2026-2027

Handbook for Parents and Students
Abridged Version

Dr. Mitchell M. Shears, Superintendent

Hinds County School District
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Hinds County School District
2026-2027 School Year Calendar

First Day for Teachers…….July 24, 2026
Parent Conferences…….....July 28, 2026
Convocation/Professional Development……...July 24-29, 2026

FIRST SEMESTER – FALL 2026

First Nine Weeks Begins……..…….July 30, 2026
First Day for Students…….…….July 30, 2026
Distance Learning Day (No Students/Staff PD Day)…….…….August 19, 2026
Wellness Day & Labor Day Holiday (Schools & Offices Closed)……September 4 – 7, 2026
Distance Learning Day (No Students/Staff PD Day)……September 23, 2026
First Nine Weeks Ends…..……....October 2, 2026

Fall Break for Students…….……October 5-9, 2026
Staff Professional Development…….……..October 5-6, 2026
Fall Break for Administrators, Teachers & Staff…….……October 7-9, 2026

Second Nine Weeks Begins…….…October 12, 2026
Distance Learning (No Students/Staff PD & Parent Teacher Conferences).....October 21, 2026
Distance Learning Day (No Students/Staff PD Day)……..……November 3, 2026
Thanksgiving Break (Offices & Schools Closed)……..……...November 23 – 27, 2026
Distance Learning Day (No Students/Staff PD Day)……..December 9, 2026
Last Day of Class for Students (60% Day for Students)……..…….December 18, 2026
Second Nine Weeks Ends……..…….....December 18, 2026

Winter Holidays (Offices & Schools Closed)……..…...December 21, 2026-January 1, 2027
Winter Holidays Continued for Students (Staff PD)……...……..……..January 4, 2027

SECOND SEMESTER – SPRING 2027

Third Nine Weeks Begins…….……January 5, 2027
Wellness Day & Dr. M.L. King, Jr. Holiday (Schools & Offices Closed)…….January15-18, 2027
Distance Learning Day (No Students/Staff PD & Parent Teacher Conferences)...January 27, 2027
Wellness Day & Presidents' Day Holiday…….…….…February 12-15, 2027
Spring Break (Offices & Schools Closed)……..……..March 8-12, 2027
Third Nine Weeks Ends……...…….March 19, 2027

Fourth Nine Weeks Begins……March 22, 2027
Good Friday/Easter Break……...……March 26-29, 2027
Wellness Break (Schools Closed)…….……April 16-19, 2027
Distance Learning Day (No Students/Staff PD Day)……..……May 12, 2027
Last Day for Students (60% Day for Students)……...May 27, 2027
Fourth Nine Weeks Ends…….……May 27, 2027
Last Day for Teachers……..……..…….…….May 27, 2027
Wellness Day & Memorial Day……...……..May 28-31, 2027

District Benchmark/Nine Weeks Test Days: September 28 – October 2; December 14 – 18; March 1-5; and May 19-25. The following days may be used as inclement weather days, if needed: September 4, January 15, February 12, April 16, and April 19.

Superintendent & Chief Learner
Dr. Mitchell M. Shears

Hinds County School Board
Mary Killingsworth - District 1
Robbie Anderson - District 2
Dr. Linda Laws, President - District 3
Kayla Banger - District 4
Patrina Dace - District 5

Dear Students, Families, and Community Members,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year—a year where we are F.L.E.X.ing through Focused Leadership, Learning, and Literacy to Elevate eXcellence!

This year, our focus is centered on the five Transformation Themes that will guide every decision, conversation, and learning experience: 1) Culture and Belonging; 2) Leadership and Life Skills; 3) Literacy and Communication; 4) Engagement and Learning Experiences; and 5) Expectations and Excellence. Together, these themes call us to create schools where every student feels valued, develops the skills to lead, communicates with confidence, engages deeply in learning, and is empowered to achieve excellence. Together, this is how we will transform education across the Hinds County School District.

At the same time, we remain firmly committed to our district's strategic vision: Engaging, Empowering, and Ensuring Excellence. When we engage students and families through meaningful relationships, empower them with the tools and knowledge to thrive, and ensure excellence through clear expectations and shared accountability—we create schools where every student can succeed.

This Student Handbook supports that vision. It outlines the policies and practices that create structure, safety, and consistency across our schools. But more than that, it is a partnership tool. When students and families understand the expectations and work with us, we can better serve, support, and uplift every learner.

By embracing the guidance in this handbook, we all play a role in creating a district where students feel loved, hopeful, and empowered to lead. Let's work together to make this a year filled with academic growth, strong character, and meaningful success.

With pride, purpose, and partnership,



Mitchell M. Shears, Ed.D.
Superintendent & Chief Learner Hinds County School District

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ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTORY

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Linda Laws .....President, District 3
Ms. Mary Killingsworth.....District 1
Ms. Robbie Anderson…….Vice President, District 2
Dr. Kayla Banger…….……Secretary District 4
Ms. Patrina Dace…… District 5

Dr. Mitchell M. Shears, Superintendent

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPPORT STAFF

Mrs. Chasedy Gilford ……Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Dr. Antionette Woodall ……Executive Director of Student Services
Mr. Avery Johnson. .....Executive Director of Business Services/CFO
Mr. Charles Powell……. Director of Facilities & Maintenance
Dr. Cynthia Wallace .....Director of Technology
Mrs. Cartessia Smith-Angrum…..…….……Director of English Language Arts
Ms. Brionna Knighten.....Director of Mathematics
Ms. Roshanda Brandon-Lampley…..……District Data Analysis and Assessment
Mrs. Kristina Bailey…….……District. EL Coordinator
Dr. Shaquibia Carter……...……Principal, Hinds[2] College
Ms. Sheuntay Smith…….……. MSIS Coordinator
Dr. Cindy Thames .....Director of Exceptional Services
Mr. Marcus Shorts……. Assistant Director of Exceptional Services
Ms. Sherliterce Mullen……...…Director of Human Resources
Ms. Tiffany Lanier…….…. Director of State and Federal Programs
Ms. Natalie Smith……...……...Coordinator of Child Nutrition
Ms. Talmadge Smith……..……. Coordinator of Student Behavior Health Services
Mr. Tony Tadlock……...……Director of Competitive Excellence
Mr. Tonie Crisler.....Innovative Projects/Community Relations Specialist
Ms. Parkishia Davis……..……...……..Director of Communications
Durham Transportation Services Manager ..... Office: 601.857.5553

Hinds County School District Administrative Office
13192 Highways 18
Raymond, MS 39154
Phone: 601.857.5222
Fax: 601.857.8548
www.hinds.k12.ms.us

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Schools/Grades/Principals/Assistant Principals	Phone (601)	Address/Web Page	Cafeteria
Bolton-Edwards Elementary/Middle School (K-8) Mr. Zachary Hodge, Principal Ms. Sherry Louisville, Assistant Principal	**(Elementary)** Phone: 866.2522 **(Middle)** Phone: 866.2163	9700 I-20 Bolton, MS 39041	866.4314
Byram Middle School (6-8) Dr. Arthur Jones, Principal Ms. Chandra Holet, Assistant Principal Mr. George Jones, Assistant Principal Ms. LaTasha Ball-Owens, Assistant Principal	Phone: 372.4597	2009 Byram Bulldog Blvd. Terry, MS 39170	373.7943
Main Street Restart Ms. Daffonie Moore, Principal	Phone: 857.5006	560 Port Gibson Street Raymond, MS 39272	857.8192
Gary Road Elementary School (K-2) Mrs. Markeeta Carson, Principal Ms. Keyshia Readirs, Assistant Principal Dr. Doris Williams, Assistant Principal	Phone: 373.1319	7241 Gary Road Byram, MS 39272	373.3003
Gary Road Intermediate School Mrs. Ashley White, Principal Ms. Nicole Henderson, Assistant Principal Mr. Rodney Phillips, Assistant Principal	Phone: 372.8150	7255 Gary Road Byram, MS 39272	372.1065
Hinds County Career Technical Center Ms. Meagan Arender, Director Ms. Tequia Brown-Willis, Assistant Director	Phone: 857.3680	14020 Highway 18 Raymond, MS 39154	
Raymond Elementary/Carver Middle School (K-8) Mr. Walter McLeod, Principal Ms. Dominique Quetant, Assistant Principal	Phone: 857.0213	417 Palestine Road Raymond, MS 39154	857.5570
Raymond High School (9-12) Mr. Charles Willis, Principal Ms. Pertrina McIntosh, Assistant Principal Dr. Brittaney Boyd, Assistant Principal	Phone: 857.8016	14050 Highway 18 Raymond, MS 39154	857.8865
Terry High School (9-12) Mr. Matthew Scott, Principal Ms. Constance Belcher, Assistant Principal Dr. Kristin Brown, Assistant Principal Mr. Calvin Hudson, Assistant Principal Mr. Timothy Rush, II., Assistant Principal	Phone: 878.5905	235 W. Beasley Street Terry, MS 39170	878.2369
Utica Elementary/Middle School (K-8) Ms. Alexis Banger-White, Principal Ms. Jasmine Hughes, Assistant Principal	**(Elementary)** Phone: 885.8765 **(Middle)** Phone: 885.2058	260 Highway 18 & 27 Utica, MS 39175	885.6095
Hinds^2 Early College Academy Dr. Shaquibia Carter, Principal		34175 MS-18 Utica, MS 39175	885-7009

Mission: Providing an engaging and empowering environment that ensures excellence

Vision: HCSD is a collaborative environment where we explore the world, experience authentic learning, enhance our character, envision our dreams, pursue excellence, and celebrate success.

Goal 1: All Students are Proficient and Show Growth in ALL Assessed Areas

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

- Increase the percentage of students scoring proficient on ALL assessments
- Increase the percentage of students showing growth in all assessed areas
- Decrease the number of failures and student retention in grade levels
- Decrease the number of students in Tier II and Tier III for MTSS

STRATEGIES

Train, monitor and evaluate professional development on content area reading strategies based upon assessment data	Provide high quality early childhood programs monitored through the MKAS^2 Readiness Assessment	Provide formative/ summative assessments to monitor student growth	Set student growth targets based upon assessment screeners

Goal 2: Every Student Graduates High School and is Ready for College and Career

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

- Increase enrollment for Dual Credit and Career Center courses
- Increase Advanced Placement offerings, enrollments, and students scoring a 3 or above on AP Exams
- Increase the number of students graduating College and Career Ready as evident in increased ACT scores /sub- scores
- Increase the district's graduation rate at each school

STRATEGIES

Increase academic and extracurricular course offerings	Schedule counselor sessions to plan realistic graduation pathways for middle and high school students	All students in grades 8 – 11 will take ACT mastery tests to measure ACT readiness

Goal 3: Schools are Safe and Secure Environments

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

- Decrease the number of student suspensions and Discovery Center Placement
- Decrease the number of students sent to Main Street RESTART Center for disciplinary reasons
- Increase the percentage of students, staff, parents, and community stakeholders satisfied with the school environment

STRATEGIES

Conduct surveys two times per year to assess school climate	Assure staff is knowledgeable of safety procedures and practices through quality safety training	PBIS is established in all schools, and all schools develop plans to celebrate positive behavior	Monitor discipline reports to identify areas of improvement	District/Schools provide mentoring programs for at-risk students	Provide transitional support for students from MSRC once each quarter

Goal 4: HCSD Actively Recruits, Retains, and Develops Highly Competent, Caring and Student-Focused Staff (teachers, administrators, and support staff)

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

- Conduct a survey once a year to assess school climate
- Implement a new teacher induction program to develop and retain teachers
- Increase focused Professional Development offerings based upon outcome of evaluations and surveys

STRATEGIES

District/Schools provide quality and interactive mentoring programs that build teacher capacity and confidence	District/Schools develop programs to celebrate and show appreciation to all staff	All teachers participate in Renaissance-U in Kindergarten – 8th grade	All Professional Development is systemic, ongoing and evaluated	Each school establishes Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) that are data-driven and meet individual school needs

Goal 5: Parents and Community Members will have a Positive Perception of the School District

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

- Increase number of parents/community members feeling the school/district is an asset to the community
- Increase number of parents/community members believing the School Board acts in the best interest of students
- Increase numbers of parents/community members indicating they feel welcome to visit the schools or school sponsored events
- Stakeholders have a positive perception of the school district
- Provide a diverse curriculum

STRATEGIES

Schools establish a plan to enhance positive teacher/ student relationships	Provide opportunities for community service and showcase positive information	Provide parent academies to focus on data, curriculum, literacy, math, and child development	Increase communication through print, social and multi-media	District/Schools establish an active and effective advisory committee of all stakeholders	All stakeholders are knowledgeable of the vision, mission and goals of the school district

Goal 6: Maintain a sound financial fund balance

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

- The district will maintain a general fund balance of 10% of revenue.
- The district will not have any major citations noted during the yearly financial audit.
- The district will provide all staff and students with the necessary resources to achieve the established goal.

STRATEGIES

Ensure wise financial stewardship.	Prioritize needs and allocate funds to areas of greatest need.	Work diligently with bookkeepers and other financial personnel to ensure they are well trained.	Ensure checks and balances with all accounting procedures.	Work collaboratively with all departments and schools to ensure accuracy with financial reports.	Attend all applicable workshops and trainings related to financial systems we use in the district.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REGULATIONS

MS Compulsory Attendance Law

The Mississippi State Code of 1972, Section 97-5-39 states that Compulsory-school-age in Mississippi describes any child who is (6) years old on or before September 1 of the calendar year and who has not reached the age of seventeen (17) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year.

When a parent enrolls a child in kindergarten, the child is subject to the regular compulsory school attendance laws. Hinds County School District has the authority to retain children in kindergarten for an additional year if the district deems that placement of the student in the first grade would not be the most appropriate educational placement of the child.

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Documents Required for Enrollment

The following items are necessary for enrollment: birth certificate; immunization certificate; previous school withdrawal and discipline records; social security number; and residency documentation.

Birth Certificates (Board Policy JBC)

All pupils new to the Hinds County School District shall submit a certified birth certificate (Long Form Version) upon enrollment.

Application for a birth certificate may be made to the Division of Public Health Statistics, State Board of Health located at 222 East Market Ridge Drive (phone: 601.206.8200).

Age Requirements (Board Policy JBB/JBC)

Students must be four (4) years old on or before September 1 to enter PreK, five (5) years old on or before September 1 to enter kindergarten and six (6) years old on or before September 1 to register for first grade.

Immunization Compliance (Board Policy JBC)

Students enrolling in the Hinds County School District must present a Mississippi Certificate of Compliance regarding vaccinations. Students enrolling for the first time or enrolling by transfer from an out-of-state school must present the certificate at the time of enrollment. Students enrolling by transfer from a school within the State of Mississippi may be temporarily enrolled for a period not to exceed 60 days until the cumulative folder is received. No student will be allowed to enroll permanently without a valid immunization certificate. Students transferring from another state must convert their immunization form to a Mississippi immunization form. The Hinds County Health Department may be contacted at 601.364.2666.

The Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) vaccination will be required for ALL students entering the 7th grade. In order to enter school, all students entering the seventh grade must have documentation from a physician verifying that they have received a recent Tdap vaccination (at age seven or later). This includes new students, current students and transfer students from both public and private schools.

Entry Records

1. When a new student enrolls in school, the parent must provide the discipline record as well as the withdrawal form with grades from the last school attended. The previous school may email these records to the school office/school counselor.
2. If a parent can/will not provide a discipline record, or the discipline record meets certain guidelines, the child may be assigned to the Main Street RESTART Center by Central Office administration for observation. This observation

period will be a 20-day placement. The criteria are outlined in the unabridged form of this handbook and are available upon request or at the HCSD web site.

3. The length of a student's stay at the RESTART Center will be determined by the student's behavior while there.

Parent/Legal Guardian Communications

School personnel can discuss a student's enrollment, disciplinary record or academic status only with a **parent or legal guardian**. In unusual guardianship situations, the parent or legal guardian shall provide the school a copy of any valid court documentation regarding restricted rights of certain individuals.

Verification of Residence (Board Policy JBC)

The Mississippi State Board of Education passed a Verification of Residence policy on April 20, 1990. This policy requires that all public-school districts in Mississippi verify the residency of students attending the district. School personnel may make calls or home visits to confirm residency.

Parents, legal guardians, or custodial adults seeking to enroll students in the Hinds County School District ~~for the first time~~ must provide documentation verifying that the student resides in the school district. However, transfer requests from other districts or within the district from one school to another must be completed on an annual basis prior to July 1st, additionally; verification of residency is required in all grades. Students who are repeating these grades are still required to provide proof of residency as outlined above.

Upon enrollment, any parent/guardian seeking to enroll a student must verify full-time residency by submitting filed Homestead Exemption for the current year, mortgage payment documentation, property deed of trust for the family's residence, or an apartment/home lease **AND** a current utility bill (light, gas, water/sewer, home phone, and/or Internet bill.

Custodial parent(s) residing with an adult in a home not owned or rented by the custodial parent(s) will present documents to show legal custody. The non-custodial adult in the home must prove residency through **Group I and Group II (above).** The custodial parent(s) will present one item from section a. (below) and one item from section b. (below). Items from section a. and b. must show residency property address.

A. Valid Mississippi Driver's license OR State issued photo identification

B. Current car tag registration showing residency property address or government mailing (current mailing—within the last 30 days--from any county, state, or federal agency)

Note: Other residency documentation may be approved or required by HCSD administration.

If an individual other than the mother or father listed on the birth certificate attempts to enroll a child, a copy of the filed petition for guardianship if pending and final decree when granted will be required. (No legal guardianship for educational purposes is allowed).

Students who change schools during the school year due to a change of address must present proof of residency before they can be enrolled in their new school zone. If a change of address or home telephone number occurs at any time during the school year, the parent should report such change immediately to the school and provide the appropriate residency documentation.

Enrollment of Suspended/Expelled Students (MS Code Ann. § 37-15-13)

When any student applies for admission to or enrollment in any public school, the parent, guardian, or student must indicate on the school registration form if the student has been expelled from any public or private school or is currently a party to an expulsion proceeding. Students with an expulsion may not enroll in the Hinds County School District until their expulsion time is served. This criterion is outlined in the unabridged form of this handbook and is available upon request or at the HCSD web site.

The school board has the authority and power to designate or assign the particular school or attendance center of the school district in which the student should be enrolled and attend.

Late Enrollees (Board Policy JBC)

Once school has begun, students who enroll in the Hinds County School District must provide documentation of school attendance prior to that date in accordance with the Mississippi compulsory attendance laws. If a parent cannot verify the attendance of his/her child in a recognized school program, the child will be counted absent for each day from the beginning of school in Hinds County School District until the student's enrollment. Each absence will count as an unexcused absence, and the student will be subject to the provision of the attendance policy as outlined in the handbook. In the event of extraordinary circumstances such as a student's moving into the district from out of state, the superintendent or his/her designated representative may excuse these absences as an exception to the policy. However, all work must be made up during the time frame outlined in the "Attendance Information" portion of this handbook.

Transfers (Board Policies JBCCA, JBCD, JBAB)

Assignment of Pupils

The district recognizes transfers for a variety of situations outlined below. All transfers are contingent upon space being available at the requested school and the student's demonstrating appropriate discipline and attendance. If a student enrolls in the HCSD and was administratively transferred from one grade to the next in the prior school without spending a full year in the grade from which he or she was transferred, the student will be placed back in the grade to spend an entire year at that grade level.

In District Transfers

Normally, students must attend the school in the attendance zone in which the parents/guardians are actually residing. Special criteria for full-time employees of the Hinds County School District and Hinds Community College are available. This criterion is outlined in the unabridged form of this handbook and is available upon request or at the HCSD web site. Transportation for students enrolled under these special criteria shall be the responsibility of the parent.

Majority to Minority Transfers

Any student attending a district school in which his/her race is in the majority, may, where space is available, transfer to another school in the district where his/her race is the minority. *(United States of America vs Hinds County Board of Education, et al)* This criterion is outlined in the unabridged form of this handbook and is available upon request or at the HCSD web site. Transportation for students enrolled under this special criterion shall be the responsibility of the parent.

IDEA

IDEA transfers are granted due to a lack of an IDEA program in the student's home school. The transfer is granted to the school nearest the student's home. The transfer is valid as long as the student is enrolled in the IDEA Program at that school or until an IDEA program is available at the home school. These students are assigned through the Exceptional Services Office in accordance with their IEPs and are transported in accordance with district policies.

Assignment of Grades for Transfer Students

1. When a student transfers from another school system that does not use a numerical grading scale, grades earned at the previous school will be converted to the numerical values of this district and entered into the classroom record book with a transfer notation. Weighted grades will only be issued for those courses that Hinds County School District gives weighted credit. For schools using a 100-point numerical scale, no conversions will be made regardless of the previous district's grading scale. If the previous school does not send grades for a student, the student's grades will be calculated based upon the work he or she completes while in the district in accordance with all other district policies. If the school system's conversion scale is not included, the following scale shall be used:

A – 90 B – 80 C – 70 D – 65 F – 64 – below	A - 4.0 B - 3.9 - 3.0 C - 2.9-2.0 D - 1.9-1.0 F - 0.9 – below

2. These numerical values are to be added to those earned in the district and the composite grade will be used to compute the final grade.

Transfers from Home Schooling or Non-accredited Institutions (Board Policy JBAB)

The Hinds County School District's Board of Education affirms the rights of parents/guardians to educate their children as they choose. Board Policy JBAB provides the procedure for testing home-schooled and/or transfer students from non-accredited institutions. These policies are applicable only to students who are eligible, by residence or other Board-approved requirements, to attend schools in the Hinds County School District. This policy pertains to all students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Specific criteria are outlined in the unabridged form of this handbook and are available upon request or at the HCSD web site.

Enrolling in Home School (MS Code Ann. § 37-13-91, 3c)

Parents and guardians have the right to home school their child(ren). State law requires that parents and guardians register their intent to home school their child(ren) with the attendance officer. If you have any questions regarding this process, please call the district attendance officer with the Mississippi Department of Education's Office of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement at 601.359.2892.

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

The Board recognizes that regular attendance is important if students are to obtain maximum benefits from the educational process and develop good work habits that carry over into their adult life. Parents and students are expected to abide by the Compulsory School Attendance Law. When absences do occur, school personnel will classify the absence as excused or unexcused. According to Mississippi Law, a student shall be counted present for average daily attendance record keeping purposes if he/she is present for 63% of the regular school day in grades K – 12. Specific criteria for each area (a through g) are outlined in the unabridged form of this handbook and are available upon request or at the HCSD web site.

a. Late Enrollees-When students are late in enrolling and have not attended another school, they will be reported to the Attendance Officer for lack of compliance with the compulsory attendance law.

b. Perfect Attendance- Perfect Attendance is defined as being present for 100% of the time that school is in session while the student is enrolled in the district.

c. Reports to the School Attendance/Truancy Officer- In accordance with state legislation, any student who has five (5) unexcused absences will be reported to the Hinds County Attendance/Truancy Officer.

d. Kindergarten Students- Once a parent enrolls a child in kindergarten, the child is subject to the regular compulsory school attendance laws.

e. Pre-K- To remain in the Hinds County School District Pre-Kindergarten Program, a student MUST meet minimum attendance standards as established by the Hinds County School District. ANY pre-kindergarten student who has accumulated 11 absences during the school year without a medical or other reasonable excuse is subject to un-enrollment from the program.

f. Exceptions -The superintendent or his/her designee has discretionary power to make exceptions to this policy as deemed appropriate in individual circumstances. As a minimum, the parent must make a written request stating the reasons why the exception should be considered.

g. Average Daily Attendance (ADA) Calculation. For the purpose of determining ADA, a compulsory school- age

child who is absent more than 33% of the instructional day as set by the HCSD Board must be considered absent for the entire day.

Excused Absences, Tardies, or Early Dismissals

The following will constitute a valid excuse for temporary non-attendance of a compulsory school age student enrolled in school, provided satisfactory evidence of the excuse is provided to the principal of the school:

a. Tardies- Unexcused tardies and/or unexcused early dismissals will count as an unexcused absence in the class.
b. Personal illness; or
c. Special circumstances, such as a court summons, or other legal situation that is governed by the Code of Conduct; or
d. Any condition sufficient to warrant nonattendance as demonstrated to the satisfaction of the superintendent or his or her designee.
e. Upon presentation to the superintendent or designee by the Extension Agent or High School Agricultural Instructor/FFA Advisor, students may be excused for up to five days for participation in official organized events sponsored by the 4-H or Future Farmers of America (FFA).
f. Students who are officially being employed to serve as a page at the State Capitol for the Mississippi House of Representatives or Senate.
g. Special permission of the principal (**obtained in ADVANCE IN PERSON BY THE PARENT OR THE LEGAL GUARDIAN)**.

Excused absences will be granted when a completed **Excused Absence Parental Verification (EAPV) Form** or an official **medical or dental excuse** from a licensed provider is submitted to the school. Documentation must be provided **within forty-eight (48) hours** of the student's return from the absence.

Parents/guardians may submit EAPV forms to excuse up to a **total of five (5) days per semester**. A single parent note may include more than one day, but **once five total days have been excused by parent notes**, a **doctor's excuse will be required** for any additional absences to be excused.

Internet-based medical excuses will not be accepted.

School personnel reserve the right to verify the validity of any medical excuse with the listed provider. All medical excuses must include:

- The **specific date(s)** the student was seen
- The **expected duration of the illness**

Blanket medical excuses covering **more than ten (10) days** will not be accepted unless supported by documentation for ongoing treatment or a medically verified condition.

Early Dismissals

Due to safety precautions for students, no student dismissals will be allowed during the last 30 minutes of the school day. Students will not be dismissed during a district or state testing period in order to avoid distractions and potential test security violations.

Allowable Credit for Excused Absences

Excused absences, tardies, or dismissals will allow 100 percent credit for work required by the teacher, if work is requested by the student and/or parent, completed and submitted within a time period that is directly proportional to the days the student missed (for example, if two days are missed, two days are allowed to make arrangements with the teacher to submit the work). For students in grades K-5th students, it is the

teacher's responsibility to obtain make-up work upon returning to school. Teachers may make exceptions and extend deadlines as circumstances dictate with the approval of the building principal.

Absences and Extra-Curricular Activities

Students must be present 66% of a day in order to participate in any extra-curricular activities that day.

Make Up Work (All Schools)

1. Any scheduled test or work assigned prior to any absence must be submitted or completed on the day the student returns to school.
2. When an unexcused absence, unexcused tardy, unexcused dismissal, or suspension causes a student to miss class time, that student shall be given the opportunity to make up work. Make-up work must be completed within a time period that is directly proportional to the days the student missed (for example, if two days are missed, two days are allowed to make arrangements with the teacher to submit the work).
3. A student who is expelled shall not be permitted to make up missed work. However, enrollment at Main Street RESTART Center will allow students to continue schoolwork within the limitations of that program.
4. Students will be limited to a maximum grade of sixty-five (75-C) for any assignment, work, test, or exam if not completed by the assigned due date.
5. Students may not take a nine-week test or semester exam early in order to go on vacation.
6. Doctor's excuses/legal excuses must include an original signature and be brought in within forty-eight (48) hours upon return to school from the absence.

Make Up Work (Grades 6-12)

Once a student exceeds the maximum days for absences with a parent note **(five absences per semester based on parental notes**), the student may not be allowed to make up any work missed during an unexcused absence. Students may receive a 0 for all tests, homework, class grades, etc., if the work is not submitted by a final date determined by the principal.

It is the student's responsibility to obtain make-up work **upon returning to school.**

Seventy-five (75-C) is the highest possible grade for each make-up assignment/test that a student can earn once the maximum five (5) days absences per semester based on parental notes are exceeded.

Students who miss any nine weeks tests or semester exams will be limited to a maximum grade of sixty- five (75-C) on the tests unless a doctor's or legal excuse is provided.

Withdrawal Information

Students who change schools due to a change of address or by legal transfer must first withdraw from the old school. All textbooks, library books, school issued materials shall be returned before withdrawal can be completed. Fines or fees must be paid upon withdrawal.

EMERGENCIES/ILLNESS

Illness/Injuries (Board Policies JGCD)

A student who is injured or becomes ill during the school day will be sent or assisted to the clinic or the principal's office and the parent/guardian will be notified. Students must notify their teacher or principal immediately after they are injured at any school activity.

Pick up of Sick Children

When a student is seriously ill and a parent or guardian either does not pick up the student within a reasonable time or refuses to pick up the student, the school will call for emergency medical service. To ensure that the student is properly cared for, the school will call the Department of Human Services and/or an emergency medical service will be called **AT THE FAMILY'S EXPENSE**.

Insurance

A group accident insurance policy is available to all members of the student body at a nominal cost when school activities begin each fall. All students who participate in or try out for interscholastic sports or cheerleading are required to provide proof of insurance along with parental consent in order to try out or participate in any sport. For more information parents may contact the school office or coach where appropriate.

The Hinds County School District will not be responsible for any bills or balances not covered under the student's insurance.

Telephone

The telephone in the school office is to be used for school business and emergencies only. A student may use the telephone if he/she first secures permission from the appropriate staff.

Emergency Contact Information

The school must be able to contact parents/guardians or a designated adult. **PARENTS MUST PROVIDE THE SCHOOL OFFICE WITH CORRECT, UP-TO-DATE TELEPHONE NUMBERS upon enrollment each year.** Any changes in emergency contact names and telephone numbers must be updated throughout the year. Only simple first aid is administered at school.

Prescription and Non-Prescription Medicines (Board Policies JGCD-R, JGCDA)

Hinds County School District recognizes that some students may require the administration of medication during school hours. All medication, both prescription and over the counter, will be administered by the school nurse/authorized personnel. The only exception to this rule is for self-administered asthma or emergency (EPI- PEN) medication by your child.

In order for your child to receive medication at school the following guidelines must be met:

1. Your child's physician must complete a **medication authorization form**
2. Your child must have parental permission to be seen by the clinic.
3. Parent must sign the parent authorization and indemnity agreement for prescription medicines on the enrollment card and the handbook Parent Authorization and Agreement Form
4. Medication must be in the original labeled container as dispensed
5. Medication label must contain the student's name, name of medication, date, dosage, route, times, and frequency
6. Medication orders **must be renewed in writing every school year**
7. Any dosage changes or discontinuation orders must be in writing

Physicians will need to fill out a separate form for each prescription or over the counter medication given at school. Please feel free to contact your child's school if you have any questions.

Parents may come to school to administer medicine to their child if needed during the day.

Asthma/Epi Pen Medications (Board Policy JGCDA)

The Hinds County School District requires that each child with asthma have a current **Asthma Action Plan (AAP)**

on file at the child's school, for use by the school nurse, teachers, and staff. Parents and guardians of the child with asthma are to have the child's AAP developed and signed by the child's health care provider. The AAP should include the child's asthma severity classification, current asthma medication and emergency contact information. The AAP must be updated annually. Students are permitted to self-administer asthma/Epi Pen medications with written consent from the parent and a statement from the health care provider outlining the proper process to administer the medication.

Head Lice

Students who show evidence of NITS or live head lice will be removed from the classroom. Parents will be called to pick up the student immediately. Students who show evidence of nits will receive office notification in writing for needed treatment. As soon as the student has been treated with an approved lice-killing product, he or she may return to school. To be readmitted to school the student must:

1. Bring the empty treatment bottle the following day, with the label on it, to the office, OR bring a note from the parent to the office, stating the name of the product used and the date of use, AND
2. Be re-checked for nits or live lice in the office before readmission to the classroom.
3. If the parent returns the student to school after treatment, the parent must follow the above procedure and wait until the student has been re-checked for live lice.

If a public-school student has head lice on three separate occasions during any school year or if school officials have notified the student's parent/guardian that the student has head lice on three separate occasions during any school year, the principal shall notify the Hinds County Health Department of the recurring problem. The Health Department will instruct the student's parents or guardians on how to treat head lice, eliminate head lice from household items, and prevent the recurrence of head lice. The Health Department will charge the parent or guardian a fee to recover the cost of providing treatment and counseling. The school principal will not allow the student to attend school until proof of treatment is obtained.

The school is concerned about instructional time the student loses by being removed from the classroom; however, the school must also take measures to prevent the spread of head lice. If a student must be removed from the class setting and misses instructional time on five (5) occasions, a report will be made to the attendance officer.

Communicable Diseases (Board Policy JBC, JGCC)

Mississippi law states that "it shall be unlawful for any child to attend any school, kindergarten, or similar type facility intended for the instruction of children, either public or private, unless they shall first have been vaccinated against those diseases specified by the State Health Officer." To comply with this law, all Hinds County School District students must present to the school of enrollment a **Certificate of Compliance** regarding vaccinations. Enforcement of this law will require removal of children from classes if they are not adequately immunized.

A student with a communicable disease (chicken pox, measles, pink eye, etc.) shall remain at home until the disease is no longer a threat to that student or others. Principals should report to the health department any cases of communicable diseases that might pose a threat to the health of the school or community. While concerned with assisting and resolving individual cases, the welfare of all students is the prime consideration of the district and the Mississippi State Department of Health. In keeping with this concern, **ringworm and impetigo** sites must be covered to reduce possibility of spreading.

A student who is absent from school due to the presence or suspicion of a communicable disease MUST present, upon return to school, a statement from a physician or the health officer certifying that the student is not/no longer contagious. No student is allowed to return to the classroom without this statement. Parents must notify the school by phone when it is determined that their child has a contagious disease.

Decisions regarding an HIV infected student shall be made on an individual basis with regard to the behavior, neurological development, physical condition of the student, and the expected type of interaction with others in that setting. These decisions shall be made using a team approach including the student's physician, public health personnel, the student's parent or guardian, and personnel associated with the educational setting. In each case, risks

and benefits to both the infected student and to others in the setting shall be weighed. As conditions change, cases may be reevaluated.

Emergency Drills (Board Policy EBBC)

Principals and teachers will instruct students in the methods of fire drills and other emergency drills and will practice the drills with the pupils until they are familiar with the methods of evacuating the buildings or moving to safe areas.

Emergency Closings (Board Policies EBBC, EBBD)

When any emergency necessitates the closing of a school, parents should monitor the local radio, television stations, and social media for information regarding the status of their child's school.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Durham Education Services (601.857.5562)

Parents should direct all questions regarding bus transportation, bus routes, time, etc. to Durham Services at 601-857-5562. Any concerns regarding safety, discipline, etc. should first be addressed at the school level, then, if necessary, to the Assistant Superintendent at 601-857-5223.

Interference with Operations of School Buses (MS Code Ann. § 37-41-2)

Only authorized students and school district personnel may ride or enter a school bus. It is unlawful for any person to abuse or interfere with any bus driver or district employee in the performance of their duties. Violations of these state laws are a misdemeanor offense and are subject to punishment of up to six (6) months in prison and/or a fine of up to $500.

Arrival and Departure of Students

Students should arrive at school no earlier than the time designated by the student's building principal. Students who do not ride the bus and are not involved in an official after school sponsored activity must depart campus no later than 15 minutes after the final dismissal time/bell in the afternoon. Students staying for before/after- school must be picked up promptly at the time designated by the school or teacher. Parents will be notified prior to any student's staying for before/after-school.

Parents or guardians who drop off their children before the designated student drop off time indicated in this Handbook will be referred to the Department of Human Services and/or local law enforcement officials for child neglect.

Parents or guardians who fail to pick up their child at the end of the school day will be referred to the Department of Human Services and/or local law enforcement officials for child neglect.

Supervision is the parent's responsibility when buses drop off students in the afternoon.

Bus Transportation and Bus Stops (Board Policy JCDAD)

Students who reside one mile or more from the school to which they are assigned may ride a school bus. Generally, bus stops are located within 6/10 of a mile from all students' residences. If some extenuating situation (such as a family emergency) dictates that a child ride home on a bus other than his/her originally scheduled bus, district office will have to be contacted for approval. An attempt will be made to accommodate all reasonable requests if doing so will not overcrowd a bus.

Once a student is en route to school, he/she becomes the responsibility of the school district. Therefore, the same appropriate behavior required in the classroom is also required while a student is waiting at a bus stop and is en route to and from school. The district tolerates no students distracting bus drivers from transporting students safely. Students are expected to board and exit at their designated bus stops, to obey the bus driver and any other personnel assigned to bus duty, and to ride the regularly scheduled bus unless directed to do otherwise by the principal or assistant

principal. Transportation is a privilege and may be revoked. Students are not allowed to board a bus with balloons or any other large objects that may impede the vision of the bus driver.

Vehicles (Board Policy JGFF)

Once on campus, students are required to park their vehicles only in the designated areas and proceed directly to the building. No students may leave the campus during the school day for any reason unless the principal has consulted the parent/guardian. Only high school students in grades 10-12 may drive to school, provided they show a valid driver's license, proof of insurance, and complete the school level procedures for student drivers. All student vehicles on school campuses are subject to search and inspection at any time. Anyone who brings a vehicle on school grounds assumes full personal liability for that vehicle and its contents.

Day Care and After School Program Bus Pick Up

The district does allow day care centers and after school programs to pick up children at the school as a privilege. Each of these service providers must comply with the above-board policy in order to pick up students on campus. Parents and guardians are required to provide written approval that their child may ride this bus or van. If any service provider does not comply with these requirements, **pick up privileges will be withdrawn.**

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

The goal of the Child Nutrition Program in Hinds County School District is to meet the nutritional needs of the students by offering healthy food choices. Parents may review the philosophy of the HCSD concerning healthy meals in the unabridged version of this handbook or by visiting the web site at http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us.

Students electing to bring their own lunches may eat in the lunchroom. However, all outside food should be brought into the cafeteria in a brown paper bag or lunch box. The cafeteria staff is not allowed to handle personal food items.

The following suggestions are made:

a. Parents are requested to send single servings of items that do not require heating.

b. No glass containers are allowed in the cafeteria.

c. Nutritious drinks are recommended in the place of soft drinks.

d. Milk and milk products are available to purchase for students who bring their lunch.

Any parent or guardian, who does not want their child to purchase any extra items out of their account, will need to notify the manager in writing and the child's account will be flagged.

Current Prices

	Paid Student	Reduced Student	Adults/Guests
Breakfast	1.75	.30	2.75
Lunch	3.00	.40	4.00

Prepaid Purchases

All students in the district are encouraged to pay for meals in advance. Students are requested to bring their lunch money on Mondays to pay for their meals for the week (or longer) in the envelope provided by the school. The money is put into the student's account; and as the student eats, the amount is deducted from the account balance. Parents may request a printed history of their child's account activity from the Office of Child Nutrition at (601) 857-5222. Checks cannot be accepted, and no meals can be charged. If students have money left in their accounts when withdrawing from school or at the end of the year, request for a refund must be made in writing to the cafeteria manager. Requests for refunds must be made by five (5) school days prior to the last day of school. Any

money left in students' accounts at the end of the year will be in their accounts at the beginning of the next school year wherever they are enrolled in school in Hinds County School District.

Parents may also put money in their child's account by going to www.myschoolbucks.com. Accounts can be monitored by parents to see when more money needs to be added or if the student is purchasing extra food items.

Student Meal Eligibility-Applications for Free/Reduced Price Meals

Family applications for free and reduced-price meals will be distributed the first day of school to each student. **Parents need to complete a new application each year. Each household is to complete one application with all students listed.** Students will eat on last year's status for 30 days from the first day of school. If a new application is not on file at the end of 30 days, the meal status will automatically be **PAID.** Families who participate in the SNAPS program will be notified by letter prior to start of school that their status is free due to direct certification from the Department of Human Services. These families **DO NOT** need to complete the lunch application given to all students the first day of school.

PARENTS CAN COMPLETE LUNCH APPLICATIONS ON-LINE. MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us

Special Diets

Special dietary requirements for students can be met by providing specific written instructions from the student's physician at the beginning of each year. These instructions stay on file in the district Child Nutrition Office and the Cafeteria Manager's Office. Students who cannot drink milk must have a letter on file from their doctor stating they cannot tolerate milk. Parents may submit request in writing for lactose free milk.

Cafeteria Behavior

While students' behavior in the cafeteria is the responsibility of the principal's designee, it is beneficial to all to maintain orderly behavior in the cafeteria.

Policy on Competitive Foods and Extra Food Sales

No food is to be sold, served, or made available on the school campus for one (1) hour before breakfast or one hour before lunch and until the end of either serving period. All outside food must be brought in a lunch box or brown paper bag.

Field Trips

Nutritious sack lunches are provided for field trips when requested in advance by the teacher. Students receive their sack lunch at the same status/price as lunches eaten in the cafeteria.

STUDENT FEES, FINES, AND CHARGES

Check Acceptance Policy

The Hinds County School District **does not** accept personal checks.

Textbooks (Board Policy JS)

Textbooks are issued at the beginning of the school year, when appropriate for the course. Students are urged not to abuse or misuse them as fines will be assessed on books showing improper care. If a book is lost or damaged beyond use, the following schedule will be used to assess the cost of replacement. Schools will determine assessments for minor damages to textbooks. Students will not be issued further textbooks if payment is not received for lost or damaged books.

0–1 year	Full replacement value
1-2 years	80% of cost of new textbook

2-3 years	60% of cost of new textbook
3-4 years	40% of cost of new textbook
Over 4 years	20% of cost of new textbook

Library

Students may go to the library before, during, and after the school day to check out library materials with teacher permission. Fines may be charged for lost or damaged library materials.

Lab/Extra-Curricular/Workbook/Technology Fees (Board Policy JS)

Certain schools may require students to pay for specific workbooks, extra-curricular participation and/or lab fees. The technology fee is assessed in every school throughout the district.

Financial Hardship Waiver (Board Policy JS)

Parents of students eligible to receive free or reduced lunch and are unable to pay for supplementary instructional materials, and authorized instructional fees, may complete an application for Waiver of School Fees/Hardship Status. Applications may be obtained from the Executive Director of Business Services/CFO at the Central Office. This waiver applies to instructional materials, not extra-curricular fees.

Solicitations

Solicitation of students for funds for any cause is only permitted when the Superintendent has given prior permission.

Student Activity Funds

In compliance with Board Policies DK, DK-R, all money collected by any class, club, or other school organization is handled according to school board policy.

PROPERTY

Care of School Property (Board Policy EBCA)

Students responsible for vandalism will be required to pay for the damages. Note: Equipment includes, but is not limited to, computers, all technology, and musical instruments.

Lockers/Care of Personal Property

Lockers may be provided to high school students. School authorities may conduct periodic general inspections at any time for any reason related to school administration. Inspection of individual lockers or desks may occur when there is a reasonable basis to do so, and in those cases, the student or a third party may be present. (Board Policy JCDA)

Valuable property should not be brought to school. Under no circumstances should an excessive amount of money be brought to school. The school district can accept no responsibility for the theft of or loss of property and/or money.

Lost and Found

All items found about the building should be taken immediately to the principal's office. Inquiries about lost items should be made in the principal's office. All unclaimed items will be disposed of at the end of each grading period.

Receiving Gifts at School

The delivery of candy, flowers, balloons, and other types of gifts to a school from an individual to a student will not be allowed. The delivery of food from such services as door dash, grub hub, and uber eats, etc. will not be allowed.

IDEA SERVICES AND CHILD FIND

Additional specific criteria concerning IDEA and Section 504 are outlined in the unabridged form of this handbook and are available upon request or at the HCSD web site at http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us. The following is provided as a summary only.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA)

Hinds County School District participates in an ongoing effort to identify, locate, and evaluate children birth through age twenty-one who are in need of special education and related services under IDEA and who reside in the Hinds County School District. The purposes of this effort are:

1. To ensure that all children with disabilities ages three through 21 have available to them a free appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living;
2. To ensure that the rights of children with disabilities and parents of such children are protected;
3. To assist states, localities, educational service agencies, and Federal agencies to provide for the education of all children with disabilities;
4. To assist states in the implementation of a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, interagency system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families;
5. To ensure that educators and parents have the necessary tools to improve educational results for children with disabilities by supporting system improvement activities; coordinated research and personnel preparation; coordinated technical assistance, dissemination, and support; and technology development and media services; and to assess and ensure the effectiveness of efforts to educate children with disabilities;
6. To ensure children with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extra-curricular services and activities.

Written parental consent must be obtained before initial evaluations are conducted and before the initial provision of special education and related services. An Individual Education Program (IEP) is in effect before special education and related services are provided. To the maximum extent possible, each student with a disability is educated with children in his/her age range who have no disability.

The IEP Team determines the placement of each student with a disability. When the IEP Team determines placement, considerations must be given to the possible effect of inclusion of a student with a disability on the education of other children in the class. Consideration must also be given to the educational benefits available to the student in the regular education environment with appropriate supplementary aids and services, as compared to the benefits in a special education classroom or other separate environment.

Child Find

The Exceptional Services Director is the contact for Child Find referrals and questions. You may contact this office at 601.857.5222.

SECTION 504

The Hinds County School District Board of Education adheres to a policy of non-discrimination in educational programs, activities, and employment and strives to provide equal opportunity for all as required by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination against the handicapped.

If parents disagree with any of the decisions made concerning the identification, evaluation, placement of their child, or the provision of the free, appropriate public education for their child, they can contact the Director of Exceptional Services at 601.857.5222.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The district complies with the regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act which prohibits public and private entities from discriminating against an "otherwise qualified individual with a disability." All students and personnel with disabilities will have "access" to programs, activities, employment, and physical structures. The Director of Exceptional Education is the contact person for questions and comments regarding ADA.

English Learner (EL) Services

The Hinds County School District provides services to English Language Learners (formerly English as a Second Language or ESL). For information regarding this program, contact the State and Federal Programs Director at 601.857.5222. For all state and district testing, the Hinds County School District follows the state guidelines for EL students.

Dyslexia Screening

Hinds County School District shall screen all students for the following dyslexia components in the spring of Kindergarten and the fall of Grade 1: Phonological Awareness and phonemic awareness, sound symbol recognition, alphabet knowledge, decoding skills, encoding skills, and rapid naming.

If a student fails the screener, the parent or legal guardian will be notified of the results of the screener. Subsequent dyslexia evaluations may be administered by licensed professionals in accordance with applicable law. **(HB 1031)**

GENERAL ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Honor Roll

The following criteria will be used to determine a student's honor roll classification:

- Principal's List – A student must be on grade level in all subjects. All numerical grades on the Report Card will be 90 or higher. The Report Card for that term will not have any I's (Incomplete), U's (Unsatisfactory) or N's (Non-mastery) in any subject or course.
- Honor Roll – The student must be on grade level in all subjects. All numerical grades on the Report Card will be 80 or higher. The Report Card for that term will not have any I's (Incomplete), U's (Unsatisfactory) or N's (Non-mastery) in any subject or course.

Grading Letter Codes for Grades K-12 (Board Policy IHA)

The following grading letter codes and corresponding numerical scale will be used in the Hinds County School District for classes and courses where such grade indicators are necessary and expected for students in grades **K-12. *Students scoring minimal will not be promoted to the next grade.**

A	**100-90**	**(Advanced)**
B	**89-80**	**(Proficient)**
C	**79-70**	**(Pass)**
D	**69-65**	**(Basic)**
F	**64-Below**	**(Minimal)**

Grade and Subject Classification (Board Policy IHE, JBAB)

Principals shall be governed by the regulations of the Mississippi Accreditation Commission in accepting students in grade and subject classification from accredited and non-accredited schools. Refer to the Enrollment section of this handbook for additional information.

PROGRESS REPORTS AND REPORT CARDS

Reporting Progress (see calendar on back cover)

1. Progress Reports —Parents should expect to receive a Progress Report approximately halfway through each nine-week grading term on the dates indicated on the school calendar at the front of this handbook. Teachers may require the return of the report with the signature of the parent.
2. Distribution of Report Cards —Teachers may require that parents sign and return the report card.

Procedure for Determining Grades

A record of all grades shall be maintained by teachers in order to determine the term and final grades. Teachers will maintain a minimum of 8 daily grades and 4 test grades each term.

1. Core Courses. In grades K-12 in the core courses, the formula outlined below will be used in computing grades. Core courses are English/language arts, math, science, social studies, and reading.
2. Term Grade Computation. A numerical term grade will be determined by weighing the average of all test scores at a rate of 50%; weighing the average of all daily grades at a rate of 25%; and weighing the average of the 9 weeks or semester exam grades for K-12 at a rate of 25%. To determine the term grade: Average all test scores for the term. Round the average to the nearest whole number to determine the test average. Average all daily grades for the term. Round the average to the nearest whole number to determine the assignment or daily average. Calculate 50% of the test grade, 25% of the daily grade, and 25% of the 9 weeks or semester exam. Add the three weighted values together and round to the nearest whole number to determine the term average. This average will be recorded on the Report Card.
3. Daily Grades. The teacher determines participation/daily grades, and these may include, but are not limited to the following items: daily assignments in class, projects, and/or homework.
4. Final Grade Computation. The final grade will be determined by averaging the numerical values of the semester grades. The numerical value (rounded to the nearest whole number) shall be recorded on the Report Card as the final grade for the subjects for which numerical term grades are recorded.
5. Make-up work grades are subject to the limitations outlined earlier in the Attendance Policy portion of this handbook.
6. Exemptions. Only students in grades (9-12) during the spring semester may be exempt from semester exams. Additional criteria may be established by the building principal. **THERE ARE NO EXEMPTIONS FOR STATE TESTED COURSES**.
7. Nine weeks tests and semester exams. Special projects or other academic activities may be substituted for a comprehensive nine weeks or semester exam with approval of the Superintendent.

English Learner (EL) Grading

English Learners (EL) students will meet the same grading criteria as all students. However, the student's work will be modified and accommodated to meet his or her needs according to their Language Service Plan (LSP).

Academic Dishonesty and Cheating

Students who cheat on any academic work are subject to punishment as deemed appropriate by the school principal. This includes the inappropriate use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), plagiarism, and any other forms of academic

dishonesty. Typically, these offenses are handled as both an academic and discipline issue. The school administrator will take into account the offense, the child's age, and the child's maturity in addressing the incident(s).

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES AND VISITATION

Parent Conferences

Parent/teacher conference days are scheduled for the school year. Parents may refer to the school/district calendar for these dates. Parents may make arrangements for additional conferences by calling the school or by sending a note to the teacher. These conferences will be scheduled during times that will not interfere with supervision or instruction of students.

Visitations (Board Policy KM)

Parents and interested community members are both welcome and encouraged to visit district schools. However, all visitors must report to the office to obtain permission from the principal or designee before going to any other part of the building. For safety and security concerns, parents and visitors are not allowed to visit students at school during recess, nap times, or other times as identified as inappropriate by the principal. Only Parents or Legal Guardians may visit classrooms during instructional time, and an appointment must be made in advance. Classroom visitors are required to have an administrator present during the visit, which is limited to thirty minutes per visit.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Promotion and Retention of Students (Board Policy IHE)

The Hinds County School District follows an established board policy that defines criteria for the academic promotion/progress of students from one grade or level to the next. Promotion and retention shall be based upon the mastery of grade level objectives for grades K, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

In accordance with the Mississippi Literacy-Based Promotion Act (SB2397) beginning with the 2014-15 school year, a student scoring at level 2 or below in reading on the established state assessment for 3rd grade will not be promoted to 4th grade unless the student meets the good cause exemptions for promotion.

Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, if a student's reading deficiency is not remedied by the end of the student's Third-Grade year, as demonstrated by the student scoring above the lowest two (2) achievement levels in reading on the state annual accountability assessment or on an approved alternative standardized assessment for Third Grade, the student shall not be promoted to Fourth Grade (MS Code 37-177-9).

Kindergarten: Hinds County School District has the authority to retain children in kindergarten for an additional year if the district deems that placement of the student in the first grade would not be the most appropriate educational placement of the student. Determination will be based on a complete profile of the student's performance on each standard addressed in the class.

Elementary Grades K-5: A student must have an average of 65 or higher on performance of required work on grade level in each core subject (reading/language arts, integrated language arts, math, science, and social studies) to be promoted to the next grade.

Grade 3 students must score at the pass level (3) or above (4 or 5) on the Grade 3 state assessment reading assessment to be promoted to the next grade.

End of Summer Retesting

If a student fails only one subject in elementary grades, he/she will be allowed the opportunity to demonstrate at the end of the summer that he/she has mastered the competencies that were failed. Your child's principal will let you know the exact time and location. Please note that students must score 65 or higher on the test, and they will only be allowed to take the test once. This retesting opportunity will be provided for those students who participate in an official summer school or summer instructional program. If a tutor is to be used, the parent must be sure to give a written plan for that instruction, when and where it will take place, how often, and what instructional materials will be used, etc. Parents will be required to provide the school a detailed Summer Program Instructional Log prior to their child being tested. Please note that this must be a structured program of instruction, and all summer programs must be pre-approved by the principal in writing, or the retesting opportunity will not be available. This written notice is due to your principal within ten calendar days of the last student school day.

3rd Grade MAAP Minimal (Board Policies IHE, IEI)

Students who fail the **MAAP** Test will be referred to the Teacher Support Team (TST) and receive an Individual Reading Plans (IRP) for interventions within the first twenty days of school as specified in guidelines developed by the Mississippi Department of Education. Interventions will be designed to address the deficit areas; research based; implemented as designed by the TST; and supported by data regarding the effectiveness of interventions. State Board Policy 4300, Rev. 5/18/07

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Promotion and Retention of Students (Board Policy IHE)

In order to be eligible for promotion to the next grade, students must meet one of the following criteria:

1. Demonstrate passing in all core academic subjects. Middle School core subjects are math, science, social studies, and language arts. Students are not allowed to fail any core subject more than one time during grades 6-8 under this option.

OR

2. If a student fails two or fewer subjects in middle school, he/she will be allowed the opportunity to participate in the Hinds County School District summer credit recovery program. A student who fails the same core subject in consecutive years will not be eligible to take that summer school course for promotion.

Note: Middle school students recover up to two (2) courses that do not earn high school credit in grades 6 – 8 during the current academic year/summer. In grades 7 and 8, CCSS Compacted Math Grade 7 and CCSS Math Grade 8, carry high school credit, so only one course may be taken. Algebra I is a MAAP course and may not be taken during the summer.

For each semester taken through the Course/Credit Recovery Program, the student must make a grade of at least 65 on all work attempted. No partial credit will be given for work that is below the minimum requirement of 65.

The final average recorded for a semester/final grade on a transcript for a course completed through Course/Credit Recovery will be 65. No grade will be recorded, or credit given for not completing the course successfully in the specified time frame.

HIGH SCHOOLS

Change of Schedule

If a student and his/her parent(s) feel that a change in schedule should be made, the parent(s) must submit a written request for a schedule change within the first five days of school. Whether a change is made or not is the decision of the building principal.

Senior Academic and Graduation Information

1. Academic Rank: When class rank is computed, all grades from all subjects for which any Carnegie unit credit is given are used, regardless of the year credit is earned. This policy applies to both whole units and fractional units of credit. When class rank is computed, it is computed for only those students who will complete graduation requirements for a General Education or College Preparatory diploma the current school year. Only credits earned through the second semester of the senior year will be used to determine academic rank. The following system, based on quality of achievement, shall be used in computing rank in class average for each student:

Grade	Numeric Scale	Regular Class Unit Value	Advanced (Honors) Classes Unit Value	AP/Dual Credit Classes Unit Value
A	100 – 89.5	4	4.5	5.0
B	89.4 – 79.5	3	3.5	4.0
C	79.4 – 69.5	2	2.5	3.0
D	69.4 – 64.5	1	1.5	2.0
F	64.4 – 0	0	0	0
Note: For one-half unit courses the unit value is one-half the amount shown.				

2. Graduation with Honors: Seniors graduating with a General Education or College Preparatory diploma who maintain a four-year average of 3.5 or more will graduate with "Special Honors." Students whose averages range from 3.1-3.4 will graduate with "Honors." Averages will be computed through the end of the second semester of the senior year.
3. Special Awards for Graduating Seniors: The senior graduating with a General Education or College Preparatory diploma who maintains the highest GPA in scholarship will be named Valedictorian. The student maintaining the second highest GPA in scholarship will be named Salutatorian. This GPA will be determined at the end of the second semester of the senior year. To be eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian, a student must complete the last six semesters of course work at the school from which he/she is graduating. In the event of a tie for these special awards, students with the highest overall average in courses that earn a Carnegie Unit will receive the designations.
4. **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE GRADUATE-** Hinds County School District believes students must gain a sense of connection to the larger community in order to become prepared for responsible citizenship. This can be done effectively through service-learning opportunities. Therefore, HCSD will offer students the chance to earn the designation of "Distinguished Service Graduate" on a voluntary basis. Graduating seniors that document 200 volunteer hours qualify for this distinction. Each high school will provide and collect forms for documenting service and will inform students of the specific guidelines. Students in grades 9-12 should document 50 plus hours of volunteer service each year. Seniors meeting the specified hours will receive a certificate, have the distinction marked on the diploma, and be recognized at the school graduation or awards ceremony.
5. Subject Area Awards are awarded to the outstanding senior in all areas. Students' averages within two calendar weeks prior to graduation will be used in determining these subject area awards.
6. Transcripts: Upon request, students will be granted two transcripts that will be sent to any designated college, training institution or employment office without charge. Additional copies will cost $3.00 each.
7. Fees/fines: A graduating senior must have all school fines and fees paid before receiving a diploma. It is the responsibility of the student to determine whether or not he/she has outstanding fines/fees.
8. Student Transfers during Senior Year. In order to earn a diploma from the Hinds County School District,

students must attend a minimum of one semester at a Hinds County School District high school. Under extraordinary circumstances, the superintendent or designated representative may waive this requirement.

High School Promotion and Retention of Students (Board Policy IHE)

High School Student Classification shall be as follows:
Freshman (9th Grade): Promoted from the eighth-grade level
Sophomore (10th Grade): Successfully completed seven (7) units of credit. (Must include English I)
Junior (11th Grade): Successfully completed thirteen (13) units of credit. (Must include English II and Algebra I)
Senior (12th Grade): Able to meet all state and district graduation requirements at the end of the current school year (normally May)

IDEA Students

1. An IDEA student who is a candidate for a standard high school diploma shall follow the same criteria for mastery and promotion as any other student.
2. An IDEA student who is a candidate for an alternate diploma must participate in the MS Assessment by participating in the appropriate option listed below.
3. A student with a Significant Cognitive Disability (SCD) must participate in the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program- Alternate (MAAP-A).
4. An IDEA student, who will be 16 years of age by September 1, may be placed in high school by the Individual Education Program (IEP) Team. The sending principal must notify the receiving school principal of all such cases.
5. The IEP Team of an IDEA eligible student, who is three or more years older than grade peers and cannot meet the district requirements for a diploma or occupational diploma but is progressing successfully toward the IEP goals, may change the student's grade placement by one grade level, i.e., fourth grade to sixth grade each school year. The IEP Team must make the decision to change grade placements at the spring IEP meeting proceeding the next school year.
6. An IDEA student must meet all requirements for graduation by or before age 21 in order to receive a diploma or certificate. Services will be terminated at the close of the school year in which the IDEA student's 21st birthday occurs.

Subject Choice Sheet

Each student will receive a subject choice sheet on which he/she may indicate the choice of subjects for the coming school year. Seniors who have not passed state required tests forfeit early dismissal privileges because of the need for remediation on those tests.

Summer School (Board Policy IDCA)

Students in grades 6-12 are **not** allowed to take a summer school course in lieu of taking the course during the regular school year. Summer school high school courses are for remediation for Carnegie unit courses. **No MAAP tested course may be taken in summer school by high school students.** Principals must pre-approve any student's request to attend summer school to re-take a course failed during the regular school term. Hinds County School District only accepts credits from schools that are accredited by the Mississippi Department of Education.

Online Courses

Carnegie unit credits earned through online courses may be counted toward graduation but are limited to the following requirements:

1. The course must be listed in the Approved Courses for the Secondary Schools of Mississippi for the current school year by the Mississippi Department of Education.
2. The principal must approve the request prior to enrollment after making a determination as to the student's probability for successful completion of online **coursework based upon prior academic work in high school.**
3. The student must have adequate access to online resources and the technical skills to use them.

4. Online courses may be used for remediation/credit recovery or initial credit for minimum graduation requirements. Otherwise, these courses are to be used for extended learning opportunities, and the credit may count towards the minimum graduation requirements outlined by the Hinds County School District.
5. The student assumes full responsibility for all costs associated with the course.

Testing (Board Policy II)

Each student who is granted a standard high school graduation diploma from the HCSD must have:

1. Satisfied graduation requirements that have been established by the Hinds County School Board of Education, including the requirement of Carnegie units that exceed the state minimum.
2. Achieved a passing score on the three academic end-of-course tests in Algebra I, English II, and Biology I. All students enrolled in AP courses in the district are required to take the corresponding exam for each AP course taken in order to receive weighted GPA credit.

Mississippi Diploma Options

Begins with incoming freshmen of 2018-2019

Mississippi has two diploma options: The Traditional Diploma and the Alternate Diploma. The Traditional Diploma is for all students. The Alternate Diploma is an option for students with a Significant Cognitive Disability (SCD).

TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA OPTION

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I
Science	3	• Biology I
Social Studies	3½	• 1 World History • 1 U.S. History • ½ U.S. Government • ½ Economics • ½ Mississippi Studies
Physical Education	½	½ Physical Education
Health	½	½ Contemporary Health
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	5 ½	
Total Units Required	**24**	

ALTERNATE DIPLOMA OPTION

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• Alternate English Elements I-IV
Mathematics	4	• Alternate Math Elements I-III • Alternate Algebra Elements
Science	2	• Alternate Biology Elements • Alternate Science Elements II
Social Studies	2	• Alternate History Elements (Strands: U.S. History and World History) • Alternate Social Studies Elements (Strands: Economics and U.S. Government)
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	• Alternate Health Elements
Arts	1	
Career Readiness	4	• Career Readiness I-IV (Strands: Technology, Systems, Employability, and Social)
Life Skills Development	4	• Life Skills Development I-IV (Strands: Technology, Systems, Personal Care, and Social)
Additional Electives	2	
Total Units Required	**24**	

Traditional Diploma Endorsement Options

Students pursuing a Traditional Diploma should identify an endorsement prior to entering ninth grade. There are three endorsement options: Career and Technical, Academic, and Distinguished Academic Endorsement.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL ENDORSEMENT or JROTC ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I
Science	3	• Biology I
Social Studies	3½	• 1 World History • 1 U.S. History • ½ U.S. Government • ½ Economics • ½ Mississippi Studies
Physical Education	½	½ Physical Education
Health	½	½ Contemporary Health
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Career and Technical/JROTC	4	• Must complete a four-course sequential program of study
Additional Electives	3 ½	
Total Units Required	**26**	

ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I
Science	3	• Biology I + two (2) additional science courses above Biology I
Social Studies	3½	• 1 World History • 1 U.S. History • ½ U.S. Government • ½ Economics • ½ Mississippi Studies
Physical Education	½	½ Physical Education
Health	½	½ Contemporary Health
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	7 ½	• Must meet 2 advanced electives of the CPC requirements for MS IHLs
Total Units Required	**26**	

DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I
Science	4	• Biology I + two (2) additional science courses above Biology I
Social Studies	4	• 1 World History • 1 U.S. History • ½ U.S. Government • ½ Economics • ½ Mississippi Studies
Physical Education	½	½ Physical Education
Health	½	½ Contemporary Health
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	8	• Must meet 2 advanced electives of the CPC requirements for MS IHLs
Total Units Required	**28**	

ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Rules for Students Participating in Activities:

Middle School (7th and 8th graders)

To be eligible **only** for middle/junior high activities, a student must have passed any four courses (that meet the equivalent of 250 minutes per week and meet MDE requirements) with a 2.0 (70 - HCSD) average for the preceding semester (computed numerically). The year-end average for the spring semester will be used to compute averages for the fall semester. Students must be on track to be promoted to be eligible.

To be eligible for high school activities, the middle/junior high school student must have passed the four core courses (English, math, science, and social studies) with a 2.0 (70 - HCSD) average for the preceding semester (computed numerically). The year-end average for the spring semester will be used to compute averages for the fall semester. Students must be on track to be promoted to be eligible.

Pupils in the 7th and 8th grade participating in high school extra-curricular activities that are governed by the MHSAA must pass their grade level by achieving at least an average of a 2.0 (70 - HCSD) in the four core courses of math, science, English and social studies the previous year in order to be eligible to participate during the present year.

Summer school or extended school year grades will replace the grade for a failed course in the spring semester GPA.

Senior High (9th – 12th graders)

To be eligible for athletics and activities, along with the additional academic eligibility requirements of the MHSAA, all students on a regular educational track must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 for all courses taken during the prior semester.

A student athlete must pass all courses taken each semester which earns credits toward graduation with a cumulative GPA of 2.0. The cumulative GPA will be determined by adding the final grade in each course taken during the semester that counts towards the cardigan units needed for graduation. The overall average must be
2.0 or higher in order to maintain eligibility. In the Hinds County School District, a 70 is equivalent to a 2.0 GPA. This will be done on a semester basis.

A student athlete may become eligible for the second semester only once during his/her high school career if he/she fails the last semester of the previous year, by passing all courses taken which earns Carnegie units towards graduation with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 the first semester of the current year. This will be done in order to keep the student on track for graduation.

The only change for students on the block schedule will be that students participating in athletics and activities will have to have an overall 2.0 or higher average, rather than a 75 average as in the past.

NOTE: Special education students, defined as not on track for a regular diploma, will be academically eligible if they are making satisfactory progress according to the committees reviewing their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Middle School Students and High School Sports

Middle school students may not "play up" on high school teams if the sport is offered at the middle school. High school principals may approve an exception to this restriction if the student is too old to participate in middle school sports. For sports not offered at the middle school, 7th/8th grade students may participate on a space availability basis at the high school. Transportation will not be provided to and from practice by the district for these students. Participating on a high school team as a middle school student does not impact a student's four years of high school eligibility.

Citizenship

To be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, a student must exhibit acceptable conduct and citizenship standards.

Athletic Requirements

All students participating in athletics and cheerleading are required to have the following on file with the school prior to participating:

1. written parent consent
2. proof of medical/health insurance
3. liability waiver signed by parent/legal guardian
4. medical screening by a licensed physician
5. media consent form
6. receipt of payment for any applicable activity fees

The Hinds County School District will not be responsible for any bills or balances not covered under the student's insurance.

Elimination of Sport

Certain interscholastic sports may be eliminated due to lack of student participation, lack of a qualified coach, or financial hardships by the district.

Athletic Awards

Athletic letters are awarded to all students (male and female) who qualify in any of the varsity athletics.

Athletics / Extra Curricular Eligibility

MHSAA Policies take precedence and govern the minimum standards related to student eligibility.

NCAA Qualifying Standards

The NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse, located in Iowa City, Iowa, is the organization that handles **ALL** inquiries regarding an individual's initial eligibility status. The Clearinghouse operates a Website at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net, which maintains and processes all of the initial-eligibility certifications. More information regarding qualifying standards can be found on the NCAA web site at www.ncaa.org.

Extracurricular Activities

All students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities which are designed to foster interests and talents of students, to develop good character traits and personality, to stimulate the growth of the individual in association with the group, and to afford the student a greater understanding and appreciation of experiences that are results of extracurricular activities.

Principals or counselors have additional information regarding student participation in extracurricular activities.

Honor Societies

1. Membership in these chapters shall be based upon scholarship, character, leadership, citizenship, and service as demonstrated through student involvement in extracurricular activities and faculty recommendation.
2. To be eligible for membership in Honor Societies, the candidate must have been in attendance in the Hinds County School District for at least one semester.
3. Candidates eligible for membership in Honor Societies must meet the academic requirements as set forth in the constitution and by-laws of the Honor Society.
4. Membership dismissal procedures established by an Honor Society will be used if and when necessary.

Student Council

The Student Council is composed of a student president elected by the student body, a faculty sponsor, and representatives from each grade. Student council organizations may have additional officers in the individual schools and may not be present in the lower grades.

Clubs

Clubs are designed to foster interests and talents of students, to develop good character traits and personality, to stimulate the growth of the individual in association with the group, and to have a greater understanding and appreciation of experiences that are outgrowths of club activities.

Quest (Intellectually Gifted Students) IDE

Intellectually gifted children shall mean those children and youth who are found to have an exceptionally high degree of intelligence as documented through the identification process. A student may be referred by a teacher, parent, counselor, administrator, peer, self or anyone else having reason to believe that the student might be intellectually gifted. The person initiating the referral shall sign and date the referral form.

Referral:

During the second semester, all first-grade students are mass screened. Once the student is referred, district personnel shall collect data to satisfy referral criteria. Students shall satisfy three criteria before moving forward to the LSC review of referral data.

LSC Review of Referral Data/Assessment

Once the referral data have been collected, the Local Survey Committee (LSC) shall review all data and make a recommendation. Written parental permission for testing shall be obtained prior to administration of the individual intelligence test. A student must score at the 91st percentile in order to satisfy eligibility criteria.

LSC Eligibility Determination

Once the assessment report is finalized, the Local Survey Committee shall review all data to determine if eligibility criteria have or have not been satisfied and notify in writing the parents about the assessment results and their rights under FERPA. After a student is ruled eligible, written parental permission for placement shall be obtained before the student is placed in the program.

Programming

Students in grades 2-6 are provided services in a self-contained class for a minimum of 240 minutes per week. Gifted students may not be required to make up class work missed when they are scheduled to be in the gifted classroom, but shall be accountable for demonstrating mastery of concepts and information on regularly scheduled tests.

Main Street RESTART Program

Students who enroll at the Main Street RESTART (Restructured Education with Strategic Training and Academically Relevant Teaching) Center will be provided with the program guidelines and procedures used at this school.

No school district is required to place a child returning from out-of-home placement in a mental health, juvenile justice, or foster care system in alternative school. Placement of a child in the alternative school shall be done consistently, and, for students identified under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), shall adhere to the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004. If a school district chooses to place a child in alternative school the district will make an individual assessment and evaluation of that child in the following time periods:

(i) Five (5) days for a child transitioning from a group home, mental health care system, and/or the custody of the Department of Human Services, Division of Youth and Family Services;

(ii) Ten (10) days for a child transitioning from a dispositional placement order by a youth court pursuant to Section 43-21-605; and

(iii) An individualized assessment for youth transitioning from out-of-home placement to the alternative school shall include:

1. A strength needs assessment.

2. A determination of the child's academic strengths and deficiencies.

3. A proposed plan for transitioning the child to a regular education placement at the earliest possible date.

Hinds County Career Technical Center

The Hinds County Career Technical Center provides career, academic, and technical skills through career and technical pathways, work-based leaving experiences, and dual credit course offerings. Students wishing to enroll in a program at the Career and Technical Center must meet the prerequisites for the course. Upon completion of the program, students are prepared for: (1) entry level employment, (2) to continue technical education at a post-secondary institution at advanced standing or (3) to enroll at a four-year institution in which to continue academic training in a related area. Course offerings are provided to students and parents yearly.

Students that are sent to the Restart Center for more than 10 days are immediately removed from the Career Center roster and student will not receive credit.

CODE OF CONDUCT

INTRODUCTION

Students have a responsibility to know and to respect the rules and regulations of the school. Students are responsible for always conducting themselves in an appropriate manner. Persons who obstruct any teaching, administrative, or extracurricular activity shall be subject to such disciplinary procedures as set forth in this document.

To assist students, parents, and staff in maintaining such an environment, this *Student Code of Conduct* has been developed.

Corporal punishment is not permitted as a disciplinary action in the Hinds County School District. (Policy JDB)

Schools offer a variety of student detention plans for certain misbehaviors. Students may be assigned either to in-school, before/after-school, or Saturday detention depending upon what options the student's school may offer.

This book includes a plan for disciplinary action. While it covers many offenses, it is recognized that the plan is not all-inclusive. After careful review of the facts and other pertinent information in each case, the principal will take appropriate action.

A copy of this handbook is provided to each student enrolled in this district and his/her parent/legal guardian. At the time of a student's enrollment, a parent or guardian must acknowledge receipt of a handbook.

District Wide Student Programs

As you are aware Hinds County School District prides itself on providing quality educative experiences for all of our students, as well as being an innovative district whose goals are to exceed expectations in all areas relating to your child's/children's educational growth and development. In our ongoing effort to support all students in our district, we will implement two district wide programs.

The first program is the Bully Free program. This progressive program will be implemented in all grades, kindergarten through twelfth. The Bully Free program is the most comprehensive school-wide anti-bullying program being adopted by schools and districts around the world. It is based on research and includes administrative strategies, teacher strategies, lesson plans for each grade level, classroom meetings, student involvement, and bystander empowerment. Additional information about this very important program can be found at http://www.bullyfree.com and stopbullying.gov.

The second program involves the administration of behavioral and emotional screening assessments. Research shows that academic problems, along with problems associated with developing and maintaining positive relationships with others, can be the result of underlying behavioral and emotional deficits. When those deficits are caught early, they can often be effectively addressed before they have a negative impact on the child or adolescent.

If your child scores in the evaluated range, they will then participate in Phase 2 of this state-of- the-art program. Phase 2 involves participation in a short-term social skills counseling initiative. This program is designed to build leaders and provide support to students in the areas of bullying, peer pressure, assertiveness, and social interaction. Lasting six weeks, it is felt that your child will learn critical social skills that foster the social and academic success necessary for developing and maintaining the positive relationships necessary for success in school, and eventually the workplace.

We are very excited about the upcoming school year and the programs that will be in place to support your son/daughter. As always, should you have any questions please don't hesitate to call upon us as your child's educational future is our number one priority.

Security Surveillance Camera Procedure

The Hinds County School District uses security surveillance cameras in buildings, on buses, and other selected areas. The video captured by these cameras is used in the investigation of incidents that may occur. Because all video contains confidential student information in the form of images of actions by other students, the videos are not available for viewing except by school administrators, the HCSD Board members, law enforcement officials involved in an official investigation. A parent may request, in writing to the principal, permission to view a video when available, if the behavior of the child/children results in a Class V or Class VI recommendation at the discretion of the Superintendent.

If you do not agree with the decision of an administrator, you may request that a representative from the Superintendent's office reviews the discipline action. To do this, you must request a surveillance review form from the school within 48 hours of the incident. All surveillance must be reviewed at the district office 48 hours prior to the Due Process Hearing. Video will only be reviewed for infractions resulting in 10 or more days of suspension.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Gun-Free Schools Act/Possession of Weapons on Educational Property

The Hinds County School District operates in compliance with the Gun-Free Schools Act, Title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Therefore, all policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Education which affect the conduct and/or discipline of students are supplemented by the requirements of this act. **The details of this act may be found in the unabridged version of this handbook or at the district web site at http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us**. A summary of key details are as follows:

FIREARMS PROHIBITED

No student is permitted to bring or possess a firearm on school property.

DEFINITIONS

The definitions of a firearm and what constitutes school property are in the unabridged version as noted above.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

A student who is charged with bringing or possessing a firearm on school property shall be subject to expulsion from the Hinds County School District at the discretion of the school board, as outlined in policies JBCH and JCDAE.

The Hinds County School District has submitted assurance of compliance to the Mississippi Department of Education that all guidelines and policies of the Gun-Free Schools Act (GFSA, 1994) are addressed and followed.

Possession of Illegal Drugs, Tobacco on Educational Property

In compliance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and its amendments, the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance by students or employees of the Hinds County School District is expressly forbidden. Students may be suspended or expelled from school. Under this policy, alcohol is considered a controlled substance. In addition, no tobacco or Vaping product possession or use is permitted on the premises of any Hinds County School District facility by students or any other person. Electronic cigarettes are prohibited. (Board Policies GBRL, GBRM, GBRM-2)

Discipline Overview

1. According to state law, a parent, legal guardian or custodian of a compulsory school-age child enrolled in a public school district shall be responsible financially for his or her minor child's destructive acts against school property or persons. MS Code Ann. § 37-11-19 (1996)
2. A parent, guardian, or custodian of a compulsory school-age child enrolled in a public school district may be requested to appear at school by the school attendance officer or an appropriate school official for a conference

regarding acts of the child specified in paragraph 1 of this subsection. MS Code § 37-11-53

3. Any parent, guardian, or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a public school district who refuses or willfully fails to attend such discipline conference as specified in paragraph 2 of this subsection may be summoned by proper notification by the superintendent of schools or the school attendance officer and be required to attend such discipline conference. MS Code § 37-11-53
4. A parent, guardian, or custodian of a compulsory school-age child enrolled in a public school district shall be responsible for any criminal fines brought against such student for unlawful activity occurring on school grounds or buses.

In addition to the rules in this handbook, each local school or building principal may develop additional rules and regulations that govern student behavior and discipline at the school site. However, these campus rules and procedures must be consistent with policies and procedures established by the Board and the Superintendent.

A person who obstructs any teaching, administrative, or extracurricular activity shall be subject to such disciplinary procedures as set forth in this document or as otherwise authorized by law.

School Safety Act of 2001

The School Safety Act of 2001 is cumulative and in addition to the school district's existing authority regarding discipline of students. Pursuant to the Act, the school district has adopted policies that recognize the teacher as the authority in classroom matters regarding the school district's written discipline code of conduct, and the right of the teacher to remove from the classroom any student who, in the professional judgment of the teacher, is disrupting the learning environment, subject to the immediate review of the principal or assistant principal.

Student Dress Code

Proper attire is to be worn by all students to foster the best environment for learning. Teachers are to refer students who are in violation of the dress code to the principal or designee for appropriate disciplinary action. The principal will use his/her discretion in determining what constitutes proper attire. Students may not wear any attire or jewelry that the principal deems inappropriate and disruptive to the learning process, even if that attire is not covered in the following rules. To ensure that students observe basic rules of personal hygiene and dress in a manner that would not disrupt the educational process, the following dress code shall apply:

1. Students are prohibited from wearing hair curlers or other hair grooming aids or implements.
2. Students shall not wear suggestive or revealing attire that would divert attention from the learning process. Such attire includes, but is not limited to, excessively low-cut blouses; see-through clothing, spaghetti straps; shirts or dresses, sleeveless shirts or blouses with large armholes, and excessively tight clothing.
3. Tank tops, halters, or tops with spaghetti straps shall not be worn. Shirts or blouses tied at the midriff, clothing not properly fastened, or any item of clothing which exposes the midriff is not to be worn. A good test is for a student to extend the arms above the head to see if the midriff is exposed. If the midriff is exposed, the clothing is not acceptable.
4. Primary (K-3) students may wear shorts; students in grades 4-12 may wear shorts and skirts/dresses, which have **hemlines and/or slits that do not exceed two inches above the top of the knee**. The length shall be no shorter than one (1) inch below the finger-tips or two inches above the knee for **ALL STUDENTS.**
5. Hoodies, caps, hats, bandannas, "do rags," sweatbands, headbands, bonnets, hair picks, rat-tail type combs or other head coverings are not to be worn in the school building or on the school bus.
6. Shoes deemed by the principal as inappropriate or unsafe for school shall not be worn. This exclusion includes "roller skate" shoes and house shoes/slippers.
7. Students are not to wear sunglasses or designer contact lenses in the school building unless a doctor's permit to this effect is on file at the school.
8. Clothing, jewelry, buttons, patches, or any other items with words, phrases, symbols, pictures, or signs which use indecent, profane, suggestive, or inflammatory words, or promote drugs, alcohol, or tobacco or clothing indicative

of a non-school-sponsored activity are not to be worn.

9. Pants and trousers should be worn appropriately fastened and in close proximity to the normal waistline. Sagging pants will not be permitted. Pants will not be worn below the hips. Pants with holes above the knee will not be allowed unless clothing is worn underneath to cover the skin.
10. Oversized clothing should not be worn.
11. For the health and safety of all students, ornate and/or expensive jewelry, such as medallions and gold chains, are not to be worn by students while on school property or at school-sponsored activities. Such items may be misconstrued as gang-related apparel or may place students in danger of being injured, assaulted, or robbed.
12. Students will not wear clothing that is clearly inappropriate for the season of the year. For example, wearing a trench coat or overcoat during the early fall or spring is not allowed.
13. Pajama pants may not be worn to school.

Student Uniforms

Each school will communicate whether there will be a uniform policy. Each school will provide detailed information to parents.

Clear Bag Policy

In the interest of enhancing existing security measures at school and all athletic events hosted by Hinds County School District, a security policy regulating the type of bag that may be carried at school and into sports venues will be enforced. Students will only be allowed to carry **clear or mesh back packs** to school each day (this includes athletic bags). **Purses** should be no larger than 4.6" X 6.5".

At all **athletic events** fans are encouraged not to bring any types of bags inside HCSD athletic facilities during games; however, the following outlines bags that are permitted:

- Bags that are clear plastic, vinyl or PVC and do not exceed 12" x 6" x 12".
- One-gallon clear plastic freezer bags (Ziploc bag or similar); and
- Small clutch bags, with or without a handle or strap, that do not exceed 4.5" x 6.5" (approximately the size of a hand).
- An exception will be made for medically necessary items after proper inspection at a gate designated for this purpose.

Prohibited bags include but are not limited to: purses larger than a clutch bag; briefcases; backpacks, cinch bags, and fanny packs that are not clear and/or exceed the size restriction; luggage of any kind; computer bags/cases; camera bags/cases; binocular bags/cases or any bag larger than the permissible size.

Fans will continue to be able to carry items allowed into athletic venue in a permissible clear bag, such as binoculars and cameras.

The Following Items Are Not Allowed at School Or On The Bus:

1. Electronic Devices- radios, TVs, tape players, 2-way radios, music compact discs/ players (CD), video games or recorders, pagers, tapes, laser pointers, MP3 player, iPod, PDA, toys (unless specified by the teacher) etc.
2. Candy, raffle tickets, food items, or other non-school sponsored money-making items should not be brought to school to sell or exchange.
3. Weapons (**real, toy or look-a-like**)—including water guns, splat guns, or Nerf guns, mace, pepper spray, finger shields, spiked jewelry, chains, knives, and brass knuckles are considered weapons in the Hinds County School District and should not be brought to school.
4. Laser lights- Students who bring these lights and are instrumental in causing injury to others will be subject to disciplinary action, including expulsion.
5. Any other items that will be disruptive to the learning process are prohibited. These items include trading and playing cards, dice and other gambling paraphernalia, cigarettes, vapes, or tobacco products, matches, and

lighters, and large sums of money not designated for school activities, and any illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia.
6. Sharp pointed scissors- Rounded-edged scissors or safety scissors are allowable if scissors are required as a supply item.
7. Rolling Book Bags- These types of book bags have become a serious problem in our schools due to safety, noise, and floor damage concerns. Medical exemptions are allowed with appropriate documentation from a child's physician.
8. Students should bring only school supplies. The teacher or principal will contact parents if students are to bring other items. The parent or legal guardian must pick up items confiscated by the school within 48 hours, or they forfeit the illegal items to the school. (Glasses with cameras/embedded technology).

Cell Phone/Electronic Devices Policy:

Cell phones and all mobile devices shall be TURNED OFF when entering school campus. Cell phones and all personal mobile devices (including but not limited to air pods and wireless headphones) shall be kept in a student's backpack, bag, purse, or clothing pockets. Cell phones and all personal mobile devices are not allowed to be used in a classroom, library, common areas, or restrooms.

First offense. The phone or personal electronic device is kept for 15 days OR the parent can pay a $30 fee to the school student activity fund and receive the phone earlier. Parents may pick up cell phones or personal electronic devices the next school day after either the fee is paid or when the 15 days have passed.

Second Offense. The phone or personal electronic device is kept for 30 days, or the parent can pay a fee of $50 to the school student activity fund and receive the phone or electronic device. Parents may pick up cell phones or personal electronic devices the next school day after either the fee is paid or the 30 days have passed.

Third Offense. The student will no longer be able to bring a phone or personal electronic device on campus. Consequences may include discovery placement and RESTART placement.

The parent or legal guardian must pick up confiscated cell phones or personal electronic device at the school within 15 days after the 30-day policy ends, or they forfeit the phone or the personal electronic device to the school.

***** This does not apply to students who use their device to commit offenses that violate the District's Social Media Agreement.**

***** Items confiscated prior to a holiday may be returned at the discretion of the principal**.

Student Bullying

The Hinds County School District does not condone and will not tolerate bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that (a) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, or (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits. A "hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior will not be condoned or tolerated when it takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus, or when it takes place off school property when such conduct, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders the offending person's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole.

The Hinds County School District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no student or school employee is subjected to bullying or harassing behavior by other school employees or students. Likewise, the District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no person engages in any act of reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness, or a person with reliable information about an act of bullying or harassing behavior. The district encourages anyone who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or school employee has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior to report the incident to the appropriate school official.

Any student or school employee who feels he/she has been a victim of bullying or harassing behavior shall have the fundamental right to defend by reporting such conduct to the principal. The report shall be made promptly but no later than five (5) calendar days after the alleged act or acts occurred.

Ref: SB 2015; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-301(e)

Bus Discipline

Appropriate bus behavior is required of all students. Bus disciplinary offenses include:

1. Failure to follow directions the first time that they are given
2. Failure to stay in assigned seat and keep hands and feet in the bus (no hanging any part of the body out of the window)
3. Exiting the school bus when it stops at another school or bus stop
4. Failure to refrain from eating, drinking, or smoking
5. Failure to refrain from throwing any type of object either on the bus or from the bus
6. Failure to refrain from engaging in any physical contact
7. Failure to refrain from loud or profane talking
8. Failure to refrain from defacing or vandalizing the bus
9. Failure to refrain from harassing or bothering other students
10. Failure to refrain from fighting
11. Failure to refrain from littering
12. Failure to refrain from disrespecting the driver
13. Failure to adhere to the school electronic communication agreement

The nature and severity of individual student actions will determine the level of disciplinary action and may result in suspension from the bus and a school disciplinary consequence. Students receiving referrals for failure to observe the bus behavior described above will be disciplined as follows **for students in grades K-5:**

1st Referral	Three (3) days suspension from riding the bus
2nd Referral	Five (5) days suspension from riding the bus
3rd Referral	Ten (10) day suspension from riding the bus
4th Referral	Thirty (30) day suspension from riding the bus
5th Referral	Expulsion from the bus for the remainder of the year

The nature and severity of individual student actions will determine the level of disciplinary action and may result in suspension from the bus and a school disciplinary consequence. Students receiving referrals for failure to observe the bus behavior described above will be disciplined as follows **for students in grades 6-12:**

1st Referral	Five (5) days suspension from riding the bus
2nd Referral	Ten (10) days suspension from riding the bus
3rd Referral	Thirty (30) day suspension from riding the bus
4th Referral	Expulsion from the bus for the remainder of the year

STUDENT DISCIPLINE PLAN

It is the philosophy of the Hinds County School District that all employees and students have the right to work in a safe environment; that all school employees have the right to carry out their job responsibilities in an environment free from undue disruption and/or intimidation; and that all students have a right to a school and bus environment conducive to learning and free from distractions, disruptions, and intimidation. Students who violate the law (fighting, drugs, weapons, etc.) will be arrested and taken to the Hinds County Detention Center. If the school is unable to reach the parent or guardian by telephone, law enforcement will contact the parent.

Main Street Restart Center Points Accumulation

Points Accumulation	Time Equivalent
1125	1- Nine Weeks
2250	2- Nine Weeks
3375	3- Nine Weeks
4500	4- Nine Weeks

Class I Behaviors

Infractions: (1) Distractions or disruptions of normal classroom operations; (2) Violating student dress code as outlined in the student dress code section; (3) Absences or tardiness; (4) Inappropriate public display of affection; (5) Bullying; (6) Personal contact such as pushing and shoving; (7) Inappropriate bus conduct or violating bus rules

Offense	Consequences
1st Offense	Teacher intervention, parent contact, conference with student, warning, detention, counseling/reflection activity
2nd Offense	Parent conference, detention, in-school detention (1 day), loss of privileges, behavior contract
3rd Offense	In-school/Morning detention (1–3 days), Parent conference, mandatory counseling, loss of extracurricular privileges, referral to administration
Habitual (4th+)	Up to 3 days Discovery Center placement, referral as a Class II violation

Class II Behaviors

Infractions: (1) using and possessing matches or lighters; (2) Defacing or destruction of school property (ex. Writing on desks, walls, etc.); (3) Stealing – under $10 in value; (4) Bullying; (5) Cutting class / Out of assigned area; (6) Inappropriate bus conduct or violating bus rules; (8) Any other offense which the principal may reasonably judge to fall within this category

(All of these disciplinary actions are available to deal with student offenses at the Administration's discretion.) Consequences listed below are not exhaustive of administrators' decisions.

Offense	Consequences
1st Offense	Parent conference, detention, ISS (1–3 days), restitution if applicable, counseling
2nd Offense	ISS (2–5 days), loss of privileges, behavior improvement plan, mandatory counseling
3rd Offense	OSS (1–5 days)/Discovery Center placement, restitution, possible law enforcement notification if applicable
Habitual (4th+)	OSS (5–10 days)/RESTART recommendation, referral as a Class III violation

Class III Behaviors

Infractions: (1) Bullying; (2) Vandalizing school property (non-gang related; (3) Personal contact such as pushing and shoving (severe); (4) Out of assigned area; (5) Ammunition, possession, or use of; (6) Using vulgar, abusive, or profane language, acts, and/or gestures; (7) Stealing – over $10.00 in value; (8) Failure to identify self or intentionally providing false information to any school employee or member of the school board; (9) Conspiring to or creating a disturbance in the classroom, on the bus, on school property, or at any school function, or verbally threatening such a disturbance; (10) Written or verbal proposition to engage in a sexual act; (11) Habitually leaving school without permission, cutting classes, or not following proper procedures in arriving to or leaving campus; (12) Refusing to surrender any item not allowed at school; (11) Insubordination, disrespect for authority, willful disobedience; (13) Failure to serve detention; (14) Membership in fraternities, sororities, or secret societies; (15) Inappropriate bus conduct or violating bus rules; (16) Any other offense which the principal may reasonably judge to fall within this category; (17)Violation of the terms listed in the Student Social Media Agreement/Acceptable Use of Technology Resources Policy

Consequences (All of these disciplinary actions are available to deal with student offenses at the Administrators' discretion). Consequences listed below are not exhaustive of administrators' decisions.

Offense	Consequences
1st Offense	OSS (1–5 days)/Discovery Center placement, parent conference, counseling, restitution if applicable, loss of privileges
2nd Offense	OSS (3–10 days)/Discovery Center placement, behavior contract, law enforcement referral if warranted
3rd Offense	Long-term suspension, recommendation for Restart placement pending due process hearing
Habitual or Severe Incident	OSS pending discipline hearing, discipline appeals committee review, recommendation for expulsion, referral to Youth Court and/or law enforcement

Class IV Behaviors

Infractions: (1) Bullying involving threats, harassment, or intimidation; (2) Burglary or unlawful possession of school property; (3) Extortion; (4) Gambling (5) Fighting or assault; (6) Sexual harassment; (7) Gang-related vandalism; (8) Theft over $100; (9) Possession or distribution of pornography; (10) Production of pornographic

images or materials; (11) Possession or distribution of non-prescription medications; (12) Possession of vapes (nicotine), vaping devices, oils, or inserts, smokeless tobacco and tobacco related products (13) Display of impairment from drugs or alcohol; (14) Major bus disruptions; (14) Sexual touching or inappropriate sexual conduct; (15) Severe classroom disruptions; (16) Electronic or social media communication or internet policy violations involving threats, harassment, or criminal conduct; (17) Any other offense which the administrator may reasonably judge to fall within this category

NOTE: In instances of reasonable suspicion, parents or guardians may obtain (at their own expense) an appropriate drug or alcohol lab test within 4 hours of the initial contact time with the school to demonstrate that no such impairment exists. If records are not received within the 72 hours or if the sample was not taken within four hours of the parent being notified, the district will move forward with disciplinary action.

Disciplinary Actions for Class IV Behaviors

All of these disciplinary actions are available to deal with student offenses at the Administration's discretion. Consequences listed below are not exhaustive of administrators' decisions.

Offenses	Consequences
1st Offense	Discovery Center placement (3–10 days), parent conference, mandatory counseling, restitution if applicable, loss of extracurricular privileges, other appropriate action deemed necessary by the principal, or OSS
2nd Offense	Discovery Center placement (5–10 days), behavior contract, mandatory counseling, other appropriate action deemed necessary by the principal, or OSS, law enforcement referral if warranted
3rd Offense	Long-term suspension, recommendation for RESTART Center placement, disciplinary hearing
Habitual (4th+) or Severe Incident	OSS pending disciplinary hearing, Discipline Appeals Committee review, recommendation for expulsion, Youth Court referral and/or law enforcement action

Class V Behaviors

(1) Intimidation by placing someone in fear or his/her safety (severe); (2) Burglarizing a district facility or district or personal automobile (3) Unlawful possession of school property; (4) Possession, use, sale, or distribution of alcohol; (5) Possession of any item that has the shape, form, or appearance of and intended use as a weapon; (6) Physical and/or verbal assault of teachers, administrators, visitors, other staff members or students; (7) Verbal or written threat toward self or others; (8) Participating in or causing a disturbance at school or school-related activities – riot, group fights or similar disturbances; (9) gang-fights; (10) Engaging in or the appearance of engaging in a sexual act; (11) Robbery; (12) Possession or use of mace or pepper spray-type device; (13) Arson; (14) Bomb threats/Terroristic threats; (15) Setting off fire alarm/vocalizing a false fire alarm (16) Major disruptions on bus;
(17) Indecent Exposure; (18) Electronic or social media threats that create a major disruption to the school day/ Student Electronic Communication Agreement and/or Internet Policy violation; (19) Any other offense which the principal may reasonably judge to fall within this category

Offense	Consequences
1st Offense	Discovery Center placement (5–10 days), recommendation for Restart Center Placement pending Due Process Hearing; mandatory counseling, or OSS, law enforcement referral if warranted
2nd Offense	Long-term suspension, recommendation for Restart Center placement pending disciplinary hearing
3rd Offense	Expulsion- The complete loss of all privileges in the K-12 program.

Class VI Behaviors

(1) Possession or use of a deadly weapon; (2) Possession, sale, or use of any controlled substance, prescription drug or "look alike" drug; (3) Possession of any dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine, or powerful explosive; (4) Bullying; (5) Assault resulting in serious physical injury or simple verbal or physical assault on any school employee or student; (6) Sexual assault or sexual battery as defined under Mississippi law (7) Rape; (8) Kidnapping; (9) Indecent liberties with a minor as defined in Miss. Code Ann. § 97-5-23; (10) Assault involving the use of a weapon; (11) Possession of a firearm in violation of the law; (12) Murder

NOTE: A weapon is any gun, BB gun, air rifle, air pistol, Bowie knife, dirk, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, tasers, switchblade knife, blackjack, Gerber knife, metallic or brass knuckles, razors and razor blades, and any sharp-pointed or edged instrument except for those used as instructional supplies, unaltered nail files, and clips and tools used solely for food preparation, instruction, and maintenance on educational property. Miss. Code Ann. § 97-37-14.

Disciplinary Actions for Class VI Behaviors

Offense	Consequences
1st Offense	Expulsion- The complete loss of all privileges in the K-12 program; law enforcement referral if warranted

Students in any school who possess any controlled substance in violation of the Uniform Control Substance Law, a knife, handgun or other firearm, or any other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm or who commit a violent act on school property as defined in Miss. Code Ann. § 97-37- 17, shall be subject to automatic expulsion for one calendar year by the superintendent or principal from such school. Such expulsion shall take effect immediately subject to the constitutional rights of due process. Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-18.

The superintendent or his/her designee must immediately report to law enforcement agencies when there is a reasonable belief that an unlawful activity has occurred on school property or during a school activity. Students who are involved in any criminal or violent behavior may be arrested by law enforcement and transported to the Hinds County Detention Center. The superintendent or his/her designee may be fined up to $1,000.00, jailed for six months, or both, for failure to report. When a report is received, law enforcement must immediately dispatch an officer; and an arrest may be made if there is probable cause. Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-29. (Board Policy JCBE)

IDEA Students (§ 300.520 Authority of School Personnel)

School personnel may order the removal of a student for not more than ten (10) consecutive school days to the extent that such removals would be applied to children without a disability for the same offense or when the student's behavior is deemed to be dangerous behavior. More specific information may be found in the unabridged version of this handbook or at the district web site at http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us.

SCHOOL VIOLENCE

In an effort to prevent the escalation of school violence, the legislature passed several new laws that severely impact the responsibilities of both parents and students. This portion of the Student Code of Conduct and Discipline Plan is designed to highlight these laws. Specific information may be found in the unabridged version of this handbook or at

the district web site at http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us.

Automatic Expulsion

Any student in any school who possesses any controlled substance in violation of the Uniform Control Substances Law, a knife, handgun, other firearm, or any other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm or who commits a violent act on school property shall be subject to automatic expulsion for one calendar year by the superintendent from such school. However, the superintendent may modify the period of time on a case-by-case basis. Such expulsion shall take effect immediately subject to the constitutional rights of due process. MS Code Ann. § 37-11-18. (Board Policies JCBH, JCDAE)

Parental Responsibility

It is the parent or guardians' responsibility to provide appropriate emergency contact phone numbers where they can be reached. It is also the parent or guardian's responsibility to check their children's book bags and person each morning before children leave home for school for the presence of any items that are not allowed at school.

A parent may be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined up to $1,000.00, imprisoned for six (6) months, or both for knowingly allowing a student under the age of 18 to have, own, or carry a concealed weapon unless otherwise exempted by law. MS Code Ann. § 97-37-15.

A parent, guardian, or custodian of a compulsory school-age child enrolled in a public school district shall be responsible for any criminal fines brought against the student for unlawful activity as defined in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-29 occurring on school grounds.

A public school district is entitled to recover damages in an amount not to exceed $20,000.00 plus necessary court costs from the parents of any student between the ages of 7 and 17 who maliciously and willfully damages or destroys property belonging to that school district. However, this section does not apply to parents whose parental control of such student has been removed by court order or decree. These damages are in addition to any other recovery.

Reporting Requirements for Unlawful Activity

Any school employee who has knowledge of any unlawful activity which occurred or may have occurred on educational property or during a school-related activity must report such activity to the superintendent or his/her designee who shall notify the appropriate law enforcement officials.

Release of Law Enforcement Records

Law enforcement records of students taken into custody for committing a felony or offense involving the use or possession of a dangerous weapon may be released to appropriate school officials without a court order upon written request.

References: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-19, 37-11-53, 97-37-1, 97-3-7, 37-11-29, 37-11-59.

MHSAA Hazing/Harassment Policy

Hinds County School District forbids hazing. Hazing can be defined as any act or ceremony which can create the risk of harm to a student. Students who participate in such activity will be subject to punishment and may be expelled. Students should report incidents of hazing to the school guidance counselor and/or other administrative personnel.

DUE PROCESS

The Due Process procedure provides the following in instances of serious misconduct which may result in a suspension, Discovery Placement, Restart Placement, or expulsion: (a) adequate notice of the charge against a student, (b) an opportunity for a hearing and to present evidence, and (c) a decision supported by the evidence. (Board Policy JCAA)

Student's Right to a Hearing

Whenever a student is suspended or assigned to Discovery, school authorities shall make every reasonable effort to notify the parents or legal guardian. Each student who has been suspended for more than ten (10) consecutive days, or who has been recommended for expulsion or Restart Placement, is automatically given notice of right to a hearing before the School Appeals Committee. Failure of the student, parent, and/or legal counsel to appear at the proper time and place shall waive the rights to attend a formal hearing.

Suspension Reentry Conference

Whenever a student is suspended or placed at the RESTART Center, the parents or legal guardian may be required by the principal to bring the student back to school for a mandatory parent conference before the suspension ends. A student whose parent or guardian fails to accompany him/her for this conference will not be allowed to come back to school.

Grievance Procedure

Students' complaints and grievances shall be resolved through orderly processes and at the school level. In the event that a resolution is not obtained at the school level, further appeal may be made following Board Policy JCE which is posted on the district's web site at http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us.

Anyone having any complaints alleging discrimination on the basis of sex or any inquiries on the application of Title IX may contact the Human Resource Coordinator.

The Hinds County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, religion, or national origin.

Organization of Fraternities, Sororities and Secret Societies in the School

Students in the Hinds County School District are prohibited by state law and district policy from belonging to or participating in any activities of any high school fraternity, sorority, or secret society as defined in MS CODE 37-11-37. Any participation by students in fraternities, sororities, or secret organizations will result in suspension and/or expulsion from the Hinds County School District. (Board Policy JHCAA).

Sexual Harassment

Board Policies GACN and JB forbid discrimination against any employee, applicant for employment, or student on the basis of sex. These policies may be found on the district web site at http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us.

FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) 2015

The district fully complies with the federal legislation outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act. Parents and/or legal guardians of a student in the Hinds County School District have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers and paraprofessionals who instruct their child. Therefore, the Hinds County School District makes available to all of our parents and/or legal guardians, upon request, information regarding the qualifications of their child's teacher(s). The information we will provide will include the following: 1) whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas taught; 2) whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status; 3) The baccalaureate degree of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree; and 4) whether any assistant teacher providing instructional services to the student has met the required qualifications.

If you are interested in receiving this information, please submit your written request to the Director of State and Federal Programs, Hinds County School District, 13192 Highway 18, Raymond, MS 39154.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The school district will not, except for "directory information," disclose personally identifiable information from the education records of a student without prior written consent from the parent or the eligible student. Prior consent of the parent or eligible student is not required when the school releases such information to other school officials (including teachers), officials of another school district in which the student seeks to enroll, or other federal, state and educational agencies as enumerated in Public Law 93-579.

The schools in the district will upon occasion use/publish personally identifiable information including honor rolls, student work, school annuals, athletic rosters, class rolls, audio-visual and photographic representations, and school-sponsored club and activity rosters. The Hinds County School District also utilizes a Multi-Channel School-to-Parent Notification system Parents who wish their children excluded from these practices must advise the principal of the school, in writing, no later than fourteen (14) days after the student's enrollment or receipt of this handbook, whichever is later. Appeals regarding the decisions of school principals concerning educational records may be made to the Superintendent of Education at the administrative office address listed in this publication. Parents of eligible students have the following rights under FERPA:

- The right to inspect and review the student's education records
- The right to seek the amendment of the education records
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information.
- The right to file a complaint concerning alleged failures to comply with FERPA

Specific information may be found in the unabridged version of this handbook or at the district web site at http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us.

Annual Notification (Board Policy JRAB)

Students and parents will have access to their school records. Parents/students may contact the individual school for procedures to obtain these records.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

The Hinds County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion or age in the admission to and provision of educational programs, activities and services or employment opportunities and benefits. The following office has been designated to handle inquiries and complaints regarding the non-discrimination policies of the district.

Sherliterce Mullen, Title IX Coordinator

Hinds County School District 13192 Highway 18
Raymond, MS 39154
601.857.5222

Parental Involvement (Board Policy LAA)

Under the auspices of the Every Student Succeeds Act, (ESSA) 2015, the Hinds County School District provides both school wide and targeted assisted services to eligible schools. The Hinds County School District seeks to engage in a relationship with the parents that will encourage parental involvement in all facets of the educational environment. The board also encourages every school to form an active and effective parent-teacher organization.

Asbestos Notice—Annual Notification

We are informing all parents and school employees of their option to review the asbestos management plan, which includes documentation of any changes of asbestos-containing materials in the schools. A copy of the re-inspection

report has been filed with the Mississippi Department of Education. A copy of the surveillance report and a copy of the management plan are located in the principal's office at each school. A copy of all management plans for the district is maintained in the office of the Maintenance Supervisor at 13328 Highway 18, Raymond, Mississippi. Any interested party should feel free to go to any of these locations to review these reports.

CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT

Hinds County School District School District Internet Safety Policy

Introduction

It is the policy of **Hinds County School District** to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

Definitions

Key terms are as defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act.

Access to Inappropriate Material

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.

Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled for adults or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Inappropriate Network Usage

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the **Hinds County School District** online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

Education, Supervision and Monitoring

It shall be the responsibility of all members of the **Hinds County School District's** staff to educate, supervise and monitor appropriate usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy, the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.

Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Technology Director or designated representatives. The **Hinds County School District** or designated representatives will provide age-appropriate training for students who use the **Hinds County School District** Internet facilities. The training provided will be designed to promote the **Hinds County School District's**

commitment to:

I. The standards and acceptable use of Internet services as set forth in the Hinds County School District's Internet Safety Policy.
II. Student safety with regard to:
    a. Safety on the Internet
    b. Appropriate behavior while online, on social networking Websites, and in chat rooms
    c. Cyber bullying awareness and response.
III. Compliance with the E-rate requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act ("CIPA")

Following receipt of this training, the student will acknowledge that he/she received the training, understood it, and will follow the provisions of the district's acceptable use policies.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES (BOARD POLICIES IJ, IJB, IJBD)

The Hinds County School District is pleased to offer students and staff access to a computer network for electronic mail (e-mail) and the Internet. To gain access to e-mail and the Internet, all students must obtain parental permission as verified by the signatures on the Internet/Technology Acceptance Use Policy Consent. Should a parent prefer that a student not have e-mail and Internet access, use of the computers is still possible for more traditional purposes such as word processing.

What is possible?

Access to e-mail and the Internet will enable users to explore thousands of libraries, databases, museums, and other repositories of information and to exchange personal communication with other Internet users around the world. Families should be aware that some material accessible via the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive. While the purpose is to provide Internet resources for constructive educational goals, users may find ways to access other materials. The Technology Department is actively monitoring Internet usage for inappropriate content and blocking unwanted sites. We believe that the benefits to users from access to the Internet in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration exceed the disadvantages. But ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. Therefore, we support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

What is expected?

Users are responsible for appropriate behavior on the school's computer network just as they are in a classroom or on a school playground. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. It is expected that users will comply with district standards and the specific rules set forth below. The use of the network is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused. The user is personally responsible for his/her actions in accessing and utilizing the school's computer resources. The users are advised never to access, keep, or send anything that they would not want others to see.

What are the rules?

Privacy - Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. Technology administrators may review communications to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are using the system responsibly.

Storage capacity - Users are expected to remain within allocated disk space and delete e-mail or other material which take up excessive storage space.

Illegal copying - Users should never download or install any commercial software, shareware, or freeware onto network drives or disks, unless they have written permission from the Technology Director. Nor should users copy

other people's work or intrude into other people's files.

Inappropriate materials or language - Profane, abusive or impolite language should not be used to communicate, nor should materials be accessed which are not in line with the rules of school behavior. A good rule to follow is never view, send, or access materials which you would not want others see. Should users encounter such material by accident, they should report it their teacher or principal immediately.

These are guidelines to follow to prevent the loss of network privileges.

1. Do not use a computer to harm other people or their work.
2. Do not damage the computer or the network in any way.
3. Do not interfere with the operation of the network by installing illegal software, shareware, or freeware.
4. Do not violate copyright laws.
5. Do not view, send, or display offensive messages or pictures.
6. Do not share your password with another person.
7. Do not waste limited resources such as disk space or printing capacity.
8. Do not trespass in another's folders, work, or files.
9. Do notify an adult immediately if by accident, you encounter materials which violate the rules of appropriate use.
10. Do install wireless access points, media devices, or personal laptops on the district network.
11. BE PREPARED to be held accountable for your actions and for the loss of privileges if the Rules of Appropriate Use are violated.

HANDBOOK UPDATES AND REVISIONS

This handbook is updated each school year to better serve the parents and students of Hinds County School District. If you have specific recommendations on how we can improve this publication to better serve you, please let us know. You may write to specific staff members listed in the front of this directory or contact Dr. Antionette Woodall, Executive Director of Student Services, who will ensure that all suggestions are carefully reviewed each year for possible inclusion in next year's handbook. You may email your suggestions to her at awoodall@hinds.k12.ms.us or by regular mail at: Hinds County School District, 13192 Highway 18, Raymond, MS 39154.

WEB PAGE

In an effort to provide better information to parents and students, the district maintains a comprehensive web page with a wide variety of information. You may access this page at the following address: www.hinds.k12.ms.us. If you have recommendations for additions or revisions to the web page, please contact. Dr. Cynthia Wallace, Technology Director, via email at cwallace@hinds.k12.ms.us or by telephone at 601.857.5222.

Parent Resources

In Hinds County School District, we are striving to keep parents connected. Parents may access information under the curriculum tab on the Hinds County School District website. This information is available at www.hinds.k12.ms.us. Parents are able to find the curriculum pacing for English Language Arts and Mathematics K-12, as well as other curriculum information. From the Data and Accountability link, you will find information regarding what state test are given for each grade level with a short summary of each test. You will also find the testing window, or testing dates for each test listed.

Hinds County School District State and District Required Assessments

Assessment	Grade Level
Kindergarten Readiness	Pre-K & Kindergarten
3rd Grade MS Assessment Program	3rd Grade
MS Academic Assessment Program	3-8 ELA, 3-8 Math, 5th & 8th, Grade Science, Biology I Alg. I & English II
MS Academic Assessment Program Alternate	MAAP-A Exception Education Only Grades 3-12
ACT State Testing	Grade 11
ACT WorkKeys	All Seniors & CTE Completers
Advanced Placement (AP) Exams	All students enrolled in AP Courses
CTE Certifications	CTE Completers
English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT)	ELPA 21 - Grades K-12

District Assessments

1. Bi-Weekly Test.....*Grades K-12*
2. Mid Term Assessments……..……*Grades K-12*
3. Nine Weeks Assessments……..*Grades K-12*

Early Graduation

Students desiring to graduate one semester prior to their cohort graduation month of May must complete all graduation requirements of the following by May of their Junior year.

- Successfully meet all End of Course Assessment requirements
- Attain ACT benchmark Scores of:
- English 18 or Reading 22
- Math 19

Additionally, students must meet the following requirements to graduate in December of the Senior year:

- Meet all course requirements for graduation
- Attain a 2.5 GPA
- Complete one AP (take AP exam) or Dual Credit Course (B or higher)

Senior Early Release/Late Arrival

Students classified as Seniors must complete the following requirements to participate in Senior Early Release/Late Arrival (at the principal's discretion):

- Students must be on track for May graduation
- Students must meet all End of Course Assessment graduation requirements
- Students must have a 2.5 GPA
- Students must complete one AP (take AP exam) or Dual Credit Course (C or higher)
- Students must have paid all Graduation Fees

Hinds County School District Student Electronic Communication Agreement

As a student of Hinds County School District, I recognize I have a responsibility to support the efforts of my teachers, administrators, and fellow students to create a safe and welcoming learning environment free from threatening, harassing, or intimidating language. I understand my behavior online—including the content, images, and links I post and share on social media, websites, and other digital platforms—is an important part of whether my peers, teachers, administrators, and others feel safe and comfortable.

I also understand the Hinds County School District student handbook prohibits the use of sharing or accessing information or content that includes "profane, abusive, or impolite language … not in line with the rules of school behavior." I understand that if I encounter this type of material, I should report it to my principal immediately. In addition, I recognize that the following behaviors are prohibited and extend to my conduct online, including but not limited to:

- Using vulgar, abusive, or profane language, acts, and/or gestures
- Conspiring to or creating a disturbance in the classroom, on the bus, on school property, or at any school function, or verbally threatening such a disturbance
- Bullying
- Using abusive language or abusive behavior to district personnel or students
- The use of cell phones to acquire or distribute inappropriate video or photography
- The forwarding, posting, reposting, airdrop, and the sending of messages via text or messaging apps of inappropriate information on websites or blogs or sharing of social media content by any means.

Recognizing the above:

- I take responsibility for my online profiles, including my posts and any photos, videos, or other recordings posted by others in which I appear.
- I will not post or share any threatening, harassing, or intimidating content via social media, text message, messaging apps, or any other digital communication platform.
- I will refrain from sharing posts or text messages that contain threats, degrading messages, or content that can be construed as bullying towards my peers.
- I will immediately report any social media post, text message, or other digital content that contains an explicit or implied threat to the safety of my fellow students, faculty, staff, or member of the community.
- **It is my responsibility to report any inappropriate messages and/or post to my school administrator(s) and inform my parent or guardian immediately.**
- I understand and I will not forward, post, repost, airdrop, and send messages via text or messaging apps of inappropriate information on websites, blogs or other digital platforms.
- Consequences may include: ISD, OSS, discovery placement, restart placement, expulsion and/or arrest.

I understand my failure to do any of the above may result in disciplinary action or potential criminal charges.

Print Name	Signature
School	Date

PARENT AUTHORIZATION AND AGREEMENT FORM

Off Campus Educational Experiences: I hereby request and **CONSENT / DO NOT CONSENT** (circle and initial your choice) that my child or ward be permitted to participate in any and all field trips this year. (You will be notified prior to each trip.) I understand that this trip is a part of the school's educational program and that my child or ward may be accompanied and transported by a teacher or other officials or volunteers of the school district. I agree that no teacher or other school district official or volunteer parent will be held responsible for any injuries or damages occurring on such trip. In the event a claim is made, I agree to limit such claim to my child's or ward's share of any insurance proceeds, if any, available on any policy held by the person against whom such claim is made.

Student/Parent Handbook: I HAVE / HAVE NOT RECEIVED (circle and initial as appropriate) a copy of the HCSD Student / Parent Handbook outlining the district's policies, discipline guidelines and code of conduct, and understand that it is my responsibility to read its contents and explain them to my child. I understand the attendance policy states that only doctor's excuses or legal excuses create an excused absence. I also understand that the district is not responsible for any medical bills or balances not covered under a student's insurance policy.

Parent Authorization and Indemnity Agreement Emergency Treatment: I, the undersigned parent/s or guardian/s of _____, a minor child attending the HCSD, who is diabetic or potentially at risk for seizures, coma, or other such medical emergency request that the personnel of the Hinds County School District summon Emergency Medical Services ("EMS") personnel to treat my child and/or to transport said child to any medical facility in the event of such medical emergency. I /We forever release, discharge and covenant to hold harmless the Hinds County School District, its personnel and Board of Education from any all claims, demands, damages, expenses, loss of services and causes of action belonging to the minor child or to the undersigned arising out of or on account of any injury, sickness, disability, loss or damages of any kind resulting from the emergency treatment by said EMS or the transport of said child to any medical facility.

The undersigned agree to repay the school district, its personnel, or Board of Education any sum of money, expenses, or attorney's fees that any of them may be compelled to pay in defense of any action or on account of any such injury to the minor child as a result of the administration of emergency treatment. I/We have read the foregoing release and indemnity agreement and fully understand it.

Parent Authorization and Indemnity Agreement Prescription Medicines: I, the undersigned parent or guardian of____, a minor child request that the personnel of the Hinds County School District administer prescription medicine to this student. This request has been made for my convenience as a substitute for parental administration of this medicine. It is understood that school personnel administering the medicine will not have to have medical or nursing training. I forever release, discharge, and covenant to hold harmless the Hinds County School District, its personnel and Board of Education from any and all claims, demands, damages, expenses, loss of services, and causes of action belonging to the minor child or to the undersigned arising out of or on account of any injury, sickness, disability, loss, or damages of any kind resulting from the administration of the prescription medicine.

The undersigned agree to repay the school district, its personnel or Board of Education any sum of money, expenses, or attorney's fees that any of them may be compelled to pay in defense of any action or on account of any such injury to the minor child as a result of the administration of medicine. I have read the foregoing release and indemnity agreement and fully understand it.

Behavior and Emotional Screening Social Skills Counseling Initiative: As a parent or guardian of a student in the Hinds County School District, I understand that my child may participate in a short-term social skills counseling initiative in the event that he or she scores in the elevated range when College and Career Readiness Standards. See page 38 of this book for complete details.

Check your choice:

My child may participate in the short-term social skills counseling initiative as outlined above. _____

OR

I would prefer that my child not participate in the short-term social skills counseling initiative. _____

PARENT TECHNOLOGY PERMISSION FORM and INTERNET USER AGREEMENT: As a parent or guardian of a student in the Hinds County School, I have read the acceptable use policy that details information about the appropriate use of computers at the school and I understand this agreement will be kept on file at the school. **Questions should be directed to the principal for clarification.**

Check your choice:

My child may use e-mail and the Internet while at school according to the rules outlined.____

OR

I would prefer that my child not use e-mail and the Internet while at school._____

As a user of the school computer network, I agree to comply with the above stated rules and to use the network in a constructive manner.

Executed this the_____day of_____, 20_____.

Student Name (print): _____

Student Signature: _____

School:_____Grade: _____

Parent Name (print): _____

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____

Parent or Guardian Witness: _____

Media Release

I hereby give Hinds County School District the right and permission to publish, use photographs or video, and/or audio recordings of my child, a student enrolled in Hinds County School District. I understand that such reproductions could
be used to publicize or promote the school system, and/or my child's school through its own media productions (district Website, social media, printed and/or online brochures, reports, promotional videos, etc.) or through the commercial
media (television, radio, Internet or print). I waive any right to inspect and/or approve the finished product and do release Hinds County School District from any liability by virtue of distortion by processing. I further agree that these
items may be used for publication, broadcast or reproduction without limitation or reservation or any fee.
Student Name:_____ Parent Signature_____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PROHIBITED ITEMS (WEAPONS)

The Hinds County School District is committed to ensuring a safe and supportive environment for all students and staff. Possession or use of weapons or items that resemble weapons—regardless of intent—can cause disruption and potential danger.

Current Related Policies:
- GBEN Possession of Weapons on School Premises
- JCDAE Weapons

Section I: Real Firearms or Explosive Weapons
Definition:
Any operable or inoperable device that is designed to expel a projectile by action of an explosive (includes handguns, rifles, shotguns, etc.), or explosive devices such as fireworks or homemade bombs.

Prohibited Behavior:
Possession, use, threat of use, or distribution of a real firearm or explosive on school grounds, school buses, or at school-related events.

Section II: Toy Guns, Imitation Guns, or Water Guns
Definition:
Items that resemble real firearms or are used in a manner to cause alarm or disruption (e.g., water guns, toy cap guns, plastic/foam guns, etc.).

Prohibited Behavior:
- Bringing or using toy/imitation guns at school, on the bus, or during school events, regardless of intent, unless explicitly authorized for educational purposes.

Examples Related to Imitation Weapons or Toy Guns
- Pointing a toy/replica gun at another student as a threat or prank
- Pretending a water gun is a real gun to intimidate others
- Using a toy gun in a video posted online to threaten a student or staff member
- "Joking" about shooting someone, even without a real weapon

Parental Acknowledgement

I understand that possession of any prohibited item may result in disciplinary action in accordance with district policy, which may include suspension, expulsion, and/or legal consequences.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have reviewed and discussed this policy with my child. I agree to support the school in enforcing this policy and understand the importance of maintaining a safe and respectful school environment.

Student Name: _____School_____Grade_____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PROHIBITED ITEMS (DRUGS/CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES)

The Hinds County School District is committed to providing a safe, drug-free learning environment for all students and staff. The possession, use, distribution, or influence of controlled substances—whether in traditional or electronic form—is strictly prohibited on any school property, bus, or during school-sponsored events.

This policy includes **vaping devices containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)** or other illicit substances not legally prescribed to the student. Policy JCDAC: Drugs and Alcohol (Possession or Reasonable Suspicion)

Definition: Controlled Substance Violation
Includes, but is not limited to:

- THC-containing vaping devices (marijuana or cannabis vape pens)
- Marijuana-infused **edibles, such as gummies, baked goods, or candies**
- Oils, tinctures, wax, or concentrates
- Any product containing cannabis, CBD with THC, or other illegal drugs
- In accordance with Mississippi Code § 37-11-29 and § 41-29-139, any student found in possession of a controlled substance (e.g., marijuana, THC vapes, prescription pills without documentation, or other scheduled drugs) will be subject to school discipline and a mandatory referral to law enforcement. Possession of certain substances (e.g., Schedule I or II) may constitute a felony under state law. All incidents will trigger a safety and wellness response that includes notifying the parent/guardian and, when applicable, emergency medical services. Documentation from a licensed healthcare provider may be required before the student can return.

Note: Schedule I substances have no accepted medical use and are considered unsafe (e.g., marijuana, synthetic cannabinoids). Schedule II substances have legitimate medical uses but high potential for abuse and dependence (e.g., Adderall, Oxycodone).

Reminder: Even if no harm is intended, controlled substances on campus are a serious violation. Our goal is to support students with education, intervention, and a second chance.

Parental Acknowledgement

I understand that possession of any prohibited item may result in disciplinary action in accordance with district policy, which may include suspension, expulsion, and/or legal consequences.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have reviewed and discussed this policy with my child. I agree to support the school in enforcing this policy and understand the importance of maintaining a safe and respectful school environment.

Student Name: _____School_____Grade_____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Normal School Day Schedule

School	Student Drop off Begins	Breakfast Begins	Classes Begin	Classes End/ Student Dismissal
Bolton-Edwards Elementary/ Middle School	7:15 a.m.	7:15 a.m.	7:45 a.m.	Car 2:30 p.m. Bus 2:30 p.m.
Byram Middle School	8:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	3:30 p.m.
Main Street Restart Center	7:45 a.m.	7:45 a.m.	8:15 a.m.	3:15 p.m.
Gary Road Elementary School	7:10 a.m.	7:10 a.m.	7:45 a.m.	Car 2:20 p.m. Bus 2:30 p.m.
Gary Road Intermediate School	7:15 a.m.	7:15 a.m.	7:55 a.m.	Car 2:40 p.m. Bus 2:40 p.m.
Raymond Elementary/ Carver Middle School	7:10 a.m.	7:10 a.m.	7:45 a.m.	2:30 p.m.
Raymond High School	8:45 a.m.	8:45 a.m.	9:15 a.m.	4:00 p.m.
Terry High School	8:45 a.m.	8:45 a.m.	9:15 a.m.	4:00 p.m.
Utica Elementary/ Middle School	7:20 a.m.	7:20 a.m.	7:45 a.m.	2:45 p.m.

Late Start Schedule

(To be used in the case of inclement weather or other emergencies*)*

School	Student Drop off Begins	Classes Begin	Classes End/ Student Dismissal
Bolton-Edwards Elementary/ Middle School	9:30 a.m.	10:00 a.m.	Car 3:50 p.m. Bus 3:50 p.m.
Byram Middle School	9:40 a.m.	10:00 a.m.	4:00 p.m.
Main Street Restart Center	9:00 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	3:00 p.m.
Gary Road Elementary School	9:30 a.m.	10:00 a.m.	Car 3:40 p.m. Bus 3:40 p.m.
Gary Road Intermediate School	9:35 a.m.	10:05 a.m.	Car 3:45 p.m. Bus 3:45 p.m.
Raymond Elementary/ Carver Middle School	9:30 a.m.	10:05 a.m.	3:30 p.m.
Raymond High School	10:15 a.m.	10:45 a.m.	4:45 p.m.
Terry High School	10:25 a.m.	10:45 a.m.	4:45 p.m.
Utica Elementary/ Middle School	9:30 a.m.	10:00 a.m.	3:50 p.m.

Hinds County School District

Report Card Calendar 2026-2027

Nine-Week Term	Term Dates	Midterm Test Window	Midterm Progress Report Issued No Later Than	Nine Weeks/ Semester Exam Test Window	Report Cards Issued No Later Than
First	July 30, 2026 through October 2, 2026	August 24- 28, 2026	September 4, 2026	September 28- October 2, 2026	October 16, 2027
Second	October 12, 2026 through December 18, 2026	November 9-12, 2026	November 20, 2026	December 14- 18, 2026	January 19, 2027
Third	January 5, 2027 through March 19, 2027	February 1-5, 2027	February 11, 2027	March 1-5, 2027	March 25, 2027
Fourth	March 22, 2027 through May 27, 2027	April 12- 15, 2027	April 23, 2027	May 19-25, 2027	May 28, 2027

Note: There will be no extracurricular activities or sports competitions scheduled during the nine weeks and semester exams.

Hinds County School District
www.hinds.k12.ms.us

Durham Transportation Services 601-857-5562

Stay in touch with HCSD using our mobile app.

You may download the app in the App Store or Google Play store.