as an individual, it will be referred to the administration for study and possible resolution.

The Board advises the public that the proper channeling of and most effective way to resolve complaints involving discipline, curriculum/instruction, transportation, or athletics is to contact the individual at your student's school who is designated by position in the chart below to deal with such concerns. The Dooly County School Board of Education reports concerns to the Superintendent and allow his/her staff to respond accordingly. The School Board does not make decisions without the local school board superintendent's recommendations. Any issue outside of this chart's list should be addressed to the principal. The Board will consider hearing complaints when they cannot be resolved following the channels below:

Please note that while contacting local media and social media services may bolster interest, support, and public opinion, all decisions are made by the schools, local governance team (superintendent and the school board) and/or the State Board of Education/GHSA. The most effective way to create change and improvement of processes is to communicate through the chain of command. Unless decided by lawful court rulings, the decisions of the schools, local governance team and/or the State Board of Education/GHSA are final.

Child Abuse

State Law requires all caregivers of children to report suspected child abuse or neglect to the Department of Family and Children Services. All school employees are mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect. If a school employee or volunteer has reasonable cause to suspect child abuse/neglect, sexual abuse, or molestation has occurred by a parent, employee, or other caretaker, the employee or volunteer must report it to the principal or designee in person or by phone immediately or face criminal penalties. If the designee suspects abuse, he or she is required to make an oral report to the Department of Family and Children's Service or law enforcement within 24 hours.

Discipline	Curriculum/ Instruction	Transportation	Athletics
Teacher	Teacher	Bus Driver	Head Coach
Lead Teacher/Dept. Chair	Lead Teacher/Dept. Chair	Transportation Director	Athletic Director
Assistant Principal	Assistant Principal	Assistant Principal	Assistant Principal
Principal	Principal	Principal	Principal
Director for Teaching and Learning	Director for Teaching and Learning	Executive Director for Operations	Executive Director for Operations
Chief Academic Officer	Chief Academic Officer	Chief Operations Officer	Chief Operations Officer
Superintendent	Superintendent	Superintendent	Superintendent
DCSS School Board	DCSS School Board	DCSS School Board	DCSS School Board
State Dept. of Education	State Dept. of Education	State Dept. of Education	Georgia High School Association (GHSA)

Child Find

The purpose of Child Find is to identify, locate, and evaluate children and youth, birth to age 21, who are suspected of, or have a disability or developmental delay. Dooly County Schools serve children ages 3 through 21 with identified special education needs.

How can children be referred? A referral may be made by anyone who has a concern about a child's development. All referrals are considered confidential. The parent retains the right to refuse services. Children may be referred by any of the following:

- Parents/legal guardians/foster parents
- Other family members
- Physicians/health care providers
- Preschool programs
- School district personnel
- Community agencies
- Private school personnel
- Others who are concerned about a child's development

When should a child be referred to Child Find?

- A child should be referred when:
- A health or medical disorder interferes with development or learning.
- A child seems to have difficulty seeing or hearing.
- A child appears to have social, emotional or behavioral difficulties that affect his/her ability to learn.
- A child has a diagnosed progressive or degenerative condition that will eventually impair or impede the child's ability to learn.
- A child seems to have difficulty understanding directions like others that are his/her age.
- A child's speech is not understandable to family or friends.
- A child has difficulty with reading, math, or other school subjects.

Where can I find out more about Child Find? For a preschool aged child, with a chronological age of 3 through 5, who has or may have a developmental disability, please contact the Special Education Department 229-645-3421 extension 4262. Parents of students, kindergarten through 12th grade, who suspect their child may have a disability, should contact the teacher, principal or the chairperson of the school's Student Support Team.

Chronic Absenteeism

Georgia and the Georgia Department of Education define chronic absenteeism as missing **10% or more of enrolled school days**, regardless of whether absences are excused or unexcused. Schools are expected to implement interventions before attendance issues become severe.

Georgia law requires all students between ages 6 and 16 to attend school regularly. Students accumulating more than five unexcused absences may be considered truant.

Dooly County Schools will implement attendance interventions, parent conferences, and referrals consistent with state law and the county Student Attendance Protocol to support student success and reduce chronic absenteeism.

Clear/Mesh Bookbags and Clear Water Bottles

All bookbags (backpacks) carried by students in grades K - 12 must be clear. *Clear bookbags are optional for Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten students. Students participating in an extracurricular activity are permitted to carry non-transparent bags to store items pertaining to their particular activity (i.e. band, athletics, etc.).* Upon entry into the school, all extracurricular activity bags must be stored in lockers or designated areas. **All bags are subject to search**.

Additionally, the maximum size for non-transparent bags that students will be permitted to carry during the school day, such as lunch kits, pencil bags and purses, will be 6" x 9". Students who refuse to comply with the clear/mesh bookbag requirement will be cited with insubordination which is a violation of the Student Behavior Code of Conduct. Parents are responsible for supplying the clear/mesh bookbag.

Only clear plastic water containers are allowed at all schools as part of our ongoing considerations for improving school safety.

Clubs and Organizations

Extracurricular clubs and activities are an important part of the life of students. Membership in different clubs and organizations gives students the opportunity to develop skills in social interaction, to be creative, and to assume positions of responsibility. The school provides various activities in which students may involve themselves. All students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities. **Participation in a club or organization is a privilege and not a right.**

Dooly County K8 Academy Clubs and Organizations

At Dooly County Middle School, students are encouraged to get involved, discover their passions, and become leaders both inside and outside the classroom. Through participation in clubs and organizations, students continue Building a Foundation of Excellence while preparing for success in high school, college, careers, and beyond.

- **FFA (Future Farmers of America):** FFA is a national student organization that develops leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. Students explore agriculture, environmental science, animal science, agribusiness, and leadership while participating in hands-on learning experiences.

- **FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America):** FBLA prepares students to become leaders in business, entrepreneurship, technology, and financial

literacy. Members develop professional skills through competitive events, leadership opportunities, and service projects.

- **Jr. Beta Club:** The National Junior Beta Club recognizes and promotes academic excellence, leadership, character, and service. Members are selected based on academic achievement and demonstrate a commitment to serving both the school and community.

- **Band:** The Dooly County Middle School Band provides students with opportunities to develop musical talent, discipline, teamwork, and performance skills through instrumental music instruction.

- **TSA (Technology Student Association):** The Technology Student Association (TSA) prepares students for careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Students solve real-world problems while developing creativity, innovation, and leadership skills.

- **Student Ambassador Program:** Student Ambassadors serve as positive representatives of Dooly County Middle School by demonstrating leadership, character, school pride, and outstanding citizenship. Ambassadors help welcome new students and visitors while promoting a positive school climate.

- **Student Advisory Council:** The Student Advisory Council provides students with an opportunity to share ideas, voice concerns, and collaborate with school administration to improve the educational experience for all students. Members serve as leaders who represent the interests of their classmates.

Dooly County High School Clubs and Organizations

The Dooly County High School provides students with opportunities to develop leadership, career readiness, technical skills, community involvement, and personal growth through participation in clubs and organizations. Students are encouraged to become actively involved in extracurricular activities that align with their interests and career goals.

- **Beta Club:** Beta Club promotes academic achievement, character, leadership, and service. Students participate in leadership opportunities, service-learning projects, and state and national conventions.

- **Student Government Association (SGA):** Student Government provides students with opportunities to develop leadership skills while representing the student body. Members assist with school events, student activities, and school improvement initiatives.

- **Band:** The DCHS Band provides students with opportunities to develop musical talent, discipline, teamwork, and school spirit through performances and competitions.

- **Spanish Club**: The Spanish Club promotes an appreciation for the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures around the world. Members participate in cultural activities, community service projects, language enrichment opportunities, and events that celebrate diversity and global awareness. The club encourages students to strengthen their language skills while developing cultural competence and leadership abilities.

Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)

- **HOSA (Future Health Professionals):** HOSA promotes career opportunities in the healthcare industry and enhances the delivery of quality healthcare to all people. Students participate in leadership development, healthcare competitions, service projects, and professional networking opportunities.

- **FFA (National FFA Organization):** FFA develops students' potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. Students participate in agricultural competitions, leadership events, S speaking, and community service activities.

- **SkillsUSA**: SkillsUSA empowers students to become world-class workers, leaders, and responsible American citizens. Students enrolled in technical, trade, and skilled workforce pathways participate in competitions, leadership activities, and career preparation experiences.

- **TSA (Technology Student Association):** The Technology Student Association (TSA) is a national organization for students interested in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). TSA members engage in hands-on projects, leadership development, teamwork, and competitive events that focus on engineering design, coding, robotics, technology innovation, problem-solving, and career exploration. The organization prepares students for future careers in technology and related fields.

Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) Pathways

Creating a world-class workforce for Georgia in the 21st Century

The Dooly County School System offers the following Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) programs to all students regardless of race, color, national origin, including those with limited English proficiency, sex or disability in grades 9-12:

- Agriculture
- Artificial Intelligence
- Culinary Arts
- Therapeutic Services/Patient Care

- Audio & Visual Technology
- Computer Science
- JROTC Army
- Work Based-Learning

Dooly County College and Career Academy CTAE Pathways	
Agriculture Mechanics Systems Basic Agricultural Science Agricultural Mechanics Technology I Agricultural Mechanics Technology II	**Agriculture Leadership in Horticulture** Basic Agricultural Science General Horticulture and Plant Science Agribusiness Management and Leadership
Plant and Floral Design Systems Basic Agricultural Science General Horticulture and Plant Science Floral Design and Management	**Artificial Intelligence** Foundations of Artificial Intelligence Artificial Intelligence Concepts Artificial Intelligence Applications
Audio & Video Technology and Film II Audio and Video Technology and Film Audio-Video Technology and Film II Broadcast Video Production Application	**Therapeutic Services/Patient Care** Introduction to Healthcare Science Essentials of Healthcare Patient Care Fundamentals
Computer Science Introduction to Software Technology Computer Science Principles or AP Computer Science Principles AP Computer Science (Contact College Board for standards)	**Dual Enrollment Technical Courses**: Certified Nursing Assistant Criminal Justice Early Childhood Education Industrial Maintenance Welding Culinary Arts
JROTC: Army Beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, Dooly County High School will operate on a traditional seven-period schedule. Under this schedule, students enrolled in JROTC will earn 0.5 credit for each semester course. Specifically, students will earn 0.5 credit for LET Alpha and 0.5 credit for LET Bravo. To accurately award semester credit, the following course numbers will be utilized: (which can earn 1.0 credit each) LET 1 ALPHA and LET 1 BRAVO LET 2 ALPHA and LET 2 BRAVO LET 3 ALPHA and LET 3 BRAVO LET 4 ALPHA and LET 4 BRAVO	

College/University/Technical College Visits

Seniors are allowed up to two (2) excused absences to visit a college, university, or technical college to explore postsecondary options. Students are responsible for completing any work missed during these absences. Prior to the visit, the student or

parent/guardian must schedule an appointment with the institution. The student must obtain a College/University/Technical College Verification Form from the Guidance Office and have it signed by an official at the institution visited. The completed form should then be returned to the main office.

Communities In Schools

The CIS Integrated Student Supports Model is a school-based approach to developing academic success by tackling academic and non-academic barriers. CIS serves students of all ages from K-12. This support is provided by our CIS Site Coordinators who assess a student's needs and then provide direct services and/or make referrals to community partners to ensure a student has everything they need to succeed in and out of the classroom.

Deliveries

We do not allow deliveries of flowers, balloons, or other gifts for students at school in order to avoid interruption of instructional time.

Discipline Code of Conduct

Please see the "Discipline Code of Conduct" section beginning on page 70 in this Parent Handbook.

Dyslexia Screening

Students in grades kindergarten through third grade will participate in a Universal Screening (I-Ready) for reading three times each school year, including one Dyslexia screening. The school will notify families prior to administering the Universal Screening for Dyslexia; however, parent consent for screening is not required. Families will receive written notification no later than 15 days after the screening to identify any reading deficiency. If the reading screening indicates that the student is at risk or significantly at risk for reading deficiencies, then the school will create a tiered reading support plan. Please visit the Georgia Department of Education's website to review the GaDOE Dyslexia Informational Handbook.

Emergency Management Plan/Emergency Drills

Dooly County's Emergency Management Agency (Dooly EMA) reviews and approves the school system's comprehensive School Safety Plans and each school's Emergency Management Plan. A copy of these confidential plans is maintained by the Superintendent, the District's Safety Director, and each school's principal. An annual safe school audit of each school in the district will be conducted by the District's Safety Director and may include local first responders, members of Dooly's Emergency Management Agency (Dooly EMA), DCSS Maintenance Department, and/or DCSS Safety Teams. Fire/evacuation drills will be held in accordance with the State of Georgia Office of Insurance and Fire Commission. Each school will conduct the following drills:

- Within the first 10 days of school a fire drill must be completed
- Within the first 30 days of school a second fire drill must be completed.
- A fire drill must be completed every month that the school is in session.
- During the months of February and November, fire drills can be substituted with a severe weather drill or a lockdown drill.
- Hard Lockdown/Intruder Drill Requirement: 1 per semester. First drill must be completed before October 1st. Second drill will be completed in the second semester. 6. Tornado/Severe Weather Drill Requirement: 1 per semester.
- Reverse Evacuation Drill Requirement: 1 per school year.
- Bomb Threat Drill Requirement: 1 per school year.

English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program

Dooly County School System has become increasingly diverse and multicultural. Many students who enter the school system from other countries or speak another language at home may need additional English language assistance to succeed in school. The Dooly County English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program provides support for English language acquisition and development of skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing through content-based instruction. Students are screened for English language assistance, and if they qualify for services, they can receive additional instruction provided by ESOL teachers. The ESOL program encourages the student's positive recognition and value of their culture and the diverse culture of others.

The ESOL teachers work in collaboration with classroom teachers to support language acquisition of academic and social skills. The ESOL teachers work in collaboration with families to ensure students and families receive the support they need to be successful in their learning environment. These teachers are qualified to work with the diverse student population of Els.

Enrollment

Students who have attained the age of five (5) by September 1 are eligible to enroll in the appropriate general education programs unless they attain the age of 21 by September 1 or they have received a high school diploma or the equivalent. Students that have dropped out of school for one quarter or more are eligible to enroll in the appropriate general education programs unless they attain the age of 20 by September 1.

Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) developed under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) may attend public school through the age of 21 or until they receive a regular high school diploma.

Students who were legal residents of one or more other states or countries for a period of two years immediately prior to moving to Georgia and were legally enrolled in a public kindergarten or first grade accredited by a state or regional association or the equivalent

thereof, are eligible for enrollment in the appropriate education program if the child attains the age of five for kindergarten or six for first grade by December 31 and the child is otherwise eligible for enrollment as prescribed in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-150.

Undocumented Students: In 1982, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Plyler v. Doe [457 U.S. 202 (1982)] that undocumented children and young adults have the same right as U.S. citizens and permanent residents to attend public primary and secondary schools. Like other children, undocumented students are required under state laws to attend school until they reach a legally mandated age. As a result of the Plyler ruling, public schools may not:

- Deny admission to a student during initial enrollment or at any other time based on undocumented status;
- Treat a student differently to verify residency;
- Engage in any practices that "chill" or hinder the right of access to school;
- Require students or parents to disclose or document their immigration status;
- Require social security numbers as a requirement for admission to school, as this may expose undocumented status.

O.C.G.A. 20-2-154.1. Alternative education programs: If a student placed in an alternative education program enrolls in another local school system before the expiration of the period of placement, the local board of education requiring the placement shall provide to the local school system in which the student enrolls, at the same time other records of the student are provided, a copy of the placement order. The local school system in which the student enrolls may continue the alternative education program placement under the terms of the order or may allow the student to attend regular classes without completing the period of placement.

EOC Assessments

Dooly County High School administers four Georgia Milestones EOC assessments throughout the year. Each EOC aligns directly with a course student complete.

Algebra I: Concepts & Connections: This assessment measures students' understanding of algebraic reasoning, functions, equations, inequalities, and problem-solving. It assesses conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and application of mathematical modeling in real world contexts.

Biology: The Biology EOC evaluates students' knowledge of cells, genetics, evolution, ecology, and biological processes. This assessment emphasizes scientific inquiry, data interpretation, and understanding of life science principles.

Literature & Composition II: Administered typically in 10th grade, this assessment measures students' ability to read and analyze American literature, respond to writing prompts, and demonstrate mastery of grammar, language, and composition skills.

U.S. History: The U.S. History EOC assesses students' understanding of major events, movements, and themes in American history. Students demonstrate their ability to think critically, analyze historical sources, and connect past events to broader national themes. Student test reports for state assessments are provided to parents as test scores are available at school. Questions about test scores should be directed to the principal and/or school test coordinator.

Excused Absences (Documentation)

Students who desire to document an absence as excused shall present a written excuse signed by a parent/guardian or medical documentation within five (5) days of returning to school. Failure to do so will result in the absence(s) remaining unexcused. The following items should be specified and included on each written excuse:

1. The date the excuse is written;
2. The date(s) of the absence(s);
3. Reason for the absence;
4. Student name;
5. Signature of the parent or guardian.

Excuses may be sent by FAX or e-mail. The principal or designee will determine whether an absence is excused, and may, at his/her discretion, require supporting documentation from doctor, dentist, clinic, court, funeral home, etc. in order to make this determination. Excessive/extended absences due to illness must be justified by a physician's statement. Students placed in in-school suspension (ISS) or participating in school related or sponsored activities are considered to be in attendance at school from school. Students in (OSS) are not considered present at school and will not participate in any extracurricular activity the day or night of the absence. For reporting daily attendance, a student must attend for at least one-half of the instructional day before the student can be counted as present.

- Excuses shall be submitted to the homeroom teacher at the K8 Academy. The teachers will turn in the excuses into the respective secretaries.
- Parents are requested to make dental, medical, and other appointments for students after school hours and on Saturdays whenever possible.
- When a student is denied bus transportation due to misconduct, the absence from school is **not** excused. The parent/guardian will be expected to provide transportation during the time the student is excluded from the bus.

Extracurricular Activities

Eligibility for Competitive Extracurricular Activities

Academic eligibility must be maintained for a student to participate in any interscholastic competitive event. This includes athletics, cheerleading, literary events, and competitive band. Basic eligibility requirements include:

1. Passing a minimum of five courses each semester.
2. Maintaining a 1.0 grade point average each semester.

3. Having a current physical for athletics and completing all required permission forms (if appropriate).

Students with concerns about eligibility should see the Athletic Director or the school counselor. State law prohibits discrimination based on gender in athletic programs of local school systems (Equity in Sports Act, O.C.G.A. §20-2-315). Students are hereby notified that Dooly County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of gender in its athletic programs. The Sports Equity Coordinator for the school system is the Executive Director of Talent Management and Operations, 229-268-4761. Inquiries or complaints concerning sports equity in this school system may be directed to that office.

Student Activities

Students are encouraged to participate in school life outside the classroom. A variety of clubs and sports are available to help students develop character. Details may be obtained from a school counselor, administrator, or faculty member.

Federal Programs

The goal of the Federal Programs Department is to ensure that federal funds are utilized to provide a high-quality education to all students in the Dooly County School District in an effort to assist them in becoming proficient learners based on the state's standards. All schools in Dooly County are classified as **School-wide Title I Schools.** Therefore, additional funding is received that allows the schools, and the district, to offer instructional resources, technological resources, professional learning for staff, parent engagement activities, and any other services that help meet the needs of the students but are not provided by local and/or state funds.

- **Title I, Part A – Academic Achievement for Disadvantaged Students** is the largest single federal aid for elementary and secondary education. This grant is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and to achieve proficiency on challenging academic achievement standards set forth by the State.
- **Title I, Part A - School Improvement** is to provide financial resources to local educational agencies (LEA) on behalf of Title I schools identified Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI):
    - Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI): Includes the lowest-performing 5% of all Title I schools statewide, high schools graduating less than 67% of their students, and schools with chronically low-performing student subgroups that failed to improve,
    - Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI): Identifies schools with one or more "consistently underperforming" student groups (e.g., students with disabilities, English learners, or specific racial/ethnic groups).
    - Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI): A stricter designation for schools where specific student groups are performing as poorly as the lowest-performing 5% of Title I schools statewide.
- **Title I, Part A - Foster Care Provisions** focuses on school access, improved educational outcomes, and enhanced academic stability for children and youth in

foster care. The Foster Care Program has the responsibility of working closely with local child welfare agencies and local educational agencies to identify children and youth in foster care and to ensure the successful implementation of ESSA provisions.

- **Title I, Part C - Migrant Education Program is** designed to support comprehensive educational programs for migrant children to help reduce the educational disruption and other problems that result from repeated moves.
- **Title II, Part A – Supporting Effective Instruction** is to increase academic achievement by increasing teacher and principal quality. This grant helps by increasing the number of highly qualified teachers in the classroom, increasing the skills of principals and assistant principals and increasing the effectiveness of teachers and principals by holding Districts and schools accountable for improvements in student academic achievement.
- **Title III, Part A – English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)**
- is a federally funded supplemental program that concentrates on delivering language instruction educational programs to students who have a primary language other than English. This program is designed to improve the education of English Learners (ELs) by helping them learn English and meet challenging state academic content and student academic achievement standards.
- **Title IV, Part A - Student Support and Academic Enrichment:** is to provide all students with access to a well-rounded education, improve school conditions for student learning, and improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students. (ESEA section 4101).
- **Title V, Part B - Rural Education Initiative** is designed to assist rural school districts in using Federal resources more effectively to improve the quality of instruction and student academic achievement.
- **Title X, Part C - McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act** is designed to address the problems that homeless/displaced children and youth have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. Under this program, State educational agencies must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public-school education, including a public preschool education, as other children and youth.

Final Exams

For non-EOC courses, students will be administered final examinations. The exams will be comprehensive. The final exams will calculate as 20% of the final grade. If students meet the following criteria, they will be exempted from their final exams:

To earn an exemption from final exams, your student must meet the following criteria:

- Your student's class grade is 80% or above.
- Your student has not been absent more than 5 days during the semester (excused or unexcused).

Students must be present on the designated day to receive exemption forms. Any absence on that day will be included in the student's attendance record and may impact on eligibility for exam exemptions.

a. Exempted course grade = average before final
b. Signed exemption forms due by school deadline
c. Appeals go through administration only

Frequently Used Numbers

	Phone	Fax
Dooly County Elementary & Middle School	(229) 645-3421	(229) 645-3840
Dooly County High School	(229) 268-8181	(229) 268-1916
Dooly County Board of Education	(229) 268-4761	(229) 268-6148
Dooly County School System Annex	(229) 268-7751	
Federal Programs	(229) 268-9224	
School Nutrition Program	(229) 268-9221	
Dooly County Prep Academy	(229) 268-9221	
Transportation	(229) 268-4291	
DCCA/CTAE	(229) 268-8181	
Facilities & Maintenance	(229) 313-3337	
Human Resources	(229) 268-4761	
Migrant Program	(229) 591-1334	
Special Education	(229) 268-4761	
Teaching and Learning	(229) 268-4761	
Technology	(229) 268-7751	

District Website

Georgia School Climate Survey

Students participate in the Georgia School Climate Survey administered by the Georgia Department of Education. The survey is designed to collect information on various topics including alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; school violence; school climate; and nutrition. The data will be used to identify critical areas of need for our Safe and Drug-Free Schools. The survey is completely anonymous and voluntary. Students have the right to opt out. If you would like your student to opt out of the survey, please contact the school and complete the Georgia School Climate Survey Opt-Out Parent Letter.

Georgia Standards of Excellence

The state of Georgia has adopted a set of core standards called the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE). The Dooly County School System will utilize the Georgia Standards of Excellence Curriculum (K-12). The standards were developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and experts to provide a clear and consistent framework, so that upon graduation students will be able to succeed in credit bearing academic college

courses and in workforce training programs. This rigorous curriculum provides a consistent framework to prepare students for success in college and/or the 21st century workplace. The standards for English language arts, mathematics, and literacy in science, history/social studies, and technical subjects will ensure that all Georgia students have an equal access and opportunity to master the skills and knowledge needed for success beyond high school. Effective implementation of the GSE requires support on multiple fronts, including strengthening teacher content knowledge, pedagogical skills, and contextualized tasks for students that effectively engage 21st Century learners. The standards create a foundation to work collaboratively across states and districts, pooling resources, and expertise, to create curricular tools, professional development, common assessments, and other instructional materials.

Gifted Education

In Georgia, a gifted student is one who demonstrates a high degree of intellectual or creative ability, exhibits an exceptionally high degree of motivation, or excels in specific academic fields and who needs special instruction or services to achieve at levels commensurate with their abilities. Gifted services are designed to: provide academically challenging opportunities, integrate multiple disciplines, allow for independent work, encourage complex, abstract critical thinking, encourage the development of "new" ideas and products, increase self-understanding and self-evaluation.

Process of Identifying Gifted Students – Screening and Referral
Twice a year, the Gifted Support Team will screen referrals and determine whether a student should be given further evaluation for possible gifted services. A student may be referred by a teacher, parent, peer, administrator, or the student may refer themself. Students may also be referred from scores on various tests. The person making the referral completes forms used by the gifted program. These forms are available from the gifted coordinator (Mrs. Kylie Garrard) should be completed by October 1st for fall referral and March 1st for spring referral. The gifted coordinator or the school counselor will provide information on the referral, evaluation, and placement processes.

Grading System (Policy IHA)

Grades will be assigned on the following basis:

A	B	C	D	F
100-90	89-80	79-71	70	69 and below

Grades are determined by a combination of classwork, assignments, projects, and formal assessments.

Grading at Dooly County High School

Category	Percentage

Classwork – Daily Assignments, Bell Ringers, Guided Practice, Discussions, Independent Work, Collaborative Activities, and Learning Activities	55%
Minor Assessments – Quizzes, Exit Tickets, and Checks for Understanding	25%
Major Assessments – Unit Assessments, Benchmarks, End of Modules Assessments, Performance Tasks, Labs with Formal Reports, Presentation, Research Projects, and Essays	20%

Grade Point Average (GPA)

There are two (2) different GPAs listed on the student transcripts: Weighted GPA and Unweighted GPA

Weighted GPA: This GPA is the total of all numeric grades, including failing grades, for the student, divided by the total number of attempted classes with the additional points for Honors (+5), AP (+10), and Dual Enrollment courses (+10) not to exceed a 110-point grade value.

Unweighted GPA: This GPA is the total of all numeric grades, including failing grades, for the student, divided by the total number of attempted classes without the additional points for Honors, AP, and Dual Enrollment courses.

Any questions concerning GPAs should be referred to the counselor at the school.

Graduation Eligibility

To be eligible for graduation, students must:

- Earn the minimum number of credits required for their graduating class.
- Successfully complete all state-required coursework.
- Participate in all required state assessments.
- Meet all requirements established by the Georgia Department of Education and the Dooly County School System.

Note: Grade classification is based on the total number of Carnegie units earned at the conclusion of each academic year. Students who do not meet promotion requirements may be retained or required to recover credits through approved credit recovery options.

Graduation Fee

A $180.00 graduation fee must be paid by each Senior. This fee covers the following:

- Official Diploma
- Diploma Cover
- Mini Diploma

- Senior Breakfast (includes 2 guest)
- Yard Sign
- Commencement Adornments

Other fees may be associated with individualized à la carte items.

Additional information regarding these optional purchases will be provided during the Senior Meeting with administrators and/or their designee. Please Note: The Graduation Fees lists above are separate from and do not include any costs associated with Bowen Grad.

Graduation Obligations

Students must clear ALL financial obligations to the school to participate in graduation exercises. Students who graduate early may participate in the graduation exercise at the end of the school year. It is the student's responsibility to inform the school they plan to attend and pay for their cap, gown and class dues.

Graduation Requirements

Academic Credit Requirements by Graduating Class
To support the transition from an 8-credit block schedule to a 7-credit traditional schedule, Dooly County High School has established the following graduation requirements for each graduating class.

Class of 2027 (25 Credits Required)

Content Area	Credits Required
English Language Arts	4.0
Mathematics	4.0
Science	4.0
Social Studies	4.0
Health & Personal Fitness	1.0
CTAE, Fine Arts, and/or World Language	3.0
Electives	5.0
Total Credits Required	**25.0**

Class of 2028 (24 Credits Required)

Content Area	Credits Required
English Language Arts	4.0
Mathematics	4.0
Science	4.0
Social Studies	4.0
Health & Personal Fitness	1.0
CTAE, Fine Arts, and/or World Language	3.0

Electives	4.0
Total Credits Required	**24.0**

Class of 2029 (23 Credits Required)

Content Area	Credits Required
English Language Arts	4.0
Mathematics	4.0
Science	4.0
Social Studies	4.0
Health & Personal Fitness	1.0
CTAE, Fine Arts, and/or World Language	3.0
Electives	3.0
Total Credits Required	**23.0**

Class of 2030 (23 Credits Required)

Content Area	Credits Required
English Language Arts	4.0
Mathematics	4.0
Science	4.0
Social Studies	4.0
Health & Personal Fitness	1.0
CTAE, Fine Arts, and/or World Language	3.0
Electives	3.0
Total Credits Required	**23.0**

It is possible for students to earn 28-32 Carnegie units during four years in the high school program grades 9-12.

9th Grade: All students are expected to enroll in seven (7) courses during the school year. To be promoted to the 10th grade, students must earn a minimum of five (5) Carnegie units and successfully pass at least three (3) of the four core content area courses (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies).

10th Grade: All students are expected to enroll in seven (7) courses during the school year. To be promoted to the 11th grade, students must earn a minimum of eleven (11) Carnegie units and successfully pass at least three (3) of the four core content area courses (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies).

11th Grade: All students are expected to enroll in seven (7) courses during the school year. To be promoted to the 12th grade, students must earn a minimum of eighteen (18) Carnegie units and successfully pass at least three (3) of the four core content area courses (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies).

12th Grade: All students are expected to enroll in seven (7) courses during the school year. To be eligible for graduation, students must earn the minimum number of Carnegie units required for their graduating class and satisfy all state and local graduation requirements.

Additional Graduation Requirement Information
College Admissions Considerations
Students planning to attend a four-year college or university are strongly encouraged to complete:

- At least two (2) units of the same World Language.
- Additional mathematics and science coursework beyond the minimum graduation requirements when appropriate for their intended field of study.

Health and Personal Fitness Requirement
Students must earn one (1) credit in Health and Personal Fitness. This requirement may be satisfied through one of the following options:

- Completion of Health (0.5 credit) and Personal Fitness (0.5 credit); or
- Successful completion of three (3) units of JROTC, which may be used as a substitute for the Health and Personal Fitness graduation requirement in accordance with Georgia Department of Education guidelines.

Science Requirement
Students must earn four (4) science credits. The science sequence should include Biology and other state approved science courses.

In accordance with Georgia Department of Education guidelines, the following courses may be used to satisfy the fourth science credit requirement:

- General Horticulture
- Computer Science Principles

These courses may count as science credit when used as the student's fourth science unit toward graduation requirements.

Credit Repair, Credit Recovery, and Course Repetition
Dooly County High School is committed to providing students with multiple pathways to successfully earn course credit while maintaining rigorous academic expectations. Students who do not successfully complete a course may be eligible for Credit Repair, Credit Recovery, or Course Repetition based on their final course average.

Credit Repair
Credit Repair provides students who earn a final course average between 60 and 69 with an opportunity to demonstrate mastery of the course standards through a focused remediation process. Eligible students must successfully complete all required assignments, assessments, and teacher-directed activities within two (2) weeks following the end of the semester.

Upon successful completion of the Credit Repair requirements, the student's final course grade will be changed to a 70, allowing the student to earn credit for the course. Credit Repair is intended to address minor learning gaps and is available only during the designated two-week window immediately following the semester.

Credit Recovery
Students who earn a final course average between 55 and 69 and do not successfully complete Credit Repair, or who are otherwise determined eligible by school administration, may participate in Credit Recovery through the district-approved Edgenuity online learning platform. Credit Recovery is available for approved core academic courses and provides students with a condensed, standards-based curriculum designed to address previously unmet learning objectives.

Credit Recovery opportunities may be offered during or beyond the regular school day, including before school, after school, Saturdays, or summer sessions, based on program availability.

To participate in Credit Recovery, students must:

- Earn a final course average between 55 and 69;
- Meet with a school counselor or administrator to review graduation requirements and available recovery options;
- Obtain parent/guardian approval, when required; and
- Successfully complete all Edgenuity course requirements.

Upon successful completion of Credit Recovery, both the original failing grade and the Credit Recovery grade will appear on the student's official transcript and will be included in the calculation of the student's Grade Point Average (GPA). Students may not withdraw from a course and subsequently attempt to earn credit through Credit Recovery.

Students who require additional academic intervention in English Language Arts or Mathematics may also receive support through the Remedial Education Program (REP), if eligible, or through other interventions identified by the Student Services Team.

Course Repetition
Students who earn a final course average below 55 are not eligible for Credit Recovery and must repeat the entire course to earn academic credit. Course repetition may occur as part of the student's regular academic schedule, through another district-approved instructional setting, or through another approved educational provider, when appropriate.

When a course is repeated, both the original failing grade and the repeated course grade will remain on the student's official transcript and will be included in the calculation of the student's Grade Point Average (GPA). Repeating a course provides students the opportunity to complete all course standards and earn credit toward graduation; however, previously earned credit for a passed course may not be repeated for additional credit or solely to improve a passing grade.

Homeless Education Program

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines "homeless children and youth" as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence." However, because the circumstances of homelessness vary with each situation, determining the extent to which the family or youth fits the definition must occur on a case-by-case basis. The DCSS Liaison for Homeless Children and Youth must gather information from the family or youth and make the determination of eligibility. For more information, please call the Chief Academic Officer (Liaison for Homeless Children and Youth) at 229-268-4761.

Homework Policy

The purpose of homework is to form good study habits and to reinforce skills taught at school. Taking the assignment home, completing it, and remembering to bring the work to school the next day are important processes in developing responsibility. Accepting responsibility is very important for children to learn. Parents should provide a quiet area and should set a specific time each day for students to complete homework assignments. Homework may be assigned daily and, occasionally, on weekends.

Honor Graduates

- Seniors with GPAs of a weighted true average (no rounding) of 90% or above are determined to be Honor Graduates at the end of the third nine weeks of the Senior year.
- Only **completed** Dual Enrollment HOPE-eligible courses will be considered in the calculation.
- Weighted grades for courses taken from the 9th grade school year up to the end of the 3rd 9 weeks of a student's Senior year will be included in this calculation.
- All students enrolled in Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment and Honor courses during their Senior year will not receive the additional points for the courses until the end of the school year.
- Honor graduates are listed in alphabetical order except for the valedictorian and salutatorian.
    1. A student cannot fail any course while in high school.
    2. Students must have less than 7 unexcused absences for the year.
    3. All academic courses will be used in the calculations. Dual enrollment courses taken in the place of core academic courses will be used in the calculations. Multiple dual enrollment courses from non-academic courses will not be used in the calculation.
    4. Beginning with the Class of 2027, Honor Graduate recognition will be determined using grades earned in HOPE Scholarship-eligible academic courses only, including English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and World Language courses.

Honor Roll (DC K8)

Students will be recognized for academic achievement for each nine-week/semester grading period. Honors Day celebrations will be held regularly to recognize and award students for academic achievement.

- **Principal's Honor Roll:** All A's on report card for the grading period (All A's in Core subjects ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies, and "P" in Specials/Connections)

- **A/B Honor Roll:** A's and B's on the report card for the grading period. (All A's and Bs in Core subjects ELA, Math, Science, and "P" in Specials/Connections)

- **Merit List:** All Bs on the report card for the grading period. (All B's in Core subjects ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies, and "P" in Specials/Connections)

Honor Roll (DCHS)

Students will be recognized for academic achievement for each nine-week grading period. Honors Day celebrations will be held to recognize and award students for academic achievement.

- **Honor Roll of Distinction:** All A's on report card for the grading period.
- **Merit Honor Roll:** Only A's and B's on the report card for the grading period

HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarships

Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally (HOPE) is a program funded by the Georgia Lottery. The HOPE Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship that provides assistance towards the cost of tuition at eligible S and private Georgia postsecondary institutions. A student must graduate from an eligible high school with a minimum 3.0 HOPE GPA (as calculated by the Georgia Student Finance Commission - GSFC) and meet specific rigor course requirements. The Zell Miller Scholarship is also a merit-based scholarship funded from the same source. It provides full tuition at a S postsecondary institution and tuition assistance at an eligible private postsecondary institution. A student must graduate from an eligible high school as valedictorian or salutatorian (meeting the requirements of the HOPE Scholarship) or graduate with a minimum 3.7 Zell Miller GPA (as calculated by GSFC) along with a minimum combined score of 1200 on the math and reading portions of a national administration of the SAT or a minimum composite score of 26 on a single national or state/district administration of the ACT, and meet specific rigor course requirements. For more information visit www.gafutures.org.

Hospital/Homebound

Dooly County Schools provides continuous educational services for students who are unable to attend school for 10 or more school days due to a diagnosed medical or psychiatric condition through the Hospital/Homebound (HHB) program. Enrollment in DCSS is required prior to referral for HHB services. HHB services must be recommended

by the physician or psychiatrist who is treating the student and services can be provided in the hospital, at the student's home, in the community, or virtually.

Infinite Campus Parent Portal

Infinite Campus provides students and parents/guardians with real-time access to their information as it is entered by teachers, counselors, and staff about grades, attendance, report cards, classes, and enrollment as well as parent contact information. There is a convenient Campus Portal mobile app accessible from any Apple IOS and Android device.

Internet Acceptable Use and Safety

Acceptable Use Standards Dooly County School System Terms and Conditions

1. **Acceptable Use** - Use of the school computers, mobile hotspots, and the Internet must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of the Dooly County School System. Use of any other organization's network or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. In addition to adherence to the policies and procedures of various networks and any set forth by a service provider or host system, users must abide by all rules and procedures specified and deemed necessary at the site from which access to the Internet is made. These procedures may include, but are not limited to, a logbook, user time restrictions, and limitations on use of finite resources. Transmission of any material in violation of any United States or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material or material protected by trade secrets. Use for commercial activities by for-profit institutions is generally not acceptable. Use of product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited. Illegal activities are strictly prohibited.
2. **Privileges** - The use of the Internet, mobile hotspots, and school computers is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in cancellation of those privileges.
3. **Network Etiquette** – Users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. Users must respect the rights of others. Do not get abusive in your messages to others. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language. Illegal activities are strictly forbidden. Sexually explicit material or expressions of bigotry and hate are not allowed. Use of the network for games is not acceptable.
4. **Internet and Email** - Users must act responsibly when using email (when the service is available). Email will not be guaranteed to be private. Users should be mindful of what is said about others as email is easily forwarded. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the authorities. Users shall not intentionally obtain copies of or modify files, passwords, or data that belongs to anyone else. The network must not be used by a user in any way that would disrupt the use of the network for other users. Internet "surfing" will not be allowed. Students will use teacher-approved Internet sites with determined instructional objectives.

5. **Security** - Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. Users must never divulge or allow others to use their passwords. Use of another individual's account is prohibited. Account holders are ultimately responsible for all activities under their account. Attempts to log on as a system administrator are prohibited and will result in immediate cancellation of a user's privilege. Any user identified as being a security risk or as having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to the network.
6. **Vandalism/Abuse**- Vandalism/Abuse will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm, modify, or destroy data, equipment, or software. Abuse is defined as any act of carelessness that results in damage to data, equipment, or software.
7. **Copyright** – Users must respect the legal protection provided by the copyright license to programs, books, articles, videos, music recordings and computer data including those materials that are published on the Internet. Federal law protects copyright license.
8. **Failure to Return Borrowed Materials** – Failure to return any school property that has been checked out through school loan processes can result in disciplinary action. If the property has been lost or damaged, the person who signed for it must replace it or face disciplinary action. Replacement costs can be obtained from the technology department.
9. **Social Media** - Students are prohibited from accessing social media platforms (on-line forums that allow an account holder to create a profile, upload posts, view and listen to posts, form mutual connections, and interact Sly and privately with other account holders and users) through the use of computer equipment, communications services, or Internet access that is operated, owned, leased, and made available to students by the Dooly County School System. Students shall be permitted to access social media platforms only:
    1. As directed by school personnel;
    2. For the exclusive purpose of accessing and utilizing age-appropriate educational resources;
    3. Under the supervision of such school personnel; and
    4. During the course of a school related activity. While using social media platforms with permission, students will follow all provisions of the Internet Acceptable Use Policy.
    5. Abuse will result in cancellation or restriction of network privileges. Parents/guardians may request information about what social media platforms have been or are intended to be accessed with permission as described above; and prohibit their children from accessing one or more social media platforms. The school system will take appropriate steps to implement and enforce the Social Media Policy, which shall include, but not be limited to:

Use of software programs and other technologies reasonably designed and intended to block and monitor access to social media platforms.

***The Dooly County School System will educate our students in the responsible use of Social Media, Cybersecurity, and Cyber Citizenship.**

10. **AI (Artificial Intelligence**) - Artificial Intelligence, commonly referred to as AI, encompasses a broad range of computer science techniques and technologies that enable machines to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence. Generative AI refers to a subset of AI that creates new content, such as text, images, music or code. When integrated responsibly and thoughtfully, AI has the potential to transform education by making learning more efficient, effective and engaging for all students. The ethical use of AI is important.
    1. The Dooly County School System notes that using AI is not considered plagiarism (by definition) as AI generated responses are considered in the S domain. However, using AI may be considered a form of academic dishonesty. Students using AI to create content should use proper citation. The Academic Integrity Policies of the schools will be followed in dealing with academic dishonesty.
    2. Students will deal with AI for the rest of their lives. They need to be taught how to ethically use it.
    3. Most of the Large Language Models (ChatGPT, etc.) are currently prohibited for anyone under 13 years old and require parental permission for use with students between 13-18 years of age. Some AI tools are intended to be student facing and comply with student privacy requirements (**Magic School Student, School AI, Canva** and more every day).

JROTC

The Leadership Education Program known as JROTC is a consolidated program available to qualified students in all of our high schools. It is designed to help the cadets develop into responsible, productive citizens. The curriculum is designed to enhance and complement the cadet's academic efforts in all classes. The development of character, self-discipline, and academic performance is the primary focus.

Make-Up Work Following Absences

When a student is absent from school, the student has the responsibility to initiate all make-up work on the first day the student returns to school. If the student will miss three or more days, the parent or guardian should contact the school to make arrangements for collecting assignments. Work will not be collected for fewer than three absences. Teachers must be given a full school day to gather assignments. All work should be made up within seven school days after the student returns to school.

Make-Up Work with More Than 10 Days of Absences

Students will be allowed to make up work for up to 10 days of excused/pre-arranged absences in each class per semester. Make-up work will not be issued for unexcused absences. If students are absent more than 10 days in a semester, make-up work will not be given unless a parent/guardian-initiated conference is held with the teacher to arrange for make-up work.

McKinney-Vento (CARES Program)

The DCSS CARES program provides connections, advocacy, resources, and access to education for students who are displaced and/or experiencing homelessness to ensure they can enroll in and attend school and complete their high school education to be college and career ready.

Who is considered homeless? Under the McKinney-Vento Act, the term "homeless children and youths" means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes children and youths:

- who are sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of adequate alternative accommodations;
- are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
- who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- who are migratory children who live in one of the above circumstances
- Unaccompanied youth (not with legal parent/guardian) who live in one of the above circumstances

What rights/services do McKinney-Vento students have?

- homeless students who move have the right to remain in their schools of origin (i.e., the school the student attended when permanently housed or in which the student was last enrolled, which includes preschools) if that is in the student's best interest;
- if it is in the student's best interest to change schools, homeless students must be immediately enrolled in a new school, even if they do not have the records normally required for enrollment;
- transportation must be provided to or from a student's school of origin, at the request of a parent, guardian, or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the local liaison;
- homeless students must have access to all programs and services for which they are eligible, including special education services, preschool, school nutrition programs, language assistance for English learners, career and technical education, gifted and talented programs, magnet schools, charter schools, summer learning, online learning, and before- and after-school care;
- unaccompanied youths must be accorded specific protections, including immediate enrollment in school without proof of guardianship; and
- parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youths have the right to dispute an eligibility, school selection, or enrollment decision.

Medication, Illness, and Screenings at School

Health Services are provided by Albany Area Primary Health Care at the K8 Academy. The nurse will be available to dispense medicine and take care of other students' needs. All medication must be brought to school by a parent/guardian and checked in through the clinic or front office. The school nurse will keep a written daily report of any medicine administered. Medication will be administered under the following conditions:

- Medication prescribed by a physician
- Must be in original container
- Must contain instructions from doctor about dosage
- Must be accompanied by written parental request for administration of medicine

Migrant Education Program

Title I, Part C - Education of Migratory Children is a United States Department of Education program that provides supplemental educational and support services to eligible migratory children. These services help children of migratory workers overcome the disruption to their education and other obstacles they encounter.

Who are migratory workers? Migratory workers seek temporary or seasonal work in agriculture, fishing, or related industries including food processing. They follow the growing seasons across the country and cultivate and harvest fruits, vegetables, and many other food products

What services are provided?

- Early childhood development services to prepare migratory children for a successful school experience
- Supplemental instruction designed to meet the specific needs of migratory children
- Adolescent outreach and career awareness
- Supplemental support for instruction of English to speakers of other languages (ESOL)
- Special teachers, tutors, and highly qualified para-educators to work with at-risk migratory students individually or in small groups on areas of academic weakness
- Summer school programs and extended day programs to supplement the regular school program
- Coordination with other community agencies and organizations to provide services to support academic and school success
- Emergency health services (when school attendance and success is impacted) including dental, vision and nutrition
- Assisting parents to recognize their contributions to their children's success both at home and as partners with teachers

Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

A multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is a data-driven prevention framework that uses Assessment (Screening and Progress Monitoring) to identify and predict students who may be at risk for poor learning outcomes or who experience social/emotional needs, and/or behavioral concerns that impact learning. Under the framework of Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students, RTI and SST are a part of the MTSS process. This framework integrates instruction and intervention (PBIS, RTI, Student Support Team, Student Mental Health, Wrap Around Services, etc.), delivered in levels of prevention, through interventions that vary in intensity based on individual student need. It is an important responsibility to ensure that all Georgia's children are receiving an education that ensures they are ready for learning, living, and leading.

It is essential to consider the "whole child," the background each brings to school, and how we can ensure that a student is "ready to learn" when he or she walks through the classroom doors. Each student is a unique learner comprised of interacting dimensions, such as cognitive, physical, behavioral, social, and emotional. It is intended that every student receives the support needed to be successful in school and life through meaningful collaboration and coordination among schools, community partners, families, and other resource agencies. Children receiving necessary assistance are more likely to be safe, healthy, supported, challenged, and engaged. For any questions regarding the MTSS process, please reach out to Dr. Latorri West at (229) 645-3421 or via email at latorri.west@dooly.k12.ga.us

Nonprescription Medication

Non-prescription medication shall not be given except with written permission from the parent or guardian. The parents must send the medication in the original container or package. Do not send medicine wrapped in plastic, paper towels, or foil.

Parents/guardians are responsible for unused medication at the end of the school year. If a student becomes ill or is injured while at school, parents will be notified in order to obtain medical care. In case of serious illness or injury, Emergency Medical Services (911) will be called for immediate transport to the nearest hospital. A parent will be asked to pick up their student if they have a temperature of 100.4° F or more. To return to school, the student must be fever-free for 24 hours without medication. Dooly County K8 Academy conducts mass hearing and vision screenings; parent permission is not required for mass school screenings. Permission is required for screening of individual students screened as part of a special education or RTI/Student Support Team (SST) evaluation or due to specific concerns noted by school staff. Screening for scoliosis is conducted annually during middle school years and Georgia mandates screening for a minimum of two grades between the ages of 10 - 15. Upon receipt of a parent/guardian scoliosis screening permission form, students will be screened by trained clinic staff in the fall of the school year. Students will be screened unless a signed form by the student's physician, is received before the screening.

Non-Discrimination Statement and Complaint Procedure

The Dooly County Board of Education ("Board") desires that all students receive the benefit of an adequate education. With this view in mind, the Board prohibits unlawful discrimination against students because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or other protected group status or activity (e.g. opposition to prohibited discrimination or participation in the statutory complaint process) in its programs and activities or employment in its programs or activities. In keeping with this commitment, the Board will not tolerate harassment, discrimination, or other unlawful treatment of its students. It is the policy of the Board to comply fully with the requirements of Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act and all accompanying regulations. As set forth herein, the Board designates the following employees of Dooly County Schools ("District") to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination: Executive Director of Talent and Operations (Student Title IX Coordinator) will handle related student and employee inquiries.

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Family Engagement means the participation of parents and family members in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

a. That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
b. That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
c. That parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.
d. The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA.

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Dooly County School System (DCSS) has developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe DCSS's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals. When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy school more. Title I, Part A provides for substantive family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children's education. Consistent with Section 1116, the DCSS will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

Parent's Right to Know

In compliance with requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1112, you have the right to request information from the principal about your child's teachers' training/credentials. The following may be requested:

- Whether the teacher met the Georgia Professional Standards Commission requirements for certification for the grade level and subject area in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status through which Georgia qualifications or certification criteria have been waived;
- What undergraduate or graduate degrees the teacher holds, including graduate certificates and additional degrees, and major(s) or area(s) of concentration; and
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications.

Parents will receive notification if a non- professionally qualified teacher is assigned as the child's teacher of record in an academic content area for four consecutive weeks or more. If you have questions regarding your child's teacher, please contact the school's principal.

Promotion and Retention

Promotion and retention decisions shall be made based on a review of the overall academic achievement requirements listed below.

I. DEFINITIONS

a. Academic Subjects - reading, language arts, science, social studies and mathematics.

b. Accelerated Instruction - challenging instructional activities that are intensely focused on student academic deficiencies in academic subjects. This accelerated instruction is designed to enable a student who has not achieved grade level, as defined by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, to meet grade-level standards in the shortest possible time.

c. Additional Instruction - academic instruction beyond regularly scheduled academic classes that are designed to bring students not performing on grade level, as defined by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, to grade level performance. It may include more instructional time allocated during the school day, instruction before and after the school day, Saturday instruction, and/or summer/inter-session instruction.

d. Differentiated Instruction - instructional strategies designed to meet individual student learning needs.

e. End of Grade Assessments - the End-of-Grade Assessments (EOG-grades 3-8) and End-of Course Assessments (EOC- grades 9-12) are state required assessments designed to measure how well students acquire the skills and knowledge described in the state adopted curriculum.

f. English Learners ("ELs") - students whose primary or home language is other than English and who are eligible for services based on the results of an English language proficiency assessment.

g. **Grade Level** - standard of performance, as defined by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, on the state adopted End-of-Grade Assessments.
h. **Multi-Tiered Systems of Support ("MTSS")** – a preventive intervention system that includes Screening, Progress Monitoring, Multi-Level Prevention Systems and Data-Based Decision Making.
i. Placement - the assignment of a student who has not met promotion requirements, to a specific grade level based on the determination that such placement will most likely provide the student with instruction and other services needed to succeed and progress to the next higher level of academic achievement. Placement can only be decided by a unanimous vote of the Placement Committee.
j. **Placement Committee** - Upon the appeal of a retention decision, the placement committee is established to make placement decisions concerning a student who does not meet grade level expectations on the state adopted End-of-Grade Assessments or grade level mastery. The voting members of this committee shall be the principal's designee, the student's parent or guardian, and the teacher(s) in the content areas(s) in which the student did not achieve grade level expectations. Other individuals may be invited to join this committee as non-voting members (i.e. school counselor and/or Student Support Team Chairperson). For students receiving special education or related services, the Individual Education Plan ("IEP") Committee shall serve as the Placement Committee.
k. **Promotion** - the assignment of a student to a higher grade level based on the student's achievement of established criteria in the current grade.
l. **Retention** - the re-assignment of a student to the current grade level during the next school year.
m. **Response to Intervention ("RTI")** – a multi-tiered system of support that ensures maximization of student achievement and reduction of behavior problems.
n. **Student Support Team ("SST")** – an interdisciplinary group that uses a systematic process to address learning and/or behavior problems of students, K-12, in a school. (Rule 160-4-2-.32)

II. Promotion Criteria

a. A student shall be promoted when the student has met promotion criteria as outlined in this policy. Promotion from one grade to the next higher grade is dependent upon mastering the local and state-developed grade level curriculum standards. Evidence of mastery of standards is determined by examining available assessment data, classroom performance, presence of support services and overall academic achievement.
b. Special education support and services will be considered in the placement determination process for students with disabilities.

Grades Kindergarten, 1, and 2 Promotion Criteria

Promotion criteria for grades kindergarten through second will be based on evidence of mastery of standards as determined by examining available assessment data, classroom performance, presence of support services and overall academic achievement.

Dooly County Schools shall assess each Kindergarten student's readiness for first grade. Said readiness assessment shall include data obtained from multiple sources including, the Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills ("GKIDS").

Students must meet grade level Reading targets.

Grades 3, 4, and 5 Local Promotion Criteria
The student must pass four out of five academic subjects to include Reading, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies, or score Proficient or higher based on corresponding End of Grade assessment. Students must meet grade level Reading targets.

Grades 6, 7, and 8 Local Promotion Criteria
The student must pass three out of four academic subjects, including English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies, or score Proficient or higher on corresponding End of Grade assessment, and a minimum of two out of four Connections classes. Students must meet grade level Reading targets.

A student at any grade level who does not achieve promotion criteria will be referred to the Placement Committee. The Placement Committee may place the student into the next grade level or retain the student in the current grade level.

State Requirements for Promotion, Placement and Retention Requirements for Grades 3, 5, and 8
Pursuant to our Strategic Waiver, the District has waived the requirement that all students who do not meet grade level expectations on the Milestones assessments are automatically retained.

When a student does not perform at grade level, then the following shall occur:

1. The student shall be given an opportunity for accelerated, differentiated, or additional instruction in the applicable subject(s) prior to the retesting opportunity; and§§

2. The student shall be retested with the appropriate section(s) of the state adopted assessment(s) or an alternative assessment instrument that is appropriate for the student's grade level as provided by the State Board of Education and the Dooly County BOE.

Only students in grades 3, 5, and 8 are eligible to retest when made available.

When a student does not meet local promotion criteria:

1. The principal or designee shall retain the student for the next school year except as otherwise provided for in this policy.

2. The principal or designee shall notify in writing, by first ¬class mail and/or email, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student and the teacher(s) regarding the decision to retain the student.

The notice shall describe the option of the parent(s)/guardian(s) or teacher(s) to appeal the decision to retain the student. The notice shall describe the composition and functions of the placement committee; it shall describe the option of the parent(s) or guardian(s), teacher(s), or principal to invite individuals who can provide information or facilitate understanding of the issues to be discussed to attend the placement committee meeting; and, The notice shall include the requirement that the decision to retain or place the student must be the unanimous decision of the placement committee comprised of the parent(s)/guardian(s), teacher(s), and principal or designee.

If the parent(s) or guardian(s) or teacher(s) appeals the decision to retain the student, then the school shall establish a placement committee to consider the appeal.

The placement committee shall be comprised of the principal's designee, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) and the teacher(s) of the subject(s) of the state adopted assessment or the alternative instrument on which the student failed to perform at grade level, and any related support personnel.

The principal's designee shall notify in writing, by first ¬class mail or email, the parent(s)/guardian(s) and teacher(s) of the time and place for convening the placement committee.

The placement committee shall review the overall academic achievement on the state adopted assessment or alternative assessment instrument and promotion standards and criteria established by the Dooly County BOE and make a determination to place the student into the next appropriate grade or retain the student.

The decision to place the student must be the unanimous decision of the placement committee and must determine that if placed and given accelerated, differentiated, or additional instruction during the next year, the student is likely to perform at grade level by the conclusion of the school year.

The placement committee shall prescribe such additional assessments as may be appropriate, in addition to assessments administered to other students at the grade level during the year.

The placement committee shall provide for a plan of continuous assessment during the subsequent school year in order to monitor the progress of the student(s).

A plan for accelerated, differentiated, or additional instruction must be developed for each student who does not achieve grade level performance in grades 3, 5, or 8 on the state adopted assessment(s) specified in section (A) above whether the student is retained, placed, or promoted for the subsequent year. The Student Support Team shall implement and oversee the plan.

A student who is absent or otherwise unable to take the state-adopted assessment in language arts and/or mathematics on the first administration or its designated make¬up day(s) shall take the state-adopted assessment in reading and/or mathematics on the second administration day(s) or an alternative assessment that is appropriate for the student's grade level as provided for by the State Board of Education and the Dooly County BOE.

For students receiving special education or related services, an IEP meeting will be convened as the placement committee. Should the parent(s), guardian(s), or teacher(s) decide to appeal the decision to retain a special education student, the IEP Committee will convene to consider the appeal.

III. Retention of Students

A student shall be retained in the same grade level as outlined in this policy. Students recommended for retention shall be referred to the Student Support Team ("SST") for ongoing monitoring of academic achievement and implementation/oversight of an instructional plan for accelerated, differentiated, or additional instruction. It is expected that the school staff's decision will take into consideration the following variables provided that these factors do not conflict with the requirements of the law:

1. The psychological (emotional) effect of the decision in light of the lack of consensus between school and home.
2. What educational research has indicated concerning the possibility of positive and negative results of retention.
3. Under no circumstances will a student be retained in a grade for a second year for the purpose of athletic "red shirting."

IV. Placement of Students

a. **Mid-Year Placement of Students -** In some exceptional cases, the placement of students from an elementary school to a middle school or from a middle school to a secondary school at the end of the semester rather than at the end of the year may be desirable. When such a decision is made, the following procedures are to be followed:
    i. The certificated school faculty (principal, counselor, and teachers, as appropriate) of the receiving school must agree with the recommendation for mid-year placement. An appeal of the decision can be made to the Superintendent or designee.
    ii. Following the completion of conditions for recommendation at the sending school and the agreement at the receiving school, appropriate personnel at the receiving school shall conduct a parent conference with the student's parents. Stipulations or conditions for the placement will be stated and agreed upon at the conference.
    iii. The decision for mid-year placement from one school level to another (elementary to middle or middle to secondary) should be a joint agreement of the certificated staff and the student's parents. If consensus

between school and home cannot be reached, the school's decision shall be the overriding decision.

b. **Accelerated Placement of Students -** The process of whole-grade acceleration may be considered as an intervention for students who exhibit exceptionally high academic achievement in the current grade level, as well as unusually rapid progress through current academic content. In order to determine if a student is eligible for academic acceleration, the following steps should be completed:
   i. Parents and teachers may initiate a written request to the principal for acceleration of a student within one school level. The student should be achieving a minimum of two years above grade level in all academic subjects to be considered for acceleration. The following factors should be considered in making this decision: grade equivalent and percentile ranking on norm-referenced standardized tests, performance on criterion referenced competency tests, history of exemplary grades, chronological age, social/emotional readiness, physical size, and academic readiness.
   ii. A committee comprised of the student's teachers, principal, parent or guardian, and others deemed necessary will make the decision concerning acceleration. When the decision is made, appropriate documentation shall be placed in the student's record, and a conference shall be held with the parent(s) to address the decision. Notifying parents is the principal's responsibility. An appeal of the decision can be made to the Superintendent or designee.
   iii. If at any time it becomes evident that it would be in the best interest of the student to be returned to his/her prior grade level or school, the parent and school should re-evaluate the placement following the above-outlined process.

c. **End of Year Placement of Students - A** student may be placed rather than retained into the next higher-grade level as outlined in this policy. Students placed into the next grade level shall be referred to the MTSS for ongoing monitoring of academic achievement and implementation/oversight of an instructional plan for accelerated, differentiated, or additional instruction. When considering placement, one of the following must exist:
   i. The student has previously been retained for two (2) years in grades K-8.
   ii. The student is an English Learner ("EL") student, and it has been determined that the lack of achievement is related to a deficiency in English language skills, not lack of academic achievement.

   The decision for placement to the next grade must be the result of a unanimous decision of the Placement Committee as delineated in this policy.

V. Placement Committee Appeal Procedures

a. Upon appeal of the decision to retain a student:
   i. The principal shall review documentation from the placement committee meeting.

ii. The principal shall review the overall academic achievement of the student in light of the performance on the state-adopted End-of-Grade Assessment or the alternative assessment instrument and Dooly County promotion standards and criteria and make a determination to place or retain.
iii. The decision of the Placement Committee may be appealed only as provided by Dooly County Board of Education.
iv. Appeals are only conducted at the local school level by the Principal or Principal designee.

VI. Student Assessment Responsibilities for Special Populations

a. Students with an Individualized Education Plan ("IEP"), Section 504 Accommodation Plans ("IAP") and English Learner/Testing Participation committee ("EL/TPC") plan shall participate in the state and local assessment programs. The IEP, IAP, and/or EL/TPC plan for these students shall identify the accommodations required to enable participation.

b. Students with IEPs who cannot reasonably participate in the state and locally mandated assessments shall participate in the Georgia Alternate Assessment ("GAA").

Provisional Enrollment

Other than students specifically exempted by rule or by law, a student shall be enrolled on a provisional basis and allowed to attend an LEA for 30 calendar days while awaiting evidence of age, residence, or other local requirements. The provisional enrollment period may be extended for extenuating circumstances.

If evidence is not provided within this period, the LEA superintendent or designee shall mark the student withdrawn at the end of the thirtieth day. The individual that registered the student should be notified at least 10 calendar days prior to the withdrawal of the student.

Registration Requirements

All new student registrations take place at each Dooly County School for students enrolling in Pre-K -12th grade. The documents required for registration/enrollment include (*except for students specifically exempted by rule or by law*):

1. **Birthdate Verification** (*in this order*): A certified copy of a birth certificate, certified hospital issued birth record or birth certificate; A military ID; A valid driver's license; An adoption record; A religious record signed by an authorized religious official; An official school transcript; or 27 If none of these evidences can be produced, an affidavit of age sworn to by the parent, guardian, grandparent, or other person accompanied by a certificate of age signed by a licensed practicing physician, which certificate states that the physician has examined the child and believes that the age as stated in the affidavit is substantially correct.

2. **Proof Of Residence:** Proof of residency documents which can include the following: current lease/mortgage/purchase agreement, current warranty or quit claim deed, current paycheck stub, current homeowner's insurance policy, **AND** copy of a current (within 30 days) utility bill (gas, water, electric) with service address.
3. **Georgia Certificate of Immunization Form #3231.** Students must have immunization records from other countries or states transferred to Georgia form #3231. Forms must be marked complete for school attendance.

- Effective July 1, 2014, children born on or after January 1, 2002, who are attending 7th grade and for new entrants into a Georgia school grades 8th through 12th must have received on dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) vaccine and one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine.

- For a child to be exempt from immunization on religious grounds, the parent or guardian must first furnish the official responsible of the school or facility an affidavit in which the parent or guardian swears or affirms that the immunization required conflicts with the religious beliefs of the parent or guardian. This form may be found at dph.georgia.gov./school vaccines. However, immunizations may be required in cases where such disease is in epidemic stages.

4. **Georgia Vision, Hearing, Dental and Nutrition Screening Form #3300.** This is required for students AT ANY GRADE LEVEL being admitted for the first time to a public school in Georgia.

Services for both forms (#3231 and #3300) are available from the **Albany Area Primary School Based Health Center @ Dooly County K8 Academy or the Dooly County Health Department (204 West Union Street; 229-268-4725)

5. **Parent/Guardian (if applicable)** must present photo identification.

6. **Social Security Card or Signed School Waiver Form**

7. **Withdrawal Form, Last Report Card or Records from Previous School** within 30 days. Official high school transcripts must be provided for high school students (grade 9-12) to receive transfer credits.

A homeless child/student in transition, as defined in the Mckinney-Vento Homeless Act 42 U.S.C. § 11431 et seq., shall be enrolled immediately even in the absence of any appropriate documentation.

Report Cards

Students will receive a report card at the end of each nine-week grading period, and progress reports will be issued midway through each grading period (approximately every

4½ weeks). Parents and guardians are encouraged to monitor their child's academic progress regularly. Progress and semester report cards can be accessed on Infinite Campus Parent Portal. If a student is experiencing academic difficulty or is failing a course, parents should contact the school to schedule a conference with the teacher and/or school personnel to discuss strategies for improvement.

Students enrolled in courses through Edgenuity will receive an Edgenuity Grade Report with each progress report and report card. The report will provide information regarding the student's progress, pacing, course completion status, and current grades based on performance within the Edgenuity platform. Grades earned through Edgenuity will be recorded and reported in accordance with Dooly County School System's grading policies and procedures.

Reporting Criminal Conduct

Any action or failure to act by a student, which is a violation of any law or which an administrator or teacher believes may be a violation of a law may be reported to the School Resource Officer.

Response to Intervention/Student Support Team

Dooly County Schools has a Response to Intervention (RTI)/Student Support Team (SST) process based on the Georgia Department of Education guidelines to address specific academic and behavioral needs of students. Summative and/or formative assessments are used as indicators to determine the need to initiate this process for a student or group of students. It is the process by which instructional programs and teaching interventions can be identified and documented to help students achieve in the regular classroom.

Safety and Restraint General Parental Notification

Physical restraint may be used with a student as an emergency intervention to prevent immediate or imminent injury to the person or others, as permitted under state board rule 160-5-1.35. If a student is physically restrained, an attempt shall be made to notify the parent on the day of/within twenty-four hours after. Notification shall be made by phone, e-mail or other method which may include, but is not limited to, sending a note home with the child. The parent of such child, regardless of whether he or she received such notification, shall be sent a copy of the incident report no later than two business days after the emergency use of physical restraint.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

Student aid is available through grants, scholarships, and Student Loans. Students are encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). A representative from The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) will provide a hands-on workshop for students and parents. Please plan to attend this important meeting workshop.

Students should do the following to obtain financial aid:

- Maintain at least a 3.0 GPA.
- Apply for admission to college/universities as early as possible
- Complete the FAFSA (Begins October 1st) www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Apply for national and local scholarships (See the counselor for a Monthly Scholarship Bulletin)
- Apply for local scholarships in the Spring

Georgia Hope Scholarship Program is Georgia's unique program that rewards students' hard work with financial assistance at participating public and private colleges. The Georgia HOPE Scholarship rewards financial assistance at eligible Georgia public and private colleges and universities to students.

The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) calculates the HOPE Scholarship GPA. The eligibility requirements for a HOPE Scholarship will be based on ALL academic credits a student earns in the academic areas of English, Math, Science, Social Science, and foreign languages, regardless of the number of credits the student has earned in each area.

GPAs for Hope scholarship eligibility are determined at the end of the fourth nine weeks of the Senior year and from only the following core classes: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and World Language. 4. Grading Scale: All final grades for students are reported as numerical averages according to the following scale: 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, and below 70 = F. Advanced Placement (AP) and Academic Dual Enrollment students receive ten (10) points added to their cumulative semester average. Students that pass Accelerated and Honor courses receive five (5) points added to their cumulative semester average.

School Closings

School may be closed due to inclement weather or emergency events. Local radio and television stations will carry news and information. Every effort will be made to ensure that parents are notified of school closings in a timely manner. The Infinite Campus Messenger Communication System/School Messenger and DCSS app will also be used to notify parents of school closings. The system and schools' social media Facebook site will also have information posted if school is to be closed.

School Counselors

School counselors are certified/licensed educators who improve student success for ALL students by implementing a comprehensive school counseling program. School counselors play an essential role in creating an equitable, inclusive school culture promoting success for all. They help all students apply academic achievement strategies, manage emotions, apply interpersonal skills, and plan for postsecondary options (higher education, military, work force). School counseling duties include:

- individual student academic planning and goal setting

- school counseling classroom lessons based on student success standards
- short-term counseling to students (School counselors do not provide therapy or long-term counseling in schools)
- referrals for long-term support
- collaboration with families'/teachers/ administrators/community for student success
- advocacy for students at individual education plan meetings and other student-focused meetings
- data analysis to identify student issues, needs and challenges

Students may make appointments with counselors during the school day. Appointments may also be held before/after school. School counselors address three main areas: academic achievement, career development, and personal/social development. Counselors may also provide support during times of personal crisis.

School Food Services/Nutrition Program

The school will provide a nutritionally balanced breakfast and lunch to all students regardless of their ability to pay or their race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap. All students will be served a free breakfast and lunch each day. Any child with food allergies, including milk, should have a note from his/her doctor on file in the school office. **A physician's statement is valid for one year only. An updated letter must be submitted each year**. Food service personnel will be notified of any food allergies so that alternative items may be substituted. When a child picks up his plate, if he/she notices something on his/her tray that they should not eat, then he/she needs to notify the food service personnel immediately.

Lunchroom Guidelines:

- If you plan to eat a meal with your child, the office must be notified in advance so that a tray may be reserved for you.
- Breakfast costs $2.25 and lunch costs $4.25. On various days, such as field day, the lunchroom will not serve adults due to the large number of parents who normally attend.
- Students are expected to eat in the lunchroom in a quiet and orderly manner.
- Students are not allowed to leave the building during lunch periods. Students can bring lunch from home or accept what is offered through the nutrition department.
- Students are not allowed to bring in or order hot meals from outside of the cafeteria for breakfast or lunch.
- Do not run to the cafeteria or break in line ahead of other students. Crowding or jumping in line will not be permitted and may result in loss of cafeteria privileges. Food is to be eaten only in the lunchroom areas. Food and beverages must not be taken out of the lunchroom areas.
- All tables must be left clean.

- Trash must be removed as soon as you finish eating. Everyone at the table is responsible for the cleanliness of the table and the immediate area.
- Throwing objects is prohibited in the cafeteria.
- Any objects dropped on the floor must be picked up.
- Students are not to sit on the cafeteria tables or stand around in the cafeteria.
- Students will refrain from loud, unnecessary talking in the cafeteria. The lunch period should be a pleasant break in the day and an excellent opportunity to socialize with friends. Please converse at your table in normal conversational tones.
- Students are required to visit cafeterias before visiting the snack room or food trucks on designated days.
- Any food from home must be brought in a lunch bag or proper container.

School-Parent Compacts

Dooly County School System staff and parents work collaboratively to develop the Parent-Teacher Compact as part of the family engagement policy. This Compact outlines how parents, school, staff, and students share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

School Resource Officer/Safety Director

The primary goal of the School Resource Officer is to provide a safe learning environment for students and teachers. It is the responsibility of the School Resource Officer (SRO) to uphold the constitution, all applicable laws, and protect the citizens. The presence of the SRO on school campus and at school-sponsored events helps deter criminal activity. The SRO seeks to establish positive relationships with the school community, and is a valuable resource for students, parents and teachers regarding matters of safety, security, and criminal law. Whenever incidents of crime or threats to safety occur, the SRO can respond within his or her capacity as a law enforcement officer.

School Safety Zone

School safety zones are defined as in, on, or within 1000 feet of any real property leased, owned, or occupied by the Dooly County School System. It is unlawful for any person to carry, possess, or have under his/her control any weapon or explosive compound while within a school safety zone, at a school building or school function, or on school property or a vehicle furnished by the school. Violation of this law is a felony. However, an individual over the age of 21 years old (except students) who are in possession of a weapon and/or has a weapon locked in a compartment of a motor vehicle and has a lawful gun license or permit, may transit through a designated school zone to carry or pick up a student. However, it is unlawful for any person to remain within the school safety zone without a legitimate cause or need. Failure to leave the premises when requested is grounds for a charge of disruption of or interference with the operation of any S school.

School Social Worker/Student Advocacy Specialist

The School Social Worker/Student Advocacy Specialist is a critical link between school, family, and community. They work to encourage regular school attendance, connect families with community resources, provide individual and small group counseling, and support parents and teachers. School social workers extend services to students in ways that build individual strengths and empower families to effectively use formal and informative community resources. They assist students with difficulties in the school, home, or community. This may include emotional, health, attendance, behavior, academic failure/underachievement, substance abuse, and/or family issues.

Searches, Interrogations, and Surveillance

Search And Seizure

To maintain order and discipline in the schools and to protect the safety and welfare of students and school personnel, school authorities may search a student, bags, or student automobile under the circumstances outlined below and may seize any illegal, unauthorized, or contraband materials discovered in the search.

1. **Personal Searches: A student's person and/or personal effects (e.g., purse, book bag, etc.) may be searched when a school administrator has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student may have illegal or unauthorized materials.** If a search of a student's person in conducted, it will be conducted in private by a school administrator of the same sex and with an adult witness of the same sex present.
2. **Bag Searches: All bags are subject to search**. Student bags are searched each day when students arrive on campus.
3. **Automobile Searches: Vehicles parked on campus during the school day must be registered with the school and display the appropriate permit**. The school retains authority to conduct routine patrols of student parking lots and inspections of the exterior of student automobiles on school property. The interiors of students' vehicles may be inspected/searched whenever a school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal or unauthorized materials are contained inside. Such patrols, inspections, and searches may be conducted without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.
4. **Seizure of Illegal Materials**: If a properly conducted search yields illegal or contraband materials, such findings shall be turned over to the legal authorities for ultimate disposition.

Interrogations And Searches

A student or property belonging to or assigned to a student may be searched if a probable cause is present in the judgment of the school administration. Such searches may be conducted by the administration, security officers, or other designees. Following individual (not mass) searches, parents will be notified of results. School property used by students may be inspected by school authorities at any time. The administration,

security officers, or other designees have the authority to interrogate students for purposes of investigating and punishing students' misconduct, being proactive in preventing potential problems, and anytime information held by a student is deemed necessary.

NOTE: A student attempting to enroll/re-enroll into school that is or may be criminally charged with a felony or a designated felony (O.C.G.A 15-11-63) must be referred directly to Administration and/or Dooly County Student Services and may subject to alternative placement.

Section 504

Notice of Rights of Students and Parents Under Section 504

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, commonly referred to as "Section 504," is a nondiscrimination statute enacted by the United States Congress. The purpose of Section 504 is to prohibit discrimination and to assure that disabled students have educational opportunities and benefits equal to those provided to non-disabled students. For more information regarding Section 504, or if you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact your school's counselor.

The implementing regulations for Section 504 as set out in 34 CFR Part 104 provide parents and/or students with the following rights:

1. Your child has the right to an appropriate education designed to meet his or her individual educational needs as adequately as the needs of non-disabled students. 34 CFR 104.33.
2. Your child has the right to free educational services except for those fees that are imposed on non-disabled students or their parents. Insurers and similar third parties who provide services not operated by or provided by the recipient are not relieved from an otherwise valid obligation to provide or pay for services provided to a disabled student. 34 CFR 104.33.
3. Your child has a right to participate in an educational setting (academic and nonacademic) with non-disabled students to the maximum extent appropriate to his or her needs. 34 CFR 104.34.
4. Your child has a right to facilities, services, and activities that are comparable to those provided for non-disabled students. 34 CFR 104.34. 5. Your child has a right to an evaluation prior to a Section 504 determination of eligibility. 34 CFR 104.35.
5. You have the right to not consent to the school system's request to evaluate your child. 34 CFR 104.35.
6. You have the right to ensure that evaluation procedures, which may include testing, conform to the requirements of 34 CFR 104.35.
7. You have the right to ensure that the school system will consider information from a variety of sources as appropriate, which may include aptitude and achievement tests, grades, teacher recommendations and

observations, physical conditions, social or cultural background, medical records, and parental recommendations. 34 CFR 104.35.

8. You have the right to ensure that placement decisions are made by a group of persons, including persons knowledgeable about your child, the meaning of the evaluation data, the placement options, and the legal requirements for least restrictive environment and comparable facilities. 34 CFR 104.35.
9. If your child is eligible under Section 504, your child has a right to periodic reevaluations, including prior to any subsequent significant change of placement. 34 CFR 104.35.
10. You have the right to notice prior to any actions by the school system regarding the identification, evaluation, or placement of your child. 34 CFR 104.36.
11. You have the right to examine your child's educational records. 34 CFR 104.36.
12. You have the right to an impartial hearing with respect to the school system's actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, or educational placement, with opportunity for parental participation in the hearing and representation by an attorney. 34 CFR 104.36.
13. You have the right to receive a copy of this notice and a copy of the school system's impartial hearing procedure upon request. 34 CFR 104.36.
14. If you disagree with the decision of the impartial hearing officer (school board members and other district employees are not considered impartial hearing officers), you have a right to a review of that decision according to the school system's impartial hearing procedure. 34 CFR 104.36.
15. You have the right to, at any time, file a complaint with the United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

Dooly County School System – Section 504 Process

1. **Referral & Consent**: A referral for a Section 504 evaluation may be made by a parent/guardian, teacher, administrator, or medical professional. Parents will receive procedural safeguards and provide written consent before an initial evaluation is conducted.
2. **Evaluation:** A multidisciplinary team reviews multiple sources of data, including academic performance, attendance, behavior, teacher input, parent input, and relevant medical information.
3. **Eligibility Determination:** The team determines whether the student has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities and qualifies for protections under Section 504.
4. **Plan Development & Implementation:** If eligible, the team develops a Section 504 Plan outlining accommodations and supports needed for the student to access educational opportunities. The plan is shared with appropriate staff for implementation.
5. **Review & Reevaluation:** The Section 504 Team reviews the plan annually and conducts reevaluations periodically or before any significant change in placement to ensure the student's needs continue to be met.

Special Education

The Dooly County School District operates in strict adherence to policies and procedures set forth in IDEA and the State Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Special Education. The state rules, as well parental rights may be referred to online at the following address: http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Special-Education-Rules.aspx

What is Special Education and who is eligible for services?
Special Education is instruction designed to meet the unique learning strengths and needs of individual students with disabilities from birth through age 21. A child must be evaluated and identified as having a disability to be eligible for Special Education and/or related services. Programs are provided for students in all disability areas recognized by the State of Georgia. Disability categories are: Autism spectrum disorder, Deaf/blind, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Emotional and Behavioral Disorder, Intellectual Disabilities, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impairment, Significant Developmental Delay, Specific Learning Disability, Speech/language Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury, Visual Impairment. Once identified as eligible for special education services, a student will have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) put into place.

The Individual Education Plan (IEP) The IEP is a legal written document written for students determined to need special education services. This document addresses the unique abilities and needs and how the student will access the general education curriculum. This includes the special education and related services needed to participate in the educational environment. The IEP is developed by the IEP team. The IEP team is a group of individuals that are responsible for developing, reviewing, or revising an IEP for a child with a disability. The IEP team includes the following participants: the parents or guardian of the child, the LEA, not less than one regular education teacher, and related services providers when appropriate. A Quick Guide to the IEP can be found at:
http://archives.gadoe.org/_documents/ci_exceptional/New%20Sp%20Ed%20Sample %20Fo rms/Quick_Guide _to_IEP.pdf
If you would like a further explanation of any of this information, you may contact, Mrs. Ansley Scarborough, Director of Special Education, at the Dooly County School District, at (229)645 3421 extension 4262, or by email at ansley.scarborough@dooly.k12.ga.us.

Statement of Policy

The policies of the Board of Education and the services of the school system are designed to protect the well-being of students and the rights of students to a quality education in Dooly County Schools.

As members of the Dooly County School System community, students are expected to act responsibly obeying the law, adhering to the polices of the school system and complying with the rules and regulations. We work together to respect the rights and privileges of others and to protect school property.

The Dooly County School System will abide by any policy, regulation, or legislative requirements that may arise during the school year. While attending school and school sponsored events, students are under the jurisdiction of The Dooly County School system and are expected to adhere to the rules, policies and regulations outlined in this handbook which have been approved by the school board and will be implemented by administration.

To view a complete listing of all Board of Education policies, please visit the district's website at www.dooly.k12.ga.us

Student Reporting of Acts of Sexual Abuse or Sexual Misconduct

Any student or parent or friend of a student who has been the victim of an act of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct by a teacher, administrator or other school system employee is urged to make an oral report of the act to any teacher, counselor or administrator at his/her school.

Any teacher, counselor or administrator receiving a report of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct of a student by a teacher, administrator or other employee shall make an oral report of the incident immediately by telephone or otherwise to the school principal or principal's designee and shall submit a written report of the incident to the school principal or principal's designee within 24 hours. If the principal is the person accused of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct, the oral and written reports should be made to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee.

Any school principal or principal's designee receiving a report of sexual abuse as defined in O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 shall make an oral report immediately, but in no case later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused. The report should be made by telephone and followed by a written report, if requested, to a child welfare agency providing protective services, as designated by the Executive Director of Talent Management and Operations, or, in the absence of such agency, to an appropriate police authority or district attorney.

Reports of acts of sexual misconduct against a student by a teacher, administrator or other employee not covered by O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 or 20-2-1184 shall be investigated immediately by school or system personnel. If the investigation of the allegation of sexual misconduct indicates a reasonable cause to believe that the report of sexual misconduct is valid, the school principal or principal's designee shall make an immediate written report to the superintendent and Professional Standards Commission Ethics Division. As authorized by Georgia law, if it is determined that a student deliberately falsified or misrepresented information alleging employee misconduct, the student will be subject to disciplinary action that may include suspension or expulsion.

Textbooks and Media Center Materials

Textbooks and library books are furnished without cost for student use but remain the property of the Dooly County School System. Students and their parents are held

accountable for textbooks and library books that are lost or damaged, and the school must be reimbursed. The continued use of textbooks and/or media center materials may be suspended until payment has been made.

Title IX

Title IX states that: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

Transcripts

Transcripts may be secured through the Guidance Department for currently enrolled students. Students will have to complete a transcript request form and submit it to the Guidance Office. All transcript requests will be fulfilled on Mondays and Wednesdays of each week. Seniors will request transcripts via www.GAfutures.org to submit electronically to the colleges of their choice. Any questions concerning transcripts, including the GPAs, need to be referred to the counselor at the school.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

The Valedictorian and Salutatorian graduates represent the best academic performance in our local high school; therefore, enrollment in classes at Dooly County High School for four (4) years is a requirement. No more than two (2) semesters of full time Post-Secondary Option or Dual Enrollment are allowed during the combined junior and senior high school years to be considered for the honor of being named Valedictorian or Salutatorian. A student must take at least one high school class on site at Dooly County High School in order to not be considered a full-time Dual Enrollment student. Work-Based Learning is considered as a high school course.

Class rank will be determined by an exact cumulative numerical grade point average using ALL HOPE eligible courses (ex. English, Math, Science, Social Studies & Foreign Language) at the end of the 3rd 9 weeks. Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be determined by a cumulative numerical grade point average using ALL HOPE eligible courses (ex. English, Math, Science, Social Studies & Foreign Language) at the end of the 3rd 9 weeks. The student with the highest cumulative numerical grade point average will be declared Valedictorian. The student with the 2nd highest cumulative numerical grade point average will be declared Salutatorian. Cumulative numerical averages of the student's work will be generated from student records. **(The grades in the student record will include and reflect a ten (10) point weight for each Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment course. A five (5) point weight will be included in the recorded grade earned in each core honors course).**

In the case of a tie in numeric averages for Valedictorian, the following procedure will be used to determine Valedictorian and Salutatorian. If a tie still exists, the SAT or ACT scores will be compared. After using the tie-breaking criteria, the student with the highest

ranking will be declared the Valedictorian and the second highest score will be declared the Salutatorian.

In the event of a tie for Salutatorian, after the Valedictorian has been selected, the same tie breaking criteria and procedure will be followed. After the application of the criteria, the student with the highest ranking will be declared the Salutatorian.

In the event the tie-breaking procedure does not, in fact, break the tie, all students tied for an honor will share the honor. The principal will appoint a committee to determine the recipients of any scholarships and grants. Students must be enrolled and/or have attended Dooly County High School for a minimum of two full years (including their junior and senior year at the school of graduation) to be named Valedictorian or Salutatorian. Transfer credit used for class rankings for Valedictorian and/or Salutatorian shall be accepted only from high schools accredited by Cognia. Students must have less than 7 unexcused absences for the year.

The Valedictorian and the Salutatorian calculations are done using a computerized system which calculates the cumulative numerical GPA from the students' 9th grade school year to the end of the 3rd nine weeks.

Weighted grades for courses taken from the 9th grade school year up to the end of the 3rd 9 weeks of a 17 student's Senior year will be included in the Valedictorian and Salutatorian calculation.

All students enrolled in Advance Placement and Honor courses during their Senior year will not receive additional points for the courses until the end of the school year.

Video/Audio Taping and Photographs

Your child may be photographed, audio taped, or video-taped for instructional and public relation purposes. If parents/guardians do not wish for their child to be audio taped, video-taped, or photographed they must submit the request in writing to school administrators.

Additionally, students are not permitted to video, record, and/or post online images, videos, pictures, etc. depicting events that occur on campus or at a school function that negatively reflect on DCSS. The administration will use their discretion on a case-by-case basis on how to address such incidents.

Visitors

A close relationship between home and school is an important part of each student's education. We invite parents to serve as volunteers, guest speakers, assistants for special projects, and chaperones for school events, visit classes or have lunch with us. For security reasons, parents and other visitors to our schools should make an appointment ahead of time with teachers/ staff and must check in at the office and receive a visitor's pass. We

do not allow students to bring visitors from other schools without special permission from the principal.

A visitor is defined as a person who is not a student, officer, or employee of the Dooly County Board of Education. Please follow these procedures when visiting the school:

- All visitors should enter the building through the main lobby at the center of the building.
- The receptionist will direct you to the appropriate office.
- All visitors should report to the office before entering other parts of the building.
- All visitors must sign in at the office and be granted permission to enter other parts of the building.
- Visits, other than those scheduled, are not permitted during instructional time.
- A parent may observe in a classroom when pre-arranged but may not stop a teacher's instruction.
- A visitor's pass will be issued in the event that the visit is permitted.
- If a visitor wishes to tour the facility, the principal shall designate a staff member to accompany the visitor.

Volunteers

Adult volunteers are needed throughout the school year to serve a variety of capacities. All volunteers must participate in an orientation session. Please contact the school counselor if you are interested in volunteering.

Georgia law includes volunteers in the list of mandated reporters. O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 is designed for the protection of children whose health and welfare are adversely affected and further threatened by the conduct of those responsible for their care and protection. Dooly County Schools protocol mandates school staff and volunteers to receive information about child abuse and contact the principal or designee immediately to report suspected child abuse.

Withdrawals

A student may be withdrawn by the enrolling parent, guardian, grandparent, or other person. When a parent, guardian, grandparent, or other person withdraws a student according to the DCSS policies and procedures, **with documentation of proof of enrollment**, the student's withdrawal date shall be recorded as the last day of student attendance. If evidence is not provided within this period, the LEA superintendent or designee shall mark the student withdrawn at the end of the tenth day. The individual that registered the student should be notified at least 10 calendar days prior to the withdrawal of the student.

Student Discipline Code of Conduct

Student Behavior Code

It is the policy of the Dooly County Board of Education that each school within this school district shall develop and implement age-appropriate student codes of conduct designed to improve the student learning environment and which will comply with state law and State Board of Education Rule 160-4-8-.15. Each code of conduct shall include, at a minimum, the requirements specified in State Board Rule 160-4-8-.15, STUDENT DISCIPLINE (https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/State-Board-of Education/SBOE%20Rules/160-4-8-.15.pdf).

Each school shall involve parents in developing and updating student codes of conduct. Each code requires disciplinary action for each infraction of the code. All student codes of conduct shall be submitted to the board for approval. The student code of conduct shall be distributed to each student and the student's parents or guardians during the first week of school and upon enrollment of each new student. The parents shall be requested to sign an acknowledgment of the receipt of the code of conduct and return promptly the acknowledgment to the school. The student code of conduct shall be available in the school office and in each classroom.

Within each school, assistant principals, classroom teachers, paraprofessionals, media specialists, or any other adult in a supervisory role over students have the responsibility to maintain order and enforce this Code. The principal of the school has the ultimate responsibility and authority to oversee the application, interpretation, and enforcement of the Code according to policies and regulations.

Dooly County Schools will strive to:

1. Provide a quality S education to all students.
2. Provide a safe learning environment where students and parents/guardians are treated courteously, fairly, and respectfully.
3. Provide students and parents/guardians with an opportunity to express their opinions, concerns, and complaints in a respectful manner.
4. Address known concerns of students and parents/guardians in a timely and professional manner.
5. Notify students and parents/guardians about policies and procedures of Dooly County Schools.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student has a right to expect an educational environment to be conducive to learning, a place to thrive and grow in a positive manner developing appropriate and acceptable social and emotional skills to become productive members of the community and society. Students who follow school, community and classroom expectations and encourage others to do so as well, help to create an environment for all to achieve his or her maximum potential.

Each student is expected to:

- Demonstrate courtesy and respect for others.

- Behave in a responsible manner at school, on school buses, and at all school functions on or off- campus
- Attend all classes, regularly and on time.
- Prepare for each class; take appropriate materials and assignments to class.
- Be well-groomed and dress appropriately.
- Obey all campus rules and classroom rules.
- Respect the property of others, including district property and facilities.
- Cooperate with or assist the school staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline.
- Avoid violations of the Student Code of Conduct

The district may impose campus, classroom, or club/organization rules in addition to those found in the Code of Conduct. These rules may be listed in the student handbooks or posted in classrooms, or published in extracurricular handbooks, state, or national organization by-laws, and/or constitutions, and may or may not constitute violations of the Code of Conduct. Additional rules or requirements, not part of the Student Code, are adopted and approved by the sponsor, principal, and/or district administrator.

Sponsors and coaches of extracurricular activities may develop and enforce standards of conduct that are higher than the district's general standards and may condition membership or the student's participation in the activity on adherence to those standards. Extracurricular standards of behavior may take into consideration conduct that occurs anytime, on or off school property; however, no provision of an extracurricular behavioral standard shall have the effect of discriminating based on gender, race, disability, religion, or ethnicity. Organizational standards of behavior of an extracurricular activity are independent of the Student Code of Conduct. Violations of these standards of behavior that are also violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in independent disciplinary actions. **A student may be removed from participation in extracurricular activities or may be excluded from school graduation/honors programs for violation of the Student Code of Conduct.**

Parent/Guardian Authority/Responsibility

Dooly County Schools expects each parent/guardian to:

1. Read and become familiar with the Code of Conduct and discuss the Code with their student.
2. Parents should contact school administrators if they have questions about the Code.
3. Make sure their student attends school regularly, on time, and notifies the school before the start of the school day if their student is going to be absent.
4. Give the school accurate and current contact information and update their contact information, as necessary. Inform school administrators and teachers about any concerns in a respectful and timely manner.
5. Work with their student's school-based team to help their student find academic and behavioral success.
6. Support their student's learning and school activities.
7. Work to improve the school community by being respectful and courteous to school personnel, other parents/guardians, and students.

8. Respect other students' privacy rights.

Authority of the Teacher

Each teacher shall comply with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-737 which requires the filing of a report by a teacher who has knowledge that a student has exhibited behavior that repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in his or her class or with the ability of such student's classmates to learn, where such behavior is in violation of the student code of conduct. Such report shall be filed with the principal or designee on the school day of the most recent occurrence of such behavior, shall not exceed one page, and shall describe the behavior. The principal or designee shall, within one school day after receiving such a report from a teacher, send to the student's parents or guardian a copy of the report and information regarding how the student's parents or guardians may contact the principal or designee.

The teacher is required to record disruptive behaviors in PBIS Rewards and referral sheets for administrators to review persistent disruptions by students.

School administrators shall establish at each school a Placement Review Committee who will have the authority to do the following:

1. Return the student to the teacher's class upon determining that such placement is the best alternate or the only available alternative; or
2. Refer the student to the principal (or designee) for appropriate action.

For each committee established, the faculty shall choose two teachers to serve as members and one teacher to serve as an alternate member and the principal shall choose one member of the professional staff of the school to serve as a member. The teacher withholding consent to readmit the student may not serve on the committee. Teachers who have knowledge that a student has exhibited behavior that repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in his or her class or with the ability of such student's classmates to learn, where such behavior is a violation of the student code of conduct, are required to file a report with the principal. Such report shall not exceed one page in length and shall include a description of the behavior.

Parents of a student removed from class due to chronic disciplinary issues may be asked to attend conferences requested by the principal. Failure of the parent or guardian to participate in such conferences may result in further referrals to state agencies concerning educational neglect.

Authority of the Principal

The principal is the school's designated leader and, with the staff, is responsible for the orderly operation of the school. In cases of disruptive, disorderly, or dangerous conduct covered or not covered in this Code, the principal may undertake corrective measures that he or she believes to be in the best interest of the student and the school, provided that any such action does not violate school board policy or procedures. Only action taken by principals can be appealed to the Superintendent or his/her designee.

All consequences for offenses listed below are minimum consequences. Depending on the severity of the situation, school officials may apply stricter measures. An administrator has the discretion to determine the offense and the appropriateness of the consequence assigned. Misbehavior governed by the code may occur during school hours, outside school hours, on school grounds or campus, off school grounds or campus, at school-sponsored activities whether on or off school grounds/campus, and/or on school sponsored transportation.

Students who repeatedly violate the various rules and regulations may be subject to disciplinary action more severe than the consequences specified for the individual offenses committed, up to and including suspension to a formal hearing and possible long-term suspension or expulsion.

School administrators are authorized to take disciplinary action for misconduct which occurs:

- On the school grounds during or immediately before or immediately after school hours;
- On the school grounds at any other time when the school is being used by a school group;
- Off the school grounds at a school activity, function or event;
- And/or within a school safety zone.

Authority to take disciplinary action also extends to any off-campus non-school related actions by students, at any time of the year, which has a direct and immediate impact on school discipline, the educational function of the school, or the welfare of students and staff. A student who has committed a criminal act while off campus is subject to disciplinary action and may be excluded from school. Such act could, but is not limited to, a felony, a delinquent act which would be a felony if committed by an adult, an assault misconduct of a serious nature. A student whose presence on school property may endanger the welfare and/or safety of other students or staff, whose presence may cause substantial disruption at school, is also subject to in-school suspension, and assignment to an alternative education.

The DCSS administrators will have the authority to provide updates to all school level disciplinary consequences within this handbook. The Superintendent fully supports the authority of principals and teachers in the school system to remove a student from the classroom pursuant to provisions of state law.

Definitions Of Discipline Terms

Assault: Any threat or attempt to physically harm another person or any act which reasonably places another person in fear of physical harm. (Example: threatening language or swinging at someone to strike).

Battery: Intentionally making physical contact with another person in an insulting, offensive, or provoking manner or in a way that physically harms the other person.

Bullying: In accordance with Georgia law, bullying is defined as (1) Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so; or (2) Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm.

Chronic Disciplinary Problem: A student who exhibits a pattern of behavioral characteristics which interfere with the learning process of students around him or her and which are likely to recur.

Detention: A requirement that the student report to a specified school location and to a designated teacher or school official to make up work missed. Detention may require the student's attendance before school or after school. Students are given one days' warning so that arrangements for transportation can be made by the parents or guardians.

Disciplinary Tribunal: School officials appointed by the Board of Education to sit as fact finder and judge with respect to student disciplinary matters. Dress Code: The current dress code is explained in the student handbook.

Drug: The substance which, when taken into the body causes noticeably impaired behavior and/or obvious physical symptoms. This definition includes illegal substances; legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents, and medicines; and all others covered under board policy. Caffeine pills are considered drugs.

Expulsion: Suspension of a student from a S school beyond the current school quarter or semester. Such action may be taken only by a disciplinary tribunal.

Extortion: Obtaining money or goods from another student by violence, threats, or misuse of authority.

Fighting: A physical altercation between two or more individuals. A student who did not start a fight, but engages in a fight, may be charged with fighting.

Firearm: Any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm 45 muffler or silencer; or any destructive device, including any explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, grenade, rocket, missile, mine, or similar device. Destructive devices also include any weapon by whatever name known which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant.

Fireworks: Any combustible or explosive composition or any substance of combination of substances or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration, or detonation, as well as articles containing any explosive or flammable compound and tablets and other devices containing an explosive substance.

Gambling: Engaging in a game or contest in which the outcome is dependent upon chance even though accompanied by some skill, and in which a participant stands to win or lose something of value.

In-School Suspension: Removal of a student from class(es) or regular school program and assignment of that student to an alternative program isolated from peers.

Long-Term Suspension: Suspension from school for more than ten (10) days (O.C.G.A.§ 20 2-751).

Physical Violence: Intentionally making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person of another or intentionally making physical contact which causes physical harm to another.

Possession: The actual care, custody, control or management of an object or substance. A student is in possession of any substance or object prohibited or regulated by this Code if the substance or object is:

1. On the student's person or inside of their personal property, including their clothing, purse, book bag, or backpack.
2. In any private vehicle used by the student for transportation to or from school or a school-related activity, including but not limited to a truck, auto, motorcycle, or bicycle; and
3. Any school property used by the student includes a locker or a desk.

Probation: A conditional period of enrollment during a trial period

School Authorities: A school principal, an assistant principal, a School Resource Officer, or any other school employee designated by the principal to administer discipline or to conduct inspections or searches of students, student lockers, student desks, or automobiles.

School Safety Zone: In or within 1,000 feet of any real property owned by or leased to any S elementary school, secondary school, or school board and used for elementary or secondary education.

School Bus Suspension: A termination of the privilege to ride the school bus to and from school for a specific length of time.

Short-Term Suspension: A temporary termination of enrollment for up to ten (10) days until stipulated conditions are met (O.C.G.A.§ 20-2-751).

Suspension: Removal of a student from the regular school program for a period not to exceed 10 days (short-term) or for a period greater than 10 days (long-term, which may be imposed only by a disciplinary tribunal). During the period of suspension, the student is excluded from all school-sponsored activities including practices, as well as competitive events, and/or activities sponsored by the school or its employees.

Theft: The offense of taking or misappropriating any property of another, with the intention of depriving that person of the property, regardless of the way the property is taken or appropriated.

Under the influence: Not having the normal use of mental or physical faculties; however, the student need not be legally intoxicated but will be considered under the influence if there is any amount of alcohol, marijuana, controlled substance or dangerous drug in the student's blood, urine or breath.

Impairment of a person's physical and/or mental faculties may be evidenced by a pattern of abnormal or erratic behavior and/or the presence of physical symptoms of drug or alcohol abuse.

Waiver: A waiver is an agreement not to contest whether a student has committed an infraction of the Code of Conduct and the acceptance of consequences in lieu of a hearing before a disciplinary tribunal.

Weapons: The term weapon is defined in Code Section 16-11-127.1 and for the purpose of this policy includes any object which is or may be used to inflict bodily injury or to place another in fear for personal safety or well-being. The following things may be defined as dangerous weapons:

1. Any handgun, firearm, rifle, shotgun, or similar weapon; any explosive compound or incendiary device; or any other dangerous weapon as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16 11-121, including a rocket launcher, bazooka, recoilless rifle, mortar, or hand grenade.
2. Any hazardous object, including any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight- edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chachka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any instrument of like kind, any nonlethal air gun, and any stun gun or Taser. Such terms shall not include any of these instruments used for classroom work authorized by the teacher.

In-School Suspension (ISS)

In-School Suspension is a program to which a disruptive student (interferes with his/her own learning or the educational process of others and requires attention and assistance beyond that which the traditional program can provide) is assigned for a specific period. It is also provided for students in frequent conflicts of a disruptive nature while the student is under the school's jurisdiction, either in or out of the classroom.

The major goal of ISS is to reduce out-of-school suspensions and expulsions by providing an alternative to unsupervised releases outside of school.

The In-School Suspension Program will:

a. Isolate the disruptive students during the school day from the regularly assigned classroom and activities.
b. Help students understand that certain ways of behavior are not acceptable
c. Help students learn acceptable ways of acting in school.
d. Help students develop self-discipline needed to cope with regular school environment.
e. Make students aware of the consequences for inappropriate behavior and help students use alternatives for handling problems.
f. Help students learn to adjust to various demands from authorities with varying personalities.
g. Provide the opportunity for students to continue the progress of the regular classroom assignments. Students must complete ISS assigned time and all assignments sent to ISS before they can re-enter regular classes.

Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) is a disciplinary action in which a student is removed from the school environment for a specified period of time due to serious misconduct or repeated violations of school rules and expectations. OSS is intended to provide a consequence for behaviors that significantly disrupt the educational process, threaten the safety of others, or demonstrate a disregard for school policies.

The major goal of OSS is to maintain a safe, orderly, and productive learning environment while providing students and families an opportunity to reflect on inappropriate behavior and develop strategies for future success.

The Out-of-School Suspension Program will:

a. Remove students whose behavior poses a disruption to the educational environment or the safety of others.
b. Reinforce the importance of adhering to school rules, procedures, and expectations. c. Provide students and parents/guardians an opportunity to address behavioral concerns and develop plans for improvement.
c. Encourage students to take responsibility for their actions and understand the consequences of inappropriate behavior.
d. Promote a safe and positive school climate for all students and staff.
e. Allow administrators time to investigate serious incidents when necessary and determine appropriate disciplinary action.
f. Require students to remain off all school campuses and away from all school-sponsored activities, events, athletic contests, practices, and extracurricular activities during the suspension period.
g. Require a parent/guardian conference, when deemed necessary by administration, before the student returns to school.
h. Require students to comply with all conditions established by the administration before re-entering the regular school environment.

Academic Expectations During OSS
Students assigned Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) are responsible for obtaining information regarding missed instructional content; however, students **will not be permitted to make up daily assignments, classwork, quizzes, tests, projects, participation grades, or other graded activities assigned, due, or administered during the OSS period unless otherwise required by law, an Individualized Education Program (IEP), a Section 504 Plan, or approved by the administration.**

Failure to comply with the terms of an Out-of-School Suspension may result in additional disciplinary consequences upon the student's return to school.

Progressive Disciplinary Actions & Procedures
When it is necessary to impose discipline, school administrators and teachers will follow a progressive discipline process. Unfortunately, some incidents are so egregious in nature that progressive discipline must be superseded, and more punitive measures must be taken. The degree of discipline imposed by each school official will be proportional to the severity of a particular student's behavior and will consider the student's discipline history, their age, and other relevant factors. The Code of Conduct provides a systematic process of behavioral correction in which inappropriate behaviors are followed by consequences. Disciplinary actions are designed to teach students self-discipline and to help them substitute inappropriate behaviors with those that are consistent with the character traits from Georgia's Character Education Program.

The following disciplinary actions may be imposed for any violation of this Code of Conduct:

- Verbal or Written Warning
- Reassignment to another class
- Counseling with a School Administrator, Counselor, or Designee
- Removal from Class or Activity
- Restorative Practices
- Referral to Law Enforcement
- Removal from the school bus
- Suspension or removal from extracurricular activities
- Isolation or Time Out
- Referral to Administration
- In-School Suspension
- Notification of Parents
- Parent Conference
- Short-term Suspension
- Referral to a Tribunal
- Loss of Privileges
- Long-term Suspension
- Placement in an Alternative Education Program
- Student Behavior Contract
- Expulsion
- Combination of any of the above
- Detention
- Permanent Expulsion

A school's failure to use progressive discipline shall not prohibit a school from recommending a severe and reasonable punishment for the student. A student in Pre-K through third grade cannot be assigned to out-of-school suspension for more than five consecutive or cumulative days during a school year without first receiving support through a multi-tiered system such as response to intervention, unless the student possesses a weapon or other dangerous instrument, illegal drugs, or the behavior endangers the physical health of other students or employees.

Referral to Law Enforcement or Juvenile Court Officials: Georgia law requires that certain acts of misconduct be referred to the appropriate law enforcement officials. The school will refer any act of misconduct to law enforcement officials when school officials determine such referral to be necessary or appropriate.

The maximum punishments for an offense include long-term suspension or expulsion, including permanent expulsion, but those punishments will be determined only by a disciplinary tribunal as outlined in the Board of Education policies.

Parents or students may elect not to contest whether a student has violated the Code of Conduct or the appropriate discipline, and in such cases, an agreement may be negotiated which would include the parents or students waiving a right to a hearing before a disciplinary tribunal. Such an agreement and waiver must be approved also by the disciplinary tribunal or hearing officer in accordance with local board policy.

Before a student is suspended for ten days or less, the principal or designee will inform the student of the offense for which the student is charged and allow the student to explain his or her behavior. If the student is suspended, the student's parents will be notified if possible. School officials may involve law enforcement officials when evidence surrounding a situation necessitates their involvement or when there is a legal requirement that an incident be reported.

School officials may search for a student if there is reasonable suspicion that the student is in possession of an item that is illegal or against school rules. Students' vehicles brought on campus, student book bags, school lockers, desks and other school property are subject to inspection and search by school authorities at any time without further notice to students or parents. Students are required to cooperate if asked to open book bags, lockers or any vehicle brought on campus. Metal detectors and drug or weapon sniffing dogs may be utilized at school or at any school function, including activities which occur outside normal school hours or off the school campus at the discretion of administrators.

Dress Code Policy

Students are required to obey the dress code. If a student does not follow the dress code, parents will be notified. Students are expected to be neat and clean and dress in a manner that is not distracting or harmful to others. Parents may be asked to come and pick up their child or bring a change of clothing if students are not dressed appropriately. Students may be asked to stay in ISS until the parents arrive with the clothing. The basic student dress rules are as follows:

- Any type of clothing or dress that interferes with or distracts from a pleasant, proper learning environment is unacceptable.
- Clothing must be worn as designed.
- All short pants, skirts, skirts, skorts, split skirts, etc. should be worn to the appropriate length. The length must be no higher than the top of the knee.
- No hats or headgear of any type are to be worn inside school buildings. Unacceptable items include the following: head/sweatbands, toboggans, du-rags, bandannas, visors, bonnets, or hoods.

- Sunglasses or gloves are not to be worn inside the buildings.
- Rollers, combs, picks, and brushes may not be worn in the hair.
- Clothing may not expose skin at the midriff/waistline. If the student cannot sit down without exposing skin at midriff/waistline, then the shirt or blouse is unacceptable to wear at school.
- Jeans, pants, shorts, and slacks must be worn at the natural waistline. "Sagging" of pants is prohibited.
- Pants, jeans, skirts, shorts, and similar clothing may contain factory-designed or intentional holes, tears, or distressing only if the holes are located at or below the knee. Holes, tears, frays, or openings above the knee that expose skin or undergarments are prohibited. Clothing that excessively exposes skin or undergarments through noticeable splits, holes, frays, or similar alterations is not permitted.
- No revealing clothes of any type will be allowed. This includes, but not limited to, the following: see-through tops, tank tops, inappropriate sleeveless tops (such as spaghetti straps or low-cut armholes), sleeveless t-shirts, muscle shirts, fish-net jerseys, skirts, or dresses with revealing splits or clothing that show visible undergarments.
- Slogans: Clothing may not suggest, advertise, state, display, or promote words, signs, symbols, or gestures related to racial slurs, gender-related slurs, profanity, sexually suggestive language, violence, weapons, alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or gangs.
- Bicycle pants, tights, leggings, or yoga pants, etc. are allowed if worn with a top/blouse that covers the buttocks. These will be allowed if worn under skirts or pants of a suitable length.
- Students are not to wear facial jewelry, which pierces the skin, or jewelry that does not pierce the skin but used as decoration only. This includes ANY jewelry for the nose, lips, tongue, eyebrow, etc.
- Book bags need to be clear or meshed.
- Appropriate shoes must always be worn. Shoes must be appropriately always fastened. House shoes or slippers, flip flops, steel-toed boots, cleats, pool shoes, slides, wheelies, and high heels over two (2) inches will not be allowed.
- Any other clothing that could be considered a safety hazard or distraction to the learning environment shall not be permitted.

School administrators will make final determination of what is or is not appropriate to wear to school. Decisions made by school administrators regarding dress code shall be final.

Range of Recommended Disposition

The decision to charge a student for violation of this Student Code of Conduct shall be made by the administration of the school. The range of consequences for misconduct that may be assigned by a school administrator may be any of the above disciplinary actions and shall be reported as:

Level I Discipline: any combination of in-school suspension ("ISS") or out-of-school suspension ("OSS") ranging from one (1) to five (5) days.
Level II Discipline: any combination of ISS or OSS ranging from one (1) to ten (10) days or on a case-by-case recommendation for long-term suspensions or expulsions.
Level III Discipline: up to a 10-day out-of-school suspension pending a disciplinary hearing for long-term suspension, placement in an alternative program, or permanent expulsion.

* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

School Rules (Offenses) and Consequences

(Maximum Recommended Disposition)

SCHOOL RULE		MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION
Rule 1: Disruption and Interference With School		
1.1	A student shall not block any entrance, occupy any school building, prevent any class or function from taking place, prevent any student, guest, or employee from using any facilities, or bus, or block any normal pedestrian or vehicular traffic, or otherwise deprive others of free access to, or use of, any facility, program, or activity associated with Dooly County Schools. Georgia law prohibits the upbraiding, insulting, or abusing of any teacher, administrator, or bus driver upon the premise of any school in the presence and hearing of a student.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days; loss of privileges.
1.2	A student shall not cause false fire alarm or discharge a fire extinguisher in the absence of fires.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; loss of privileges.

* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

DISCIPLINE RULE		MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION
1.3	A student shall not intentionally make noise, engage in horseplay, or act in any other manner so as to interfere seriously with the teacher's ability to conduct his/her class.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; loss of privileges.
1.4	A student should not bring toys, games, radios, laser pointers, or other electronic devices to school. Electronic devices will be confiscated and may be redeemed by student's parent/guardian in the front office. The school system accepts no liability for confiscated electronic devices.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; loss of privileges.
1.5	A student shall not, by the use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, false report to authorities (i.e., prank calls, texts, social media post, online message, etc.), or any other conduct, intentionally cause the disruption of any lawful mission, process, or function of the school, or engage in any such conduct for the purpose of causing the disruption or obstruction of any such lawful mission, process, or function.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; loss of privileges.
1.6	(For K-8) Students cannot possess any personal electronic devices that may disturb the classroom environment. This includes but is not limited to cellphones, smartwatches, tablets, gaming devices, smart glasses, headphones, earbuds, and earphones. However, this does not include any listening devices or other technology issued by DC K8 or as approved by school administrators.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days; loss of privilege of possession of device on school property and confiscation of device; loss of privileges.
1.7	(For 9-12) A student shall not use or otherwise operate a cell phone, tablet, or similar electronic communication device during the school day without the approval of the building administration and/or classroom teacher. Unauthorized use of electronic devices will result in confiscation, and electronic devices may be redeemed by student's parent/guardian in the front office. DCHS is not liable for confiscated electronic devices. A student may not use a cell phone or any electronic device which may contribute to the disruption or interference with school operations.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days; loss of privilege of possession of device on school property and confiscation of device; loss of privileges.
1.8	A student shall not urge, encourage, or counsel other students to violate any portion of this Student Discipline Code of Conduct.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; may be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with a recommendation for long-term suspension; loss of privileges.
1.9	A student shall not cause or participate in a disruption in the school cafeteria (such as throwing food, leaving trays on the table, causing spills of foods, or similar behavior).	Suspension permissible 1-10 days; loss of privileges.

* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

DISCIPLINE RULE		MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION
1.10	A student shall not inappropriately use an electronic device for purposes such as hacking school networks, modifying school records, cheating, harassing, bullying (i.e., cyberbullying during the school day and/or that which causes a disruption with school), or photograph/video record others or test material	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days. Maximum penalties may be exceeded if injuries result; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; loss of privileges.
1.11	The taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs or deepfake digital images, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (commonly called texting, sexting, emailing, deepfake, etc.) is strictly prohibited and it may constitute a CRIME under state and federal law. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs or deepfakes will be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the school district; and reported to law enforcement which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution, and LIFETIME inclusion on sexual offender registries.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days. Refer to law enforcement. May refer to student disciplinary hearing on a case by case basis; loss of privileges.
1.12	The receipt or possession of obscene, pornographic, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, are strictly prohibited and may constitute a CRIME under state and federal law. Any person receiving or possessing obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the school district; and reported to law enforcement which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution, and LIFETIME inclusion on sexual offender registries. This rule will not be enforced if the possessing or receiving student self-reports the receipt or possession to a school official.	Same disposition as 1.11.
1.13	School officials have the authority to search confiscated electronic devices if there is reasonable suspicion that electronic devices were used to violate school policies or laws.	Same disposition as 1.10.
1.14	A student shall not plan, encourage others, or participate in a physical altercation that causes or contributes to the disruption or interference of the school environment or operations. Examples of prohibited conduct include but is not limited to planning or encouraging other students to participate in a group fight or disturbance (three or more individuals), participating in a group fight or disturbance, or engaging in conduct that disrupts the school environment or operations.	Level III - Automatic OSS 10 days; mandatory referral for student disciplinary hearing with recommendations for long-term suspension or expulsion with option to attend PREP. May refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction.

* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

DISCIPLINE RULE		MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION
Rule 2: Damage, Destruction, or Theft of School Property		
2.1	A student shall not cause damage to or destroy school property or attempt to cause damage to or destroy school property, which includes library books, textbooks, reference materials, computer hardware or software, school buildings or facilities including furnishings and contents, school buses or other vehicles operated, leased, or owned by the school system, or any other materials or equipment owned by the school or school system.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days. Substantial damage to property will result in a mandatory recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion; restitution for damages; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; loss of privileges
2.2	A student shall not steal school property or attempt to steal school property which includes library books, textbooks, reference materials, computer hardware or software, school buildings or facilities including furnishings and contents, school buses or other vehicles operated, leased, or owned by the school system, or any other materials or equipment owned by the school or school system.	Same disposition as 2.1.* Loss of privileges.
2.3	A student shall not possess, use, sell or attempt to sell, or transmit stolen school property.	Same disposition as 2.1.
Rule 3: Damage, Destruction, or Theft of Private Property		
3.1	A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to private property either on school grounds or during a school activity, function, or event off school grounds, or while under school supervision.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days. Mandatory referral to a student disciplinary hearing with a recommendation of long-term suspension or expulsion for substantial damage to property; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; loss of privileges.
3.2	A student shall not steal or attempt to steal private property either on school grounds or during a school activity, function, or event off school grounds, or while under school supervision.	Same disposition as 3.1.
3.3	A student shall not possess, use, or transmit stolen private property.	Same disposition as 3.1.
Rule 4: Assault and/or Battery on a School Employee		
4.1	A student should not threaten to cause physical injury or mental anguish to a school employee or school resource officer on the school grounds or during a school activity, function, or event off school grounds, or while under school supervision.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; loss of privileges. May refer to the PREP.

* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

DISCIPLINE RULE		MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION
4.2	A student shall not cause or attempt to cause physical injury or mental anguish to a school employee or school resource officer on the school grounds or during a school activity, function, or event off school grounds, or while under school supervision.	Same disposition as 4.1; automatic referral to law enforcement agency having jurisdiction. May refer to PREP. Note: A student who intentionally commits any act of physical violence resulting in physical injury to a school employee shall be permanently expelled from school. The student may be allowed by the tribunal to attend alternative education programs. Students in grades K-5 may be allowed by the tribunal to re-enroll. Violence against other school personnel should be reported as Battery (03)
4.3	A student shall not commit an **Aggravated Battery** O.C.G.A. § 16-5-24. Note: Please see O.C.G.A. § 16-5-24 and its case annotations for examples of Aggravated Battery.	Automatic/Immediate 10-day suspension. Mandatory referral to Student disciplinary hearing; mandatory permanent expulsion; mandatory referral to law enforcement; loss of privileges.
4.4	A student shall not commit an intentional physical attack against a teacher that results in injuries.	1-10 days OSS; may recommend long-term suspension or expulsion on a case-by-case basis; refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction. Loss of privileges. May refer to PREP.

Rule 5: Assault and/or Battery to a Person Not Employed by the School

5.1	**Fighting:** A student shall not fight or cause a fight on school grounds or during a school function. Note: School administrators (and disciplinary tribunals if applicable) will investigate all incidents of physical aggression, including but not limited to affray, assault, battery, and fighting. School administrators shall consider a student's self-defense argument. The student bears the burden of proving that defense.	**1st Offense**: Suspension permissible 1-5 days; mandatory parent conference prior to student's return from suspension to develop disciplinary contract; loss of privileges. **2nd Offense:** Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; mandatory referral to a disciplinary hearing with a recommendation for long-term suspension; referral to law enforcement; loss of privileges. Note: (Maintain documentation of parent conference, disciplinary contract and chronic disruptor notification, and Prevention and Intervention services.) Maximum penalties may be exceeded if injuries result; refer to law enforcement agency with jurisdiction. School officials will develop behavior contract at mandatory parent conference.

* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

DISCIPLINE RULE		MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION
5.2	A student shall not threaten to cause physical injury or mental anguish to any student or guest or any individual not employed by the school but approved to be on the school grounds or during a school function.	Same disposition as 5.1.
5.3	**Battery:** A student shall not cause or attempt to cause physical injury or mental anguish to any student or guest or any individual not employed by the school but approved to be on the school grounds or during a school function.	Same disposition as 5.1.
5.4	A student shall not commit an **Aggravated Battery** as defined by O.C.G.A. § 16-5-24. Note: Please see O.C.G.A. § 16-5-24 and its case annotations for examples of Aggravated Battery.	Automatic/Immediate 10-day suspension. Mandatory referral to student disciplinary hearing with a recommendation for expulsion or permanent expulsion; mandatory referral to law enforcement; loss of privileges.

The Dooly County Board of Education ("Board") believes that all students can learn better in a safe school environment. Behavior that infringes on the safety of students will not be tolerated. Bullying of a student by another student is strictly prohibited.

Rule 6: Bullying

The term applies to acts which occur on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities including but not limited to extracurricular activities, or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a school system.

Procedures may be developed at each school encouraging a teacher or other school employee, student, parent, guardian, or other person who has control or charge of a student, either anonymously or in the person's name, at the person's option, to report or otherwise provide information on bullying activity. Any teacher or other school employee who has reliable information that would lead a reasonable person to suspect that someone is a target of bullying shall immediately report it to the school principal or his/her designee. Any report will be appropriately investigated by the administration based on the nature of the complaint in a timely manner to determine whether bullying has occurred, whether there are other procedures related to illegal harassment or discrimination that should be implemented and what other steps should be taken. Any report of retaliation for reporting bullying will also be investigated and addressed as called for in this policy and in accordance with school procedures.

Acts of bullying shall be addressed by a range of age-appropriate interventions, counseling, or disciplinary actions as stated in the DCSS Student Behavior Code of Conduct. However, upon a finding by the disciplinary hearing officer, panel or tribunal that a student in grades 6-12 has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, the student shall be assigned to an alternative school. Each school shall provide referrals, as appropriate under the circumstances, to age-appropriate interventions and services, including, but not limited to, counseling services for students who have been found to have committed an offense of bullying or are targets or suspected victims of bullying.

Upon a finding by a school administrator that a student has committed an act of bullying or is a victim of bullying or is a target or suspected victim of bullying, the administrator or designee shall notify the parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of the student.

Students and parents will be notified of the prohibition against bullying and the penalties for violating the prohibition by posting information at each school and by including such information in the DCSS Parent Handbook.

Retaliation towards participants of a bullying investigation shall be strictly forbidden. Reports of retaliation will be investigated and addressed by the school administration.

6.1	**Bullying:** 1. Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by apparent present ability to do so; 2. Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; 3. Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act which a person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate attention, that: A. Causes another person substantial physical harm within the meaning of Code Section 16-5-23.1 or visible bodily harm as such term is defined in Code Section 16-5-23; B. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education or otherwise substantially infringing upon the rights of a student; C. Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or D. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school. Retaliation towards participants in an investigation related to reporting bullying is strictly prohibited. Note: Bullying may be physical, verbal, emotional, or sexual in nature and may overlap with prohibited harassment under Rule 18.5.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days. Maximum penalties may be exceeded if injuries result; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction. School official will develop behavior contract at the mandatory parent conference; loss of privileges. Threat assessment. May refer to PREP. For third instance of bullying involving students in grades 6-12, assignment to PREP Academy as a minimum, but more severe punishment, or long-term suspension, or expulsion may be applied.

* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

DISCIPLINE RULE		MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION
6.2	**Teasing:** No student shall intentionally tease or aggravate another person either verbally or physically so that the person is distracted from learning.	Suspension permissible 1-5 days. Parent conference; loss of privileges.
6.3	A student shall not place a person in reasonable fear of substantial harm to his or her emotional or physical well-being or substantial damage to his or her property.	Same disposition as 6.1.
6.4	A student shall not create a hostile, threatening, humiliating, or abusive educational environment.	Same disposition as 6.1.
6.5	A student shall not interfere with a student having a safe school environment that is necessary to facilitate educational performance, opportunities, or benefits.	Same disposition as 6.1.
6.6	A student shall not perpetuate bullying by inciting, soliciting, or coercing an individual or group to demean, dehumanize, embarrass, or cause emotional, psychological, or physical harm to another person.	Same disposition as 6.1.
6.7	A student shall not retaliate against another student for reporting bullying.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days; mandatory parent conference to develop discipline contract; maximum penalties may be applied if injuries result; loss of privileges.
6.8	**Cyberbullying** applies to acts which occur on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a local school system. The term also applies to acts of cyberbullying which occur through the use of electronic communication, whether or not such electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic communication: 1. Is directed specifically at students or school personnel, 2. Is maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school, and 3. Creates a reasonable fear of harm to the students' or school personnel's person or property or has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose. Electronic communication includes but is not limited to any transfer of signs, signals, writings, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system.	Same disposition as 6.1.

DISCIPLINE RULE		MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION
Rule 7: Weapons and Dangerous Instruments		
7.1	A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit a knife with a blade less than 2 inches in length, an ice pick, or any other bladed instrument unless authorized by the teacher. (See 7.3 for knife with larger blade.)	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; may recommend long-term suspension to expulsion. All incidents shall be reported to the Superintendent or designee; loss of privileges; threat assessment.
7.2	A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit any firearm. A firearm is considered to be any weapon (including a starter gun, shotgun, stun gun, Taser or other hunting or sporting gun) which will or is designed to or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or any destructive device, including, but not limited to, bombs, grenades, rockets, mines, or any other explosive material. Antique firearms are not included in this term when used for classwork as authorized by the teacher. (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751)	Automatic referral to the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; mandatory referral for a Student disciplinary hearing with mandatory recommendation for expulsion for one calendar year; loss of privileges. All incidents shall be reported to the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent may modify the expulsion requirement; loss of privileges.
7.3	A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit any object which could reasonably be considered a hazardous object, to include but not limited to such items as dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of 2 or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, metal knucks, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chukka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or sword canes, or machetes or any weapon of like kind. This paragraph excludes any of these instruments used for classroom work as authorized by the teacher.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; mandatory referral to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; may recommend long-term suspension to expulsion; loss of privileges; threat assessment. All incidents shall be reported to the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent may modify the expulsion requirement.
7.4	A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit tear gas, mace, pepper spray, or any other similar agent.	Same disposition as 7.1.
7.5	A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit explosive type materials to include but not limited to bullets of any type, firecrackers, caps, or cap pistols, smoke or odor bombs.	Same disposition as 7.1

* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

DISCIPLINE RULE		MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION
7.6	A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit any object which could reasonably be considered a hazardous object, to include but not limited to BB or pellet guns, airsoft guns, loaded canes.	Same disposition as 7.1

Rule 8: Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages, Stimulant Drugs, Controlled Substances or Medications

8.1	A student shall not share nor be involved in transmission of his/ her over-the-counter medication with anyone else. (Ex. NoDoz, Vivarin, asthma medicines, energy/diet pills, supplements, aspirin, herb pills, cough medication [pseudoephedrine, dextromethorphan or DXM], etc.) This also includes prescription drugs. Note: Transmit/Transmission is defined as: buying, selling, receiving and/or delivering, sharing (the act of "changing hands" of a substance). Note: A student using over-the-counter medication is required to complete a "Permission to Dispense Medication" form and leave the medication in the office or clinic. The student shall be supervised when taking this medication. Medication must be brought in the original container. A student can be punished for failing to complete and return the form.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days. Maximum penalties may be exceeded if injuries result; loss of privileges. Student participation in a short-term drug and alcohol treatment program at the parent's expense.
8.2	A student shall not possess or attempt to possess, buy or attempt to buy, use, or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, THC vapes, hemp, edible marijuana/treats, inhalant, anabolic steroid, or any drug requiring a prescription controlled by the Georgia Board of Pharmacy not prescribed to the student, or bath salts or synthetic drugs, or substance represented to be a drug. This prohibition shall include: unlawful use, cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, possession, transportation or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance, being under the influence of any controlled drug, narcotic substance, or any mind-altering substance or intoxicant (illegal or legal), specifically including any product with cannabidiol (CBD), whether hemp or cannabis and regardless of the amount of THC in the product or the extent to which it is legal or illegal under state law.	Level II - Automatic 5-10 days OSS; student to remain in home school. May refer to a short-term drug and alcohol treatment program at the parent's expense Level III - For repeated offenses: automatic referral to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; automatic 10-day suspension (pending hearing); notify Superintendent or designee; referral to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation of long-term suspension or expulsion; may refer to a short-term drug and alcohol treatment program at the parent's expense.

* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

DISCIPLINE RULE		MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION
8.3	A student shall not possess, consume, or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage of any kind or any substance represented to be alcohol.	Same disposition as 8.2. Note: All incidents shall be reported to the Superintendent or designee.
8.4	A student shall not sell, attempt to sell, transmit, or attempt to transmit drugs or substances represented or thought to be drugs by the buyer, on school property, or at a school function, or on any property used by the school with the permission of the owner or within 1,000 feet of school property.	Automatic referral to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction and 10 days out-of-school suspension (OSS); Student participation in a short-term drug and alcohol treatment program at the parent's expense; mandatory referral for a Student disciplinary hearing with recommendation of expulsion; loss of privileges.
8.5	A student shall not sell, attempt to sell, transmit, or attempt to transmit alcohol or substances represented or thought to be alcohol by the buyer, on school property, or at a school function, or on any property used by the school with the permission of the owner, or within 1,000 feet of school property.	Same disposition as 8.4.
8.6	A student shall not possess, use, sell, transmit, or solicit, or attempt to possess, use, sell, transmit, or solicit any drug-related paraphernalia which includes, but is not limited to, pipes, water pipes, clips, rolling papers, or any other items directly related to drug use.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days and referral to law enforcement agency at discretion of Superintendent or designee; loss of privileges.
Rule 9: Disregard of Directions or Commands		
9.1	A student shall not fail to comply with reasonable directions or commands of teachers, paraprofessionals, substitute teachers, principals, administrators, school bus drivers, or other authorized personnel when on school grounds or during a school activity, function, or event off school grounds, or while under school supervision. Note: This applies with the clear book bag policy. The student will be cited with insubordination.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; loss of privileges.
9.2	A student shall not attempt to evade school personnel or attempt to avoid a conference or search by school personnel. This applies to attempted evasion of Open Gate screening procedures. Note 1: General searches of school property (including personal items found in or on school property) may be conducted at any time when there is reasonable cause for school employees to believe that something which violates a law or school rule is located on school property. Note 2: A student's person may be searched by school employees when there is reasonable cause to believe that the student has on his/her person illegal items that may interfere with the school program.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; Parent notification; loss of privileges.

* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

DISCIPLINE RULE	MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION
9.3 A student shall not refuse to identify himself/herself or give false identity upon request of teachers, paraprofessionals, substitute teachers, school food service personnel, principals, administrators, school bus drivers, or other authorized personnel.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; loss of privileges
Rule 10: Unexcused Absences and Tardiness	
10.1 A student shall not be unlawfully absent or truant from school or fail to comply with compulsory attendance under O.C.G.A.§20-2-690.1. Note: Georgia law defines lawful absences as: 1. Personal illness or when attendance in school would endanger the student's health or the health of others. 2. Illness or death in the immediate family. 3. A court order or an order by a government agency, including preinduction physical examinations for service in the armed forces, mandating absence from school. 4. The observation of religious holidays, necessitating absence from school. 5. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety. 6. Registering to vote or voting in a public election, which shall not exceed one day. 7. A student whose parent or legal guardian is in military service in the armed forces of the United States or the National Guard, and such parent or legal guardian has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted excused absences, up to a maximum of five (5) school days per school year, for the day or days missed from school to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian prior to such parent's or legal guardian's deployment or during such parent's or legal guardian's leave. 8. A student whose parent or legal guardian is currently serving or previously served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States, in the Reserves of the armed forces of the United States on extended active duty, or in the National Guard on extended active duty may be granted excused absences, up to a maximum of five (5) school days per school year, not to exceed two (2) school years, for the day or days missed from school to attend military affairs sponsored events, provided the student provides documentation prior to absence from: a. A provider of care at or sponsored by a medical facility of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; or	**1-4 Unexcused Absences:** Parent notification. **5 Unexcused Absences:** Referral to local Attendance Support Team; parent conference required; contract signed. **10 Unexcused Absences:** Referred to local Attendance Support Team. Parent conference required; contract signed. **10 Absences:** Principal may require a medical excuse for subsequent absences. **10 Unexcused Absences:** Referred to the school social worker. Possible referral to Juvenile Court or Department of Family and Children's Services. Please refer to the DCSS Attendance Protocol for further information.

b. An event sponsored by a corporation exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code.

9. Serving as pages of the Georgia General Assembly, successful participation in the Georgia Student Teen Election Participation Program, registering to vote for a period not exceeding one day, or voting for a period not exceeding one day.

10. A foster care student who attends court proceedings relating to the student's foster care shall be credited as present by the school and shall not be counted as an absence, either excused or unexcused, for any day, portion of a day, or days missed from school as set forth in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-692.2.

11. A student who participates in an activity or program sponsored by 4-H shall be credited as present by the school in which enrolled in the same manner as an educational field trip, and such participation in an activity or program sponsored by 4-H shall not be counted as an absence, either excused or unexcused, for any day, portion of a day, or days missed from school. Upon request from a school principal or the principal's designee, a 4-H representative shall provide documentation as proof of a student's participation in an activity or program sponsored by 4-H. As used in this subsection, the term "4-H representative" means an individual officially recognized or designated by the University of Georgia Extension 4-H Program as a 4-H professional or a 4-H adult volunteer.

10.2	A student shall not skip any class.	Suspension permissible 1-5 days
10.3	A student shall not be chronically tardy to school or to class.	Suspension permissible 1-5 days.
10.4	A student shall not leave campus without permission.	Suspension permissible 1-5 days; loss of privileges.
10.5	A student shall not be in an unauthorized and/or unsupervised location	Suspension permissible 1-10 days; loss of privileges; may recommend long-term suspension and referral to a student disciplinary hearing for the 3rd or cumulative offense; all incidents recommending long-term suspension will be reported to the Superintendent or designee.

* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

DISCIPLINE RULE

Rule 11: Dress and Grooming
The principal or other duly authorized school official shall determine whether any mode of dress or grooming results in a violation of the spirit or intent of the following rule. The spirit and intent of this rule is to maintain an atmosphere, at all times, conducive to learning by having all students dress in conformity with the accepted standards of the community, including but not limited to the following standards.

A student shall not dress or groom to distract unreasonably the attention of other students or otherwise cause disruption or interference with the operations of the school. Secondary students may carry their laptops in their clear book bags. Color-tinted bags do not comply with the Clear Bag Policy. Obscene pictures or symbols or the depiction of illegal drugs, tobacco, smoke-related, alcoholic beverages, or contraband shall not appear on clothing, nor shall inflammatory, provocative, lewd, profane, or suggestive language or symbols appear on clothing. Clothing identifiable with any gang shall not be worn. Hats, rollers, visors, caps, do rags, bonnets, and bandannas are not allowed. Wallet chains are not allowed.

A student should not dress in an immodest or extreme fashion. Examples of such extreme prohibited items include, but are not limited to:

- Shoeless
- Bare midriffs
- "Tank" tops/Halter tops
- "Short-shorts"/Mini-skirt
- Pajamas
- See-through clothing
- Spandex pants/skirts
- Extremely baggy pants
- Skirts & shorts above the knee
- Spaghetti straps

This is not to be an all-inclusive list.

• Low-cut blouses, low-cut dresses, or low-cut shirts are not appropriate for school. Any shirt or blouse that is sleeveless must have a collar and any shirt or blouse that is collarless must have sleeves.
• Under no circumstances can shirts be worn in such a way as to conceal oversized/ extremely baggy pants. A student's waist must be visible at all times.
• Leggings or Jeggings may not be worn without a skirt or shirt that reaches the knee.
• Pants must be worn at waist level.
• Hats, bonnets, scarves, and other headpieces will not be worn within the school building unless approved for special occasions by the principal or the principal's designee. Head wraps, scarves, or dress worn in observance of a cultural or religious tradition/belief are acceptable.
• Shorts, skirts, culottes, split skirts, or dresses must be fingertip length and appropriate for school.
• Jewelry, clothing, or other items that have pictures, logos, lettering, writing, or other symbols that the principal considers vulgar, profane, offensive, suggestive, or disruptive, or that reflect sexual or obscene overtones, or that advertise

MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

1st Offense: Student warning and parent contact.

2nd Offense: Automatic two day in-school suspension, mandatory parent contact, and mandatory behavior contract.

3rd Offense: Automatic two day out-of-school suspension, mandatory parent conference, and review of behavior contract.

4th Offense: Automatic three day out-of-school suspension, mandatory parent conference, possible alternative placement.

5th Offense: Referral to Student disciplinary hearing for chronic behavior violation(s); loss of privileges.

any alcohol, tobacco, or controlled substances are prohibited. Spiked jewelry, clothing, shoes, or chains are not permitted.
• Wearing any clothing, jewelry, or other item symbolizing gang affiliation is prohibited.
• Uniforms for cheerleaders and drill team participants are permitted in the classroom.
• Shoes are required for safety and hygiene reasons and may be worn with or without socks. Slip-ons may be worn but must be secured to the foot with a strap around the ankle to aid in preventing slipping, falling, or tripping.
• Earrings or other jewelry of such size or style that, in the opinion of the principal or the principal's designee, would interfere with learning, would cause a disruption of the educational environment, or would be a health or safety hazard, are prohibited. Body piercing jewelry (or the facsimile of) on any visible area of the body (including the tongue) other than the ear is prohibited.

Rule 12: Parking and Traffic Violations on Campus

A student shall not abuse school parking regulations nor operate a motor vehicle in such a way as to cause damage to S or private property located on school grounds or in such a way as to endanger life or limb of persons utilizing school facilities, driveways, or parking areas.	Suspension permissible 1-5 days for repeatedly violating rule. Driving privileges may be restricted. Note: As determined by the principal, a student's vehicle may be removed from campus at the owner's expense for repeated campus vehicle violations; loss of privileges.

Rule 13: Refusal to Accept Disciplinary Action

A student shall not refuse to accept assigned consequences and/or fail to serve assigned consequences.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days which may include but not be limited to, establishment of a behavior contract, parent contact, mandatory parent conference prior to student's return from suspension to develop behavior contract, and/or loss of privileges. May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with a recommendation of long-term suspension or expulsion for second violation

Rule 14: Use of Profane, Vulgar, or Obscene Words, Gestures, Pornographic/Vulgar Photographs or Materials, or other Actions Which Disrupt School System Operations

14.1	A student shall not use or publish electronically or in writing, profane, vulgar, or obscene words, gestures, or other action that disrupts school system operations.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction. May recommend long-term suspension on a case-by-case basis; loss of privileges.

DISCIPLINE RULE		MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION
14.2	A student shall not curse or verbally abuse any person, including remarks intended to demean a person's race, religion, sex, creed, national origin, disability, or intellectual ability.	Same disposition as 14.1.
14.3	A student shall not possess, view, create, or distribute any illegal materials nor such items as pornography, any materials demeaning another person, or containing lewd, profane, vulgar, or obscene words, gestures or actions or gang-related materials or photographs. This rule includes materials both in person, stored within a school-provided online platform, and stored on any electronic device.	Same disposition as 14.1.
14.4	**Gang-Related Activity** - Includes any of the following activities which can or may cause danger/disruption to the school environment and threaten the safety of students, faculty, or other employees of the school system. Gang activities include those behaviors exhibited while using any online environment within the school, or while using school-provided online environments in any location. Behavior includes but is not limited to gang affiliation: exhibiting gang affiliation, as evidenced by a common identifying sign, symbol, tattoo, graffiti, attire, or other distinguishing characteristics. Exhibiting gang affiliation and/or engaging in any gang-related activity is not permitted. For the purpose of this handbook, a gang is defined as any group or association of three (3) or more persons, whether formal or informal, as evidenced by a common name or common identifying sign, symbol, tattoo, graffiti, attire, or other distinguishing characteristic, that encourages, solicits, promotes, condones, causes, assists, or abets any illegal or disruptive activity. Students shall not use any speech or commit any act or omission in furtherance of the interests of any gang-related activity, including, but not limited to the following Code of Conduct Violations: • 14.41 - A student shall not display or create gang signs and symbols on personal and/or school property. • 14.42 - A student shall not wear clothing that symbolizes gang affiliation (shirts, hats, bandanas, belts, jewelry, etc.). • 14.43 - A student shall not display gang hand signs, tattoos/ brands, or other actions/items which symbolize gang affiliation. • 14.44 - A student shall not deface school buildings and structures with gang graffiti, symbols, or messages. • 14.45 - A student shall not solicit/recruit membership or participation in gang activity. • 14.46 - A student shall not perform or participate in any act of violence which includes, but is not limited to, intimidation and gang recruitment, which can adversely affect the educational process.	**1st Offense:** Suspension permissible 1-5 days. Automatic referral to law enforcement. Mandatory parent conference. Mandatory behavior contract (specific to gang-related activity) before returning to school; loss of privileges. **2nd Offense:** Mandatory 10 days OSS. Automatic referral to law enforcement. Automatic Student disciplinary hearing; loss of privileges.

DISCIPLINE RULE	MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION
Rule 15: Gambling on School Property or at a School Function	
A student shall not gamble or assist others to gamble on school property or at a school function, using school-provided/sanctioned online platforms, or through any school issued electronic device.	Suspension permissible 1-5 days; loss of privileges.
Rule 16: Misbehavior on Bus	
A student shall not violate any bus rules of Dooly County S Schools. All rules and recommended dispositions in the Discipline Code of Conduct shall apply to students on school buses, at school bus stops, or in vehicles used by the school to transport students. Students shall be prohibited from using any electronic devices with or without headphones or ear buds during the loading and unloading process. Students should keep electronic equipment packed away when preparing to board and when getting off the bus. Use of electronic devices while onboard the bus with headphones or ear buds is permitted if it does not interfere with the driver's operation of the school bus. Using mirrors, lasers, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective devices in a manner that might interfere with the driver's operation of the bus is prohibited. Students must maintain silence at all railroad crossings until the driver has crossed and gives the all clear.	At the principal's discretion and in cooperation with the Transportation Department, suspension from bus and/or school is permissible for 1-5 days. Loss of privileges.
Rule 17: Criminal Law Violations	
17.1 Violent Criminal Offenses: An enrolled student may not remain on any Dooly County S Schools campus if he/she has been found by official action to have committed an offense in violation of a school rule that involved one or more of the following violent criminal offenses: • aggravated battery (O.C.G.A.§16-5-24) • aggravated child molestation (O.C.G.A.§16-6-4) • aggravated sexual battery (O.C.G.A.§16-6-22.2) • aggravated sodomy (O.C.G.A.§16-6-2) • armed robbery (O.C.G.A.§16-8-41) • first degree arson (O.C.G.A.§16-7-60) • kidnapping (O.C.G.A.§16-5-40) • murder (O.C.G.A.§16-5-1) • rape (O.C.G.A.§16-6-1) • voluntary manslaughter (O.C.G.A.§16-5-2) or· • terroristic threat (O.C.G.A.§16-11-37).	Automatic 10-day suspension. Mandatory referral to Student disciplinary hearing. School may recommend threat assessment administered by School Social Worker in cases involving terroristic threats; automatic referral to law enforcement that has jurisdiction. Loss of privileges.
17.2 A student may not remain on campus if the student has been charged with a criminal law violation if the student's presence endangers the safety of other students or causes disruption to school operations.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days; may refer to student disciplinary hearing; loss of privileges.
Rule 18: Sexual Misconduct or Inappropriate Display of Affection	
18.1 A student shall not indecently expose himself or herself or engage in any inappropriate heterosexual or homosexual act on school property, using school-provided/sanctioned online platforms, or through any school issued electronic device, during school functions, or on any property used by the school with permission of the owner, or while under school supervision.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days; mandatory referral to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; may refer to student disciplinary hearing on a case-by-case basis. Mandatory meeting upon return to discuss behavior plan; loss of privileges.

DISCIPLINE RULE		MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION
18.2	A student shall not molest or rape another person on school property, during school functions, or on any property used by the school with permission of the owner, or while under school supervision.	Automatic 10-day suspension; recommendation for expulsion; refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction.
18.3	A student shall not engage in any form of inappropriate bodily contact or display of affection.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; may recommend long-term suspension on a case-by-case basis. Mandatory meeting upon return to discuss behavior plan; loss of privileges.
18.4	A student shall not engage in inappropriate activities such as mooning (pulling one's own pants down) or ankling (pulling another student's pants down) or deliberately entering a restroom with the purpose of engaging in affectionate or inappropriate behavior(s).	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days. May recommend long term suspension on a case-by-case basis. May be referred to law enforcement agency having jurisdiction; loss of privileges.
18.5	A student shall not engage in sexual harassment toward any person on school property, including school buses, or at a school function, or on any property, using school-provided/sanctioned online platforms, or through any school issued electronic device, used by the school with permission of the owner. Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to: a. An employee conditions the provision of an aid, benefit, or service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct (i.e., quid pro quo harassment). b. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to an education program or activity [i.e., a hostile environment claim. See Examples listed in Board Policy JAA (Equal Educational Opportunity).] c. "Sexual Assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f)(6)(A)(v). d. "Dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(10). e. "Domestic violence" as defined in 24 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(8). F. "Stalking" as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(30).	Contact the HR/Title IX Coordinator for information on the Title IX Policy and Complaint Procedure. Refer to Board Policy (Sexual Harassment of Students) for procedures and available punishments for allegations related to Sexual Harassment.

DISCIPLINE RULE		MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION
18.6	A student shall not engage in acts of lewd caress or indecent fondling/touching of the student's own body; lewd caress or indecent fondling/touching of the body of another person.	Refer to Board Policy (Sexual Harassment of Students) for procedures and available punishments for allegations related to Sexual Harassment. If the Title IX Coordinator determines that the conduct does not qualify as sexual harassment under Board Policy, then suspension permissible 1-10 days; may be referred to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; *may be referred to a student disciplinary hearing
Rule 19: Rude and Disrespectful Behavior		
	A student shall not use profane, vulgar, obscene, or abusive language, talk back, "sass," or intentionally argue in a demanding or disruptive manner with any school employees or while using any online environment within the school or while using school-provided online environments in any location or with persons attending school-related functions or otherwise show disrespect for school employees or others attending school-related functions.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; *may be referred to student disciplinary hearing with a recommendation of long-term suspension or expulsion; discipline contract for repeat violations; loss of privileges.
Rule 20: Tobacco/Smoking-Related Offenses		
20.1	A student shall not possess tobacco paraphernalia, such as but not limited to lighters, pipes, cigarette papers, and matches on district property, and this restriction shall include non-school hours, 24 hours per day, seven days per week.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; loss of privileges;
20.2	A student shall not possess tobacco products including cigarettes, tobacco, and snuff in any form on the school grounds or at any school-sponsored activity, and this restriction shall include non-school hours, 24 hours per day, seven days per week.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; loss of privileges;
20.3	A student shall not use tobacco products, including cigarettes, in any form on the school grounds or at any school-sponsored activity while under school supervision.	Same disposition as 20.2.
20.4	A student shall not possess, use, sell and/or transmit electronic cigarettes (JUUL), personal vaporizer or nicotine delivery system products or paraphernalia, and this restriction shall include non-school hours, 24 hours per day, seven days per week.	Same disposition as 20.2;

* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

DISCIPLINE RULE	MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION
Rule 21: Cheating, Plagiarism, or Academic Dishonesty	
A student shall not cheat on tests, examinations, projects, homework, or reports by giving or receiving unauthorized assistance nor be involved in plagiarism or other acts of academic dishonesty. This rule includes all acts of cheating, plagiarism, or academic dishonesty committed in person or through electronic devices regardless of whether the device is personal, or school issued. This rule includes the unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools or other digital technologies to generate, complete, or alter academic work in a manner that misrepresents the student's own knowledge or effort. This rule includes the unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools or other digital technologies to generate, complete, or alter academic work in a manner that misrepresents the student's own knowledge or effort.	0 grade; suspension permissible 1-5 days. Mandatory parent meeting; loss of privileges.
Rule 22: Altering Records, Misrepresenting Information, Forgery	
22.1 A student shall not alter or misrepresent information on school records or forms, (including electronic records/forms), forge signatures or statements, or make false statements, written or oral or electronically.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; loss of privileges.
22.2 A student shall not alter or attempt to alter grades in a teacher's grade book, records, or any permanent records.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days. Mandatory meeting to discuss/develop behavior contract; loss of privileges.
22.3 A student shall not falsify, misrepresent, omit, or erroneously report information regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator, or other school employee toward a student.	Suspension permissible* 1-5 days. Mandatory meeting to discuss/develop behavior contract; loss of privileges.

Rule 23: Misuse of Computer, Network, Internet, or Intranet

All of Dooly County Schools ("DCSS") are networked so that they may provide technologies that allow students and staff members to share information and access data or information inside their school. Each school has been provided with technology necessary to allow students and teachers access to the internet. We believe the system-wide networks (intranet) and access to the internet will greatly enhance and support research activities and provide additional educational opportunities for students and teachers. Board policy describes the acceptable use procedures of the Dooly County Schools' system-wide network and internet connections available in all schools. All students, parents, teachers, and staff members will be required to sign the acceptable use forms acknowledging that they have read and agree with the system's intranet and internet network acceptable use policies before they access the intranet or internet in any fashion or they are issued an DCSS electronic device. The expectations in this rule also apply to the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools and platforms.

INTERNET SAFETY: It is the policy of DCSS to:

1. Prevent user access over its computer network to (or transmission of) inappropriate material via the internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communication;
2. Prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity;
3. Prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and,
4. Comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)] and the Federal Education Rights and Protection Act (FERPA) [20 U.S.C. §1232g; 34 CFR Part 99].

ADOPTION The Dooly County Board of Education adopted this Internet Safety Policy to be in compliance with CIPA and FERPA rules at a public meeting, following procedural policy adoption protocol.

23.1	No student shall use a computer or any electrical device, the computer network, the Internet, or any intranet by such activity as importing, exporting, viewing, distributing, printing, or creating inappropriate, illicit, or illegal materials including but not limited to pornography; any materials demeaning another person or containing lewd, profane, or vulgar words, pictures, gestures or actions; or any records, files, or materials to which the student should not have access.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days and prosecution under laws of Georgia; may refer to law enforcement that has jurisdiction. May revoke school computer access and request restitution for damages; loss of privileges.
23.2	No student shall use a computer, any electronic device, the computer network, the Internet, or any intranet to create disruption of school operations or the normal use of a computer, the computer network, the Internet, or any intranet.	Same disposition as 23.1.
23.3	A student shall not engage in computer electronic device theft, digital trespass, digital invasion of privacy, digital forgery, or digital password disclosure.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days and prosecution under O.C.G.A. § 16-9-93; may refer to law enforcement that has jurisdiction; loss of privileges.

Rule 24: Loitering, Trespassing, or Breaking and Entering

24.1	A student shall not enter the premises of a local school other than his/her home school, except for scheduled classes or school system-sponsored and/or approved activities, unless prior permission is received from an administrator of the school to be visited.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction. Mandatory meeting to discuss/develop behavior contract; loss of privileges. Note: Remaining on or returning to campus while on suspension will result in referral to police for trespassing.
24.2	A student shall not enter any school building or school system facility on weekends or after school hours without authorization from school officials.	Same disposition as 24.1.
24.3	A student shall not loiter on any school campus or school system property.	Same disposition as 24.1.
24.4	A student shall not enter or read school records, including computer files, software, and other related materials, without authorization from school officials.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction and may permanently revoke user access to Internet on campus. Mandatory meeting to discuss/ develop behavior contract. Review and reinforce Internet use agreement; loss of privileges.

* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

DISCIPLINE RULE	MAXIMUM RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION
Rule 25: Other Misbehavior The administration of the school system and the local school reserve the right to punish behavior which is subversive to good order and discipline in the Dooly County School System, even though such behavior is not specified in the preceding written discipline rules.	
Rule 26: Misbehavior While Off School Property If a student engages in misbehavior that would be a felony or a delinquent act which would be a felony if committed by an adult, while a student is not on school property or at a school function, activity, or event and which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process, the school may take disciplinary action(s) against that student. This rule includes any disruptive activities carried out online through any electronic device (school issued or not), both on campus and off campus that could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony.	10 days OSS; may result in long-term suspension or expulsion on a case-by-case basis; mandatory meeting with parent to develop/review behavior contract; loss of privileges.
26.1 If a student engages in any off-campus behavior which could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony and which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the education process.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days; long-term suspension or expulsion on a case-by-case basis; Student may be placed in an alternative setting until their case is successfully adjudicated; may refer to law enforcement agency having jurisdiction; loss of privileges.
Rule 27: Cumulative Offenses Multiple violations of the Student Discipline Code of Conduct committed simultaneously or accumulated during the school year may result in out-of school suspension or a recommendation for a student disciplinary hearing and recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.	
27.1 Students who exhaust a behavior contract developed with school administrators may be recommended for a student disciplinary hearing.	1-10 days OSS; may be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation of long-term suspension (Level I or II) or expulsion (Level III); mandatory meeting with parent to develop/review behavior contract; loss of privileges.
27.2 Chronic Disruptors - Students who have a collection of minor classroom disruptions/incidents.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days; may be referred to a student disciplinary hearing. The students may be placed in an alternative setting.

* = May be referred to a student disciplinary hearing with recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.