PULASKI COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Pathway to a Brighter Tomorrow

Standards of Student Conduct

The following are standards of student conduct established by the School Board for all students. The consequences of any act are determined on the basis of the facts presented at the reasonable discretion of the Board, its designated committees, and other appropriate school officials.

Behaviors that impede Academic Progress (BAP)

Attendance; Truancy

Pursuant to Virginia Code §22.1-254, students shall attend school on a regular and punctual basis unless otherwise excused in accordance with School Board policy or procedures.

If a student is under 18 years of age and has 7 or more unexcused absences from school, the Truancy Officer may initiate court referrals. Legal action can and often does include filing a petition against the student or the parents if the school determines that the parents are not making a reasonable effort to get the student to school regularly and/or against the student if the school determines that the student is refusing to attend school daily.

Disruptive Conduct

Students are entitled to a learning environment free of unnecessary disruption. Any physical or verbal disturbance (including disrespect), which interferes with teaching, creates a risk of injury, or disrupts school activities, is prohibited.

Cheating

Students are expected to perform honestly on schoolwork and tests. The following actions are prohibited:

- cheating on a test or assigned work by giving, receiving, offering and/or soliciting information
- plagiarizing by copying the language, structure, idea and/or thoughts of another
- falsifying statements on any assigned schoolwork, tests, or other school documents

Behaviors related to School Operations (BSO)

Student Dress

Students are expected to dress appropriately for a K-12 educational environment. Any clothing that interferes with or disrupts the educational environment is unacceptable.

Parents of students requiring accommodation for religious beliefs, disabilities, or other good causes should contact the principal.

Students not complying with this policy will be asked to cover the non-complying clothing, change clothes or go home.

Gambling

A student shall not bet money or other things of value or knowingly play or participate in any game involving such a bet, on school property, on school buses, or during any school-related activity.

Vandalism

Students shall not willfully or maliciously damage or deface any school building or other property owned or under the control of the School Board.

In addition, students shall not willfully or maliciously damage or deface property belonging to or under the control of any other person at school, on a school bus, or at school-sponsored events.

Defiance of the Authority of School Personnel

Students shall comply with any oral or written instructions made by school personnel within the scope of their authority as provided by Board policies and regulations.

Examples of defiance include:

- Failure to be in one's assigned place on school grounds (skipping).
- Failure to attend assigned disciplinary settings (Detention, In-School Suspension, Restorative Academy, etc.).
- Giving false information to staff.

Communication Devices

Students may possess cellular telephone, smartphone, tablet, Personal Digital Assistant (PDA), or other communications device on school property, including school buses, provided that the device must remain off and out of sight from the time the student arrives at school until the end of

the instructional day. Students in Pulaski County High school are permitted to use their cellular device until 8:30 a.m. After 8:30 a.m. devices are to remain off and out of sight until the students' lunch period. Cellular devices may be used appropriately during the students' lunch period. Any misuse of student cell phones during the lunch period will results in loss of the phone for the remainder of the school day. Following the students' lunch, the device will remain off and out of sight until the end of the instructional day.

The division is not liable for devices brought to school or school activities.

If a student uses such a device in violation of this policy, additional disciplinary sanctions may be imposed and the device shall be confiscated from the student and returned only to the student's parent/guardian.

Internet Use
Students shall abide by the Pulaski County School Division's Acceptable Computer Use Policy and Regulation. (See School Board Policy IIBEA Acceptable Computer System Use.)

Relationship Behaviors (RB)

Profane, Obscene or Abusive Language or Conduct
Students shall not use vulgar, profane, or obscene language or gestures or engage in conduct that is vulgar, profane, and obscene or disrupts the teaching and learning environment. This includes inappropriate physical/sexual contact.

Theft
A student shall not intentionally take or attempt to take the personal property of another person by force, fear or other means.

Extortion
No student may obtain or attempt to obtain anything of value from another by using a threat of any kind.

Harassment
A student shall not harass another student or any school employee, volunteer, student teacher or any other person present in school facilities or at school functions. Teasing, taunting, and engaging in verbal confrontation to repeatedly annoy another student is prohibited.

Discrimination
Using slurs based upon the actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, national origin, citizenship/immigration status, weight, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or disability is prohibited.

Behaviors of a Safety Concern (BSC)

Bullying

A student, either individually or as a part of a group, shall not harass or bully others either in person or by the use of any communication technology including computer systems, telephones, or instant messaging systems. Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to, physical, verbal, or written intimidation, taunting, name-calling, and insults, or any combination of these prohibited activities.

"Bullying" means any aggressive and unwanted behavior that is intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate the victim; involves a real or perceived power imbalance between the aggressor or aggressors and victim; and is repeated over time or causes severe emotional trauma. "Bullying" includes cyberbullying. "Bullying" does not include ordinary teasing, horseplay, argument, or peer conflict.

Use and/or Possession of Alcohol, Tobacco Products, Nicotine Vapor Products, Anabolic Steroids, and Other Drugs

A student shall not possess, use, and/or distribute any of the restricted substances listed below on school property, on school buses, or during school activities, on or off school property.

A student shall not attempt to possess, use, consume, procure, and/or purchase, or attempt to use or consume, any of the restricted substances listed below or what is represented by or to the student to be any of the restricted substances listed below or what the student believes is any of the restricted substances listed below. A student shall not be under the influence of any of the restricted substances listed below, regardless of whether the student's condition amounts to legal intoxication.

Restricted substances include but are not limited to alcohol, tobacco products as defined in Policy JFCH Tobacco Products and Nicotine Vapor Products, nicotine vapor products as defined in Policy JFCH Tobacco Products and Nicotine Vapor

Products, inhalant products, and other controlled substances defined in the Drug Control Act, Chapter 15.1 of Title 54 of the Code of Virginia, such as anabolic steroids, stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens, marijuana, imitation and look-alike drugs, drug paraphernalia, and any prescription or non-prescription drug possessed in violation of School Board policy.

The School Board may require any student who has been found in possession of, or under the influence of, drugs or alcohol in violation of School Board policy to undergo evaluation for drug or alcohol abuse, or both, and, if recommended by the evaluator and with the consent of the student's parent, to participate in a treatment program. In addition to any other consequences which may result, a student who is a member of a school athletic team will be ineligible for two school years to compete in an interscholastic athletic competition if the school principal and the division superintendent determine that the student used anabolic steroids during the training period immediately preceding or during the sports season of the athletic team unless such steroid was prescribed by a licensed physician for a medical condition.

Possession or Use of Weapons or Other Dangerous Articles
Students shall not have in their possession any type of unauthorized firearm, substance, or another article that may be used as a weapon, regardless of whether it is commonly accepted as such. (See School Board Policy JFCD Weapons in School.)

Bus-Related Offenses
Students shall not behave in a disruptive manner or otherwise violate these Standards of Conduct while waiting for a school bus, while on a school bus or after being discharged from a school bus.

Trespassing
Students shall not trespass on school property or use school facilities without proper authority or permission, or during a period of suspension or expulsion. Students are not permitted to bring unauthorized persons to school or allowing unauthorized persons to enter the building.

Sexual Harassment
A student shall not sexually harass another student or any school employee, volunteer, student teacher, or any other person present in school facilities or at school functions. Unwanted, inappropriate, and unwelcomed physical contact or verbal statements which create an intimidating or hostile work environment are a violation of the sexual harassment policy (See School Board Policy GBA/JFHA).

Incendiary Devices/False Alarms
Students shall not engage in any illegal conduct involving explosives as defined in the Code of Virginia. Students shall not make any threats, false threats, or activate false alarms which cause any disturbance to the operation of school or the safety of staff and/or students.

Stalking
Students shall not engage in a pattern of behavior that places another person in fear of serious harm.

Fighting - No Injury
Exchanging mutual physical contact between two or more persons by pushing, shoving, or hitting without injury is prohibited.

Behaviors that Endanger Self or Others (BESO)

Threats or Intimidation

Students shall not make any verbal, written, or physical threat of bodily injury or use of force directed toward another person. Students shall not use electronic technology or communication devices, such as the internet or cell phones, to intimidate or threaten for any reason.

Assault and Battery

A student shall not assault or commit battery upon another person on school property, on school buses, or during school activities on or off school property. An assault is a threat of bodily injury. A battery is any bodily hurt, however slight, done to another in an angry, rude or vengeful manner.

Possession or Use of Weapons or Other Dangerous Articles
Students shall not have in their possession any type of unauthorized firearm or other article which may be used as a weapon in an attempt to threaten or injure another person, regardless of whether it is commonly accepted as such. (See School Board Policy JFCD Weapons in School.)

Gang Activity
Gang-related activity is not tolerated. Symbols of gang membership are expressly prohibited (i.e., clothing that symbolizes association, rituals associated with, or activities by an identified group of students).

Bomb Threats
Students shall not make any bomb threats which cause any disturbance to the operation of school or the safety of staff and/or students.

Hazing
Students shall not engage in hazing.

Hazing means to recklessly or intentionally endanger the health or safety of a student or students or to inflict bodily harm on a student or students in connection with or for the purpose of initiation, admission into or affiliation with or as a condition for continued membership in a club, organization, association, fraternity, sorority, or student body regardless of whether the student or students so endangered or injured participated voluntarily in the relevant activity.

The principal of any school at which hazing which causes bodily injury occurs shall report the hazing to the local Commonwealth Attorney.

Fighting - With Injury
Exchanging mutual physical contact between two or more persons by pushing, shoving, or hitting with injury is prohibited.

Other

Reports of Conviction or Adjudication of Delinquency
Any student for whom the superintendent has received a report pursuant to Va. Code § 16.1-305.1 of an adjudication of delinquency or a conviction for an offense listed in subsection G of Va. Code § 16.1-260 may be suspended or expelled.

Felony Charges
Students charged with any offense, wherever committed, that would be a felony if committed by an adult may be disciplined and/or required to participate in prevention/ intervention activities.

Other Conduct
In addition to these specific standards, students shall not engage in any conduct which materially and substantially disrupts the ongoing educational process or which is otherwise a violation of federal, state or local law. A preponderance of threatening or other dangerous behaviors may result in a recommendation for expulsion.

Some Examples of Interventions and Corrective Actions
Corrective actions are designed to be positive and preventive depending on the severity of the infraction. These options and alternatives are to preserve a safe, non-disruptive environment for effective teaching and learning. The facts and circumstances of each offense are considered fully in determining reasonable corrective actions. Pulaski County Public Schools uses a multi-tiered system of supports when working with students and possible restorative justice practices.

- Counseling
- Restorative conference
- Restorative class meeting
- Reprimand
- Loss of privileges, including access to the School Division's computer system
- Parental conferences
- Modification of student classroom assignment or schedule
- Student behavior contract
- Referral to student assistance services
- Removal from class
- Possible Core Team referral
- Referral to in-school intervention, mediation, or community service programs
- Tasks or restrictions assigned by the principal or his designee
- Detention after school or before school
- Suspension from school-sponsored activities or events prior to, during, or after the regular school day. **Refer to policies JGD/JGE.**
- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension – If a student is suspended, they will have access to their work for completion during and after the suspension.
- Referral to an alternative education program
- Notification of legal authority where appropriate
- Evaluation for alcohol or drug abuse
- Participation in a drug, alcohol or violence intervention, prevention or treatment program

Persistently Dangerous (PD)

Potential recommendation for expulsion for any of the following behaviors classified as Persistently Dangerous:

- Homicide - Firearm
- Homicide - Other Weapon
- Sexual Assault
- Attempted Sexual Assault
- Use of a Bomb
- Assault with Firearm or Weapon
- Actual or Attempted Robbery
- Kidnapping/Abduction
- Malicious Wounding without a Weapon
- Aggravated Sexual Battery on a Student
- Illegal Possession of Handgun
- Illegal Possession of Rifle or Shotgun
- Illegal Possession of Any Other Projectile Weapon
- Illegal Possession of Bomb
- Illegal Possession of Other Firearms
- Illegal Possession of Controlled Drugs and Substances with Intent to Distribute or Sell

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
FERPA is the federal law that protects the privacy of student education (scholastic) records. An education record is defined as those records that contain information directly related to a student and which are maintained by an educational agency or institution or by a party acting for the agency or institution.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18, "eligible student," or is enrolled in a postsecondary institution. Parents and eligible students are granted the following rights:

The right to inspect and review the student's education records.

The right to request that a school correct the student's education record if he or she believes the information is inaccurate or misleading.

The right to a hearing if the school decides not to amend the student's education record.

The right to place a statement with the education record on what he or she believes is accurate if the school decides not to amend the student's education record.

Schools, generally, must have written consent from the parent or eligible student to release information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows disclosure to certain parties without written consent under certain conditions.

Acknowledgment of Receipt
Review of the Code of Student Conduct and Compulsory Attendance Law

All PCPS policies and procedures apply to students enrolled in the Pulaski County Virtual Academy.

I acknowledge:

1. I am aware that the Pulaski County School Board's *Code of Student Conduct* is available on the school website *at pcva.us* and understand that printed therein are Section 22.1-279.3 of the *Code of Virginia* and the PCPS Acceptable / Safe Use of Technology and the Internet. Hard copies are available at each school, upon request.
2. I am in receipt of the Pulaski County School Board's abbreviated version of the *Code of Student Conduct*.
3. I am receipt of the *code of conduct* from the school attended by my child, and I have reviewed its contents with him/her.
4. I have received a letter and information from the school attended by my child outlining the Attendance policies and procedures, and I have reviewed its contents with him/her.
5. That signing below only signifies receipt and review, and furthermore, that by signing this statement of receipt, I am not waiving, but expressly reserving my rights protected by the constitution or laws of the United States or Commonwealth of Virginia, and my right to express disagreement with a school or school division's policies or decisions.
6. Should I, however, willfully and unreasonably refuse to participate in efforts to improve my child's behavior as required by VA Code 22.1-279.3 I understand that school officials are authorized, under VA
   Code 22.1-279.3(G), to petition the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

School _____

Student's Name _____ Grade_____

Student Signature/Date _____

Parent Name_____

Parent/Legal Custodian Signature/Date _____

Please return this page to your child's teacher within two (2) weeks of enrollment of each new school year.

Equal educational opportunities shall be available for all students, without regard to sex, sexual orientation, race, creed, national origin, gender, gender identity, ethnicity, religion, disability, ancestry, marital or parental status or any other unlawful basis. Educational programs shall be designed to meet the varying needs of all students.