



Dalton
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

STUDENT *Code of Conduct*



2025-2026

2025-2026 Dalton Public Schools Student Code of Conduct

The Dalton Board of Education is committed to operating its schools in a manner that ensures an orderly educational process while safeguarding the welfare and safety of all students.

While the primary mission of our schools is education, situations may arise when a student's behavior infringes upon the rights of others. In such cases, appropriate corrective action may be necessary for the benefit of both the individual student and the school community. Accordingly, all students are expected to comply with the policies, regulations, and rules established by the Board.

These governing rules will be published and distributed to school personnel and students. Students will be asked to review the information with their parents or guardians. Additional copies will be available at each school and accessible online.

The superintendent is responsible for ensuring the establishment and effective administration of procedures to support student conduct and discipline.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to become familiar with the district's policies, regulations, and rules, and to support them in their daily communication with their children and others in the community.

In compliance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-735(e), Dalton Public Schools also encourages parents to discuss with their children the consequences—including potential criminal penalties—associated with underage sexual conduct and offenses for which a minor may be prosecuted as an adult.

The Dalton Board of Education

Matt Evans, Chairman
Sam Sanders, Vice Chairman
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Dalton Public Schools is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all students and takes proactive measures to ensure student safety.

School officials may conduct searches of students and their belongings without prior permission from a parent or legal guardian when there is reasonable suspicion that a student is in possession of items that are illegal or violate school rules. Additionally, the following are subject to search by school authorities at any time, with or without prior notice to students or parents:

- Vehicles brought onto school property.
- Book bags and personal belongings, including electronic devices used in violation of school rules.
- School lockers, desks, and other school-owned property

Students are expected to cooperate fully when asked to open book bags, lockers, or vehicles.

To support these efforts, school administrators may authorize the use of metal detectors, alcohol detection devices, and drug or weapon-sniffing dogs at any time. These measures may be implemented during the school day, at after-school events, or during any school-sponsored activities, whether on or off campus.

Parents and students should be aware that all these safety options are available to school officials and may be utilized as deemed necessary.

This code was last revised in June 2025.

NOTE: Georgia law allows a school system to refuse to enroll, or to dismiss from enrollment under appropriate circumstances, any student who is found to be subject to a disciplinary order of another school system. Dalton Public Schools will consider enrolling students currently under suspension into the *Resilience* Program (formerly known as Dalton Alternative Education Program or DAEP). Dalton Public Schools will not enroll a student under expulsion from another school system. (O.C.G.A. 20-2-751.2)

August 2025

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,



At Dalton Public Schools, we are committed to fostering a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment where every student can thrive. Our schools are places where students are challenged academically, supported socially and emotionally, and encouraged to grow into responsible, caring members of our community.

The Dalton Public Schools Code of Conduct serves as an important guide for ensuring that all students, staff, and families understand our expectations for behavior, the supports we provide, and the consequences that may result when expectations are not met. More than just a list of rules, this document reflects our shared commitment to promoting respect, responsibility, and safety in every school building, classroom, and activity.

We believe that when expectations are clear, consistently applied, and coupled with positive supports, students are more likely to make good choices, learn from mistakes, and contribute to a positive school culture. Our Code of Conduct is designed to support this philosophy, emphasizing fairness, consistency, and a focus on student learning and growth.

I encourage you to take time to read the Code of Conduct with your student. Have conversations about the values it promotes and the role we each play in building a positive school experience. Your partnership in this effort is invaluable.

Thank you for your support as we work together to make Dalton Public Schools a safe and welcoming place for every learner.

Sincerely,

Steven Craft

Dr. Steven Craft
Superintendent
Dalton Public Schools



Need Mental Health Support? Call or Text 988

988 is the free, nationwide **Suicide & Crisis Lifeline**—available 24/7 for anyone experiencing emotional distress, a mental health or substance use crisis, or who just needs someone to talk to.

How to use it:

- **Call or text 988** from any phone
- **Chat online** at 988lifeline.org/chat
- You'll be connected with a trained crisis counselor who will listen, provide support, and help you find local resources if needed.

Important tips:

- You don't have to be suicidal to use 988.
- It's confidential, free, and available in English and Spanish.
- Help is just three digits away—don't wait to reach out.



¿Necesitas apoyo de salud mental? Llama o envía un mensaje al 988

988 es la **Línea de Vida Nacional para la Prevención del Suicidio y Crisis**, disponible las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana. Es gratuita y está diseñada para cualquier persona que esté pasando por una crisis emocional, problemas de salud mental o uso de sustancias, o que simplemente necesite hablar con alguien.

Cómo usarlo:

- **Llama o envía un mensaje de texto al 988** desde cualquier teléfono
- **Chatea en línea** en 988lifeline.org/chat
- Te conectarán con un consejero capacitado en crisis que te escuchará, te brindará apoyo y te ayudará a encontrar recursos locales si es necesario.

Consejos importantes:

- No tienes que estar en riesgo de suicidio para usar el 988.
- Es confidencial, gratuito y disponible en inglés y español.
- Solo necesitas marcar tres dígitos para obtener ayuda. No esperes para comunicarte.

Student Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct is effective during the following times and in the following places:

- At school or on school property at any time;
- Off school grounds at any school activity, function, or event and while traveling to and from such events;
- On buses or other vehicles provided for student transportation by the school system and at school bus stops.

Students may also be disciplined for off-campus conduct that *could* result in felony criminal charges and that makes their continued presence at school a potential danger to others or property, or that significantly disrupts the educational process.

Authority of Principal

The principal is the designated leader of the school and, through assistance from the staff, is responsible for the orderly operation of the school. The principal's authority extends to include any student visiting the campus from another school. In cases of a student's disruptive, disorderly, or dangerous conduct not covered in this Code of Conduct, the principal may undertake corrective measures which he or she feels to be in the best interest of the school and the student involved. Principals and teachers have the authority to remove a student from the classroom. The superintendent shall fully support that authority pursuant to Code Section 20-20-738.

Students who violate acceptable conduct on a school bus distract the driver and jeopardize the safety of all who ride the bus. Failure to respond to correction of the bus driver shall be reported to the school principal who shall determine the consequences. Offenses committed on the bus carry the same penalties as shown in this brochure. In addition to the penalties listed in this brochure, the student may lose his/her privilege to transportation.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Students who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence may qualify for services under the McKinney-Vento Act. This includes students living in shelters, motels, cars, campgrounds, or temporarily staying with others due to loss of housing or economic hardship. Eligible students have the right to immediate enrollment in school, transportation assistance, and access to the same educational opportunities as other students. If you or someone you know may be experiencing homelessness, please contact the school counselor or district McKinney-Vento liaison, Jackie Taylor, for support.

Progressive Discipline Procedures

When it is necessary to impose discipline, school administrators and teachers will follow a *progressive discipline process*. The degree of discipline to be imposed by each school official will be in proportion to the severity of the behavior of a particular student and will consider the student's discipline history, the age of the student, and other relevant factors. Repeat offenses will subject the offender to a more severe disposition. Any student who repeatedly exhibits a pattern of behavior which interferes with the learning process of others will be identified as a chronic disciplinary problem student.

The Code of Conduct provides a systematic process of behavioral correction in which inappropriate behaviors are followed by consequences. Disciplinary actions are designed to teach students self-

discipline and to help them substitute appropriate behaviors with those that are consistent with the character traits from Georgia's Character Education Program.

When a student is suspended for ten (10) days or less, the principal or designee will inform the student of the offense for which the student is charged and allow the student to explain his or her behavior. This should be done in person and through a district letter, prepared and provided for the student by the school. *If a student is suspended, school administrators will make all reasonable efforts to notify the student's parents. These efforts should include, but are not limited to, multiple emails, phone calls, and text messages.* Parents and Legal Guardians are responsible for ensuring that the school has the correct contact information including a phone number and email address.

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

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

School officials may involve law enforcement officials when evidence surrounding a situation necessitates their involvement or when there is a legal requirement that an incident be reported.

School officials reserve the right to assign discipline consequences as appropriate for any behavior which is subversive to good order and discipline in the schools, or at school functions, even though such behavior may not be specified in the following written guidelines.

While Out-of-School Suspension is an unexcused absence, Dalton Public Schools expects teachers to provide assignments to students and/or parents. Those assignments are to be accepted and graded as they are for students who are present. If an academic assignment can only be completed in the classroom, the teacher is expected to coordinate with the student and their parents or guardians to arrange a time for the assignment to be made up.

Disciplinary Actions

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

- Warning, Teacher or Administrator Student Conference and/or Hearing with a School Administrator or Counselor
- Loss of Privileges
- Isolation or Time Out within the guidelines established in State Board Rule 160-5.1-.35
- Temporary Removal from Class or Activity
- Notification of Parents
- Parent Conference
- Fines
- Detention/Saturday School
- Suspension or Expulsion from the School Bus
- Short-term Suspension
- Referral to a Tribunal for Long-term Suspension or Expulsion

- Temporary Placement in an alternative education setting
- Referral to Law Enforcement or Juvenile Court Officials: Georgia law requires that certain acts of misconduct be referred to the appropriate law enforcement officials. The school district will refer any act of misconduct to law enforcement officials when school officials determine such a referral to be necessary or appropriate.
- Other Appropriate Remedial Actions in the discretion of school principals or administrators, consistent with Dalton Board of Education policy.

The *Resilience* alternative placement program for Dalton Public Schools, previously known as DAEP, is a non-traditional learning environment that assists students in developing the academic and social skills necessary to be successful in the traditional learning environment. *Resilience* is operated by Dalton Public Schools for the benefit of our students and is located in the Annex building on the City Park Elementary School campus.

The alternative education program is designed to provide middle and high school students the opportunity to continue their education while serving long-term suspension from their home school (Hammond Creek Middle School, Dalton Junior High School, Dalton High School, or The Dalton Academy). Placement in the program is determined as appropriate by a Tribunal or Tribunal Waiver (waiving rights to a due process hearing). Each student will have his/her own work area with a computer. Academic coursework will be accessed through an online curriculum with assistance from the teaching staff at the alternative education program in concert with their teachers from the home school.

Code of Conduct Definitions

Term	Definition
Academic Dishonesty	Students are expected to act with honesty and integrity by submitting work that is their own. Cheating, plagiarism, and other violations of academic honesty are strictly prohibited. This includes copying or borrowing from another source and presenting it as original work; seeking or accepting unauthorized help on tests, projects, or assignments; fabricating data or sources; sharing or receiving test questions in advance without permission; working with others when individual work is required; and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools, apps, or websites to create and submit assignments that are falsely presented as the student's own original work.
Accessing and/or Sharing of Inappropriate Material using Technology	Use or participate in using personal or school technology resources to distribute, display, or record inappropriate material. Inappropriate material does not serve an instructional or educational purpose and includes, but is not limited to, the following; is sexual in nature, is profane, vulgar, lewd, obscene, offensive, indecent, or threatening. Advocates illegal or dangerous acts; causes disruption to Dalton Public Schools, its employees or students; advocates violence; contains knowingly false, recklessly false, or defamatory information; or is otherwise harmful to minors as defined by the children's internet protection act. (local law enforcement must be notified of such incidents).
Aggravated Assault	When any person assaults another: (a) with the intent to murder, rape, or rob; or (b) with a deadly weapon, or with any object which, when used offensively against a person, is likely to, or does, result in serious bodily injury.
Aggravated Battery	The offense of aggravated battery consists of maliciously causing bodily harm to another by depriving him or her of a member of his or her body, by rendering a member of his or her body useless, or by seriously disfiguring his or her body, or member thereof.
Allowing and/or Facilitating Entry of Unauthorized Person to any School District Facility, Transportation, or Event	Knowingly allowing, inviting, or assisting an individual who does not have proper authorization to access any school building, school bus, or school-sponsored event is strictly prohibited. This includes any actions that compromise campus safety or violate district visitor protocols. Students who knowingly permit an unauthorized individual to access any Dalton Public Schools facility or event with the intent to cause any type of disruption or harm will face increased disciplinary consequences and may be referred to law enforcement.
Arson	Unlawful and intentional damage or attempted damage to any real or personal property by fire or incendiary devices.
Assault	An attempt to commit injury to another person, or any act or statement that places another person in fear of bodily harm. This may include verbal assault such as profanity, threatening, or abusive language.
Assault and/or Threaten an Employee	This refers to any verbal, written, electronic, or nonverbal communication by a student that conveys an intent to cause harm to a school employee. The threat may be direct or implied and must be serious enough that a reasonable person would interpret it as a genuine expression of intent to harm.

Attempt To Damage and/or Alteration of School Property	Any attempt to alter, modify, change, or damage school property or the private property of another organization or individual.
Attempting To Phish, Tamper With, Or Hack the District Network Tampering	Any unauthorized attempt to modify, interfere with, disable, or disrupt the function or security of district technology systems, devices, or networks. This includes altering system settings, deleting files, or intentionally bypassing security protocols. <i>Phishing</i> : a deceptive attempt to obtain personal or confidential information (such as usernames, passwords, or financial data) by pretending to be a trustworthy source through emails, messages, websites, or other electronic means. Phishing is a serious violation of school technology policies and may have legal consequences. <i>Hacking</i> : gaining or attempting to gain unauthorized access to the school district's network, servers, devices, or digital resources. This includes using software, tools, or methods to bypass security measures, exploit system vulnerabilities, or access to restricted information. <i>Tampering</i> : any unauthorized attempt to alter, disrupt, disable, or interfere with the normal operation, configuration, or security settings of school technology systems, excluding acts specifically defined as hacking or phishing.
Battery	Intentionally making physical contact with another person in an insulting, offensive, or provoking manner, or in a way that physically harms the other person.
Bomb/Explosive threat	Any verbal, written, electronic, or symbolic communication that threatens to place, detonate, or use a bomb, explosive device, or similar destructive material on school property, school transportation, or at a school-sponsored event. This includes threats made in person, through social media, text messages, notes, or drawings, regardless of the perceived credibility or intent. All such threats are treated as serious offenses and may cause significant disruption to the school environment. Law enforcement will be immediately notified, and the student may face suspension, expulsion, and potential criminal charges.
Breaking/Entering Private Property	Unauthorized entry into any building, room, vehicle, locker, or other private property whether on or off school grounds by force, without permission, or with the intent to steal, vandalize, or commit another offense. This includes tampering with locks, forcing entry, or entering restricted areas without consent. (Note : the key difference between trespassing and breaking and entering-burglary is that trespassing does not include forceful entry into the school building.).
Bribery	The gift, offer, or promise of something of value to another person in an inappropriate, wrongful, or dishonest attempt to influence the person to whom the gift, offer, or promise is made.
Bullying	Bullying is <i>intentional, unwanted, and repeated</i> aggressive behavior that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance. It can take the form of physical, verbal, relational, or electronic actions, and is intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate another student. In schools, bullying can interfere with a student's ability to learn and feel safe, and it creates a hostile educational environment. It may be based on real or perceived characteristics such as race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or other distinguishing traits.
Causing Damage and/or Alteration of School Property	Any altering, modifying, changing, or damaging school property or the private property of another organization or individual.

Causing Intentional Damage to Other Vehicles While Operating a Vehicle on Campus	Deliberately using a motor vehicle to damage another vehicle while on school property. This includes ramming, scraping, keying, or using a vehicle in any manner to cause harm to another vehicle. Such actions are considered serious offenses. Disciplinary consequences will include loss of driving privileges, restitution for damages, possible suspension or expulsion, and notification of law enforcement.
Causing Unintentional Damage to Other Vehicles While Operating a Vehicle on Campus	Accidentally causing damage to another vehicle while driving on school property. Although unintentional, students are required to report any such incident immediately to school administration or campus security. Failure to report may result in additional disciplinary action. Consequences may include restitution for damages, loss of driving privileges, and possible referral to law enforcement for investigation.
Chronic Disciplinary Student	A student who exhibits a pattern of behavior that interferes with the learning process of other students and which appears likely to recur, or as otherwise provided by law. (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-764)
Computer Misuse/Disruption	Students are prohibited from intentionally seeking out security vulnerabilities or attempting to disrupt Dalton Public Schools technology resources. This includes the use of tools such as, but not limited to, network sniffers, proxies, scripts, or password guessing/detection software. Additionally, students may not engage in activities that monopolize, compromise, or interfere with school technology systems. This includes the use of unauthorized web browsers (not installed by Dalton Public Schools) or the use of virtual private networks (VPN).
Consensual Hazing	Students shall not participate in consensual physical hazing or initiation activities, including bodily modifications such as tattooing, branding, or piercing. If a student did not or could not give consent, the incident will be addressed under other applicable rule violations. This rule applies to all students participating in such activities.
Consensual Sexual Activity	Students are prohibited from willingly participating in <i>any</i> form of sexual activity while under school jurisdiction. This includes any act done for the purpose of sexual gratification of oneself or another person. All such incidents must be reported to the law enforcement.
Cyberbullying	Cyberbullying is a form of bullying that takes place through electronic means such as text messages, emails, social media platforms, apps, online forums, or gaming communities. It includes sending, posting, or sharing harmful, false, or mean content about another person with the intent to embarrass, threaten, or harass. Cyberbullying can involve direct messages or public posts and often includes behaviors such as spreading rumors, sharing private information or images without consent, impersonation, or repeated harassment through digital channels. School officials may intervene and assign disciplinary consequences in cases of cyberbullying, including off-campus social media activity, when the behavior causes a substantial disruption to the school environment, and/or interferes with a student's ability to learn, and/or threatens the safety or well-being of any student or staff member. This includes situations where off-campus posts result in on-campus conflict, fear, or emotional distress.
Detention	A penalty assigned to students who violate the discipline code. Students are required to report to a specified school location and to remain in that location with a designated teacher or school official for a specified length of time. The student may be required to make up the work missed, do assigned class work,

	or sit quietly while in attendance before school, during school, after school, or on a Saturday.
Disciplinary Tribunal	A group of school officials appointed by the board of education to sit as factfinder and judge with respect to student disciplinary matters.
Disorderly Conduct	Any act that substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of a school function, substantially disrupts the orderly learning environment, or poses a threat to the health, safety, and/or welfare of students, staff or others.
Due Process	Due process is the set of steps that schools must follow when a student is accused of breaking a rule or facing a disciplinary action. Due process makes sure that students have a chance to tell their side of the story, understand what they are being accused of, and be treated fairly before a decision is made.
Dress Code Violation	<p>The student dress code outlined in this Code of Conduct establishes the minimum expectations for all Dalton Public Schools. Individual schools may adopt additional dress code requirements to reflect their unique school communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothing attire should not distract from the educational process or disrupt the learning environment. • All clothing must provide coverage of private body areas, including undergarments. • No Clothing or Accessories that Promote Unsafe or Inappropriate Behavior • Prohibited items include apparel with language, images, or symbols that reference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or weapons • Profanity or sexually explicit content • Hate speech, violence, or gang affiliation • Footwear Must Be Worn at All Times • Shoes must be safe and suitable for school activities (e.g., P.E., lab work, stairs). • Headgear and Face Coverings • Hats, hoods, and face coverings are not allowed indoors unless for religious or medical reasons, or as part of a school spirit or instructional activity. • Dress Must Not Pose a Safety Risk • Chains, spikes, or other potentially harmful accessories are not permitted.
Drugs	Chemicals, medications, or other substances intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in humans or other animals, or which is intended to effect the structure or any function of the body of humans or other animals.
Employee Sustains Non-Serious Injury	A student shall not intentionally make physical contact with a school employee in an insulting, provoking, or aggressive manner that results in a non-serious injury, unless the contact occurred in lawful self-defense as defined by O.C.G.A. § 16-3-21. A non-serious injury is defined as physical harm that is minor in nature and does not require professional medical treatment or emergency intervention. Examples of non-serious injuries

	include minor bruising, small cuts or scratches, soreness, redness, or swelling that does not significantly impair movement or daily function.
Employee Sustains Serious Injury	A student shall not intentionally make physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with a school employee that results in physical harm, unless the contact occurred in lawful self-defense as outlined in O.C.G.A. § 16-3-21. Physical harm may include, but is not limited to, significant injuries such as swelling, bleeding, concussion, broken bones, sprains, or any injury requiring medical attention. Law enforcement will be contacted. The minimum discipline consequence is referral to a tribunal with a recommendation for permanent expulsion.
Excessive Tardiness/Class Cuts	Being absent from, missing, or arriving late to any class, activity, or portion thereof without a valid excuse, despite being enrolled or required to attend.
Extortion	Obtaining money, goods, or anything of value from another person by violence, threats, undue influence or pressure, or misuse of authority.
Extra-Curricular Activity	Any school-sponsored club, organization, athletic team, representative office, or position. Examples include but are not limited to: school band, school clubs, athletic teams or athletic events, student government, class representative, debate clubs and literary clubs, which are not part of the instructional program. The school principal or designee shall determine any question about whether or not this definition applies to an activity.
Failure To Attend Assigned Disciplinary Setting	A student who fails to report to or complete an assigned disciplinary consequence, such as school detention, teacher detention, in-school suspension (ISS), Saturday School, or any other disciplinary setting, without a valid excuse or prior approval from school administration.
False Identification and/or Presentation of a Substance as Drugs or Alcohol	Students are prohibited from falsely representing or identifying any substance as alcohol or an illegal drug. Additionally, students may not use, consume, purchase, sell, distribute, possess, or transmit any compound or substance intended to mimic the effects of alcohol or illegal drugs.
Fighting	Mutual participation in a fight involving physical violence where there is no one main offender and intent to harm. Students shall not initiate or willingly participate in a physical altercation with another person, unless the physical contact occurred in lawful self-defense as defined by O.C.G.A. § 16-3-21. <i>Note: the key difference between fighting and battery is that fighting involves mutual participation.</i>
Fireworks	The term “fireworks” means any combustible or explosive composition, or any substance or combination of substances or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration, or detonation, as well as articles containing any explosive or flammable compound and tablets and other devices containing an explosive substance.
Fraud	Willful misrepresentation of information which in fact causes another person to act in a way which causes that other person to suffer injury, harm, or loss.
Gambling	Engaging in a game or contest in which the outcome is dependent upon chance, even though accompanied by some skill, and in which a participant stands to win or lose something of value.
Gang Activity	A student shall not commit, attempt to commit, solicit, encourage, or direct others to engage in any violation of the code of conduct in connection with or in furtherance of gang activity. Law enforcement may be contacted.

Gang Recruitment/ Solicitation	Attempting to recruit, persuade, pressure, or coerce another individual to join or participate in a gang or gang-related activity. This includes verbal or written invitations, threats, promises of protection or benefits, or any other form of solicitation intended to involve others in gang membership or behavior. Gang recruitment is strictly prohibited and considered a serious offense that may result in suspension, expulsion, and referral to law enforcement.
Group Fight	Mutually engaging or participating in a fight with three (3) or more people unless such physical contacts or physical harms were in self-defense as provided by O.C.G.A. § 16-3- 21.
Handling Of Stolen Property	Knowingly receiving, possessing, concealing, selling, or disposing of property that was stolen or unlawfully obtained. This includes assisting in the distribution of stolen items or failing to report possession of such items when aware of their stolen status. Disciplinary consequences will vary based on the circumstances and may include suspension, restitution, and notification of law enforcement.
Hearing Officer	An impartial individual designated by the board of education to preside over student disciplinary hearings. The hearing officer is responsible for reviewing evidence, ensuring procedural fairness, and rendering decisions or recommendations based on the facts presented.
Homicide	This includes any act, whether intentional or reckless, that results in the death of another person, occurring on school property, during school-sponsored activities, or involving school personnel or students. This is a level III offense and will result in immediate notification of law enforcement and a tribunal referral for permanent expulsion from all DPS schools and programs.
Horseplay, Rough or Boisterous Activities:	This refers to physical actions or loud, disruptive behavior that, while not intended to cause harm, can lead to accidents, injuries, or significant distractions within the school environment. Examples include chasing, wrestling, pushing, throwing objects, or loud, exaggerated movements that interfere with instruction, hallway safety, or general order. Even if meant playfully, such behavior is inappropriate in the school setting and may result in disciplinary action.
Inciting Or Encouraging Violation of The Code of Conduct	Inciting, urging, encouraging, advising, counseling, conspiring with, or aiding other students to violate any rule, section, or provision of the Dalton Public Schools code of conduct.
In-House Suspension	Removal of a student from classes and assignment of that student to a designated supervisor until the problem is resolved.
In-School Suspension	Removal of a student from a regular school program and assignment of that student to an alternative program away from peers.
Intentional Display Gang Tattoos, Paraphernalia, Graffiti, etc.	Knowingly displaying gang-related symbols, including tattoos, clothing, jewelry, drawings, writings, hand signs, or any paraphernalia that conveys gang affiliation or promotes gang culture. This includes graffiti on personal items, school property, or shared spaces that reference gangs. Such displays are prohibited as they may contribute to intimidation, disruption, or violence within the school environment and may result in disciplinary action. Law enforcement may be contacted.

Kidnapping	The unlawful seizure, transportation, or detention of a person against their will, or the unlawful interference with a person's liberty by force, threat, or deception. In a school setting, this includes any attempt to remove a student, staff member, or other individual from school grounds or a school-sponsored event without proper authority or consent. This will result in immediate notification of law enforcement and a tribunal referral for permanent expulsion from all DPS schools and programs.
Larceny/Theft	Taking, possessing, or attempting to take or possess property belonging to a student, the school, or another individual without permission. This includes items taken from classrooms, lockers, personal belongings, or any school-related location. Disciplinary consequences will be based on the circumstances, the value of any items in question, and may increase with repeat offenses. Law enforcement may be notified depending on the nature of the incident.
Leaving Campus Without Permission	Leaving school grounds during the regular school day without permission from both a parent and the school principal or their designee. Students are required to follow all established check-in and check-out procedures.
Leaving the Scene of an Accident on Campus	Failing to stop and report an accident involving a vehicle or property damage that occurs on school grounds. This includes any incident where a student driver strikes another vehicle, person, or school property and does not immediately notify school administration, security personnel, or law enforcement. Leaving the scene without reporting is a serious violation of school policy and may result in disciplinary consequences, loss of driving privileges, restitution, and notification of law enforcement.
Long-Term Suspension	Suspension for more than ten school days.
Making A False Report or Statement to School or Legal Authority	Intentionally providing untrue, misleading, or fabricated information, whether spoken or written, to a school official or legal authority (e.g., police officer, school administrator, counselor, or any school personnel) with the intent to deceive, mislead, or cause disruption.
Medication Control Procedures	Students are not allowed to have any type of medication on their person unless approved by administration. Medication must be kept in the clinic/attendance office and administered by designated staff, unless otherwise authorized by a physician. Medications must be in the original labeled container (no baggies, foil, etc.). Parent/guardian must provide specific instructions, as well as the medication and related equipment to the principal or school nurse. It will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian to inform the school of any changes. New medication or new doses will not be given unless a new form is completed. All medication will be taken directly to the clinic/office by the parent/guardian.
Misuse Of Technology to Harm or Damage Property	Students are prohibited from using school technology resources, whether on or off school grounds, to threaten, damage, destroy, vandalize, or steal private property or school property.
Mooning Or Similar Behavior	"Mooning," "Pantsing" (pulling down another person's pants), or exposing one's own intimate body parts or those of another person is prohibited. Students who expose another person's intimate body parts will face more severe disciplinary consequences and law enforcement may be contacted.
Motor Vehicle Theft	Theft or attempted theft of any motor vehicle. Law enforcement will be notified.

Non-Consensual Hazing	Non-consensual hazing is defined as any act committed by one or more students against another student, in connection with initiation into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school-related group, team, organization, or activity, regardless of the victim's willingness to participate. These actions are considered hazing when they are done knowingly, recklessly, or intentionally and are not authorized by official school policy or activity guidelines. In accordance with Georgia law (O.C.G.A. § 16-5-61), any student who participates in hazing, even indirectly, may face criminal charges in addition to school disciplinary action. Failure of a student to report any incidents of hazing may also result in disciplinary consequences.
Off-Campus Misconduct	Off-campus misconduct for which a student may be disciplined includes any off-campus conduct which could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony; and which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process.
Other Firearms	Firearms other than handguns, rifles, or shotguns as defined in 18 USC 921. Includes any weapon (including starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of any explosive; the frame or receiver of any weapon described above; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; any destructive device, which includes any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas (i.e. Bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than ¼ ounce, mine, or similar device); any weapon which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than ½ inch in diameter; any combination or parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described above, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled. (Note: this does not include toy guns, cap guns, bb guns, pellet guns, or class-c common fireworks). [Pursuant to Gun-Free Schools Act – P.L. 107-110, Section 4141]
Other Incident for a State-Reported Discipline Action	Any other discipline incident for which a student is administered corporal punishment, detention, in-school or out-of-school suspension, expelled, suspended for riding the bus, assigned to an alternative school, referred to court or juvenile system authorities, or removed from class at the teacher's request (pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-738).
Permanent Expulsion	Under Georgia law, expulsion is defined as the removal of a student from a public school beyond the current school quarter or semester. While the term "permanent expulsion" is not specifically defined in statute, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.6 authorizes local boards of education to adopt student codes of conduct that include provisions for expelling students for violations of school rules.
Possession Of any Type, or Look-Alike, of any Firearm/Dangerous Weapons:	Students are prohibited from possessing, handling, transmitting, using, threatening to use, selling, attempting to sell, or conspiring to sell any firearm, dangerous weapon, hazardous object, or unauthorized item, whether concealed or visible, on school property. Prohibited items must be confiscated and turned over to the school resource officer or appropriate law enforcement. Violations involving weapons or firearms, as defined under O.C.G.A. §§ 16-5-21, 16-5-24, 16-11-127, 16-11-127.1, or 16-11-132, must be reported under O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1184 to law enforcement and the

	office of student services. <i>There are no exceptions for students who may hold a legal weapons license.</i>
Possession of Knives and Dangerous Items	Students shall not possess any item that poses a safety risk or could be used as a weapon, including knives, "lookalike" firearms, plastic disposable razors, slingshots, ammunition, BB's, paint pellets, fireworks (except "snap-its" or "pop-its", which may be treated as disruptive behavior), matches, lighters, stink bombs, pepper spray, mace, or similar items. Additionally, any non-weapon item used as a weapon during an assault or battery, such as scissors, rocks, bricks, books, desks, or writing instruments, is strictly prohibited. Law enforcement will be notified.
Possession of Unapproved Items	The use or possession of unauthorized items including but not limited to toy guns or other items that can be construed as dangerous or harmful to the learning environment; includes the possession of matches, lighters, incendiary devices or fireworks. The use of matches, lighters, incendiary devices or fireworks may be coded as arson.
Possession or Distribution of Drug Paraphernalia	Students are prohibited from possessing, transmitting, storing, purchasing, selling, or distributing, or possessing with the intent to sell or distribute, any drug-related paraphernalia. This includes, but is not limited to, vaporizers, pipes, needles, rolling papers, plastic baggies or other packaging materials, prescription bottles not belonging to the student, scales, and any device or item commonly used for the ingestion, use, or concealment of drugs.
Possession, Use, Or Distribution of Fireworks or Any Type of Explosive or Combustible Devices	Possessing, using, distributing, selling, or attempting to sell fireworks, explosives, smoke bombs, stink bombs, firecrackers, or any other combustible or flammable devices on school property, school transportation, or at any school-sponsored event. Violation will be referred to law enforcement. <i>Note:</i> possession of fireworks or incendiary devices must be reported as "possession of unapproved items". Use of such items should be reported as arson.
Reasonable Suspicion	Reasonable suspicion is a lower legal standard that allows school officials to search a student if they have specific and objective reasons to believe the student is violating school rules or laws.
Repeated Offenses	Collection of offenses not previously assigned a state reportable action that occurs on a single or across multiple school days that leads to a state reportable disciplinary action.
Robbery	The taking of, or attempting to take, anything of value that is owned by another person or organization under confrontational circumstances by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear. Note: The key difference between robbery and larceny/theft is that the threat of physical harm or actual physical harm is involved in a robbery.
Sales And Distribution of Illegal Substances	Engaging in any of the following activities is strictly prohibited: selling, distributing, possessing with intent to distribute, or attempting to buy or sell alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, narcotics, hallucinogens, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana (including oils and edibles), or any other substances listed under the Georgia controlled substances act. This includes substances falsely identified as, or believed by the purchaser to be, any of the above, including synthetic cannabinoids or synthetic cathinones. A violation of this rule does not require an exchange of money, goods, or services.

School Safety Zone	The school safety zone is any real property or building owned by or leased to the Dalton Public Schools or Dalton Board of Education and used for elementary or secondary education purposes; including the central office in the Dalton City Hall, the maintenance and operations building, the 101 Building, and the technology center. The drop-off and pick-up zone at each school is defined as that area of roadway or parking area designated at each school where students exit and enter private vehicles.
School Trespassing	Entering or remaining on school property without authorization or after being directed to leave by school personnel or law enforcement. This includes students who have been suspended, expelled, or otherwise restricted from campus, as well as any unauthorized entry into buildings, classrooms, or restricted areas.
Self-Defense	The use of reasonable and necessary force to protect oneself from an immediate threat of unlawful force or harm. A student's actions may be considered self-defense only if they are consistent with the conditions outlined in O.C.G.A. § 16-3-21, which permits individuals to use force when they reasonably believe it is necessary to prevent death or great bodily injury to themselves or to prevent a forcible felony. Self-defense does not justify the use of excessive force, retaliation, or continued aggression once the threat has subsided, and determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis by school administration.
Serious Bodily Injury	Serious Bodily Injury means bodily injury that involves a substantial risk of death, protracted and obvious disfigurement; or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.
Sexual Battery	Sexual battery is defined as a student intentionally making physical contact with another person's intimate body parts without that person's consent. Under Georgia law, "intimate body parts" are defined as the primary genital area, groin, inner thighs, buttocks, and breasts of a male or female (O.C.G.A. § 16-6-22.1). Law enforcement and the Office of Student Services will be contacted (see O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1184)."
Sexual Harassment	A student must not engage in harassment of another person through unwelcome conduct or communication of a sexual nature, whether it is explicit or implied. Examples of sexual harassment include: verbal or written remarks, such as sexual jokes or comments about someone or their physical appearance; physical actions, such as unwelcome touching or gestures; visual displays, such as showing or encouraging the display of sexually suggestive images or objects; or making requests or demands for sexual activity that are accompanied by implied or direct threats.
Sexual Molestation	Sexual molestation is defined as a student committing any immoral or indecent act to or in the presence of another person, without that person's consent, with the intent to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of either the student or the other person. This includes situations where a student forces another person to make physical contact with the student's intimate body parts, such as requiring another student to perform sex acts. Under Georgia law, "intimate body parts" are defined as the primary genital area, groin, inner thighs, buttocks, and breasts of a male or female (O.C.G.A. § 16-6-22.1). Law enforcement and the Office of Student Services (see O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1184). Behaviors that implicate Title IX regulations (as implemented) will be managed in accordance with procedures outlined at www.daltonpublicschools.org/titleix .

Sexually Explicit or Pornographic Material Using Technology	Students are prohibited from possessing, creating, distributing, or sharing sexually explicit or pornographic material through personal devices or school-issued technology. If any such material involves minors, law enforcement will be contacted as required by law. Situations that may fall under Title IX regulations will be handled in accordance with DPS policy and applicable state and federal guidelines.
Short Term Out Of School Suspension (OSS)	The temporary (less than ten school days) removal of a student from the school campus and all school-sponsored activities due to violations of the student code of conduct. During this time, the student is not permitted to attend classes, be present on school grounds, or participate in any extracurricular events, including athletic competitions, performances, and field trips. Oss may be classified by duration. A short-term suspension involves removal from school for ten (10) school days or fewer and is typically administered by a school administrator following due process. It does not require a formal disciplinary hearing.
Student (Or Other Non-Employee) Sustains Non-Serious Injury	A student shall not intentionally make physical contact with another person in an insulting or provoking manner, unless the contact occurred in lawful self-defense as defined by O.C.G.A. § 16-3-21. When such contact results in a non-serious injury, disciplinary action may still be taken. Non-serious injuries are minor and typically do not require professional medical treatment. Examples include small bruises, light scratches, redness, or temporary soreness.
Student (Or Other Non-Employee) Sustains Serious Injury	A student shall not intentionally make physical contact with another person in an insulting or provoking manner, unless the contact occurred in lawful self-defense as defined by O.C.G.A. § 16-3-21. If the contact results in physical harm, more serious disciplinary consequences may apply. Physical harm may include, but is not limited to, significant injuries such as swelling, bleeding, concussions, broken bones, sprains, or any injury for which medical attention was sought. Law enforcement will be notified.
Student Incivility-Insubordination	Insubordination refers to the refusal or failure to comply with a reasonable directive, request, or instruction from any authorized school personnel. This includes willful disobedience, defiance, disrespectful behavior, or noncompliance with school rules, classroom expectations, or directives given by teachers, administrators, support staff, substitute teachers, volunteers, or any adult in a supervisory role during school hours, on school property, or at school-sponsored events. Insubordination may take many forms, including verbally refusing to follow instructions; ignoring or walking away from staff when addressed; arguing in a confrontational or disruptive manner; refusing to complete assigned tasks or participate in classroom activities; openly challenging the authority of staff; or repeatedly failing to comply with behavioral expectations despite redirection.
Superintendent	The Superintendent of Dalton Public Schools is the Chief Executive Officer of the district, responsible for implementing Board Of Education policies and overseeing daily operations. This role provides strategic leadership to promote academic excellence, operational effectiveness, and a safe, inclusive learning environment.
Threat	Threat refers to any verbal, written, electronic, or nonverbal communication by a student that conveys an intent to harm another person. A threat may be direct or implied, but it must be serious enough that a reasonable person would interpret it as a genuine expression of intent to cause harm. Such conduct disrupts the educational environment, undermines safety, and will

	<p>result in disciplinary action—even in the absence of physical contact. Dalton Public Schools classifies threats into levels based on their severity and credibility, as determined by school administration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 1 threat is vague or indirect, often made in jest or frustration, and lacks a specific target or plan, though it remains inappropriate. • Level 2 threat is more direct or specific, implying an intent to cause harm but without a clear plan, means, or timeline; it may cause fear or disrupt learning and requires investigation and disciplinary or legal response. • Level 3 threat is direct, credible, and immediate, involving serious harm to individuals or the school community and may include weapons or detailed plans. Such threats require immediate intervention, notification of law enforcement, potential removal from school, and activation of mental health and threat assessment procedures.
Tobacco And Vape Products	Students are prohibited from possessing, using, or distributing cigarettes, electronic cigarettes (also known as e-cigarettes, e-cigs), vapes, Juuls, hookah devices, or similar products, as well as any related tobacco items, including cigarette wrapping paper or containers. Repeated violations within the same school year may lead to increased disciplinary actions and may result in the offense being classified as a Tier III disciplinary incident.
Truancy	While subject to compulsory school attendance, being absent from school without documentation and/or justification.
Unauthorized Area	Being present in any area of the school campus or at a school-sponsored event where student access is prohibited or restricted without permission. This includes, but is not limited to, staff-only areas, mechanical or custodial rooms, closed classrooms, or any off-limits locations during or after school hours.
Unauthorized Or Unsafe Operation of a Motor Vehicle on Campus	Operating a motor vehicle on school property in an unsafe, reckless, or unauthorized manner. This includes speeding, careless driving, driving without permission, parking violations, or any use of a vehicle that poses a safety risk to others. Disciplinary action may include revocation of parking privileges, suspension, and notification of law enforcement depending on the severity of the violation.
Unauthorized Possession, Distribution, Or Sale Of Over-The-Counter/Non-Prescription Medications	Students are prohibited from possessing, selling, distributing, or possessing with intent to distribute any Over-The-Counter (OTC) medication on school property, unless in compliance with DPS Board Policy JGCD: Medication. This includes, but is not limited to, stimulants (e.g., diet pills, caffeine pills) and nicotine replacement therapies such as nicotine gum, candy, lozenges, patches, inhalers, nasal sprays, and similar products. Note: multiple and/or prior infractions may result in increased disciplinary consequences.
Unauthorized Possession, Sale, and/or Distribution of Prescription Medication	Students are prohibited from selling, distributing, or possessing with intent to distribute any prescribed medication while on school property. If the prescribed medication is classified as a controlled substance under the Georgia Controlled Substances Act, consequences will be more severe. Law enforcement will be contacted.
Unauthorized Use or Access of Software	Students are prohibited from copying or accessing computer programs, software, or other technology provided by Dalton Public Schools for personal use. This includes downloading, accessing, or possessing unauthorized files, as well as any inappropriate or unauthorized use of school technology resources.

Use or Possession of an Illegal Substance	Students are prohibited from possessing, using, consuming (by any method including eating, inhaling, injecting, or digesting), receiving, purchasing, transmitting, storing, or being under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, or any controlled substances while on school property, at school events, or while under the jurisdiction of Dalton Public Schools. This includes, but is not limited to, alcoholic beverages; illegal drugs or narcotics; hallucinogens; amphetamines; barbiturates; marijuana or marijuana oils; edibles containing THC or similar substances; synthetic cannabinoid drugs; synthetic cathinones (such as "bath salts"); any substance listed under the Georgia Controlled Substances Act; and any substance the student believes or represents to be alcohol or an illegal drug.
Waiver	A waiver is an agreement not to contest whether a student has committed an infraction of the code of conduct and the acceptance of consequences in lieu of a hearing before a disciplinary tribunal.
Weapons-Handgun	Possession of a firearm that has a short stock and is designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand; and any combination of parts from which a firearm described above can be assembled. Note: This definition does not apply to items such as toy guns, cap guns, BB guns and pellet guns [pursuant to Gun-Free Schools Act – P.L. 107-110, section 4141].
Weapons-Rifle/Shotgun	The term "rifle" means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of an explosive to fire only a single projectile through a rifled bore for each single pull of the trigger. The term "shotgun" means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of an explosive to fire through a smooth bore either a number of ball shot or a single projectile for each single pull of the trigger. [pursuant to Gun-Free Schools Act – P.L. 107-110, section 4141]

Students who possess any weapon will be subject to a minimum of one calendar year expulsion in accordance with Dalton Board of Education Policy *JCDAE – Weapons*.

Georgia Code § 20-2-751.5

- (a) Each student code of conduct shall contain provisions that address the following conduct of students during school hours, at school related functions, and on the school bus in a manner that is appropriate to the age of the student:
 - (1) Verbal assault, including threatened violence, of teachers, administrators, and other school personnel;
 - (2) Physical assault or battery of teachers, administrators, and other school personnel;
 - (3) Disrespectful conduct toward teachers, administrators, and other school personnel, including use of vulgar or profane language;
 - (4) Verbal assault of other students, including threatened violence or sexual harassment as defined pursuant to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972;
 - (5) Physical assault or battery of other students, including sexual harassment as defined pursuant to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972;
 - (6) Disrespectful conduct toward other students, including use of vulgar or profane language;
 - (7) Verbal assault of, physical assault or battery of, and disrespectful conduct, including use of vulgar or profane language, toward persons attending school related functions;

- (8) Failure to comply with compulsory attendance as required under Code Section 20-2- 690.1;
- (9) Willful or malicious damage to real or personal property of the school or to personal property of any person legitimately at the school;
- (10) Inciting, advising, or counseling of others to engage in prohibited acts;
- (11) Marking, defacing, or destroying school property;
- (12) Possession of a firearm, as provided for in Code Section 16-11-127.1, and possession of a dangerous weapon or hazardous object;
- (13) Unlawful use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol;
- (14) Willful and persistent violation of the student code of conduct;
- (15) Bullying as defined by Code Section 20-2-751.4;
- (16) Marking, defacing, or destroying the property of another student; and
- (17) Falsifying, misrepresenting, omitting, or erroneously reporting information regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator, or other school employee toward a student.

With regard to paragraphs (9), (11), and (17) of this subsection, each student code of conduct shall also contain provisions that address conduct of students during off-school hours.

- (b) (1) In addition to the requirements contained in subsection (a) of this Code section, each student code of conduct shall include comprehensive and specific provisions prescribing and governing student conduct and safety rules on all public school buses. The specific provisions shall include but not be limited to:
 - (A) Students shall be prohibited from acts of physical violence as defined by Code Section 20-2-751.6, bullying as defined by subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-751.4, physical assault or battery of other persons on the school bus, verbal assault of other persons on the school bus, disrespectful conduct toward the school bus driver or other persons on the school bus, and other unruly behavior;
 - (B) Students shall be prohibited from using any electronic devices during the operation of a school bus, including but not limited to cell phones; pagers; audible radios, tape or compact disc players without headphones; or any other electronic device in a manner that might interfere with the school bus communications equipment or the school bus driver's operation of the school bus; and
 - (C) Students shall be prohibited from using mirrors, lasers, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective devices in a manner that might interfere with the school bus driver's operation of the school bus.
- (2) If a student is found to have engaged in physical acts of violence as defined by Code Section 20-2-751.6, the student shall be subject to the penalties set forth in such Code section. If a student is found to have engaged in bullying as defined by subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-751.4 or in physical assault or battery of another person on the school bus, the local school board policy shall require a meeting of the parent or guardian of the student and appropriate school district officials to form a school bus behavior contract for the student. Such contract shall provide for progressive age-appropriate discipline, penalties, and restrictions for student misconduct on the bus. Contract provisions may include but shall not be not limited to assigned seating, ongoing parental involvement, and suspension from riding the bus. This subsection is not to be construed to limit the instances when a school code of conduct or local

- board of education may require use of a student bus behavior contract.
- (c) Each student code of conduct shall also contain provisions that address any off- campus behavior of a student which could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony and which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process.
 - (d) Local board policies relating to student codes of conduct shall provide that each local school superintendent shall fully support the authority of principals and teachers in the school system to remove a student from the classroom pursuant to Code Section 20-2- 738, including establishing and disseminating procedures. It is the policy of this state that it is preferable to reassign disruptive students to alternative educational settings rather than to suspend or expel such students from school.
 - (e) Any student handbook which is prepared by a local board or school shall include a copy of the student code of conduct for that school or be accompanied by a copy of the student code of conduct for that school as annually distributed pursuant to Code Section 20-2-736. When distributing a student code of conduct, a local school shall include a form for acknowledgment of the student's parent or guardian's receipt of the code, and the local school shall solicit or require that the form be signed and returned to the school.

**Offenses Which Could Result In
Disciplinary Consequences**

Code	Sub-Code	Offense
Alcohol & Drugs		
01	01A	Use or Possession
	01B	Possession or Distribution of Drug Paraphernalia
	01C	False Identification and/or Presentation of a Substance as Drugs or Alcohol
	01D	Sales and Distribution
	01E	Unauthorized Possession, Distribution, or Sale of Over the Counter/Non-Prescription Medications
	01F	Unauthorized Possession and/or Distribution of Prescription Medication
Arson		
02	02A	Arson
	02B	Possession, Use, or Distribution of Fireworks or Any Type of Explosive or Combustible Devices
Battery		
03	03A	Student (or other non-employee) Sustains Serious Injury
	03B	Student (or other non-employee) Sustains Non-Serious Injury
Breaking and Entering		
04	04A	Breaking/Entering Private Property
Technology Offenses		
05	05A	Computer Misuse/Disruption
	05B	Unauthorized Use or Access of Software
	05C	Misuse of Technology to Harm or Damage Property
	05D	Accessing and/or Sharing of Inappropriate Material Using Technology
	05E	Attempting to Phish, Tamper With, or Hack the District Network
	05F	Create and/or Distribute Sexually Explicit or Pornographic Material Using Technology
Disorderly Conduct		
06	06A	Disorderly Conduct
Drugs, Except Alcohol and Tobacco		
07	07A	Possession or Distribution of Drug Paraphernalia

	07B	False Identification and/or Presentation of a Substance as Drugs or Alcohol
	07C	Sales and Distribution
	07D	Unauthorized Possession, Distribution, or Sale of Over-the-Counter/Non-Prescription Medications
	07E	Unauthorized Possession and/or Distribution of Prescription Medication
Fighting and Physical Offenses		
08	08A	Fighting
	08B	Student (or other non-employee) Sustains Serious Injury
	08C	Student (or other non-employee) Sustains Non-Serious Injury
	08D	Group Fight (More than three individuals)
	08E	Consensual Hazing
	08F	Non-Consensual Hazing
	08G	Horseplay, Rough, or Boisterous Activities
Homicide		
09	09	Homicide
Kidnapping		
10	10	Kidnapping
Larceny/Theft		
11	11A	The unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity that does not belong to the student with a value between \$25 and \$100
		The unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity that does not belong to the student with a value between \$100 and \$250
		The unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity that does not belong to the student with a value exceeding \$250.
	11B	Handling of Stolen Property
Motor Vehicles		
12	12A	Motor Vehicle Theft
	12B	Unauthorized or Unsafe Operation of a Motor Vehicle on Campus
	12C	Causing Intentional Damage to Other Vehicles While Operating a Vehicle on Campus
	12D	Causing Unintentional Damage to Other Vehicles While Operating a Vehicle on Campus

	12E	Leaving the Scene of an Accident on Campus
Robbery		
13		Robbery
Sexual Harassment		
15		Sexual Harassment
Sexual Offenses		
16	16A	Consensual Sexual Activity
	16B	"Mooning," "Pantsing," Indecent Exposure or Similar Behavior
	16C	Sexual Battery
	16E	Sexual Molestation
Threat/Intimidation		
17	17A	Threat Level I
	17B	Threat Level II
	17C	Threat Level III
	17D	Bomb/Explosive Threat
Tobacco		
18	18A	Possession and/or use of tobacco products on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, and on transportation to and from school
	18B	Distribution and/or sale of tobacco products on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, and on transportation to and from school
Trespassing		
19	19A	School Trespassing
	19B	Breaking/Entering Private Property
	19C	Unauthorized Area
	19D	Allowing and/or Facilitating Entry of Unauthorized Person to Any School District Facility, Transportation, or Event
Vandalism		
20	20A	Attempt to Damage and/or Alteration of School Property
	20B	Causing Damage and/or Alteration of School Property
Weapons-Knife		
22	22	Possession of Knives and Dangerous Items

Weapons-Other		
23	23	Possession of Any Type, or Look-Alike, of any Firearm/Dangerous Weapon
Other Incidents		
24		Other Incident for a State-Reported Discipline Action
Weapons-Handgun		
25		Weapons-Handgun
Weapons-Rifle/Shotgun		
26		Weapons-Rifle/Shotgun
Serious Bodily Injury		
27		Serious Bodily Injury
Other Firearms		
28	28A	Other Firearms
	28B	Possession, Use, or Distribution of Fireworks or Any Type of Explosive or Combustible Devices
Bullying		
29		Bullying/Cyberbullying
Other-Attendance Related		
30	30A	Excessive Tardiness/Class Cuts
	30B	Leaving Campus Without Permission
	30C	Failure to Attend Assigned Disciplinary Setting
Other-Dress Code Violation		
31		Dress Code Violation
Academic Dishonesty		
32		Academic Dishonesty
Student Incivility		
33		Student Incivility-Insubordination
Other-Possession of Unapproved Items		
34		Possession of Unapproved Items
Gang-Related		
35	35A	Gang Activity
	35B	Intentionally Display Gang Tattoos, Paraphernalia, Graffiti, etc.

	35C	Gang Recruitment/ Solicitation
Repeated Offenses		
36		Repeated Offenses
Tobacco, Electronic Smoking Device, and Vaper Products		
42		Tobacco and Vape Products
Violence Against a Teacher (Employee)		
44	44A	Employee Sustains Serious Injury
	44B	Employee Sustains Non-Serious Injury
	43B	Assault and/or Threaten an Employee
Off Campus Misconduct		
45		Off-Campus Misconduct
Encouraging Violations of the Student Code of Conduct		
46		Inciting or Encouraging Violation of the Code of Conduct
Making False Reports		
47		Making a False Report or Statement to School or Legal Authority Features

Note:

A student who is provided with the privilege of representing Dalton Public Schools as a participant in extra-curricular activities must accept the added responsibility of maintaining a high standard of conduct at all times. Since such a student serves as a representative of the school system, he or she must strive to uphold the *Dalton Public Schools Code of Conduct and Discipline Procedures* as well as the guidelines set forth in the *Dalton Public Schools' Interscholastic/Extracurricular Activities Student Behavior and Conduct Expectations*.

Note:

It is a criminal offense for any person to carry or to possess or to have under control any weapon within a school safety zone or a school building, school function or on school property or on a bus or other transportation furnished by the school. O.C.G.A. §16-11-127.1. A fine of not more than \$10,000; imprisonment for not less than two or more than ten years, or both.

At Dalton Public Schools, we believe that student success depends on strong partnerships between families and schools. The Code of Conduct is built on the shared responsibility of parents, guardians, teachers, and school administrators to support positive student behavior and academic achievement.

We encourage open and ongoing communication. School administrators understand the value of two-way conversations and are committed to keeping families informed. Parents and guardians are always welcome to share concerns or ask questions. If you need clarification about anything in the Code of Conduct, please do not hesitate to contact your child's principal directly.

Family Involvement in Behavior Support

The Code of Conduct outlines behaviors that may lead a staff member to request a parent or guardian conference. We urge all parents to be actively involved in supporting their child's behavior and to visit their child's school regularly. Your involvement makes a meaningful difference in reinforcing positive choices and helping students thrive.

Georgia Law and Chronic Disciplinary Concerns

Under Georgia law, when a teacher or principal identifies a student as a *chronic disciplinary problem*, the school is required to notify the parent or guardian by both phone and mail. The school will:

- Invite the parent or guardian to observe their child in class.
- Request a conference to create a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan.

Additionally, before a student identified as a chronic disciplinary problem can return to school following a suspension or expulsion, the law requires that:

- The school must again contact the parent or guardian by phone and mail.
- A conference must be scheduled to develop or update the correction plan.

Student Bus Rules and Expectations

- **Follow Driver Instructions**
Always follow the directions given by the bus driver.
- **Arrive on Time**
Be at your designated bus stop at least **5 minutes** before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- **Crossing the Road Safely**
When crossing in front of the bus, wait until the bus comes to a complete stop, make eye contact with the driver, receive the driver's hand signal, and then look both ways (left-right-left) to check for traffic before crossing.
- **Seat Assignments and Requests**
The bus driver or monitor may issue reasonable instructions, including assigning seats to individuals or the entire bus.
- **Remain Properly Seated**
Stay seated with your **back against the seat back** and **bottom on the seat**, keeping your hands and feet to yourself.
- **Prohibited Items and Activities**
Do not eat, drink, chew gum, or bring tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or any controlled substances onto the bus.
- **Restricted Objects**
Do not bring animals, glass containers, nuisance items, hazardous materials, or weapons on the bus. Personal items must be small enough to fit on your lap.
- **Respectful Behavior**
Use quiet voices, avoid profanity or inappropriate gestures, and always respect the rights and safety of others.
- **Stay Inside the Bus**
Keep your head, arms, and objects **inside** the bus at all times.
- **Silence at Railroad Crossings**
Remain completely silent when the bus is stopped at railroad tracks.
- **Wait to Stand**
Stay seated until the bus comes to a complete stop and the door opens, which signals it is safe to stand and exit.
- **Bus Stop or Route Changes**
A written note **signed by a parent or guardian and a school official** is required for permission to ride a different bus or get on/off at a different stop.
- **Keep the Bus Clean**
Help maintain a clean and safe bus environment by keeping your area tidy and disposing of trash appropriately.

All transportation-related concerns should be directed through **school administration**. Please do not approach or delay the bus during its scheduled route. If a conference is necessary, it can be arranged through the school office. Bus drivers are responsible for maintaining route schedules and ensuring student safety.

Student Internet Use

All students are provided with access to the internet as part of their educational experience. The district's Internet Acceptable Use Policy and Internet Safety Guidelines are available online for review. Parents may request a printed copy of these guidelines by contacting their child's school.

While the district takes all reasonable precautions to protect students from inappropriate content and communications, it cannot guarantee complete protection from access to such materials. However, the

district is committed to ensuring a safe online environment and will implement every practical measure to prevent exposure to illegal or unsuitable content.

Students receive instruction on responsible internet use and online safety, and their internet activity is monitored to the greatest extent possible.

Title IX

Dalton Public Schools is committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment where all students can thrive. In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the district prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment, sexual violence, gender-based harassment, and retaliation, in any of its educational programs or activities.

Title IX protects students, employees, and visitors from such discrimination, ensuring equal access and participation in all school-related opportunities and services, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Any person who believes they have experienced or witnessed conduct that may violate Title IX is encouraged to report it to the school administration or the district's Title IX Coordinator. Reports can be made in person, by mail, email, or phone. Retaliation against anyone who reports or participates in an investigation is strictly prohibited.

Title IX Coordinator for Students

Dr. Robert Shaw
Associate Superintendent of Student Support Services
300 W. Waugh Street
Dalton, GA 30720

Title IX Coordinator for DPS Staff

Ms. Mendy Woods
Chief of Human Resources
300 W. Waugh Street
Dalton, GA 30720