Our Vision:

Every Student, Every Day

Our Mission:

Fentress County Schools will empower our students for THEIR tomorrow.

Student Handbook
2026-2027

INTRODUCTION

The contents of this handbook are not meant to suppress the freedoms of the students who attend Fentress County Schools. It is intended to serve as a guide for students and their parents/guardians. It contains information concerning academics, attendance, extra-curricular activities, as well as other regulations intended for the most efficient operation of the schools, so that students will derive the greatest educational benefits while attending Fentress County Schools.

This handbook is NOT meant to be an all-inclusive reference. Situations may occur that were not anticipated when this handbook was developed and thus, are not addressed. Such situations will be dealt with on an individual basis.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Fentress County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, national origin, creed, age, marital status, or disability in its educational programs, activities or employment under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Federal Education Amendments of 1972 and section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

INDIVIDUAL CLASSROOM POLICIES

In addition to the general rules of the school, teachers may impose additional rules specifically for their classrooms. These rules are to be posted in the room and are to be followed by students while they are in class.

VISITORS

All persons entering a school must enter through the front entrance and sign in as a visitor in the front office. Upon presenting a valid photo identification, visitors will be given a visitor's badge which must be clearly displayed while in the building.

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONFERENCES WITH TEACHERS

If parents/guardians have concerns about their child's academic progress and needs to conference with teachers, the parents/guardians need to set up an appointment to meet with the teachers. Appointments may be scheduled during teacher planning periods or at a time that has been established by both parties. Teachers will not be pulled out during class instruction time to prevent interfering with the educational opportunities of the students.

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Dear Students, Families, and Staff,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! As Director of Schools, I am energized to launch another exciting year together grounded in our shared commitment and vision: “Every student, every day.” This guiding principle drives everything we do to ensure every learner receives the support, encouragement, and resources needed to reach their highest potential both academically and personally.

This year, we are excited to further elevate our academic and technical pathways by expanding hands-on learning opportunities in Career and Technical Education (CTE), career exploration, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). From health sciences to information technology, our programs equip students with real-world skills and problem-solving mindsets to succeed in a rapidly changing job market.

Additionally, we are deepening our community partnerships to connect students with local business leaders, mentors, and post-secondary institutions. By creating pathways that lead to meaningful careers and higher education, we aim to open doors to inspiring options well before graduation.

While striving for academic growth, the safety and emotional well-being of our students remain our highest priority. We are devoted to cultivating safe, compassionate, and inclusive school environments where every student feels valued and respected. Our dedicated staff continues to prioritize robust safety measures and mental health resources to ensure our schools are places where students can learn and grow without fear.

Building on our strong foundation, we are proud to continue embedding the Capturing Kids’ Hearts initiative across our schools. By emphasizing meaningful connections, positive affirmations, and empathy, we ensure our classrooms are places where every student feels seen, heard, and valued.
I invite you to stay connected and actively involved in your child's education throughout the year. Open communication and strong family-community partnerships are essential to student success. Together, we can make this academic year truly extraordinary and filled with growth, discovery, and achievement.

Thank you for your partnership and dedication to our school district. Here’s to a wonderful and successful 2026–2027 school year!

Warm regards,

Kristi Hall

FCBOE 2026-2027
School Calendar

Please See the Attached Google Calendar. These are the dates listed:

July

- Professional Development (PD) Week - July 27-31, 2026

August

- Registration Day - August 3rd; Short Day
- Admin Day - August 4
- First Full Day - August 5
- Yard Sale - August 6 -7; No School
- Fair Day - August 25- No School

September

- Labor Day - Sept. 7 - No School
- Optional PT Conference - Sept. 10; No Ball Games Scheduled
- YAI Homecoming - Sept. 11 - Early Dismissal

October

- End of 1st Nine Weeks - Oct 9; (45 Days)
- Fall Break - Oct. 12-16 - No School
- PT Conferences - Oct. 20 and 22; No Ball Games Scheduled

November

- Election Day - Nov. 3; No School
- Veterans Day - Nov. 11; No School
- Thanksgiving Break - Nov. 25-27; No School

December

- Last Day of 1st Semester - Dec. 18; Full Day - 85 Days of School
- Christmas Break - Dec. 21 - Jan. 3, 2027

January

- Admin Day - Jan. 4 - No Students
- First Day of Second Semester for students - Jan. 5, 2027; Day 86
- MLK Jr. Day - Jan. 18; No School

February

- Optional Mid-Term PT Conference - Feb. 11; No Ball Games Scheduled
- President's Day - Feb. 15; No School

March

- End of 3rd Nine Weeks - March 12; 132 Days of School;
- Spring Break - March 15-19; No School
- Parent Teacher Conferences - March 22 and 23; No Ball Games Scheduled
- Easter Break - Friday, March 26

April and May

- Last Full Day of School - May 26
- Admin Day - May 27; No Students
- Last Day of School - May 28; Short Day; 180 Days of School

*Graduations: YAI- May 21; CHS - May 22; Elementary - May 24 and May 25
Board Approved - November 2025

Fentress County Schools' Assessment Calendar
2026-2027

Assessment At-a-Glance

***Dates will be updated as information becomes available**
****State-mandated assessments are in BOLD print.**

Date	Test	Grade
*July 31 - August 5, 2026	Kindergarten Screener	Kindergarten students
*August 10-14, 2026	RTI Star Screener for select 9-11 Students	High School students
August 17, 2026	Tier II begins--progress monitoring for Tier II and III students will occur every 10 days	K-8 tier II and III students
*August 21 - September 25, 2026	STAR Early Literacy Screener	Pre-K students
August 18-28, 2026	AimswebPlus Universal Screener Fall window	K-8 students
*August 17, 2026	CHS Skinny Block Begins for RTII Intervention. Students in Tier II will be monitored every 10 days.	High School Students
*October 5–9, 2026	ACT Benchmark Exam	11th Grade Students
October 5–9, 2026	**ACT Senior Retake Online**	12th Grade Students Retake the ACT
October 5–9, 2026	**ACT Accommodations Online Window 1**	Selected 12th Grade Students
Sept 28 - Oct. 2, 2026	Case Benchmark #1 for year long classes Mid-Terms for semester classes	9-12 students
TBD	ASVAB	All 11 and interested 10th

		& 12th grade
September 14 - December 18, 2026	**Dynamic Learning Maps Fall Window- TCAP Alt ELA and Math**	Selected 3-11 Students
November 10-20, 2026 Winter	CASE Benchmark Assessment #1(Mastery View Predictive Assessments)for TNREADY projections	Grades 2-8 2nd grade ELA and Math 3rd-8th ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies
December 2 - December 11, 2026 Winter	AimswebPlus Universal Screener Winter window	K-8 students
Nov. 30 - December 17, 2026	**Fall TCAP End-of Course (EOC)**	Select 9-12 students enrolled in single semester tested courses
TBD- December, 2026 (specific dates unavailable)	**Statewide Dual Credit Fall Block Courses**	11-12 enrolled SDC courses
*December 14-18, 2026	Midterm Exams for year long classes & Final Exams for Sem. Courses	9-12 students
*January 5-8, 2027	STAR Universal Screener	9th-10th grade students & referrals from 11-12
*January 12-22 2027	STAR Early Literacy	Pre-K students
*January 12, 2027	CASE ACT Benchmark #2	11th grade students
Spring 2027 (district not testing)	**National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP)**	Selected 4th, 8th, and 12th grade students
February 1 - May 21, 2027	**Dynamic Learning Maps Spring Window- TCAP ALT ELA and Math**	Selected 3-12 Students
February 1 - March 26, 2027	**ELPA21 - English Learners Assessment**	All ELL students
N/A 2026-2027	**ELA Writing Stand Alone Field Test**	Grades 2-8; English I,II

*March 8-12, 2027	9 wks Test for year long classes (CASE Comprehensive Benchmarks) & Mid Term Exams for Semester classes	9-12 Grade Students
Second Window: March 23 - April 2, 2027	**ACT EXAM (Spring)** **Window 1 - March 9-19; Window 2 - March 23-April 2**	11th Grade Students
March 2-12, 2027 Spring	CASE Benchmark Summative Assessment #2 (Mastery View Predictive Assessments)for TNREADY projections	Grades 1-8 1st-2nd grade ELA and Math 3rd-8th ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies
March 15 - April 30, 2027	**TCAP-Alt (Spring) Science/Biology/Social Studies**	Selected 3-8, 10 SWD students 3-5 Social Studies paused
March 15 - April 30, 2027	**Grade 2-Alt ELA, Math Optional**	Selected Grade 2 SWD students
First Window: March 9-12 & 15-19, 2027 Second Window: March 23 - April 2, 2027	**ACT Testing with Accommodations Online**	Select SWD 11th grade students
March 15–April 30, 2027	**TCAP Grade 2-Alt (Optional)**	Selected 2nd Grade Students
April 7–14, 2027	**TCAP Achievement (ACH) Grades 2* , 3–8 Writing**	2-8th grade students
April 19–May 6, 2027	**TCAP ACH 2 * , 3–8 & EOC**	2nd grade - EOC Students
TBD -Early May 2027	**Statewide Dual Credit Full Year Courses**	11-12 enrolled SDC courses
*April 12 - 16, 2027	Kindergarten Screener for growth indications	Kindergarten students and PreK Students

*April 29 - May 10, 2026	STAR Early Literacy	Pre-K students
April 28 - May 7, 2026 Spring	AimswebPlus Universal Screener Spring window	K-8 students
*May 19-20, 2027 *May 25-26, 2027	Senior Final Exams 9-11 Final Exams	12 Grade Students 9-11 Grade Students
*Late May, 2027	**Grade 3 Retake Window**	Select Grade 3 Students

(*) - Dates will be updated as information becomes available
TBD - To be determined/All testing dates could change based on state guidelines.

NOTICE OF FENTRESS BOARD OF EDUCATION
VISITOR CONDUCT POLICY

All visitors are to comply with the Fentress County Board of Education's visitor conduct policy to ensure the safety of all campuses within the District. The pertinent part of the requirements are as follows:

Schools are a place of work and learning. **All persons on school property or attending a school function shall conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner**. The building principal or their designee is responsible for all persons in the building and on the grounds. Anyone who is not a regular staff member or student of the school is considered a "visitor." All visitors are required to abide by the rules for public conduct on school property established by procedures, state law, and school board policy.

All visitors shall provide a copy of a government-issued identification, which includes the visitor's name, date of birth and photo, to the school office to be recorded. Persons who do not provide required identification will not be permitted on premises.

Visitors may be escorted and/or accompanied by a school employee throughout their visit. Visitors are required to wear a badge or nametag indicating that they are a visitor throughout their visit.

Prohibited Conduct:

No person shall—

1. Act in a threatening manner (i.e., gross disrespect, threatening, using loud or offensive or profane language, swearing, or displaying temper, or causing disruption to professional or academic climate) toward any staff member or student;
2. Approach someone else's child in order to discuss an issue or chastise them. (Such an approach to a child may be seen as an assault on that child and may have legal consequences);
3. Injure any other person or threaten to do so;
4. Damage or destroy school property, or threaten to damage or destroy school property or the property of a teacher, administrator, other district employee or any other person lawfully on school property;
5. Disrupt classes, school programs or other school activities;
6. Send abusive, harassing, or threatening emails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other inappropriate written communication;
7. Record or videotape any interactions within the school building where there is an expectation of privacy (classroom instruction, conversations with teachers, students, staff), unless all participants to the conversation have given their permission for the recording or videotaping;
8. Disrupt school transportation or confront transportation staff on the bus, the road, in neighborhoods, or on school system grounds, or enter upon a school bus without express permission to do so;
9. Distribute or wear materials on school grounds or at school functions that are suggestive and inappropriate, obscene, advocate illegal action, promote alcohol or illegal substances, or are disruptive to the school program;
10. Intimidate, harass or discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, citizenship status, marital status, religion, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or age;
11. Enter any portion of the school premises without authorization or remain in any building or facility after it is normally closed;
12. Obstruct the free movement of any person in any place to which this code applies;
13. Violate the traffic laws, parking regulations or other restrictions of vehicles while on school property;
14. Possess, consume, sell, distribute or exchange alcoholic beverages, tobacco, tobacco products, vaping products, controlled substances, or be under the influence on school property or at school functions;
15. Possess or use firearms or dangerous weapons in or on school property or at any school function, except in the case of law enforcement officers;
16. Loiter on school property or at school functions;
17. Gamble on school property or at school functions;
18. Refuse to comply with any reasonable order of identifiable school district officials performing their duties;
19. Willfully incite others to commit any of the acts prohibited by this code; or
20. Violate any federal or state statute, local ordinance, or Board policy while on school property or while at a school function.

For more information regarding the consequences of any violation of this part, which include a range of options up to removal from school property, please review Fentress County Board of Education Policy ******. The policy is available at the District Administrative Office, the office of any school, and on the District's website at https://tsba.net/fentress-county-board-of-education-policy-manual/.

Attendance Policy 6.200

Attendance is a key factor in student achievement; therefore, students are expected to be present each day school is in session.

The Director of Schools/designee shall ensure that this policy is posted in each school building and disseminated to all students, parent(s)/guardian(s), teachers, and administrative staff.

The Attendance Supervisor shall oversee the entire attendance program which shall include:[1]

1. All accounting and reporting procedures and their dissemination;
2. Alternative program options for students who severely fail to meet minimum attendance requirements;
3. Ensuring that all school age children attend school;
4. Providing documentation of enrollment status upon request for students applying for new or reinstatement of driver's permit or license; and
5. Notifying the Department of Safety whenever a student with a driver's permit or license withdraws from school.[2]

Student attendance records shall be given the same level of confidentiality as other student records. Only authorized school officials with legitimate educational purposes may have access to student information without the consent of the student or parent(s)/guardian(s).[3]

Absences shall be classified as either excused or unexcused as determined by the principal/designee. Excused absences shall include:[4]

1. Personal illness/injury;
2. Illness of immediate family member;
3. Death in the family;
4. Extreme weather conditions;
5. Religious observances;[5]
6. Pregnancy;
7. School endorsed activities;
8. Summons, subpoena, or court order; or
9. Circumstances which in the judgment of the principal create emergencies over which the student has no control.

The principal shall be responsible for ensuring that:[6]

1. Attendance is checked and reported daily for each class;
2. Daily absentee sheets contain sign in/sign out sheets and indicate students present or absent for the majority of the day;
3. All student absences are verified;
4. Written excuses are submitted for absences and tardiness; and
5. System-wide procedures for accounting and reporting are followed.

Attendance Policy (continued)

TRUANCY

Annually, the Director of Schools/designee will provide written notice to parent(s)/guardian(s) that attendance at school is required. Students shall be present at least fifty percent (50%) of the scheduled school day in order to be counted present. Students may attend part-time days, alternating days, or for a specific amount of time as indicated in their Individualized Education Plan or 504 Plan and shall be considered present for school attendance purposes. If a student is required to participate in a remedial instruction program outside of the regular school day where there is no cost to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the school system provides transportation, unexcused absences from these programs shall be reported in the same manner.[7]

A student who is absent five (5) days without adequate excuse shall be reported to the Director of Schools/designee who will, in turn, provide written notice to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student's absence. If a parent/guardian does not provide documentation within adequate time excusing those absences or request an attendance hearing, then the Director of Schools shall implement Tier II of the progressive truancy plan described below prior to referral to juvenile court.

Progressive Truancy Intervention Plan[8]

Tier I of the progressive truancy plan shall apply to all students within the district and include schoolwide prevention-oriented supports to assist with satisfactory attendance. These supports shall include, but are not limited to each school being responsible for implementing school-wide prevention-oriented supports for student attendance.

Tier II of the progressive truancy plan shall be implemented after the student accumulates five (5) unexcused absences, but before referral to juvenile court, and includes the following:

1. A conference with the student and the student's parent(s)/guardian(s);
2. An attendance contract, based on the conference, signed by the student, the parent(s)/guardian(s), and the Attendance Supervisor/designee. The contract shall include:
    - A specific description of the school's attendance expectations for the student;
    - The period for which the contract is effective, and
    - Penalties for additional absences and alleged school offenses, including additional disciplinary action and potential referral to juvenile court.
3. Regularly scheduled follow-up meetings to discuss the student's progress; and
4. A school employee shall conduct an individualized assessment detailing the reasons a student has been absent from school. The employee may refer the student to counseling, community-based services, or other services to address the student's attendance problems.

Tier III shall be implemented if the truancy interventions under Tier II are unsuccessful. Tier III shall consist of the following interventions: Parent meeting with Attendance Supervisor, may also include school-based community services; participation in a school-based restorative justice program; referral to a school-based teen court; Saturday or after-school courses designed to improve attendance and behavior. The interventions shall address students' needs in an age-appropriate manner. Finalized plans shall be approved by the Director of Schools/designee.

Transfer Students and Truancy Tracking

The district shall request attendance records for students enrolling after the start of the school year from the previous public-school district. Unexcused absences accumulated at a previous district for the current school year shall be factored into the student's placement on the truancy intervention plan tiers, if applicable.[9]

Attendance Policy (continued)

MAKE-UP WORK

All missed class work or test from an absence may be made up per day missed with no less than 3 school days.

STATE-MANDATED ASSESSMENT

Students who are absent the day of the scheduled end-of-course (EOC) exams shall present a signed doctor's excuse or shall have been given an excused release by the principal prior to testing to receive an excused absence. Students who have excused absences will be allowed to take a make-up exam. Excused students will receive an incomplete in the course until they have taken the EOC exam.

Students who have an unexcused absence shall receive a failing grade on the EOC exam which shall be averaged into their final grade.

CREDIT/PROMOTION DENIAL

Credit/promotion denial determinations may include student attendance; however, student attendance may not be the sole criterion.[9] If attendance is a factor prior to credit/promotion denial, the following shall occur:

1. The student and the parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be advised if the student is in danger of credit/promotion denial due to excessive absenteeism; and
2. Procedures in due process are available to the student when credit or promotion is denied.

DRIVER'S LICENSE REVOCATION [2]

A student who has more than ten (10) consecutive or fifteen (15) unexcused absences during any semester shall be ineligible to retain a driver's permit or license.

ATTENDANCE HEARING[10]

Students with excessive (more than five (5) unexcused absences or those in danger of credit/promotion denial shall have the opportunity to appeal to an attendance hearing committee appointed by the principal. If the student chooses to appeal, the student or his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be provided written or actual notice of the appeal hearing and shall be given the opportunity to address the committee. The committee will conduct a hearing to determine if any extenuating circumstances exist to excuse an absence(s) or to determine if the student has met attendance requirements that will allow him/her to pass the course or be promoted. Upon notification of the attendance committee decision, the principal shall send written notification to the Director of Schools/designee and the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student of any action taken regarding the excessive unexcused absences. The notification shall advise parent(s)/guardian(s) of their right to appeal such action within two (2) school days to the Director of Schools/designee.

Attendance Policy (continued)

The appeal shall be heard no later than ten (10) school days after the request for appeal is received.

Within five (5) school days of the Director of Schools/designee rendering a decision, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may request a hearing by the Board, and the Board shall review the record. Following the review, the Board may affirm or overturn the decision of the Director of Schools/designee. The action of the Board shall be final.

Legal References:

1. TCA 49-6-3006
2. TCA 49-6-3017(c); Public Acts of 2022, Chapter No. 878
3. 20 USCA § 1232g
4. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.17(5); State Board of Education Policy 4.100
5. TCA 49-6-2904(b)(5)
6. TCA 49-6-3007
7. TCA 49-6-3021
8. TCA 49-6-3007; TCA 49-6-3009
9. TCA 49-2-203(b)(7); TCA 49-6-3002(b)
10. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.17(7)

Cross References:

School Calendar 1.800

Extracurricular Activities 4.300

Interscholastic Athletics 4.301

Field Trips/Excursions/Competitions 4.302

Reporting Student Progress 4.601

Promotion and Retention 4.603

Recognition of Religious Beliefs, Customs, & Holidays 4.803

Voluntary Pre-K Attendance 6.2011

Homeless Students 6.503

Students in Foster Care 6.505

Students from Military Families 6.506

Student Records 6.600

Dress Code Policy 6.3004

FENTRESS COUNTY ELEMENTARY (K-12) DRESS CODE

TENTATIVE EFFECTIVE DATE OF JANUARY 1, 2022

DRESS AND APPEARANCE

In order that Fentress County Schools maintains a desirable environment in which to promote learning and character development, students are expected to use taste in the selection and wearing of their clothes, makeup, and hair styles and maintain neatness, cleanliness, and self-respect. No apparel, dress, accessories, or grooming that is or may become potentially disruptive to the classroom atmosphere or educational process will be permitted. Apparel or appearance that tends to draw attention to an individual rather than to a learning situation must be avoided. Students are expected to adhere to the dress code during school and during school sponsored events.

<u>Acceptable Clothing</u>

In matters of opinion, the judgment of the principal, the vice principal, or their designee shall prevail.

- All clothing must be size-appropriate (i.e., pants, blue jeans, slacks, shorts, skirts, and dresses).
- Shorts and skirts must reach the middle of the thigh.
- Leggings can be worn with mid-thigh length shirts or dresses only.
- Sleeveless shirts must fit around the arm joint. No spaghetti straps shall be worn.
- All undergarments must be covered.

Shoes must be worn at all times per regulations of the Tennessee Department of Health.

<u>Unacceptable Clothing</u>

While this list is NOT intended to be all inclusive, examples of clothing and accessories which MAY NOT BE WORN by students include:

- Clothing and jewelry articles which advertise alcohol, drugs, gang activity, or racial and ethnic slurs and symbols.
- Inappropriate and distractive pictures and obscene language.
- Uncovered tank tops (for both male and female), halter tops, off-shoulder blouses, and spaghetti-strap blouses or dresses.
- Muscle shirts and fish-net-type jerseys.
- Cut-out shirts.
- Shirts that do not completely cover midriffs or lower backs, whether arms are raised or lowered (when in doubt, wear an undershirt).

Dress Code Policy (continued)

- Lounge pants, sleepwear, pajamas, and bedroom slippers.
- Pants that have holes above mid-thigh (unless leggings or shorts are worn underneath the pants).
- Clothing with any types of inappropriate patches.
- Saggy and oversize pants that drag the floor and other baggy clothing (e.g. trench or duster-style coats that fall below the knee).
- Blankets or any type of flag draped around or hanging from the student.
- Garments with revealing necklines
- Hats, hoods, or head coverings (unless medical or religious reasons).
- Tinted glasses unless doctor prescribed.
- Cleat shoes, except for when on the ballfield.
- Body markings, jewelry, back packs, notebooks, and patches depicting gang membership, drugs, alcohol, or racial and ethnic slurs and symbols.
- Body piercings (except for ears). All other piercings must be covered or removed.
- Any types of chains hooked to garments and worn in any manner. (Necklaces being chains will not be allowed. Studded or chained bracelets, necklaces, or dog collars are not allowed).

Special Dress Days

Any school may develop special dress days for special occasions at the discretion of the principal.

All dress code expectations also apply to physical education and sports classes (i.e., no cut-out shirts, short shorts).

Cross References:

Corporal Punishment 6.314

Suspensions and Expulsions 6.316

Code of Conduct Policy 6.313

The Board delegates to the Director of Schools the responsibility of developing specific codes of conduct which are appropriate for each level of school.[1] Exclusionary discipline shall only be used as a measure of last resort.[2] The development of each code shall involve principals and staff members of each level and shall be based on evidence-based behaviors supports and interventions.[3]

The following levels of misbehavior and disciplinary procedures and options are standards designed to protect all members of the educational community in the exercise of their rights and duties and to maintain a safe learning environment where orderly learning is possible and encouraged.[4] These misbehaviors apply to student conduct on school buses, on school property, and while students are on school-sponsored outings. Staff members have the authority to enforce the code of conduct[3] and shall ensure that disciplinary measures are implemented in a manner that:[5]

1. Balances accountability with an understanding of traumatic behavior;
2. Teaches school and classroom rules while reinforcing that violent or abusive behavior is not allowed at school;
3. Minimizes disruptions to education with an emphasis on positive behavioral supports and behavioral intervention plans;
4. Creates consistent rules and consequences; and
5. Models respectful, non-violent relationships.

In order to ensure that these goals are accomplished, the school district shall utilize the following trauma informed discipline practices: Such as Multi-Tier System of Support and Behavior Intervention Plan. Principals shall use appropriate discipline management techniques when enforcing the code of conduct.

MISBEHAVIORS: LEVEL I

This level includes minor misbehavior on the part of the student which impedes orderly classroom guidelines or interferes with the orderly operation of the school but which can usually be handled by an individual staff member.

- Classroom disturbances
- Violation of classroom and/or school rules
- Classroom tardiness
- Cheating and lying
- Disrespectful language
- Failure to do assignments or carry out directions
- Wearing, while on the grounds of a public school during the regular school day, clothing that exposes underwear or body parts in an indecent manner that disrupts the learning environment [6] or gang-related clothing
- Scuffling (horseplay, wrestling, pushing, clowning, etc.)

Code of Conduct Policy (continued)

Disciplinary Procedures

- The staff member intervenes immediately.
- The staff member determines what offense was committed and its severity.
- The staff member determines who committed the offense and if the student understands the nature of the offense.
- The staff member employs appropriate disciplinary options.
- The record of the offense and disciplinary action shall be maintained by the staff member.

Disciplinary Options

- Verbal reprimand
- Special assignment
- Restricting activities
- Assigning work details
- Counseling
- Withdrawal of privileges
- Issuance of demerits (if applicable)
- Detention (if applicable)
- In-school suspension assigned by school administrator
- Parent Contact
- Lunchroom detention assigned by school administrator
- Trauma-informed practices
- No Contact Contract

MISBEHAVIORS: LEVEL II

This level includes misbehavior whose frequency or seriousness tends to disrupt the learning climate of the school. These misbehaviors do not represent a direct threat to the health and safety of others but have educational consequences serious enough to require corrective action on the part of administrative personnel.

- Continuation of unmodified Level I misbehaviors
- Disruptive classroom behavior
- Forging documents
- Lack of respect for students and staff
- Misuse or destruction of school property
- Defiant/insubordination
- Immoral or disruptive conduct including profane, abusive, or vulgar language or gestures (oral and or written)
- Motor-vehicle violation
- Being in an unauthorized area of the school grounds or building, including another classroom, without permission
- Public display of affection

Code of Conduct Policy (continued)

Disciplinary Procedures

- The student is referred to the principal for appropriate disciplinary action.
- The principal meets with the student and the staff member.
- The principal hears the accusation made by the staff member and allows the student the opportunity to explain his/her conduct.
- The principal takes appropriate disciplinary action and notifies the staff member of the action.
- The record of offense and disciplinary action shall be maintained by the principal.

Disciplinary Options

- Behavior Plan
- Teacher/schedule change
- Behavior modification
- Social probation
- Peer counseling
- Referral to outside agency
- Trauma-Informed Practices
- In-school suspension assigned by school administrator
- Transfer (if applicable)
- Alternative School-with permission of the Director of Schools
- Detention
- Suspension from school-sponsored activities or from riding school bus with permission of the Director of Schools
- Out-of-school suspension (not to exceed ten (10) days)-with permission of the Director of Schools
- Multi-Tier System of Support and Behavior Intervention Plan
- No Contact Contract

MISBEHAVIORS: LEVEL III

This level includes acts directly against persons or property but whose consequences do not seriously endanger the health or safety of others in the school.

- Continuation of unmodified Level I and II misbehaviors
- Inappropriate touching
- Fighting – unless one is defending their self
- Vandalism (minor)
- Destruction of school property
- Stealing
- Threats to others
- Victimization of any student (harassment (sexual, racial, ethnic, religious), bullying, cyber-bullying, and/or hazing)
- Leaving school grounds without permission

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Code of Conduct Policy continued)

Disciplinary Procedures

- The student is referred to the principal for appropriate disciplinary action.
- The principal meets with the student and the staff member.
- The principal hears the accusation and allows the student the opportunity to explain his/her conduct.
- The principal takes appropriate disciplinary action and notifies the staff member of the action.
- The principal may refer the incident to the Director of Schools and make recommendations for consequences.
- The record of offense and disciplinary action shall be maintained by the principal.

Disciplinary Options (Options below will require permission from the Director of Schools)

- In-school suspension
- Detention
- Trauma-Informed Practices
- Restitution from loss, damage, or stolen property
- Out-of-school suspension not to exceed ten (10) days with permission of the Director of Schools
- Social adjustment classes
- Transfer
- Expulsion
- Alternative school
- Court referral

MISBEHAVIORS: LEVEL IV

This level of misbehavior includes acts which result in violence to another's person or property or which pose a threat to the safety of others in the school. These acts are so serious that they usually require administrative actions which result in the immediate removal of the student from the school, the intervention of law enforcement authorities, and/or action by the Board.

If a student's action poses a threat to the safety of others in the school, a teacher, principal, school employee, or school bus driver may use reasonable force when necessary to prevent bodily harm or death to another person.[7]

- Continuation of unmodified Level I, II, and III misbehaviors
- Death threat, (hit list), direct threat (bodily injury or death to another student or school employee)
- Extortion
- Bomb threat
- Possession, use, and/or transfer of dangerous weapons
- Assault that results in bodily injury upon any teacher, principal, administrator, student, or any other employee of the school, or a school resource officer*
- Use, sale, distribution, and/or being under the influence of drugs
- Use, possession, sale, or distribution and/or being under the influence of tobacco or alcohol
- Use, possession sale or distribution of drug paraphernalia

Code of Conduct Policy (continued)

- Aggravated assault*
- Vandalism
- Theft, possession, and/or sale of stolen property
- Arson
- Possession of unauthorized substances (e.g., any controlled substance, controlled substance analogue, legend drug, vapes, dab pens, and other inhalants) *
- Use or transfer of unauthorized substances
- Continuous victimization of any student (harassment (sexual, racial, ethnic, religious), bullying, cyber-bullying, and/or hazing)
- False reporting
- Threat of mass violence*

Disciplinary Procedures

- The principal confers with appropriate staff members and with the student.
- The principal hears the accusations and allows the student the opportunity to explain his/her conduct.
- The parent(s)/guardian(s) are notified.
- Law enforcement officials are contacted.
- The incident is reported, and recommendations are made to the Director of Schools.
- The principal notifies the staff members of the resolution.
- If the student's placement is to be changed, adequate notice of the charges shall be given to the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) and his/her right to appear at a hearing.

Disciplinary Options

- Expulsion
- Out of School Suspension
- Alternative schools
- Trauma-Informed Practices
- Other hearing authority or Board action which results in appropriate placement
- Court referral-with permission of the Director of Schools
- Corporal Punishment-with permission of the Director of Schools

*Designates zero tolerance offenses.

Legal References:
1. TCA 49-6-4005
2. TCA 49-6-3024
3. Public Acts of 2021, Chapter No. 77
4. TCA 49-6-4002
5. TCA 49-6-4109
6. TCA 49-6-4009
7. TCA 49-6-4008

Cross References:
Traffic and Parking Controls 3.403
Procedural Due Process 6.302
Student Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying, Cyber-bullying, and Intimidation 6.304
Title IX & Sexual Harassment 6.341
Interference/Disruption of School Activities 6.306
Bus Safety and Conduct 6.308
Zero Tolerance Offenses 6.309
Dress Code 6.310
Corporal Punishment 6.314
Detention 6.315

Bus Safety and Conduct Policy 6.308

In order to maintain conditions and atmosphere suitable for learning, no person shall enter onto a school bus except students assigned to that bus or parent(s)/guardian(s) of students or other persons with lawful and valid business on the bus. [1]

The school bus is an extension of school activity; therefore, students shall conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with the established standards for safety and classroom behavior.

Students are under the supervision and control of the bus driver while on his/her bus, and all reasonable directions given by him/her shall be followed. A driver may remove a student in the event that the driver finds it necessary for the safety of the other student passengers or the driver, provided that the driver secures the safety of the ejected student for the uncompleted trip. A driver shall report to school authorities as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the route, any student refusing to obey the driver or exiting the bus without the driver's permission at a point other than the student's destination for that trip.[2]

The principal of the student transported shall be informed by the bus driver of any serious discipline problem and may be called upon to assist if necessary. A student may be denied the privilege of riding the bus if the principal determines that his/her behavior is such as to cause disruption on the bus or if he/she disobeys applicable policies and procedures pertaining to student transportation.

Any student who gets off the bus at any point between the pick-up point and school shall present the bus driver with a note of authorization from the parent/guardian or the principal of the school that the student attends.

Any student wishing to ride a bus other than his/her designated bus shall have written parental permission and the approval of the principal/designee.

Students who transfer from bus to bus while in route to and from school shall be expected to abide by the discipline policies adopted by the Board and procedures maintained by the terminal school.

USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO FOOTAGE (if applicable)

Cameras or video cameras may be used to monitor student behavior on school buses transporting students to and from school or extracurricular activities. Photographs and video footage shall be used only to promote the order, safety, and security of students, staff, and property.

Students in violation of bus conduct rules shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with established board policy governing student conduct and discipline.

Bus Safety and Conduct Policy (continued)

The district shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws related to photographs and video footage.[3] These materials shall be maintained for seven (7) days. Parent(s)/guardian(s) may submit requests to view photographs and video footage to the Director of School/designee, and a time shall be arranged for viewing. The Director of Schools/designee shall be present when parent(s)/guardian(s) are provided the opportunity to review photographs and video footage.[4]

The Director of Schools shall develop procedures governing the use of cameras and video cameras in accordance with the provisions of state and federal law and established board policies.

Procedures for bus complaint process can be found in policy 3.400

Legal References:

1. TCA 49-6-2008
2. TCA 49-6-2118(d)
3. TCA 10-7-504; 20 USCA §1232g
4. Public Acts of 2019, Chapter No. 256

Cross References:

Student Transportation Management 3.400

Scheduling and Routing 3.401

Code of Conduct 6.300

Suspension/Expulsion/Remand 6.316

Student Records 6.600

Annual Notification of Rights 6.601

Inspection and Correction Procedure 6.602

Medicines Policy 6.405

If under exceptional circumstances a student is required to take non-prescription or prescription medication during school hours and the parent/guardian cannot be at school to administer the medication, only the principal/designee will assist in self-administration of the medication if the student is competent to self-administer medicine with assistance in compliance with the following guidelines.[1]

Written instructions signed by the parent/guardian are required and shall include:

1. Child's name;

2. Name of medication;

3. Name of physician;

4. Time to be self-administered;

5. Dosage and directions for self-administration (non-prescription medicines shall have label directions);

6. Possible side effects, if known; and

7. Termination date for self-administration of the medication.

Students with asthma shall be permitted to self-administer prescribed, metered dosage asthma-reliever inhalers if the additional information is provided by a parent/guardian:

1. Written statement from the prescribing health care practitioner that the student suffers from asthma and has been instructed in self-administration; and

2. Purpose of the medication.

The medication shall be delivered to the principal's office in person by the parent/guardian of the student unless the medication shall be retained by the student for immediate self-administration.

The principal/designee will:

1. Inform appropriate school personnel of the medication to be self-administered:
2. Keep written instructions from the parent/guardian in the student's record;
3. Keep an accurate record of the self-administration of the medication;
4. Keep all medication in a locked cabinet except medication retained by a student per physician's order;
5. Return unused prescription to the parent/guardian only; and
6. Ensure that all guidelines developed by the Department of Health and the Department of Education are followed

Medicines Policy (continued)

The parent/guardian is responsible for informing the designated official of any change in the student's health or change in medication.

A copy of this policy shall be provided to a parent/guardian upon receipt of a request for long-term administration of medication.

BLOOD GLUCOSE SELF-CHECKS[2]

Upon written request of a parent/guardian and if included in the student's medical management plan and in the Individualized Healthcare Plan (IHP), a student with diabetes shall be permitted to perform a blood glucose check or administer insulin using any necessary diabetes monitoring and treatment supplies, including sharps. The student shall be permitted to perform the testing in any area of the school or school grounds at any time necessary.

Sharps shall be stored in a secure, but accessible location, including the student's person, until use of such sharps is appropriate.

Use and disposal of sharps shall be in compliance with the guidelines set forth by the Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Administration (TOSHA).[3]

STUDENTS WITH PANCREATIC INSUFFICIENCY OR CYSTIC FIBROSIS[4]

Students diagnosed with pancreatic insufficiency or cystic fibrosis shall be permitted to self-manage their prescribed medication in a manner directed by a licensed health care provider without additional assistance or direction. The Director of Schools shall develop procedures for the development of an IHP for every student that wishes to self-administer.

STUDENTS WITH ADRENAL INSUFFICIENCY[5]

The parent/guardian of a student diagnosed with adrenal insufficiency shall notify the school district of the student's diagnosis. Once notified, the district shall observe the following guidelines:

1. The district shall train school personnel who will be responsible for administering the medication for the treatment of adrenal insufficiency and any who volunteer to administer the medication;
2. The district shall maintain a record of all school personnel who have completed this training; and
3. If a student is suffering from an adrenal crisis, a school nurse or other licensed health care professional may administer the prescribed medication to the student. If a school nurse or other licensed health care professional is not immediately available, trained school personnel may administer the prescribed medication.

The Director of Schools shall develop procedures on the administration of medications that treat adrenal insufficiency, including the treatment of an adrenal crisis while on school transportation and during activities such as field trips, and recordkeeping per state law.

Legal Refences:

1. TCA 49-50-1602 et seq.; TRR/MS 0520-01-13-.03
2. TCA 49-50-1602(d)(7)
3. State Board of Education Policy 4.205; TRR/MS 0800-01-10
4. TCA 49-50-1601
5. TRR/MS 0520-01-13; State Board of Education Policy 4.205

Cross References:

Promoting Student Welfare 6.400
Emergency Allergy Response Plan 6.412

Head Lice Policy 6.4031

No student shall be denied an education solely by reason of pediculosis (head lice), and his/her educational program shall be restricted only to the extent necessary to minimize the risk of transmitting the infestation.[1]

It shall be the responsibility of the principal or school nurse to notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) in the event a student has head lice. A letter shall be sent home with the student to explain the condition, requirements for readmission, and deadlines for satisfactory completion of the treatment.

Prior to readmission, satisfactory evidence shall be submitted to school personnel that the student has been treated for head lice. This evidence may include but not be limited to:

1. Proof of treatment with a pediculicide product (e.g. head lice shampoo receipt); or
2. Satisfactory examination by a school health official.

Treatment and prevention procedures shall be developed by the Director of Schools in consultation with the school nurse and distributed to all classroom teachers. These procedures shall also be distributed to the parent/guardian of any student that has head lice.

Any subsequent incidents of head lice for a student during the school year shall require submission of satisfactory evidence of treatment for head lice and be found free of lice by a school health official.

A student shall be expected to have met all requirements for treatment and return to school no later than two (2) days following exclusion for head lice. All days in excess of the allowable period shall be marked as unexcused absences and referred to the attendance supervisor at the proper time.

Legal References:

1. TRR/MS 1200-14-01-24

Use of Wireless Communication Devices Policy 6.312

General[1]

Students are permitted to use wireless communication devices in certain limited situations. Wireless communication devices include any portable wireless device that has the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two (2) or more parties, such as but not limited to wearable technology, cell phones, tablets, laptops, gaming devices, watches, rings, eyeglasses that have the capability to record, live stream, or interact with wireless technology.

A student may be permitted to utilize a wireless communication device under the following circumstances:

1. In case of emergency;
2. When authorized by a teacher;
3. To manage the student's health, as documented in the student's individual healthcare plan;
4. When the possession or use is required by the student's individual education program, 504 plan, or individual learning plan; or
5. When the device is being used by a student with a disability for the operation of assistive technology to increase, maintain, or improve the student's functional capabilities.

GRADES PreK-8

Wireless communication devices are permitted on school premises, provided they are powered off and submitted daily for the entire duration of the school day unless one of the exceptions above applies.

Violations:

1st Offense – warning, confiscate wireless communication device, 1 day of lunch detention or after school detention, parent notification, give back wireless device at the end of the day, send a copy of Wireless Communication Device Policy to parent

2nd Offense – confiscate for the day, parent pick up at the end of the day, 2 days lunch detention or after school detention

3rd Offense – confiscate until parent meeting, 3 days lunch detention or after school detention or 1-day ISS, mandatory meeting with parent to review Wireless Communication Policy and pick up the wireless communication device

4th Offense - confiscate the wireless device for 3 days and 3 days of Alternative School; parent must pick up the wireless device

5th Offense - confiscate the wireless device for 3 days and 5 days Alternative School, parent must pick up the wireless device

<u>Filming, recording or distributing any violations of the law with technology</u>

1st offense = 5 days of Alternative School and court referral.
2nd offense = 10 days of Alternative School and court referral.
3rd offense = Long-term Alternative School placement and court referral.

PENALTIES

Unauthorized use or improper storage of a device will result in confiscation until such time as it may be released to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s). A student in violation of this policy is subject to disciplinary action.

District, its schools nor its employees assume any responsibility or liability for theft, loss or damage to student's wireless devices.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION PLAN

In the event of an emergency or possible emergency occurring at school, parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be alerted by district all call system.[1]

Legal Refences:

1. Public Acts of 2025. Chapter No. 103

Cross References:

Code of Conduct 6.300

Student Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying, Cyber-Bullying and Intimidation Policy 6.304

In order to maintain a safe, civil, and supportive environment in school for students to learn and achieve high academic standards, acts of bullying, cyber-bullying, discrimination, harassment, intimidation, hazing, or any other victimization of students, based on any actual or perceived traits or characteristics, are prohibited.[1]

This policy shall be disseminated annually to all school staff, students, and parent(s)/guardian(s).[2] This policy shall cover employees, employees' behaviors, students, and students' behaviors while on school property, at any school-sponsored activity, on school-provided equipment or transportation, or at any official school bus stop. If the act takes place off of school property or outside of a school-sponsored activity, this policy is in effect if the conduct is directed specifically at a student and has the effect of creating a hostile educational environment or otherwise creating a substantial disruption to the education environment or learning process.

The principal/designee is responsible for educating and training respective staff and students as to the definition and recognition of discrimination/harassment.[3]

The Director of Schools shall develop forms and procedures to ensure compliance with the requirements of this policy and state law.

DEFINITIONS[4]

"Bullying/Intimidation/Harassment" is an act that substantially interferes with a student's educational benefits, opportunities, or performance, and the act has the effect of:

1. Physically harming a student or damaging a student's property;

2. Knowingly placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm to the student or damage to the student's property;

3. Causing emotional distress to a student; or

4. Creating a hostile educational environment.

Bullying, intimidation, or harassment may also be unwelcome conduct based on a protected class (race, nationality, origin, color, sex, age, disability, religion) that is severe, pervasive, or persistent and creates a hostile environment.

"Cyber-bullying" is a form of bullying undertaken through the use of electronic devices. Electronic devices include, but are not limited to, telephones, cellular phones or other wireless telecommunication devices, text messaging, emails, social networking sites, instant messaging, videos, web sites, or fake profiles.

"Discrimination" is conduct that deprives a student of the benefit of an educational opportunity on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender, or disability.

Student Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying, Cyber-Bullying and Intimidation Policy (continued)

"Hazing" is an intentional or reckless act by a student or group of students that is directed against any other student(s) that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of the student(s) or that induces or coerces a student to endanger his/her mental or physical health or safety. Coaches and other employees of the school district shall not encourage, permit, condone, or tolerate hazing activities.[5]

Hazing does not include customary athletic events or similar contests or competitions and is limited to those actions taken and situations created in connection with initiation into or affiliation with any organization.

"Retaliation" means actions that intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by the Title IX or this, or because the individual has made a report of complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part.

"Sexual Harassment" means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

(1) An employee of the recipient conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the recipient on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
(2) Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the recipient's education program or activity; or
(3) "Sexual Assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), "dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S. C 12291(a)(10). "domestic violence "as defined in 34 U.S.C 12291 (a)(8) or "stalking" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30).

COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS

Any individual who has knowledge of behaviors that may constitute a violation of this policy shall promptly report such information to the principal/designee.[6]

While reports may be made anonymously, an individual's need for confidentiality shall be balanced with obligations to cooperate with police investigations or legal proceedings, to provide due process to the accused, to conduct a thorough investigation, or to take necessary actions to resolve a complaint. The identity of parties and witnesses may be disclosed in appropriate circumstances to individuals with a need to know.

The principal/designee at each school shall be responsible for investigating and resolving complaints. Once a report is received, the principal/designee shall initiate an investigation within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of the report. If an investigation is not initiated within forty-eight (48) hours, the principal/designee shall provide the Director of Schools with appropriate documentation detailing the reasons why the investigation was not initiated within the required timeframe.7 The principal/designee shall immediately notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) when a student is involved in an act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyber-bullying. The principal/designee shall provide information on district counseling and support services. Students involved in an act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyber-bullying shall be referred to the appropriate school counselor by the principal/designee when deemed necessary.[8]

Student Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying, Cyber-Bullying and Intimidation Policy (continued)

The principal/designee is responsible for determining whether an alleged act constitutes a violation of this policy, and such act shall be held to violate this policy when it meets one of the following conditions:

1. It places the student in reasonable fear or harm for the student's person or property;

2. It has a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health;

3. It has the effect of substantially interfering with the student's academic performance; or

4. It has the effect of substantially interfering with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Upon the determination of a violation, the principal/designee shall conduct a prompt, thorough, and complete investigation of each alleged incident. All investigations shall be completed and appropriate intervention taken within twenty (20) calendar days from the receipt of the initial report.7 If the investigation is not complete or intervention has not taken place within twenty (20) calendar days, the principal/designee shall provide the Director of Schools with appropriate documentation detailing the reasons why the investigation has not been completed or the appropriate intervention has not taken place.7 Within the parameters of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act,9 a written report on the investigation will be delivered to all involved parties and the Director of Schools. Allegations of sexual harassment shall be reviewed and investigated in accordance with Fentress County Board of Education Title IX & Sexual Harassment Policy 6.3041.

RESPONSE AND PREVENTION[10]

The principal/designee shall consider the nature and circumstances of the incident, the age of the individual, the degree of harm, previous incidences or patterns of behavior, or any other factors, as appropriate, to properly respond to each situation.

A substantiated charge against an employee shall result in disciplinary action up to and including termination. The employee may appeal this decision by contacting the Title IX Coordinator.

A substantiated charge against a student may result in corrective or disciplinary action up to and including suspension. The student may appeal this decision in accordance with disciplinary policies and procedures.

REPORTS

When a complaint is filed alleging a violation of this policy where there is physical harm or the threat of physical harm to a student or a student's property, the principal/designee of each middle school, junior high school, or high school shall report the findings and any disciplinary actions taken to the Director of Schools and the Chair of the Board.[11]

By July 1st of each year, the Director of Schools/designee shall prepare a report of all of the bullying cases brought to the attention of school officials during the prior academic year. The report shall also indicate how the cases were resolved and/or the reasons they are still pending. This report shall be presented to the Board at its regular July meeting, and it shall be submitted to the state department of education by August 1st.[12]

Student Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying, Cyber-Bullying and Intimidation Policy (continued)

RETALIATION AND FALSE ACCUSATIONS

Retaliation against any person who reports or assists in any investigation of an act alleged in this policy is prohibited. The consequences and appropriate remedial action for a person who engages in retaliation shall be determined by the principal/designee after consideration of the nature, severity, and circumstances of the act.[13]

False accusations accusing another person of having committed an act prohibited under this policy are prohibited. The consequences and appropriate remedial action for a person found to have falsely accused another may range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including expulsion.[14]

Legal References:

1. TCA 49-6-4503(a), (b)(3)
2. TCA 49-6-4503(b)(11)
3. TCA 49-6-4503(b)(12)
4. TCA 49-5-503(b)(2), (13)
5. TCA 49-2-120
6. TCA 49-6-4503(b)(5)
7. TCA 49-6-4503(b)(6)
8. TCA 49-6-4503(b)(14)
9. 20 USCA § 1232g
10. TCA 49-6-4503(b)(4), (7)-(8)
11. TCA 49-6-4503(d)(3)
12. TCA 49-6-4503(c)(2)(B)
13. TCA 49-6-4503(b)(9)
14. TCA 49-6-4503(b)(10)
15. 20 USCA §§ 1681 to 1686

Cross References:

Section 504 and ADA Grievance Procedures 1.802
Staff-Student Relations 5.610
Student Goals 6.100
Title IX & Sexual Harassment 6.3041
Code of Conduct 6.300
Student Concerns 6.305
Reporting Child Abuse 6.409
Emergency Contact Information 6.410
Student Suicide Prevention 6.415

Use of the Internet Policy 4.406

The Board supports the right of staff and students to have reasonable access to various information formats and believes that it is incumbent upon staff and students to use this privilege in an appropriate and responsible manner.

EMPLOYEES

Before any employee is allowed use of the district's internet or intranet access, the employee shall sign a written agreement, developed by the Director of Schools/designee that sets out the terms and conditions of such use. Any employee who accesses the district's computer system for any purpose agrees to be bound by the terms of that agreement, even if no signed written agreement is on file.

The Director of Schools shall develop and implement procedures for appropriate internet use which shall address the following:

1. Development of the Network and Internet Use Agreement;
2. General rules and ethics of internet access;
3. Guidelines regarding appropriate instruction and oversight of student internet use;
4. A uniform signature block for use by all district employees; and
5. Prohibited and illegal activities including, but not limited to, the following:[1]
    - Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures;
    - Using obscene language;
    - Harassing, insulting, defaming, or attacking others;
    - Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks;
    - Hacking or attempting unauthorized access to any computer;
    - Violation of copyright laws;
    - Trespassing in another's folders, work, or files;
    - Intentional misuse of resources;
    - Using another's password or other identifier (impersonation);
    - Using the network for commercial purposes; and
    - Buying or selling on the internet.

STUDENTS

The Director of Schools shall develop and implement procedures for appropriate internet use by students. Procedures shall address the following:

1. General rules and ethics of internet use: and

Use of the Internet Policy (continued)

2. Prohibited or illegal activities including, but not limited to: [1]

- Sending or displaying offensive message or pictures;
- Using obscene language;
- Harassing, insulting, defaming, or attacking others;
- Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks;
- Hacking or attempting unauthorized access;
- Violation of copyright laws;
- Trespassing in another's folders, work, or files;
- Intentional misuse of resources;
- Using another's password or other identifier (impersonation);
- Using the network for commercial purposes; and
- Buying or selling on the internet.

INTERNET SAFETY MEASURES[2]

Internet safety measure shall be implemented that effectively address the following:

1. Controlling access by students to inappropriate matter on the internet and world wide web;
2. Safety and security of students when they are using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
3. Preventing unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities by students online;
4. Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding students; and
5. Restricting students' access to materials harmful to them.

The Director of Schools/designee shall establish a process to ensure the district's education technology is not used for purposes prohibited by law or for accessing sexually explicit materials. The process shall include, but not be limited to :

1. Utilizing technology that filters, blocks, or otherwise prevents internet access (for both students and adults) to material that is obscene or pornographic;[3]
2. Prohibiting and preventing a user from sending, receiving, viewing, or downloading materials that are deemed to be harmful to minors;[4]
3. Maintaining and securing a usage log; and
4. Monitoring online activities of students.[2]

Use of the Internet Policy (continued)

The Board shall provide reasonable public notice of and at least one (1) public hearing or meeting to address and communicate its internet safety measures.[2]

A written parental consent shall be required prior to the student being granted access to electronic media involving district technological resources. The required permission/agreement form, which shall specify acceptable uses, rules of online behavior, access privileges, and penalties for policy/procedural violations, must be signed by the parent/guardian of minor students (those under 18 years of age) and also by the student. This document shall be executed each year and shall be valid only in the school year in which it was signed unless parent(s)/guardian(s) provide written notice that consent is withdrawn. In order to rescind the agreement, the student's parent/guardian (or the student who is at least 18 years old) must provide the Director of Schools with a written request.

Complaints alleging a violation of the internet safety measures shall be submitted to the Technology Director. All complaints shall be reviewed to determine how to appropriately respond.

EMAIL

Users with network access shall not utilize district resources to establish electronic mail accounts through third-party providers or any other nonstandard electronic mail systems. All data including email communications stored or transmitted on school district computers shall be monitored. Employees/students have no expectation of privacy with regard to such data. Email correspondence may be a public record under the public records law and may be subject to public inspection.[5]

INTERNET SAFETY INSTRUCTION[6]

Students will be given appropriate instruction in internet safety as a part of any instruction utilizing computer resources. The Director of Schools shall provide adequate in-service instruction on internet safety. Parent(s)/guardian(s) and students will be provided with material to raise awareness of the dangers posed by the internet and ways in which the internet may be used safely.

SOCIAL NETWORKING

1. Students are prohibited from accessing social media platforms using district internet except when expressly authorized by a teacher for educational purposes.[7]
2. District staff who have a presence on social networking websites are prohibited from posting data, documents, photographs, or inappropriate information that is likely to create a material and substantial disruption of classroom activity.
3. District staff are prohibited from accessing personal social networking sites on school computers or during school hours except for legitimate instructional purposes.

Use of the Internet Policy (continued)

The Board discourages district staff from socializing with students on social networking websites. The same relationship, exchange, interaction, information, or behavior that would be unacceptable in a non-technological medium is unacceptable when done through the use of technology.

VIOLATIONS

Violations of this policy or a corresponding administrative procedure shall be handled in accordance with the existing disciplinary procedures of the district.

VENDOR CONTRACTS[8]

Prior to entering into any contract for the provision of digital or online materials created or marketed for kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12), the district shall obtain an assurance that the vendor shall adhere to state law. This determination includes ensuring that the vendor filters, blocks, or otherwise prevents access to pornography, or obscenity and verifying that the technology prevents a user from sending, receiving, viewing, or downloading materials that are harmful to minors.

Legal References:

1. TCA 39-14-602
2. 47 USCA § 254 (h)(5)(A) - (C), 254(1); 47 CFR § 54.520(c)(1)(i); 20 USCA § 7131; Public Acts of 2025, Chapter No. 195
3. TCA 49-1-221(a)(1)(C)(i)
4. TCA 39-17-901; TCA 49-1-221(a)(1)(C)(ii)
5. TCA 10-7-512
6. TCA 49-1-221(a)(1)(E)
7. Public Acts of 2025, Chapter No. 195
8. TCA 49-1-221(c)

Cross References:

Use of Email 1.805

Use of Artificial Intelligence Programs 4.214

School and System Websites 4.407

Controversial Materials 4.801

Student Publications 6.704

Grading System Policy 4.600

The Director of Schools shall develop an administrative procedure to establish a system of grading and assessment for evaluating and recording student progress and to measure student performance in conjunction with board-adopted content standards for grades K-8. The grading/assessment system shall follow all applicable statutes and rules and regulations of the State Board of Education. The grading/assessment system shall be uniform, district-wide, at comparable grade levels, except that the Director of Schools shall have the authority to establish and operate ungraded and/or unstructured classes in grades K-3 according to state rules and regulations.[1]

The Director of Schools shall submit a copy of the grading and assessment systems to the Board before the system is implemented. These guidelines shall be communicated annually to students and parent(s)/guardian(s).

Conduct grades are based on behavior and shall not be reflected in scholastic grades.

GRADING SYSTEM: GRADES NINE - TWELVE (9-12)[2]

Schools teaching grades nine (9) through twelve (12) shall use the uniform grading system established by the State Board of Education. Using the uniform grading system, students' grades shall be reported for the purposes of application for post-secondary financial assistance administered by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation.

Subject-area grades shall be expressed by the following letters with their corresponding percentage range:

- A (90-100)
- B (80-89)
- C (70-79)
- D (60-69)
- F (0-59)

Grading floors with a minimum above zero are not permitted.[3] This grading system shall be uniform throughout the school district for each grade.

Advanced coursework grades shall be weighted with additional percentage points to calculate the semester average. Depending on the course taken, the following percentage points shall be assigned:

- Honors Courses – three (3) percentage points;
- Local and Statewide Dual Credit, Capstone Industry Certification Aligned – four (4) percentage points; and

Grading System Policy (continued)

LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIPS[4]

Each school counselor shall provide incoming freshman with information on college core courses required for lottery scholarships as well as necessary criteria (grade point average, ACT and SAT score, etc.) that must be met in order to receive a scholarship.

Seniors may apply for the Tennessee HOPE Scholarship by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is available at the guidance office or online. Students shall be made aware of all applicable FAFSA deadlines and encouraged to submit applications in a timely manner.

Elementary school counselors shall explain the HOPE Scholarship and its requirements to their students and impress upon them the benefits of making good grades.

LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIP DAY

Each school year, prior to scheduling courses for the following school year, schools teaching students in grades 8-11 shall conduct a lottery scholarship day for students and their parents.[5]

Legal References:

1. TCA 49-2-203(b)(16); TCA 49-2-301(b)(1)(H)
2. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-02; State Board of Education Policy 3.301; TCA 49-6-407
3. Public Acts of 2024. Chapter No. 1005
4. TCA 49-4-904, 905, 907
5. TCA 49-4-932(f)

Cross References:

Alternative Credit Options 4.209

Credit Recovery 4.210

Reporting Student Progress 4.601

Honor Roll, Awards, & Class Ranking 4.602

Promotion and Retention 4.603

Transcript Alterations 4.608

Testing Program Policy 4.700

The Board shall provide for a system-wide testing program which shall be periodically reviewed and evaluated. The purposes of the program shall be to:

1. Assist in promoting accountability;
2. Determine the progress of students;
3. Assess the effectiveness of the instructional program and student learning;
4. Aid in counseling and guiding students in planning future education and other endeavors;
5. Analyze the improvements needed in each instructional area;
6. Assist in the screening of students with learning difficulties;[1]
7. Assist in placing students in remedial programs;
8. Provide information for college entrance and placement; and
9. Assist in educational research by providing data.[2]

The Director of Schools shall be responsible for planning and implementing the program which includes:

1. Determining specific purposes for each test;
2. Selecting the appropriate test to be given;
3. Establishing procedures for administering the tests;
4. Making provisions for interpreting and disseminating the results;
5. Maintaining testing information in a consistent and confidential manner; and
6. Ensuring that results are obtained as quickly as possible, especially when placement in a special learning program might be necessary.

State-mandated testing programs shall be undertaken in accordance with guidelines published by the State Department of Education.[3]

WEIGHTING TCAP SCORES

TNReady[4] and EOC[5] scores shall be included in students' final grades as follows:

1. Grades 3-5: 10%
2. Grades 6-8: 10%
3. Grades 9-12: 15%

The Fentress County School System shall use the Cube Root Methodology:

The Director of Schools may exclude these scores from students' final grades if results are not received by the district at least five (5) instructional days before the end of the course.[4,5]

Testing Program Policy (continued)

INTEREST INVENTORIES AND CAREER ASSESSMENTS[6]

Interest inventories shall be made available to middle schoolers or 9th graders. These will include assessments such as the Kuder assessment, Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, the ASVAB, or the College Board Career Finder.

Career aptitude assessments shall be administered to 7th or 8th graders in order to inform the student's high school plan of study. Upon receiving the results from these assessments, the school shall provide students with information on any available career and technical education opportunities in which the student is eligible to participate in.

TESTING INFORMATION AND PARENTAL CONSENT

Any test directly concerned with measuring student ability or achievement through individual or group psychological or socio-metric tests shall not be administered by or with the knowledge of any employee of the district without first obtaining written consent of the parent(s)/guardian(s).[2]

Results of all group tests shall be recorded on students' permanent records and shall be made available to appropriate personnel in accordance with established board policies.[7]

No later than July 31st of each year, the Board shall publish on its website information related to state and board mandated tests that will be administered during the school year. The information shall include:[8]

1. The name of the test;
2. The purpose and use of the test;
3. The grade or class in which the test will be administered;
4. The tentative date or dates that the test will be administered;
5. The time and manner in which parent(s)/guardian(s) and students will be notified of the results of the test;
6. How parent(s)/guardian(s) can access the questions and answers on their student's state-required tests; and
7. If a board mandated test, how the test complements and enhances student instruction and learning and how it serves a purpose distinct from state-required tests.

Testing information shall also be placed in student handbooks or other school publications that are provided to parent(s)/guardian(s) on an annual basis.

Testing Program Policy (continued)

TESTING TRANSFER STUDENTS FOR GRADE PLACEMENT OR AWARDING CREDIT[9]

For the purposes of grade placement or awarding credit when a student transfers into the district from a Category IV church-related school, Category V private school, or a home school.

Students transferring from a Category IV church-related school, Category V private school, or home school shall be awarded credit upon completion of a written exam. These exams shall be approved, administered, and graded by the school's principal/designee. Upon request from a parent/guardian, student scores from a nationally standardized achievement test in the relevant subject shall be accepted as a substitute for these exams.

For students in grades one through eight (1-8), the exam shall only cover the last grade completed. For students in grades nine through twelve (9-12), the exam shall only cover the last course completed by the student (for example, if a student has completed English I, II, and III, the examination shall only cover English III).

The Director of Schools shall provide notice to parent(s)guardian(s) of these exams.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT EXAM FOR ELIGIBLE COURSES [10]

A student in grades nine through twelve (9-12) may receive credit for an eligible course in which the student is not enrolled but attains a qualifying score on the eligible course's credit exam. The qualifying scores for these exams shall be presented to the Board at the July board meeting.

The Director of Schools/designee shall be responsible for determining which eligible courses will have a credit exam and shall provide high school students each semester the opportunity to take a credit exam for an eligible course offered. Each eligible course's credit exam shall be administered to any student seeking course credit and shall be administered by paper by the principal or designee within the first two weeks of the school year. Before taking a credit exam, the student shall be notified of the qualifying score needed to receive credit for the eligible course and the grade that will be included in his/her overall grade point average if the student achieves a qualifying score on the credit exam. A student may only take a credit exam once.

A student may take up to four (4) exams, earning no more than four (4) credits that will be applied to the student's graduation requirements and be included in the student's overall grade point average.

The Director of Schools/designee shall provide information on these exams to the Department of Education at the end of the school year per state law.

Testing Program Policy (continued)

Legal References:

1. TCA 49-10-108
2. 20 USCA § 1232g
3. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-03 (10)
4. TCA 49-1-617; State Board of Education Policy 2.102
5. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-03(10); Sate Board of Education Policy 2.103: TCA 49-1-617
6. TCA 49-6-412
7. TCA 10-7-504(a)(4)(A)
8. TCA 49-6-6007; State Board of Education Policy 2.102; State Board of Education Policy 2.103
9. TRR/MS 0520-07-01-03(3)
10. TCA 49-6-6017; State Board of Education Policy 2.103

Cross References:

Student Surveys, Analyses, and Evaluations 6.4001

Student Records 6.600

Athletic Eligibility

ELIGIBILITY

These rules pertain to students in grades 5-8th

1. Grades: All students, excluding special education students, will maintain a passing grade in each individual class AND a combined average in all four (4) core subjects (ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies) of "C" or higher. Failure to do so will be automatic basketball suspension. Re-evaluation of grades will be every three weeks. If sufficient improvement has occurred student can resume play.

2. Age: A child is not eligible to play basketball in the 7th or 8th grade if they become fifteen (15) on or before August 1.

3. A student is not eligible to play two years in the same grade. The student is not eligible to participate on any team at the school during the school year.

The Director of Schools will appoint an elementary athletic director. Any eligibility issues will be directed to the AD. If any type of dispute of interpretation of the rules occurs, the school of the player in question will request a hearing in writing. The letter will be directed to the assigned AD and Director of Schools. The hearing will be heard by a committee of county administrators appointed by the Director of Schools. The administrator of the student in question will not serve on the hearing board. The committee's decision will be considered final.

Any questions about eligibility

- Decisions for Fentress County grades 5-8 basketball will be based on Fentress County School Board Policy.
- Any issues not addressed in the board policy will be answered by referring to the Fentress County Elementary Coaches handbook and/or the TMSAA (TN Middle School Athletic Association) rules.

The eligibility board will consist of local administrators appointed by the Director of Schools. The administrator of the home school involved will not serve on the committee.

Athletic Eligibility (continued)

If a child is retained and has passing grades, the classroom teacher must notify the principal. The principal will notify the Director of Schools. The parent and principal will meet and address athletic eligibility. The parent will sign off understanding the rules of the basketball eligibility.

1. Transfers: Any in-county transfers, including homeschool students, that start the school year at a new school are allowed to play sports if in agreement with the rest of the board basketball policy.

2. Each child must have a sports physical by the first practice.

3. Physicals are valid for one year from date of issue.

4. Maintain adequate attendance at school.

SCHEDULING

1. Each 7th/8th grade team cannot play more than 16 regular season games.
2. Each 5th/6th grade team cannot play more than 14 regular season games.
3. No more than 4 scrimmage games can be played prior to or during the regular season. "Play Day" or Jamboree can count for no more than two (2) of those games.
4. No team shall travel more than 65 miles to a game.
5. Each 6th or 8th grade team may play in three (3) tournaments.
6. Any 7th/8th grade team chosen to play in an approved state tournament may attend only one.

EJECTIONS

On the first ejection of an athlete, coach, or spectator, an automatic two (2) game suspension will be enforced. The suspension must be served during the next two (2) games on the schedule. The scheduled games may not be cancelled without prior approval from both principals.

For an extreme/severe action, a player, coach, or spectator is subject to an appearance before the disciplinary board. Severe/extreme actions will be determined by administrators of both schools involved.

DEAD PERIOD

The last week of June and the first week of July shall be a dead period during in which time there shall be no practices, scrimmages, or open gyms.

CLOSED PRACTICE

It is recommended that all practices/tryouts be closed to everyone except players and coaches.

Athletic Eligibility (continued)

MEETING

There shall be a meeting between parents, players, coaches, and administrators prior to season to go over rules. Each parent and player will sign a copy of rules and regulations to be followed throughout the season.

REFEREES

All referees will report to a designated area away from crowds/spectators before and after games and during half times.

Promotion and Retention Policy 4.603

General

All promotion and retention decisions shall be made on a case-by-case basis and comply with state and federal law. All decisions shall be made in consultation with a student's IEP and/or 504 team, if applicable.[1]

Students who have difficulty in achieving the requirements for promotion may be considered for retention. Schools shall identify these students by February 1st. Factors used to identify students for retention shall include:[2]

1. Ability to perform at the current grade level;
2. Results of local assessments, screening, or monitoring tools;
3. State assessments, as applicable;
4. Home Literacy Reports;[3]
5. Overall academic achievement of the student;
6. Likelihood of success with more difficult material if promoted to the next grade;
7. Attendance record; and
8. The student's maturity.

Students may be identified for retention after the February 1st deadline if the delay in identifying a student is due to:[4]

1. Date of enrollment
2. Additional information acquired after results of local assessment, screening, or monitoring are released;

VOLUNTARY RETENTION[5]

A parent/guardian of a student enrolled in kindergarten through 2nd grade may choose to retain his/her student in the current grade level if:

1. The student has a documented academic or behavioral delay; and
2. The parent/guardian believes that retention may benefit the student.

PROMOTION PLANS[6]

When a student is identified for retention, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified within fifteen (15) calendar days, and an individualized promotion plan shall be developed to help the student avoid retention. The plan shall be developed in coordination with the student's teachers, IEP or 504 team, if applicable, and may also include input from the student's parent(s)/guardian(s), school counselor, or other appropriate school personnel.

Promotion plans shall incorporate evidence-based strategies, including expectations and measurements that will verify whether a student has made sufficient progress to be promoted to the next grade level, and be tailored to the student's learning needs. Promotion plans for students in third and fourth grade will include additional requirements for promoting students in these grades. A copy of the plan will be provided to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s), and the school shall offer the opportunity for a parent-teacher conference to discuss the plan. If a student is not making progress on the promotion plan, then the strategies shall be modified. Parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be provided with any changes to the promotion plan.

Promotion and Retention Policy (continued)

A student who demonstrates sufficient academic progress according to his/her promotion plan shall be promoted to the next grade level unless retention is required per additional requirements for students in third and fourth grade.[7]

If a student has not demonstrated sufficient academic progress according to his/her promotion plan by the end of the school year, the student shall be eligible to enroll in a summer reading or learning program, if available. Parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified of a decision for retention at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the start of the next school year if the student was enrolled in a summer program. However, if the student wasn't enrolled in a summer program, the parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified of a decision for retention at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the start of the next school year.[8]

RETENTION[7]
A student may be retained when such retention is in the best interests of the student or when retention is required per additional requirements for students in third and fourth grade.

Decision of Retention – General[8]
If a student is retained, the Director of Schools/designee shall develop an individualized academic remediation plan within thirty (30) calendar days after the beginning of the next school year. A copy of the plan shall be provided to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) within ten (10) calendar days of its development. The plan shall include at least one of the following strategies:

1. Adjustment to the current instructional strategies or materials;
2. Additional instructional time;
3. Individual tutoring;
4. Modification to the student's classroom assignment to ensure the student receives instruction from a teacher with a level of overall effectiveness of above expectations (level 4) or significantly above expectations (level 5); or
5. Attendance or truancy interventions.

A student shall not be retained more than once in any grade. The progress of students who are retained shall be closely monitored and reported to parent(s)/guardians(s) at least (3) times during the school year in which the student is retained. The Director of Schools shall develop procedures to ensure appropriate recordkeeping of students who are retained.

Decision of Retention—Third Grade[10]
Third grade students shall not be promoted to the next grade unless they are determined to be proficient (i.e., receive a performance level rating of "on track" or "mastered") in English language arts (ELA) based on the student's most recent TCAP test.

Students who are not proficient in ELA may still be promoted if the following conditions are met:

1. A student in third grade receiving a performance level rating of "approaching" on the ELA portion of the student's most recent TCAP test may be promoted if:
    a. The student is an English language learner and has received less than two (2) full years of ELA instruction;

Promotion and Retention Policy (continued)

b. The student was previously retained in grades K-3;
c. The student is retested before the next school year and scores proficient in ELA;
d. The student attends a learning loss bridge camp before the next school year, and maintains a ninety (90%) attendance rate, and demonstrates adequate growth on the post-test at the end of the camp;
e. The student receives tutoring for the entirety of the next school year in accordance with state law; or
f. Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, the student demonstrates proficiency in ELA standards by scoring within the fiftieth percentile on the most recently administered state-provided benchmark assessment and the district provides tutoring services to the student during the entire fourth grade school year and notifies the student's parent/guardian, in writing, of the benefits of enrolling the student in summer programming.

2. A student in third grade receiving a performance level rating of "below" on the ELA portion of the student's most recent TCAP test may be promoted if:

a. The student is an English language learner and has received less than two (2) full years of ELA Instruction;
b. The student was previously retained in grades K-3;
c. The student is retested before the next school year and scores proficient in ELA; or
d. The student attends a learning loss bridge camp before the next school year, maintains a ninety percent (90%) attendance rate, and receives tutoring for the entirety of the next school year in accordance with state law.

Decision of Retention—Fourth Grade[10]

Students in the following categories may be promoted to fifth grade if they demonstrate adequate growth on the fourth-grade ELA portion of the TCAP test:

1. A student who was promoted to fourth grade due to receiving tutoring for the entirety of the fourth-grade school year; and
2. A student who was promoted to fourth grade due to attending a learning loss bridge camp while maintaining a ninety percent (90%) attendance rate and receiving tutoring for the entirety of the fourth grade school year.

If a student that was promoted to fourth grade under one of the provisions above does not demonstrate adequate growth on the fourth-grade ELA portion of the TCAP test, then the following shall occur:

1. The student's principal shall convene a conference consisting of the following parties: the student's parent(s)/legal guardian, the student's ELA teacher, and the student's principal.
2. The conference shall review the student's fourth grade ELA performance to determine if the student should be promoted to fifth grade.
3. At the conclusion of the conference, a majority of the parties shall agree to one of the following:

a. The student will be promoted to fifth grade and be assigned a tutor for the entirety of the student's fifth-grade year; or

b. The student will be retained in fourth grade. A student shall not be retained more than once in fourth grade.

Promotion and Retention Policy (continued)

Decision of Retention – Students with Disabilities[11]
Retention and promotion decisions shall be made on a case-by-case basis and in consultation with the student's IEP and/or 504 team to determine whether the student's performance on the ELA portion of TCAP was due to the student's disability. The school district shall not retain a student with a disability or a suspected disability that impacts their ability to read.

APPEALS[8, 12]
When a student is identified for retention, the parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified about the decision to retain the student and provided with information on the right to appeal the decision. Appeals shall be made to a committee appointed by the principal within 10 business days. The student and his/her parent (s)/guardian(s) shall be provided written or actual notice of the appeal hearing and shall be given the opportunity to address the committee. The committee shall conduct a hearing within 10 business days to determine if the student will be promoted and issue such decision within 10 business days. Upon notification of the committee decision, the principal shall send written notification to the Director of Schools/ designee and the parent(s)/guardian(s). The notification shall advise parent(s)/guardian(s) of their right to appeal such action within 10 business days to the Director of Schools/designee.

The appeal shall be heard no later than ten (10) business days after the request for appeal is received. A decision shall be issued within 10 business days.

Within five (5) business days of the Director of Schools/designee rendering a decision, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) may request a hearing by the Board, and the Board shall review the record. Following the review, the Board may affirm or overturn the decision of the Director of Schools/designee. The action of the Board shall be final.

For students where retention is required per the additional requirements for students in third and fourth grade, parent(s)/guardian(s) may appeal this decision in accordance with state law.[13]

Promotion and Retention Policy (continued)

Legal References:

1. 20 USCA § 1400 *et seq*.; 29 U.S.C. § 794 (Section 504); TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16; TCA 49-6-3115
2. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(5)
3. TCA 49-1-905(e)
4. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(4)
5. TCA 49-6-314; TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(6)
6 TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(6)
7. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(6)(f)
8. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(6)(e)
9. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(6)(g)
10. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(7)
11. 29 U.S.C. § 794 (Section 504); 20 USCA § 1400 *et seq*.; TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(7)(e); Public Acts of 2024, Chapter No. 989
12. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(3); TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.17(7); TCA 49-6-3102(e)(1)
13. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(7)(f)

Cross References:

Credit Recovery 4.210

Grading System 4.600

Reporting Student Progress 4.601

Attendance 6.200

Student Assignments 6.205

Homeless Students 6.503

Student Records 6.600

Questioning Students and Searches Policy 6.303

QUESTIONING BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Students may be questioned by teachers or the school administrators about any matter pertaining to the operation of a school and/or the enforcement of its rules. Questioning shall be conducted discreetly and under circumstances which will avoid unnecessary embarrassment to the student. Any student answering falsely or evasively or refusing to answer a question may be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension.

If a student is suspected or accused of misconduct or infraction of the student code of conduct, the school administrator may interrogate the student without the presence of parent(s)/guardian(s).

INTERROGATIONS BY POLICE AT SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS REQUEST

If the school administrator have requested assistance by law enforcement to investigate a crime involving his/her school, the police may interrogate a student suspect in school during school hours. The school administrator shall first attempt to notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student unless circumstances require otherwise. However, the interrogation may proceed without attendance of the parent(s)/guardian(s), but the school administrator/designee shall be present during the interrogation.[1]

POLICE-INITIATED INTERROGATIONS

If the police deem circumstances of sufficient urgency to interrogate students at school for unrelated crimes committed outside of school hours, the police department should first contact the school administrator regarding the planned interrogation and inform him/her of the probable cause to investigate. The school administrator shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the interrogation unless circumstances require otherwise. The interrogation may proceed without attendance of the parent(s)/guardian(s), but the school administrator/designee shall be present during the interrogation.

SEARCHES BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL

The school principal shall authorize all searches at the outset per state law.[2] All principal initiated searches shall be conducted by a school security officer, or a school administrator or school employee designated by the Director of Schools who has completed the state required orientation and training.[2,3] The following conditions shall apply to principal initiated searches:

1. All of the following standards of reasonableness must be met:
    - A. A particular student has violated school policy;
    - B. The search will yield evidence of the violation of school policy or will lead to finding dangerous weapons, drugs, or drug paraphernalia;
    - C. The search is in pursuit of legitimate interests of the school in maintaining order, discipline, safety, supervision, and education;
    - D. The search is not conducted for the sole purpose of discovering evidence to be used in criminal prosecution; and

Questioning Students and Searches Policy (continued)

E. The search shall be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive considering the age and sex of the student (Sex shall be defined as the "immutable characteristics of the person's reproductive system that identify the person as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.") as well as the nature of the alleged infraction.[4]

2. A school administrator shall be on-site at any principal-initiated search;

3. A school administrator shall oversee the search and may end the search at any time; and

4. If a student is under the age of eighteen (18), the school administrator must notify the student's parent or guardian within a reasonable time of the search.[3]

If a school resource officer searches a student based on having probable cause, the school administrator shall notify the Director of Schools/designee.[5]

In order to ensure a safe and secure learning environment, the Director of Schools shall develop procedures regarding the searching of students, lockers, vehicles, and containers which are consistent with state law. The Director of Schools shall develop additional procedures to ensure compliance with all of the provisions of the School Security Act of 1981.[6]

Legal References:

TCA 49-6-4203(b)

TCA 49-6-4204(a); TCA 49-6-4205(a)

Public Acts of 2025, Chapter No. 244

TCA 49-6-4205(b)

State v. R.D.S., No. M200801724COAR3JV, 2009 WL 2136324, at *1 (Tenn. Ct. App. July 16, 2009)

TCA 49-6-4201; Tenn. Op. Att'y Gen. No. 14-21 (February 24, 2014)

Cross References:

Traffic and Parking Controls 3.403

Procedural Due Process 6.302

Reporting Child Abuse 6.409

Special Education Students
Restraint and Isolation Policy

All disabled students between the ages of three and twenty-one (inclusive) shall receive the benefit of a free appropriate public education. This provides the assurance that these students will be educated with non-disabled students to the maximum extent appropriate, and should be placed in separate or special classes only when the severity of the disabled is such that education in regular classes cannot be achieved satisfactorily.[1]

Eligibility standards and options of service for special education services will be based upon the criteria for disabling conditions specified in Rules, Regulations, and Minimum Standards, Tennessee State Board of Education.[2]

Fentress County Schools uses focused crisis management to ensure successful prevention and intervention with maximum safety, effectiveness, and dignity. It is extremely important that the following policies and procedures are followed to ensure that only approved and appropriate restraint and isolation is taking place with Fentress County Schools.

1.Restraints and Isolations

a. Used only as a last resort after preventions, de-escalation and other interventions strategies have failed.
b. Appropriate only at times when a student's behavior has resulted in continuous aggression, and/or continuous self-injury, and/or continuous high magnitude disruption.
c. Can be used in the event of an emergency situation to assure the physical safety of the student and others.

2.Training individuals who might need to implement transportation, restraint, and/or isolation procedures must have yearly professional development in the area of restraint training. Training emphasized:

a. Understand the law.
b. Positive behavior intervention.
c. Crisis prevention, crisis intervention, and crisis de-escalation techniques.
d. Safe, effective use of restraint and isolation.
e. Completing documentation of the event

3. Isolation

a. Rooms must be unlocked and without structure barriers to exit. It also must be free of any conditions that could be a danger to the students, well ventilated, sufficiently lighted, and where school personnel are in direct visual contact with the student at all times.
b. Period of time for confinement should be reasonable and allow for bodily needs.
c. Adequate and continuous supervision is necessary to monitor the health and well-being of the student.
d. An administrator or designee must be contacted and authorize the use of isolation.
e. The use of isolation and the facts surrounding such use must be documented.
f. The parent or guardian must be notified orally or in writing the same day isolation was used.

Special Education Students
Restraint and Isolation Policy (continued)

4. Restraint
   a. Must be implemented by certified practitioners (must be re-certified on an annual basis).
   b. The principal must keep a list of all certified persons located in their building.
   c. Each event must be documented on the Report of Isolation/Restraint. A copy must be kept in the school office and a copy must be sent home. Parent/guardian should be notified either in writing or by phone. If parent/guardian is notified by phone, a Report of Isolation/Restraint must still be sent home.
   d. Documentation should include: what occurred before, during and after the restraint. Alternative efforts attempted prior to implementation and the outcomes of those efforts. Any injury to staff or student must be included on report. Note if anyone observed the restraint.
   Remember: Parent/guardian must be notified orally or in writing the same day restraint or isolation was used.

School personnel who must isolate or restrain a student receiving special education services shall report the incident to the school principal or the principal's designee who shall record the use of the isolation or restraint and the facts surrounding such use. The principal or designee shall insure the Director of Special Education receives the report of Isolation/Restraint the day of the incident and the Tennessee Department of Education is notified within 5 calendar days of the incident. A copy must be maintained in the student's file and made available to parents upon request.

If de-escalation; restraint and/or isolation does not work and a student continues with out-of-control behavior, the parents/guardian should be contacted immediately and the student should be transferred by paramedics to the hospital. This decision will be made by principal or his designee.

Legal References:
TCA 49-10-201; TCA 49-10-103
TRR/MS 0520-1-9-.06 &.07
Tenn. Code Ann 4910-1301, et seq., TRR/MS 0520-1-9-.23
Tenn. Code Ann 49-10-1304

Parent Notification

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION
Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended in Dec. 2015 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) makes it clear that Congress expects local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools receiving federal funds to ensure that parents are actively involved and knowledgeable about their schools and their children's education. The law requires schools to give parents many different kinds of information and notices in a uniform and understandable format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that the parents can understand. Listed below are some of these required notices that must be made to parents by school districts or individual public schools.

Teacher Qualifications and Highly Effective Teachers

At the beginning of each year, an LEA shall notify parents that they may request, and the LEA will provide, information regarding whether professionals are highly effective, including the qualifications of the student's teachers and paraprofessionals. This includes information about whether the student's teacher:

1) has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
2) is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
3) is teaching in the field of discipline not of the certification of the teacher; and
4) is teaching alongside paraprofessionals and, if so, the paraprofessional's qualifications [ESSA § 1112(e)(1)(A)].

Student Privacy

Districts must give parents annual notice at the beginning of the school year of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when the following activities are scheduled or expected to be scheduled:

- ✓ activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal student information for the purpose of marketing or selling that information;
- ✓ administration of surveys containing request for certain types of sensitive information; and
- ✓ any nonemergency, invasive physical examination that is required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school, scheduled in advance, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of student.

A district must develop and adopt policies regarding the rights of parents to inspect:

- ✓ third-party surveys before they are administered or distributed to students;
- ✓ measures to protect student privacy when surveys ask for certain sensitive information;
- ✓ any instructional materials;
- ✓ administration of physical examinations or screening of students;
- ✓ collection, disclosure, or use of personal information from students for the purpose of marketing or selling that information; and

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Parent Notification (continued)

- ✓ the parental right to inspect any instrument used to collect personal information before it is distributed to students.

Districts must give parents annual notice of an adoption or continued use of such policies and within a reasonable period of time after any substantive change in such policies *[20 U.S.C. 1232g]*.

Public Release of Student Directory Information

Under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), an LEA must provide notice to parents of the types of student information that it releases publicly. This type of student information, commonly referred to as "directory information," includes such items as names, addresses, and telephone numbers and is information generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. The notice must include an explanation of a parent's right to request that the information not be disclosed without prior written consent.

Additionally, ESSA requires that parents be notified that the school routinely discloses names, addresses, and telephone numbers to military recruiters upon request, subject to a parent's request not to disclose such information without written consent [*§8025*].

A single notice provided through a mailing, student handbook, or other method that is reasonably calculated to inform parents of the above information is sufficient to satisfy the parental notification requirements of both FERPA and ESSA. The notification must advise the parent of how to opt out of the public, nonconsensual disclosure of directory information and the method and timeline within which to do so *[20 U.S.C. 1232g] [ESEA §8025]*.

Military Recruiter Access to Student Information

Districts receiving federal education funds must notify parents of secondary school students that they have a right to request their child's name, address, and telephone number not be released to a military recruiter without their prior written consent. Districts must comply with any such requests *[ESEA §8528(a)(2)(B)]*.

Parent and Family Engagement

A district receiving Title I funds must develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written district-level parent and family engagement policy. Each school served under Title I must also develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written school-level parent and family engagement policy. If an individual school or district has a parent and family engagement policy that applies to all, it may amend the policy to meet the requirements under the ESEA *[ESEA Title I, Part A, §1116(a)(2)] [20 U.S.C. §6318(b); (c)]*.

Parents shall be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. Such policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school *[ESEA Title I, Part A, §1116(b)(1)]*.

Schools must:

- ✓ hold at least one annual meeting for Title I parents;
- ✓ offer a flexible number of meetings;
- ✓ involve parents and families in an ongoing manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs;

Parent Notification (continued)

- ✓ provide Title I parents and families with timely information about the programs, a description and explanation of the curriculum, forms of academic assessment and expected levels of student proficiency;
- ✓ if requested, provide opportunities for regular meetings to discuss decisions related to the education of their children; and
- ✓ develop a school-parent compact that outlines the responsibilities of each party for improved student academic achievement *[ESEA Title I, Part A, §1116(c)]*.

Report Cards on Statewide Academic Assessment

Each school district that receives Title I, Part A funds must prepare and disseminate an annual report card. Generally, the state or district must include on its report card information about public schools related to student achievement, accountability, teacher qualifications and other required information, as well as any other information that the state or district deems relevant.

These report cards must be concise and presented in an understandable and uniform format accessible to persons with disabilities and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that parents can understand. In Tennessee, **these requirements are met through the state's report card** *[ESEA Title I, Part A, §1111(h)(1) and (h)(2)]*.

Achievement on State Assessment

All schools must provide to parents, teachers, and principals the individual student interpretive, descriptive, and diagnostic reports, which allow specific academic needs to be understood and addressed, and include information on the student's achievement on academic assessments aligned with state academic achievement standards *[ESEA §1111(b)(2)(B)(x)]*.

National Assessment of Education Progress

Districts, schools, and students may voluntarily participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Parents of children selected to participate in any NAEP assessment must be informed before the assessment is administered that their child may be excused from participation for any reason, is not required to finish any assessment, and is not required to answer any test question. A district must make reasonable efforts to inform parents and the public about their right to access all assessment data (except personally identifiable information), questions, and current assessment instruments *[ESEA Title VI, Part C, §411(c)(1); (d)(1)–(2))]*.

Schoolwide Programs

An eligible school operating a schoolwide program shall make the comprehensive plan available to the LEA, parents, and the public. The information contained in such plan shall be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand *[20 U.S.C. §6314][ESEA Title I, Part A, §1114]*.

English Learner Programs

A school district that uses federal funds to provide a language instruction education program for English learners must no later than 30 days after the beginning of the school year inform the parents of each child identified for participation or participating in such a program:

- ✓ the reasons for the identification of the child as an English learner;
- ✓ the child's level of English proficiency;
- ✓ how that level was determined and the status of the child's academic achievement;

Parent Notification (continued)

- ✓ methods of instruction used in the program in which their child is participating and methods of instruction used in other available programs;
- ✓ how the program will meet the educational strengths and needs of their child;
- ✓ how the program will specifically help their child learn English and meet age-appropriate academic achievement standards for grade promotion and graduation;
- ✓ the specific exit requirements for the program;
- ✓ in the case of a child with a disability, how the program meets the child's IEP objectives; and
- ✓ information about parental rights detailing the right of parents to have their child immediately removed from such program upon their request and the options that parents have to decline to enroll their child in such program or to choose another available program or method of instruction.

For a child not identified as an English learner prior to the beginning of the school year, the district must notify parents within the first two weeks of the child being placed in such a program *[ESEA Title I, Part A, §1112]*.

Homeless Children

To be eligible for McKinney-Vento funds, the school must provide written notice at the time any child seeks enrollment in the school, and at least twice annually while the child is enrolled in the school, to the parent or guardian or unaccompanied youth that, shall be signed by the parent or guardian or unaccompanied youth; that sets forth the general rights provided; and specifically states:

- ✓ the choice of schools homeless children are eligible to attend;
- ✓ that no homeless child is required to attend a separate school for homeless children;
- ✓ that homeless children shall be provided comparable services, including transportation services, educational services, and meals; and
- ✓ that homeless children should not be stigmatized by school personnel.

If the district sends a homeless child to a school other than the school of origin or the school requested by the parent or guardian, the district must provide the parents a written explanation for, including notice of the right to appeal, the decision. The information must also be provided whenever a dispute arises over school selection *[ESSA Title IX, Part C, §722(g)(3)(B)]*.

Each LEA liaison for homeless children and youth shall ensure the parents or guardians of homeless children and youth are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children *[ESSA Title IX, Part C, §722(g)(6)(A)(iv)]*.

Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is disseminated where such children and youths receive services under the McKinney-Vento Act, such as schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens *[ESSA Title X, Part C, §722(g)(6)(A)(v)]*.

21st Century Community Learning Centers

A program or activity funded as part of a 21st Century Community Learning Center providing before and after school activities to advance student academic achievement must undergo periodic evaluation to assess its progress toward achieving its goal of providing high-quality opportunities for

Parent Notification (continued)

academic enrichment. The results of evaluations shall be made available to the public upon request, with public notice of such availability provided *[ESEA §4205(b)(2)]*.

Waiver Request

If a school district requests the U.S. Secretary of Education to waive any provision or regulation of the ESEA, it must provide notice and information about the waiver to the public in the manner in which is customarily provides public notice *[20 U.S.C. §7861(b)(3)(B)] [ESEA Title IX, Part D, §8401(b)(3)(B)(ii)]*.

Child Find, Homeless, 504 and Non-Discrimination

Child Find Requirement Under IDEA – Fentress County Schools has the responsibility to locate, identify, and evaluate all children ages 3 to 22 years suspected of having a disability.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ensures educational rights and Protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. For more information, contact the school system's homeless liaison, Christie Garrett, at (931) 879-9218 or the State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children , Vanessa Waters at (615) 917-3750

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
The purpose of this notification is to explain Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and to determine if any students need to be served that are not currently being served. Information in this notification is taken from the Section 504 Manual, written by the Tennessee Department of Education, division of special education. Section 504 is a civil rights statute which provides that: "No otherwise qualified individual with handicaps in the United States…shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

Who is eligible under Section 504?
Eligibility: A student is eligible if the student "has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities." The following "Frequently Used Terms" can assist in determining if a student should be considered for a 504 Plan.

Educational Need: A substantial limitation on learning demonstrated by a serious academic deficit and/or serious behavior problems resulting from the student's disability and not from other causes.

Major Life Activity: Functions such as walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, working, caring for oneself, and performing manual task. The disability only needs to substantially limit one major life activity in order for the student to be eligible.

Substantially Limits: Means: (1) The inability to perform a major life activity that the average person in the general population can perform; or (2) Substantial limitation as to the condition, manner or duration under which an individual can perform a particular major life activity as compared to the condition, manner, or duration which the average person in the general population can perform that same major life activity.

Child Find Referral: If you believe you qualify for Section 504, please notify the counselor at the school your child attends.

Non-Discrimination Policy
Fentress County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, or handicap in the provision of educational opportunities, activities, or other administered programs.

Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA)

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

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the Fentress County School System receives a request for access.

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

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

   Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the Fentress County School System to amend their child's or their education record should write the school principal [or appropriate school official], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

   One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. The criteria for determining who constitutes a school official and what constitutes a legitimate educational interest must be set forth in the school's or school district's annual notification for FERPA rights. A school official typically includes a person employed by the school or school district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer, contractor, or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official typically has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

FERPA (continued)

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school or school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer. [NOTE: FERPA requires a school or school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request or the disclosure is initiated by the parent or eligible student.]

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Fentress County School System to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

   The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:
   Student Privacy Policy Office
   U.S. Department of Education
   400 Maryland Avenue, SW
   Washington, DC 20202

Code was adopted April 7, 2008
Code is posted as required by TCA 49-6-4017

The Code of Conduct will be given to parents at parent/teacher conferences and the code will be explained to students as soon as possible after approval.

Juvenile Offender Act

District Compliance with Tennessee Juvenile Offender Act
Fentress County Board of Education must comply with the Tennessee Code Annotated section 49-6-451
As such, Fentress County Board of Education is providing the following information:

Section 55-10-701 - Denial of driving privileges by court

(a) When a person, younger than eighteen (18) years of age, but thirteen (13) years of age or older, commits any offense or engages in any prohibited conduct described in this subsection (a), then at the time the person is convicted of the offense, or adjudicated a delinquent child, unruly child or status offender, the court in which the conviction or adjudication occurs shall prepare and send to the department of safety, driver control division, within five (5) working days of the conviction or adjudication, an order of denial of driving privileges for the offender. This section applies to any criminal offense, status offense, violation, infraction or other prohibited conduct involving the possession, use, sale, or consumption of any alcoholic beverage, wine or beer, or any controlled substance as defined and enumerated in title 39, chapter 17, part 4, or involving the possession or carrying of a weapon on school property, as defined and enumerated in § 39-17-1309(b) or (c). The denial of driving privileges authorized by this section applies when the prohibited conduct occurs before the offender is eighteen (18) years of age, regardless of when a conviction or determination occurs. The department shall promulgate a form "order of denial" for use by the courts.

(b) If a court has issued an order of denial of driving privileges pursuant to this section, the court, upon motion of the offender, may review the order and may withdraw the order at any time the court deems appropriate, except as provided in the following:

(1) A court may not withdraw an order for a period of ninety (90) days after the issuance of the order if it is the first order issued by any court with respect to the petitioning person;
(2) A court may not withdraw an order for a period of one (1) year after the issuance of the order if it is the second or subsequent such order issued by any court with respect to the petitioning person; and
(3) A court may not withdraw an order involving a violation of part 4 of this chapter, concerning the operation of a motor vehicle while intoxicated or impaired.

(c) For a motion for withdrawal under this section to be properly before a court for consideration, the local district attorney general must have received at least ten (10) days' prior notice of the motion, together with the time and place where it will be considered. The motion must be joined in by a custodial parent or legal guardian of the offender, if the offender is an unemancipated juvenile at the time the motion is made. A custodial parent or legal guardian must appear in court with the offender if the offender is an unemancipated juvenile at the time the motion is made. The motion shall state whether any prior orders of denial have been issued by any court and shall include as exhibits any prior orders of denial so issued.

(d) The local district attorney general or assistant district attorney general has the right to appear, present evidence and be heard at proceedings under this section.

T.C.A. § 55-10-701

Zero-Tolerance Offenses Policy 6.309

In order to ensure a safe and secure learning environment, the following offenses shall not be tolerated.[1]

1. Bringing to school or being in unauthorized possession of a firearm on school property,[2]
2. Unlawful possession of any drug, including any controlled substance, controlled substance analogue, or legend drug on school grounds or at a school-sponsored event,[3]
3. Aggravated assault,[4]
4. Assault that results in bodily injury[5] upon any teacher, principal, administrator, any other employee of the school, or school resource officer; or
5. Valid threats of mass violence on school property or at a school-related activity as determined by a threat assessment team.[6]

Committing any of these offenses shall result in a student being expelled from the regular school program for at least one (1) calendar year unless modified by the Director of Schools. Modification of the length of time shall be granted on a case-by-case basis. Students that commit zero tolerance offenses may be assigned to an alternative school or program at the discretion of the Director of Schools.[7]

When it is determined that a student has violated this policy, the principal shall notify the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) and the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system as required by law.

Legal References

1. TCA 49-6-3401(g)
2. 18 USCA § 921(a)(3); 20 USCA § 7961
3. TCA 39-17-454; TCA 53-10-101
4. TCA 39-13-102
5. TCA 39-13-101(a)(1)
6. TCA 39-16-517; TCA 49-6-3401(g)(2)(D); Public Acts of 2024. Chapter No. 882
7. TCA 49-6-3401(g)(2); TCA 49-6-3402
8. TCA 49-6-4209; TCA 39-17-1312; 20 USCA § 7961(h)(1); Public Acts of 2024. Chapter No. 882

Cross References

Threat Assessment Team 3.204
Code of Conduct 6.300
Drug-Free Schools 6.307
Suspension 6.316
Student Disciplinary Hearing Authority 6.317
Alternative Education 6.319
Safe Relocation of Students 6.4081

Admission of Suspended or Expelled Students Policy 6.318

STUDENT READMISSION TO DISTRICT[1]

The district may continue a disciplinary investigation of a student who withdraws from the district during the investigation. If the student later reenrolls in the district, then the disciplinary investigation and/or consequences shall resume.

STUDENT DISCIPLINED IN ANOTHER DISTRICT

The Board may deny admission of any student (except those in state custody) who has been expelled or suspended from another school district in Tennessee or another state even though the student has established residency in the district in which he/she seeks enrollment.

After a request for enrollment is made, the Director of Schools shall investigate the facts surrounding the suspension or expulsion from the former school district. The principal may ask the parent(s)/guardian(s) in writing if their student has been adjudicated delinquent for an offense listed in TCA 49-6-3051 and submit any records to the Director of Schools.[2] Based on the results of the investigation, the Director of Schools shall make a recommendation to the Board to approve or deny the request.

The Board shall not deny enrollment beyond the length of the imposed suspension or expulsion.

A student may be dismissed if it is determined subsequent to the enrollment that the student has been suspended or expelled from the former school district.[3]

Legal References

1. Public Acts of 2026. Chapter No. 760
2. TCA 49-6-3051 (a)
3. TCA 49-6-3401(f); 20 USCA § 1232g(b)(4).(h)

Cross References

School Admissions 6.203

Student Records 6.600

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

All teachers and staff member have copies of the school Safety Plan which includes procedures for bomb threats, fire drills, shelter in place, lock down and natural disasters, etc. Drills are held periodically to acquaint students and faculty with procedures in case of real emergencies.

Bomb Threats

Instructions will be provided via the intercom concerning procedures to be followed in the event of a bomb threat. These procedures will be followed promptly and in an organized fashion.

Fire Drills and Alarms

Fire drills are necessary for the safety of students and faculty and are held periodically during the year for acquainting people in the school buildings with the proper exit procedures. All persons on campus are responsible to know the specific directions for reaching a point of safety from those areas of the building in which they may be located. Fire drill information and exit maps are posted in each room. Doors that exit directly to the outside should be used for all fire drills. After exiting the building, supervising teachers are responsible to move all students to a safe distance from the buildings.

Exit Procedures

- Leave all materials in room (purses and other valuables may be taken)
- Teachers will close windows and doors when all students are out of the rooms
- Walk quickly, quietly, and orderly out of the building through the nearest exit.
- Move far enough away from the building (at least 100 feet) to allow emergency equipment to operate.
- Remain outside the building until the all-clear signal is given.

Tornado Drills and Alarms

The tornado signal will be given by intercom or word of mouth. When the administrative staff has received the warning, all students and faculty will be asked to move into the hallways, sit with their backs to the lockers, and cover their heads with a textbook.

Active Intruder Drills

Active intruder drills are conducted in cooperation with the Fentress County Sheriff's Department, the Jamestown Police Department, the Fentress County Rescue Squad, and the Emergency Management Agency. Instructions will be provided concerning procedures to be followed during the drill. These procedures will be followed promptly and in an organized fashion.