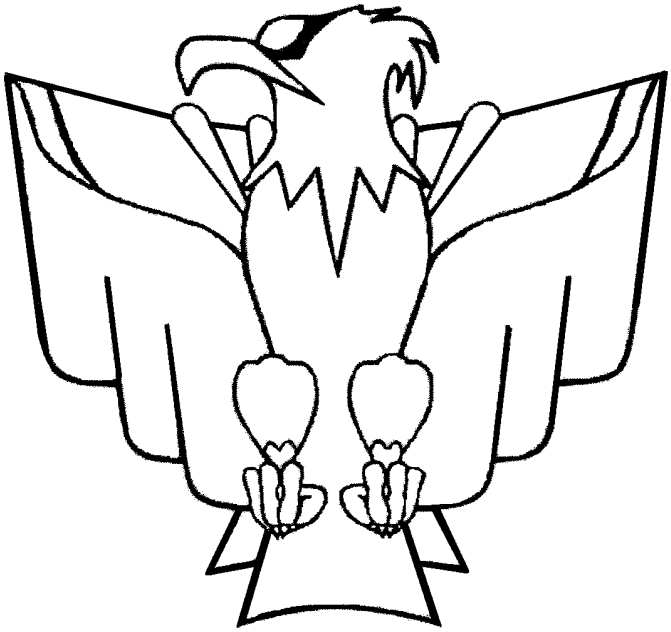
Cross County School District



STUDENT HANDBOOK

2026-2027

Superintendent: Dr. Nathan Morris
District Executive Master Teacher: Mrs. Mindy Searcy
Elementary Principal: Mrs. Jessica Stacy
High School Principal: Mr. Cody Goulart

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

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WELCOME LETTER
2026-2027

Dear Parents, Guardians, Students, and Community Members,

Cross County School District strives to be transparent with all rules and procedures so that everyone knows and understands the expectations. The Student Handbook will answer many questions you may have concerning our schools.

We want to work with you and give you the best school service that we can. We are very much concerned about the total development of each and every student. We need your cooperation and involvement in meeting our goals. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,



Nathan Morris, Superintendent

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Cross County School District is to educate the whole child by preparing them to be life-long learners and responsible citizens in a global society. In order to succeed in a rapidly changing world, all students will be able to:

- Think analytically;
- Solve problems creatively;
- Utilize technology appropriately;
- Collaborate effectively;
- Communicate articulately.

ALMA MATER

O hail to thee, Cross County High. You'll always be so dear.
We sing our loyalty to you, to live through all the years.
Our blue and silver shine throughout and banners still remain.
Cross County High School, hail to thee, forever shall you reign.

COLORS AND EMBLEM

The colors of Cross County High are royal blue and silver. The emblem is the thunderbird.

A thunderbird is a huge bird that produces thunder by the beat of its wings and flashes lightning from its mouth and eyes. Derived from the symbolism of a western tribe, the thunderbird represents courage, bravery, and honor. The fabulous bird is a supernatural figure and concept, an adversary of the occult forces of evil and a dispenser of blessings. Using his wings as a bow, he shoots arrows whose heads are the thunderstones prized by medicine men for their magical powers.

The thunderbird's shadow is a storm cloud. The heavy rainfall, which usually accompanies thunder and lightning, comes from a lake of freshwater that the bird carries on its back. Some tribes believed that a thunderstorm resulted from a battle between the thunderbird and a giant rattlesnake; we associate this battle between our Thunderbirds and our rivals.

The thunderbird usually has its dwelling on some high mountain or rocky elevation. Within the territory of the tribes who believe the myth, several places were known as Thunder's Nest. Our school's campus is such a place.

RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

The schools of the District shall be open and free through the completion of the secondary program to all persons between the ages of five (5) and twenty one (21) years whose parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis reside within the District[1] and to all persons between those ages who have been legally transferred to the District for educational purposes.

Any person eighteen (18) years of age or older may establish a residence separate and apart from his or her parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or a person standing in loco parentis for school attendance purposes.

In order for a person under the age of eighteen (18) years to establish a residence for the purpose of attending the District's schools separate and apart from his or her parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or a person standing in loco parentis, the student is required to reside in the District for a primary purpose other than that of school attendance. However, a student previously enrolled in the district who is placed under the legal guardianship of a noncustodial parent living outside the district by a custodial parent on active military duty may continue to attend district schools.[2] A foster child who was previously enrolled in a District school and who has had a change in placement to a residence outside the District, may continue to remain enrolled in his/her current school unless the presiding court rules otherwise.

Under instances prescribed in A.C.A. § 6-18-203, a child or ward of an employee of the district or of the education co-op to which the district belongs may enroll in the district even though the employee and his/her child or ward reside outside the district.

Children whose parent or legal guardian relocates within the state due to a mobilization, deployment, or available military housing while on active duty in or serving in the reserve component of a branch of the United States Armed Forces or National Guard may continue attending school in the school district the children were attending prior to the relocation or attend school in the school district where the children have relocated. A child may complete all remaining school years at the enrolled school district regardless of mobilization, deployment, or military status of the parent or guardian.

Student Handbook

It shall be the policy of the Cross County school district that the most recently adopted version of the Student Handbook be incorporated by reference into the policies of this district. In the event that there is a conflict between the student handbook and a general board policy or policies, the more recently adopted language will be considered binding and controlling on the matter provided the parent(s) of the student, or the student if eighteen (18) years of age or older have acknowledged receipt of the controlling language.

Principals shall review all changes to student policies and ensure that such changes are provided to students and parents, either in the Handbook or, if changes are made after the handbook is printed, as an addendum to the handbook.
Principals and counselors shall also review Policies 4.45—SMART CORE CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS and the current DESE Standards for Accreditation Rules to ensure that there is no conflict. If a conflict exists, the Principal and/or Counselor shall notify the Superintendent and Curriculum Coordinator immediately, so that corrections may be made and notice of the requirements given to students and parents.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

To enroll in a school in the District, the child must be a resident of the District as defined in District policy meet the criteria outlined in policy 4.40—HOMELESS STUDENTS or in policy 4.52—STUDENTS WHO ARE FOSTER CHILDREN, be accepted as a transfer student under the provisions of policy 4.4, or participate under a school choice option and submit the required paperwork as required by the choice option under Policy 4.5.

Students may enter kindergarten if they attain the age of five (5) on or before August 1 of the year in which they are seeking initial enrollment. Any student who has been enrolled in a state-accredited or state-approved kindergarten program in another state for at least sixty (60) days, will become five (5) years old during the year in which he/she is enrolled in kindergarten, and meets the basic residency requirement for school attendance may be enrolled in kindergarten upon written request to the District. Any student who was enrolled in a state-accredited or state-approved kindergarten program in another state or in a kindergarten program equivalent in another country, becomes a resident of this state as a direct result of active military orders or a court-ordered change of custody, will become five (5) years of age during the year in which he or she is enrolled in kindergarten, and meets the basic residency requirement for school attendance may be enrolled in kindergarten upon a written request to the District.

Any child who will be six (6) years of age on or before October 1 of the school year of enrollment and who has not completed a state-accredited kindergarten program shall be evaluated by the district and may be placed in the first grade if the results of the evaluation justify placement in the first grade and the child's parent or legal guardian agrees with placement in the first grade; otherwise the child shall be placed in kindergarten.

Any child may enter first grade in a District school if the child attains the age of six (6) years during the school year in which the child is seeking enrollment and the child has successfully completed a kindergarten program in a public school in Arkansas.

Any child who has been enrolled in the first grade in a state-accredited or state-approved elementary school in another state for a period of at least sixty (60) days, who will become age six (6) years during the school year in which he/she is enrolled in grade one (1), and who meets the basic residency requirements for school attendance may be enrolled in the first grade.

Students who move into the District from an accredited school shall be assigned to the same grade as they were attending in their previous school (mid-year transfers) or as they would have been assigned in their previous school. Private school students shall be evaluated by the District to determine their appropriate grade placement. Home school students enrolling or re-enrolling as a public school student shall be placed in accordance with policy 4.6—HOME SCHOOLING.

The district shall make no attempt to ascertain the immigration status, legal or illegal, of any student or his/her parent or legal guardian presenting for enrollment.[1]

Prior to the child's admission to a District school:[2]

1. The parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis shall furnish the child's social security number, or if they request, the district will assign the child a nine (9) digit number designated by the Division of Elementary and Secondary education.
2. The parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis shall provide the district with one (1) of the following documents indicating the child's age:
    a. A birth certificate;
    b. A statement by the local registrar or a county recorder certifying the child's date of birth;
    c. An attested baptismal certificate;
    d. A passport;
    a. An affidavit of the date and place of birth by the child's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis;
    b. United States military identification; or
    c. Previous school records.
3. The parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis shall indicate on school registration forms whether the child has been expelled from school in any other school district or is a party to an expulsion proceeding. Any person who has been expelled from any other school district shall receive a hearing before the Board at the time the student is seeking enrollment in the District. The Board reserves the right to not allow the enrollment of such students until the time of the person's expulsion has expired following the hearing before the Board.[3]
4. In accordance with Policy 4.57—IMMUNIZATIONS, the child shall be age appropriately immunized or have an exemption issued by the Arkansas Department of Health.

Uniformed Services Member's Children

For the purposes of this policy:
"Activated reserve components" means members of the reserve component of the uniformed services who have received a notice of intent to deploy or mobilize under Title 10 of the United States Code, Title 32 of the United States Code, or state mobilization to active duty.

“Active duty”[4] means full-time duty status in the active, uniformed services of the United States, including without limitation members of The National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders under 10 U.S.C. §§ 1209, 1210, and 1211.

“Deployment” means a period of time extending from six (6) months before a member of the uniformed services' departure from their home station on military orders through six (6) months after return to uniformed service member’s home station.

"Dual status military technician" means a federal civilian employee who is:

a. Employed under 5 U.S.C. § 3101 or 32 U.S.C. § 709(b);
b. Required as a condition of his or her employment to maintain membership in the Selected Reserve; and
c. Assigned to a civilian position as a technician in the organizing, administering, instructing, or training of the Selected Reserve or in the maintenance and repair of supplies or equipment issued to the Selected Reserve of the United States Armed Forces.

“Eligible child” means the children of:

- Active duty members of the uniformed services;
- Members of the active and activated reserve components of the uniformed services;
- Veterans of the uniformed services who are injured in the line of duty and medically separated or retired.
- Members of the uniformed services who die on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active duty for a period of one (1) year after death;
- Dual status military technicians; and
- Traditional members of the National Guard and reserve components of the armed forces who are relocating to the state for employment or to serve as a member of an Arkansas-based reserve component unit.

"Traditional member of the National Guard or federal reserves" means an active member of the Selected Reserve subject to mobilization and deployment for which the member attends monthly and annual training periods.

“Transition” means the:

o Formal and physical process of transitioning from public school to public school; or
o Period of time in which a student moves from a sending district to a receiving district.

“Uniformed services”[4] means the United States Army, United States Navy, United States Air Force, United States Marine Corps, United States Space Force, United States Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps, the United States Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Services, and the state and federal reserve components of each of these bodies.

"Veteran" means an individual who served in the uniformed services and who was discharged or released from the uniformed services under conditions other than dishonorable.

The superintendent shall designate an individual as the District's military education coordinator, who shall serve as the primary point of contact for an eligible child and for the eligible child's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the eligible child, or person standing in loco parentis. The individual the superintendent designates as the District's military education coordinator shall have specialized knowledge regarding the educational needs of children of military families and the obstacles that children of military families face in obtaining an education.[5]

An eligible child as defined in this policy shall:

1. Be allowed to continue his/her enrollment at the grade level commensurate with his/her grade level he/she was in at the time of transition from his/her previous school, regardless of age;
2. Be eligible for enrollment in the next highest grade level, regardless of age if the student has satisfactorily completed the prerequisite grade level in his/her previous school;
3. Enter the District's school on the validated level from his/her previous accredited school when transferring into the District after the start of the school year;
4. Be enrolled in courses and programs the same as or similar to the ones the student was enrolled in his/her previous school to the extent that space is available. This does not prohibit the District from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued enrollment of the student in the courses/and/or programs;
5. Be provided services comparable to those the student with disabilities received in his/her previous school based on his/her previous Individualized Education Program (IEP). This does not preclude the District school from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student;
6. Make reasonable accommodations and modifications to address the needs of an incoming student with disabilities, subject to an existing 504 or Title II Plan, necessary to provide the student with equal access to education. This does not preclude the District school from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student;
7. Be enrolled by an individual who has been given the special power of attorney for the student's guardianship. The individual shall have the power to take all other actions requiring parental participation and/or consent;
8. Be eligible to continue attending District schools if he/she has been placed under the legal guardianship of a noncustodial parent living outside the district by a custodial parent on active military duty.

Following the receipt of advanced notice and an enrollment application of an eligible student from a military family, the District shall:

- Provisionally enroll, provide placement for, and enter academic course requests on behalf of the incoming student based on the student's education record provided by the student's family or the sending district;
- Provide the uniformed services family with information regarding:[6]

a. Career-ready pathways and other academic or education programs offered;
b. Required academic courses for each curriculum and elective course options;
c. School and community-sponsored extracurricular activities, including without limitation individual and team sports, clubs, junior reserve officer training corps opportunities, and Purple Star School program ambassadors; and
d. Contact information for the designated military family education coordinator and the Purple Star School program military family education facilitator, if applicable; and
e. Other relevant information regarding the District.

In the event that official copies of an eligible child's education records are not available at the time the eligible child is transferring, then the District shall:

- Pre-register and place an eligible child based on the eligible child's unofficial education records pending receipt of the eligible child's official records; and
- Request the eligible child's official education records from the sending district.

The District shall not deny the enrollment of a Uniformed Service Member dependent unless the District has reached the maximum student-to-teacher ratio allowed under federal law; state law; the Standards for Accreditation for Public Schools and School Districts; state rules; or other applicable federal regulations, and the District timely notifies the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis of the lack of capacity.
The District shall notify a prospective student's family in writing regarding whether the student's enrollment has been accepted or rejected within fifteen (15) calendar days of receiving the student's enrollment application and supporting documentation.

To facilitate a smooth transition between the student's previous coursework and the curriculum best suited to ensure educational success in the student's new school, the District may enroll an inbound transitioning eligible student in digital coursework, if available, at the request of the military family.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

If any student's Individual Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan conflicts with this policy, the requirements of the student's IEP or 504 Plan take precedence.

Education is more than the grades students receive in their courses. Important as that is, students' regular attendance at school is essential to their social and cultural development and helps prepare them to accept responsibilities they will face as an adult. Interactions with other students and participation in the instruction within the classroom enrich the learning environment and promote a continuity of instruction, which results in higher student achievement.

It is the Arkansas General Assembly's intention that students having excessive absences be given assistance in obtaining credit for their courses. Excessive absences may, however, be the basis for the denial of course credit, promotion, or graduation.

Students attending Cross County Schools will be allowed to miss up to nine (9) days per semester as indicated in the following excused and unexcused absence descriptions. At the discretion of the principal after consultation with persons having knowledge of the circumstances of the absences, the student may be denied credit, promotion, or graduation. Excessive absences shall not be a reason for expulsion or dismissal of a student.

Excused Absences

Excused absences are those where the student was on official school business or when the absence was due to one of the following reasons.

1. The student's illness or when attendance could jeopardize the health of other students with professional documentation, such as, doctor, counselor, etc. .

2. Death or serious illness in their immediate family.

3. Observance of recognized holidays observed by the student's faith.

4. Attendance at an appointment with a government agency.

5. Attendance at a medical appointment.

6. Exceptional circumstances with prior approval of the principal.

7. Participation in an FFA, FHA, or 4-H sanctioned activity.

8. Participation in the election poll workers program for high school students.

9. Absences granted to allow a student to visit his/her parent or legal guardian who is a member of the military and been called to active duty, is on leave from active duty, or has returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting. The number of additional excused absences shall be at the discretion of the superintendent or designee.

10. Absences granted, at the Superintendent's discretion, to seventeen (17) year-old students who join the Arkansas National Guard while in eleventh grade to complete basic combat training between grades eleven (11) and (12).

11. Students who serve as pages for a member of the General Assembly shall be considered on instructional assignment and shall not be considered absent from school for the day the student is serving as a page.

12. Absences due to conditions related to pregnancy or parenting and at least ten (10) days of absences for both parenting mother and parenting father after the birth of a child.

13. Absences for a student who is the child of a fallen service member or fallen first responder:

- Due to a mental health concern; or
- To attend an event from a sponsoring organization that provides support to families of fallen service members or first responders or provides support for traumatic loss, grief, or resiliency.

14. Upon the written consent of a student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis to the student, the District shall grant an excused absence for the following purposes:

- Social or public policy advocacy; or
- Attempts to influence legislation or other governmental policy-making at the local, state, or federal level.

A student shall not be eligible to receive an excused absence for #13 above if:

- The student is not in good academic standing;
- The student does not have a prior record of good attendance; or
- The absence occurs during a date on which standardized testing is administered.

Unexcused Absences

Absences not defined above shall be considered as unexcused absences. Students with nine (9) unexcused absences in a course in a semester may not receive credit for that course. At the discretion of the principal after consultation with persons having knowledge of the circumstances of the unexcused absences, the student may be denied promotion or graduation. Excessive absences shall not be a reason for expulsion or dismissal of a student.

When a student has five (5) unexcused absences, his/her parents, legal guardians, persons with lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis shall be notified. Notification shall be by telephone by the end of the school day in which such absence occurred or by regular mail with a return address sent no later than the following school day.

Whenever a student exceeds nine (9) unexcused absences in a semester, the District shall notify the prosecuting authority and the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis shall be subject to a civil penalty as prescribed by law.

It is the Arkansas General Assembly's intention that students having excessive absences be given assistance in obtaining credit for their courses. Therefore, at any time prior to when a student exceeds the number of unexcused absences permitted by this policy, the student, or his/her parent, legal guardian, person with lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis may petition the school or district's administration for special arrangements to address the student's unexcused absences. If formal arrangements are granted, they shall be formalized into a written agreement which will include the conditions of the agreement and the consequences for failing to fulfill the agreement's requirements.

The agreement shall be signed by the student, the student's parent;; legal guardian;; person having lawful control of the student; or person standing in loco parentis, and the school or district administrator or designee.

Students who attend in-school suspension shall not be counted absent for those days.

The District shall notify the Department of Finance and Administration whenever a student fourteen (14) years of age or older is no longer in school. The Department of Finance and Administration is required to suspend the former student's operator's license unless he/she meets certain requirements specified in the statute.

If a student has missed the allowable number of unexcused days per the attendance policy, the student will not be allowed to leave school early to attend an extra-curricular activity, i.e. a basketball game that leaves school at 2:00 p.m. or attend a field trip. The student may attend after the school day has ended.

STUDENTS TRANSFERRING TO CROSS COUNTY

Any student transferring to Cross County Elementary Technology Academy or Cross County High School, A New Tech School shall be placed into the same grade the student would have been in had the student remained at the former school. Students who are FOSTER CHILDREN, will be accepted as a transfer student under the provisions of policy 4.4 or participate under a school choice option and submit the required paperwork as required by the choice option.

Grade placement for any student transferring to Cross County School District from a school that is not accredited by the State Department of Education shall be determined by an academic skills evaluation and consideration of the student's age. Tests will be given to determine grade placement. The student's reading level will be the primary determining factor in placing the student.

All students coming from a non-public school will be tested for grade level placement. The committee will consist of a Principal, a counselor, instructional facilitator and a classroom teacher at the age appropriate grade placement level. At the discretion of the committee, one or more classroom teachers at other grade levels or other administrators may be asked to serve on the committee. The counselor will serve as committee chair.

According to ACT 863, home school students enrolling in Cross County School District must meet the following requirements:

- A transcript listing all courses and grades from the home school;
- A portfolio of indicators of indicators of the home-schooled student's academic progress, including curricula, tests taken, lessons completed, and other indicators of the student's academic progress.

A school shall place a home-schooled student who enrolls or re-enrolls in the public school at a grade level and academic course level equivalent to or higher than the student's grade level and academic course level as indicated by the home-schooled students:

- A transcript and semester grades from the home school;
- Score of at least the 30th percentile on a national norm-referenced assessment taken in the past year; and
- Portfolio of indicators of the student's academic progress.

If the home-schooled student does not meet the requirements of this law, the public school shall have sole authority to determine the student's grade place and course credits based on the same methods used when a student who attended another public/private school enrolls and re-enrolls.

The Cross County District shall review and accept or reject requests for transfers, both into and out of the district, on a case-by-case basis at the July and December regularly scheduled board meetings.

TRANSFER CREDITS

Public or Private High Schools or Home School Transfers

a. The school must provide an official transcript.
b. The public or private high school or home school program must be accredited by a regional accrediting agency, such as North Central.
c. A public school, private school, or college or university that verifies the identity of the student by picture identification must administer tests.

If a, b, and c are fulfilled, course credit will be accepted. If the student has taken a class but a, b, and c are not fulfilled, then the student may choose to take a Cross County High School final exam in that course to determine that they have met the standards of the Cross County High School course. The student must take the test the semester that he/she enters Cross County High School. The grade will be the grade that the student earns on the Cross County High School final exam. If the course is not offered by Cross County High School, then no credit will be given.

Students must complete the final year of high school at Cross County High School.

Cross County High School accepts credit (or no credit) that the previous school transcripts if items a, b, and c are met.

Correspondence Course(s)

- Must receive prior approval from the counselor or principal.
- Cannot be taken in order to graduate early.
- Can only take a maximum of 4 (2 credits).
- Must be from an accredited institution.
- Can only be used to make up a failed course or a course that cannot be scheduled due to a conflict with a required course at Cross County High School.

- Exams must be taken with supervision from Cross County High School personnel or an official from an accredited institution.

**Online courses are treated as correspondence or concurrent credit (see policies regarding correspondence or concurrent credit).

Summer Course(s)

- Must receive prior approval from the counselor or principal.
- Cannot be taken in order to graduate early.
- Must be taken at an accredited institution.

Credit Recovery Course(s)

- Can only be used to make up a failed course or a course that cannot be scheduled due to a conflict with a required course at Cross County High School. In the event the course is used to make up a failed course, a maximum grade of a D may be granted.
- May be taken during the school year and/or during summer school.

**Any academic credit earned that is not one of the above will be evaluated by Cross County High School before credits are awarded.

ARKANSAS COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAWS

A.C.A. 6-18-21 states that all students who are ages of five (5) through seventeen (17) on or before August 1, are required to be in school that year with the exception of five year old children for whom kindergarten has been waived by the guardian, or person having custody or charge; students who have received a high school diploma or its equivalent or students who are enrolled in a post-secondary vocational technical institution, a community college, or a two year or four-year institution of higher education.

Any parent, guardian, or other person residing within the state and having custody or charge of any child or children may elect for the child or children not to attend kindergarten if the child or children will not be age six (6) on August 1, of that particular school year. If such an election is made, the parent, guardian, or other person having custody or charge of the child must file a signed kindergarten waiver form with the local district administrative office. Such a form shall be prescribed by regulation of the State Department of Education. On filing the kindergarten waiver form, the child or children shall not be required to attend kindergarten in that school year.

Any parent of a child age five (5) on or before August 1, of any school year shall have the option to enroll such child in kindergarten in that year, any six year old who has not completed a kindergarten program prior to initial enrollment in a public school may be enrolled in the first grade, if the evaluation results indicate that the child is ready for enrollment at the first grade level. If the evaluation results indicate that the child is not ready for enrollment at the first grade level, the child shall be enrolled in the school's kindergarten program.

Any child who has been enrolled in the first grade in a state accredited or state-approved elementary school in another state for a period of at least sixty (60) days, who will become age six (6) years during the school year in which he/she is enrolled in grade one (1) and who meets the basic residency requirements for school attendance may be enrolled in the first grade.

A.C.A. 6-18-207 of The School Laws of Arkansas states: "No child shall be admitted to any public school in the state during any school year unless such a child shall attain the age of six (6) years on or before August 1 of such school year." Amended by A.C.A. 6-18-207 to allow a child who has completed an accredited kindergarten to enroll in the first grade regardless of age. The School Laws of Arkansas states: "Students enrolled in kindergarten must have attained the age of five (5) years on or before August 1 in the year in which they are enrolled." It permits public school kindergartens to admit children of residents although the child is not yet five years old, provided the child has attended an accredited kindergarten in another state for at least sixty (60) days.

It is the responsibility of the parent to see that the child is in attendance at school. The parent is to notify the school principal's office when the student is absent. A written excuse must be sent upon return to school. A. C. A. 6-18-222 creates community truancy boards, which must be notified of excessive student absences. The school district has set the number of absences to eight (8) days per semester. Any extreme circumstances should be taken to principal and will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Every parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the child, or person standing in loco parentis of any child age five (5) through seventeen (17) years on or before August 1 of that year who resides, as defined by policy (4.1—RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS), within the District shall enroll and send the child to a District school with the following exceptions::

1. The child is enrolled in private or parochial school.
2. The child is being home-schooled and the conditions of policy (4.6—HOME SCHOOLING) have been met.
3. The child will not be age six (6) on or before August 1 of that particular school year and the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the child, or person standing in loco parentis of the child elects not to have him/her attend kindergarten. A kindergarten waiver form prescribed by regulation of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education must be signed and on file with the District administrative office.
4. The child has received a high school diploma or its equivalent as determined by the State Board of Education.
5. The child is age sixteen (16) or above and is enrolled in a post-secondary vocational-technical institution, a community college, or a two-year or four-year institution of higher education.
6. The child is age sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) and has met the requirements to enroll in an adult education program as defined by A.C.A. § 6-18-201 (b).

STUDY HALLS

Students may be assigned to no more than one (1) class period each day for a study hall that the student shall be required to attend and participate in for the full period. Such study halls are to be used for the purposes of self-study or for organized tutoring which is to take place in the school building.

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLASSES

Students may be assigned to no more than one (1) class period each day for organized and scheduled student extracurricular classes that the student shall be required to attend and participate in for the full class period. Extracurricular classes related to a seasonal activity shall meet for an entire semester whether or not the season ends prior to the end of the semester. Students must attend and participate in the class for the entire semester in order to receive credit for the course. For the purpose of this policy, extracurricular classes are defined as school sponsored activities which are not an Arkansas Department of Education approved course counting toward graduation requirements or classes that have not been approved by the Arkansas Department of Education for academic credit. Such classes may include special interest, fine arts, technical, scholastic, intramural, and interscholastic opportunities.

COURSE ENROLLMENT OUTSIDE OF DISTRICT

Enrollment and attendance in vocational-educational training courses, college courses, school work programs, and other department-sanctioned educational programs may be used to satisfy the student attendance requirement even if the programs are not located at the public schools. Attendance in such alternative programs must be pre-approved by the school's administration. The district shall strive to assign students who have been dropped from a course of study or removed from a school work program job during the semester into another placement or course of study. In the instances where a subsequent placement is unable to be made, the district may grant a waiver for the student for the duration of the semester in which the placement is unable to be made.

In rare instances, students may be granted waivers from the mandatory attendance requirement if they would experience proven financial hardships if required to attend a full day of school. For the purpose of this policy, proven financial hardships is defined as harm or suffering caused by a student's inability to obtain or provide basic life necessities of food, clothing, and shelter for the student or the student's family. The superintendent shall have the authority to grant such a waiver, on a case-by-case basis, only when convinced the student meets the definition of proven financial hardships.

In any instance where a provision of a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) conflicts with a portion(s) of this policy, the IEP shall prevail.

TARDIES

Promptness is an important character trait that the District faculty and staff are encouraged to model and help develop in our schools' students. At the same time, promptness is the responsibility of each student. Students who are late to class show a disregard for both the teacher and their classmates which compromises potential student achievement. Tardiness is a major disruption to the teaching environment, and a responsible student will make every effort to be in class on time. If a teacher, counselor, or a member of the office staff has detained the student for a legitimate reason approved in writing, he/she is not tardy.

Elementary students are expected to be on time each day. The school day begins at 7:50 a.m., and school will be dismissed at 3:15 p.m. Doors are opened at 7:30 a.m. Students are considered tardy when arriving after 7:50 but before 8:20 a.m. Students will be counted a ½ day absent after 8:20. Parents/guardians must check their child in at the front office if the child is arriving after the car rider line closes at 7:50. Students checked-out before 2:45 p.m. will be counted ½ day absent. Students checked out between 2:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. will be given a p.m. tardy. Excused tardies must be documented by a parent note, doctor, or dentist note. Students will be counted ½ day absent for each third tardy/early departure. If the tardy/early departure is unexcused it will be counted toward the students unexcused days, which may result in the county juvenile officer being contacted. This could result in the parents and student being summoned to court.

High School students who miss more than 10 minutes of a 45-50 minute class or 20 minutes of any class 60 minutes or longer shall be counted absent.

Tardy Discipline Policy:

- First offense: Warning
- Second offense and each offense thereafter: Assigned lunch detention

EARLY PICKUP

It is very important that students stay until 3:15PM for elementary students and 3:30PM for high school students. If an elementary school student is picked up before 2:45 PM, it will be counted as 1/2-day absence. The front office is closed for student check out at 3:00 PM.

CLOSED CAMPUS

All schools in the District shall operate closed campuses. Students are required to stay on campus from their arrival until dismissal at the end of the regular school day, this includes lunch time. Students may be given permission to leave the campus by a school official and must sign out in the office upon their departure. Parents are encouraged not to check out students except for emergency situations.

CHECK OUT PROCEDURES

In order to provide a safe educational environment, Cross County School District operates a closed campus. A student is expected to remain on campus after arriving at school or upon entering a school bus. Parents must come to the school to check out students unless the student drives to school. In this case, the parent must call the office with a valid reason**.** Only parents, legal guardians, and those designated on the check-out list approved by the parents are allowed to check a student out from school. It is recommended that parents check a student out for the following reasons only:

1. Medical
2. Funeral
3. Court appearance
4. Driver's test

If a student checks out of school, and it is not for the purpose of the school, the student will not be allowed to check back into school without a professional note giving the time and excuse for the purpose of the student checking out.

CHANGES IN STUDENT'S TRANSPORTATION

Call the school before 2:00 in order to change your child's transportation schedule. If you call the school later than 2:00, the secretary may not be able to get the message to the student.

SPECIAL PERMISSION

A student will be permitted to leave the school premises during the school day only when properly excused by the principal. A student will not be permitted to go home with another student without written permission from both students' parents.

A student will not be permitted to leave school with a person other than one of the parents or the legal guardian, or another person on the check-out list unless a written statement is received from the parents or guardian giving such permission. A student will not be permitted to remain on campus after school hours without supervision and permission. A student will not be allowed to call home if they didn't bring a note.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Wellness Policy

The health and physical well-being of our students directly affects their ability to learn. Childhood obesity increases the incidence of adult diseases occurring in children and adolescents such as heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes. The increased risk carries forward into their adulthood. Research indicates that a healthy diet and regular physical activity can help prevent obesity and the diseases resulting from it. It is understood that the eating habits and exercise patterns of students cannot

be magically changed overnight, but at the same time, the District believes it is necessary to strive to create a culture in our schools that consistently promotes good nutrition and physical activity. Obesity and inactivity are public health issues. The District is keenly aware that it has taken years for this problem to reach its present level and will similarly take years to correct. The responsibility for addressing the problem lies not only with the schools and the Department of Education, but also with the community and its residents, organizations and agencies. Therefore, the district shall enlist the support of the larger community to find solutions, which improve the health and physical activity of our students.

Goals

In its efforts to improve the school nutrition environment, promote student health, and reduce childhood obesity, the district will adhere to the Arkansas Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards in Arkansas Public Schools. Adhering to these Rules will include, but are not limited to, district efforts to:

- Appoint a district school health coordinator who shall be responsible for ensuring that each school fulfills the requirements of this policy;
- Implement a grade appropriate nutrition education program that will develop an awareness of and appreciation for nutrition and physical activity throughout the curriculum;
- Enforce existing physical education requirements and engage students in healthy levels of vigorous physical activity;
- Strive to improve the quality of physical education curricula and increase the training of physical education teachers;
- Follow the Arkansas Physical Education and Health Education Frameworks in grades K-12;
- Not use food or beverages as rewards for academic, classroom, or sports performances;
- Ensure that drinking water is available without charge to all students;
- Establish class schedules, and bus routes that don't directly or indirectly restrict meal access;
- Provide students with ample time to eat their meals in pleasant cafeteria and dining areas;
- Establish no more than nine (9) school wide events, which permit exceptions to the food and beverage limitations, established by Rule. The schedule of the events shall be by school, approved by the principal, and shall be part of the annual school calendar;
- Abide by the current allowable food and beverage portion standards;
- Meet or exceed the more stringent of Arkansas' or the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Nutrition Standards for reimbursable meals and a la' carte foods served in the cafeteria or foods served outside of the cafeteria;
- Restrict access to vended foods, competitive foods, and foods of minimal nutritional value (FMNV) as required by law and Rule;
- Conform new and/or renewed vending contracts to the content restrictions contained in the Rules and reduce district dependence on profits from the sale of FMNV.
- Provide professional development to all district staff on the topics of nutrition and/or physical activity;

- Utilize the School Health Index available from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to assess how well the district is doing at implementing this wellness policy and at promoting a healthy environment for its students;

This policy does not restrict what parents may provide for their own child's lunch or snacks. Parents may provide foods of minimal nutritional value or candy items for their own child's consumption, but they may not provide restricted items to other children at school.

To assist Cross County in reaching these goals, the District has adopted to be a Coordinated School Health (http://www.arkansascsh.org) site that includes these eight components to address educating the "whole child":

1. Health Education: A planned, sequential, K-12 curriculum that addresses the physical, mental, emotional and social dimensions of health.
2. Physical Education: A planned, sequential K-12 curriculum that provides cognitive content and learning experiences in a variety of activity areas such as basic movement skills; physical fitness; rhythms and dance; games; team, dual, and individual sports; tumbling and gymnastics; and aquatics.
3. Health Services: Services provided for students to appraise, protect, and promote health.
4. Nutrition Services: Access to a variety of nutritious and appealing meals that accommodate the health and nutrition needs of all students.
5. School Based Mental Health, Counseling & Social Services: Services provided to improve students' mental, emotional, and social health. These services include individual and group assessments, interventions, and referrals.
6. Healthy School Environment: The physical and aesthetic surroundings and the psychosocial climate and culture of the school.
7. Health Promotion for Staff: Opportunities for school staff to improve their health status through activities such as health assessments, health education and health-related fitness activities.

Family/Community Involvement: An integrated school, parent, and community approach for enhancing the health and well-being of students.

If a child should become injured at school, the playground teacher or homeroom teacher will report it to the office immediately. The office staff will call the appropriate responder to assess the child's injury (the School Nurse or other designated trained staff).

If the injury is found to be minor (such as a minor cut, scrape or bruise), basic first aid (cleaning, band aid, ice pack, etc.) will be provided. If the injury appears to be more than minor, the staff will attempt to notify the parent/guardian or nearest relative and make the child as comfortable as possible until the parent arrives. If the school is unable to reach a parent/guardian or nearest relative and medical attention is needed, the school will take the child to the nearest medical provider (such as the ARCare School Based Health Clinic) for further assessment. The school assumes no responsibility for treatment. Please make sure we have contact information and emergency phone numbers up to date at all times. If the child has a serious injury or medical emergency requiring immediate medical attention (such as unconsciousness, respiratory distress, or seizures, etc.) the school will call the closest emergency

provider such as 911 or the ARCare School Based Health Clinic. The parent/guardian will be notified that the emergency responder has been called, however, the need to contact the parent shall not unreasonably delay the school's expeditious transport of the student to an appropriate medical care facility.

The school has an AED on at each building that may be used in the event of a student is unconscious, not breathing normally, or has a loss of pulse. The AEDs are located in the high school office and the elementary office. It will only be used by staff that have completed training and until emergency responders arrive. For more information contact the school nurse.

Access to water and the use of water bottles during the school day:

Students and teachers are allowed to have a water bottle at school as long as it has a screw-cap lid. Students have the opportunity to fill bottles using water fountains and bottle-filling stations. Elementary students must use a clear bottle filled with water only. Any misuse of this privilege may result in loss of opportunity to carry a water bottle at school.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

The school nurse will perform health screenings each school year per the State Board of Education and Arkansas Law.

Vision screenings are completed in K, 1st, 2nd, 4th, 6th, and 8th grade.

Hearing screenings are completed in K, 1st, 2nd, 4th, 6th and 8th grades.

Scoliosis screenings are completed for 6th grade girls and all 8th graders.

Body Mass Index screening will be completed on K, 2nd, 4th, 6th 8th and 10th grade students. The nurse will mail all Body Mass Index results to parents in or around the month of May or with report cards (this is mandated by Arkansas State Law). Written notice will be given for any other failed screenings as they are completed. Failed screenings are not a final diagnosis and are only an indication that the student needs more testing from a qualified physician to determine if the student may have a condition that needs treatment or not. The written notice will specify what type of follow up is needed and written results of this follow up should be given to the nurse within the time frame specified.

You may give the school written request at the beginning of each school year if you do not wish for your child to participate in any of these screenings. A form to opt out of screenings is available in the office. Also, if you wish for your child to be screened with any other rotation, a referral may be given to the nurse by a parent or a teacher. You are also welcome to speak with the nurse at any time to request screening results or to discuss concerns about your child's health.

ILLNESS, COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, AND PARASITES

Students with communicable diseases or with human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment should not attend school while they are capable of transmitting their condition to other students. Students whom the school nurse determines are unwell or unfit for school attendance or who are believed to have a communicable disease or condition will be required to be picked up by their parent or guardian.

The list of communicable diseases is extremely long, but some common to children are: influenza, head lice, RSV, scabies, chicken pox, shingles, "hand-foot-mouth" disease, mono, "pink eye", measles, scabies, MRSA, streptococcal and staph infections, ringworm, mononucleosis, Hepatitis B or C, mumps, strep throat, vomiting, diarrhea, and fever (100.4 when taken orally), etc. If your child is running a fever of 100 or above within 24 hours, has diarrhea or vomiting within 24 hours, has an active skin rash or other contagious symptoms, they should not come to school until symptoms have either resolved or you have taken your child to a healthcare provider for diagnosis and treatment. If a child becomes ill at school and has any of these symptoms, the teacher will send the child to the School Nurse or designated staff to be assessed. The School Nurse or Office Staff will call you to pick your child up if he/she is felt to have a possibly contagious illness. In some instances, a letter from a health care provider may be required prior to the student being readmitted to the school. A student, who has been sent home by the nurse, will be subsequently re-admitted at the nurse's discretion when the student is no longer a transmission risk.

Each school may conduct screenings for head lice as needed. The screenings shall be conducted in a manner to respect the confidentiality of each student. In addition an individual child may be screened if he/she is having symptoms of head lice such as scratching or itching of the head or visible nits in the hair. If a child is found to have live lice, the parents/guardian will be asked to pick up their child at school and be given information concerning the treatment of head lice. The student will not be allowed to return to school until the parents bring the child in to the school nurse or designee to examine the student and will give the student a note for the teachers saying he/she can return. It is very important to remove all nits from the child's hair to prevent recurrence of head lice. Due to the fact that this process can sometimes take days and eggs/nits are not contagious or harmful, students will be allowed to return to school with nits/eggs as long as live lice are not present. Students with nits/eggs will be monitored frequently until this is resolved.

Immunizations must be complete by October 1 of the school year. Students who have not received required immunizations are subject to suspension from school. A student enrolled in the District who has an immunization exemption may be removed from school at the discretion of the Arkansas Department of Health during an outbreak of the disease for which the student is not vaccinated. The student may not return to the school until the outbreak has been resolved and the student's return to school is approved by the Arkansas Department of Health.

The Cross County School District contains some asbestos materials, however the district has a Management Plan to safely control the asbestos. This plan can be reviewed at the administration office during normal business hours.

MEDICATION POLICY

Prior to the administration of any medication to any student under the age of eighteen (18), written parental consent is required. The consent form shall include authorization to administer the medication and relieve the Board and its employees of civil liability for damages or injuries resulting from the administration of medication to students in accordance with this policy. The parent or legal guardian shall bring the student's medication to the nurse, or in the absence of the nurse, to the principal's office.

OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATION

The School Nurse/School Personnel will not give over the counter medication without the signed consent of the student's parent/guardian and the parent must provide the school with the medication that they want their child to have in a bottle labeled with the student's name. This includes, but is not limited to: Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Tums, etc. The parent may sign the consent form in the handbook or send a written signed note requesting that this medication be given. Any handwritten note must include: date, child's name, medication name, time and amount given, grade and teacher and parent's signature. If a student is ill and the required medications are not available at school, the parent/guardian will be called.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

The School Nurse or trained School Personnel will only give scheduled (daily) medication that has been ordered by a physician to be given during school hours (the time to be administered should be specified on the prescription bottle.) The School Nurse/School Personnel will not be responsible to give medication daily that can be taken at home. All medication must be brought to the school office by a parent/guardian or authorized adult. The medication must be in the original prescription bottle labeled with the student's name, the ordering provider's name, the name of the medication, the dosage, frequency, and instructions for the administration including times. The medication will be counted and logged in and stored under lock. It will be administered by the school nurse or trained representative. Training will be documented. All prescription medication given at school will be documented on a medication administration form (Form 4.35F or Form 4.35F4) and maintained in the student's health file. The only Schedule II medications that shall be allowed to be brought to the school are methylphenidate (Ritalin) and amphetamine sulfate (Adderall). To help ensure their safekeeping, any such medications brought to the school nurse shall be stored in a double locked cabinet. See district policy 4.35 for more details. No other schedule II or prescription pain medications (i.e. codeine, hydrocodone, tramadol) will be administered. These medications may pose a risk for sedation, decreased motor skills, and/or respiratory
depression. Over-the-counter ibuprofen or Tylenol are acceptable and may be taken during school hours.

SELF-ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

It is the parent's responsibility to notify the School Nurse of any students who carry medication. The School Nurse and the parent/guardian will establish a Health Care Plan for the student while at school.

Students who have written permission from their parent/guardian and a licensed health care practitioner to self-administer either an asthma inhaler or auto-injectable nasal epinephrine, or both and who have a current consent form on file, shall be allowed to carry and self-administer such medication. This documentation must be given to the School Nurse each school year. The student may carry and administer approved medication while in school, at an on-site school sponsored activity, while traveling to or from school, or at an off-site school sponsored activity. Students are prohibited from sharing, transferring, or in any way distributing his/her medications to any other person. The fact that a student with a completed consent form on file is allowed to carry an asthma inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both doesn't necessarily require him/her to carry on his/her person. For additional information, see Policy 4.35 STUDENT MEDICATIONS.

EMERGENCY MEDICATION

If your child has a condition that may require emergency medication such as glucagon, injectable epinephrine, or asthma inhalers, it is the parent's responsibility to provide this to the school. Only the School Nurse (or the student if approved to self-administer) will administer emergency medications. A trained staff volunteer, with the parent's consent, may administer a Glucagon, according to state law. This training must be documented and consent on file. Please see the school nurse if you feel this may be needed. If your child becomes symptomatic and the emergency medication is not available or if no one is qualified, call 911 for emergency treatment. If emergency medication is given, the parent/guardian and emergency personnel will be notified. For additional information, see Policy 4.35 STUDENT MEDICATIONS.

Emergency Administration of Epinephrine

The school nurse or other school employees designated by the school nurse as a care provider who have been trained and certified by a licensed physician may administer an epinephrine auto-injector in emergency situations to students who have an IHP developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which provides for the administration of an epinephrine auto-injector in emergency situations.

The parent of a student who has an authorizing IHP, or the student if over the age of eighteen (18), shall annually complete and sign a written consent form provided by the student's school nurse authorizing the nurse or other school employee certified to administer auto-injector epinephrine to the student when the employee believes the student is having a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction. Students with an order from and a licensed health care provider to self-administer auto-injectable epinephrine and who have written permission from their parent or guardian shall provide the school nurse an epinephrine auto-injector. This epinephrine will be used in the event the school nurse, or other school employee certified to administer auto-injector epinephrine, in good faith professionally believes the student is having a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction and the student is either not self-carrying his/her /epinephrine auto-injector or the nurse is unable to locate it. The school nurse for each District school shall keep epinephrine auto-injectors on hand that are suitable for the students the school serves. The school nurse or other school employee designated by the school nurse as a care provider who has been trained and certified by a licensed physician may administer auto-injector epinephrine to those

students who the school nurse, or other school employee certified to administer auto-injector epinephrine, in good faith professionally believes is having a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction. For additional information, see Policy 4.35 STUDENT MEDICATIONS.

DISPOSAL / DESTRUCTION OF MEDICATION

The school shall not keep outdated medication or any medications past the end of the school year. Parents shall be notified ten (10) days in advance of the school's intent to dispose of any medication. The school nurse shall dispose of any medications not picked up by parents within the ten-day period in accordance with current law and regulations. **NO MEDICATION WILL BE CARRIED OVER TO THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR.**

ALLERGIES

It is the parents' responsibility to notify the school of a student's allergy to food, insects, medication, or other. This should be updated each school year and you must specify the allergy, the type of reaction, and the treatment needed if any exposure should occur. Physical documentation is needed yearly and this should be given to the School Nurse to keep in the student's health file. If any emergency medications are needed, please refer to the Emergency Medication Policy.

SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CENTER

All students will have the option to enroll in the ARCare School Based Health Care Center (Physical Health and Mental Health) each school year. Information on enrollment will be sent home with students at the beginning of the school year or may be obtained by contacting the School Nurse, the School Office, or the ARCare facility.

If a child becomes ill at school or needs medical attention, the School Nurse or School Personnel will attempt to contact the parent for consent before a student can be seen at the SBHC. (The only exception to this is in an emergency or serious injury when parents cannot be reached.)

If a student is not enrolled and the parent wishes for his/her child to be seen, the parent must contact the ARCare SBHC to give them consent and required information before they may enroll to be treated. Parents are encouraged to accompany their child to the clinic if they are able. If they are unable, school personnel may take the child at your request. Students do not have to "check out" from school or be counted absent if seen at the clinic during school hours. The student will be counted absent if they are required to go home.

TRAVELING POLICY TO THE SBCH (ARCARE)

Elementary school students traveling during school hours from the school to the ARCare School Based Health Clinic will be escorted to and from the school by either a parent/guardian or the School Nurse or designated school employee. Once a student is escorted to the clinic and signed in, the student will be supervised during the visit by ARCare Staff, the Parent/Guardian, the School Nurse, or a designated

school employee until the visit is completed. The ARCare staff will notify the School Nurse or designee when the visit is complete.

Following the completed visit, the School Nurse or designee will sign out and escort the elementary school student back to school.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Adapted programs are provided for students identified as meeting eligibility requirements:

1. Special Education (regulated by IDEA)– A full continuum of services including but not limited to speech therapy, indirect services, resource services, self-contained programs, and/or modifications are available to all qualifying students in the Cross County School District. Prior to the evaluation of students regarding special education services, a pre-referral procedure will be implemented. Data will be gathered on a student, reviewed by a committee and a plan for success will be implemented. State Department of Education guidelines will be followed in all situations related to special education services. For additional information related to special education contact the LEA Supervisor located at the Cross County High School office.

According to Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), eligible children with disabilities ages 3 through 21 have the right to free appropriate public education (FAPE). A student receiving special education services who is younger than 22 years of age on the last scheduled school day of a scholastic year shall be eligible for services through the end of that scholastic year or until graduation, whichever comes first. In addition, students with disabilities who graduated as determined by an IEP and who are still in need of special education services may be served through age 21 inclusive, according to the requirement noted above. These students may return to school as eligible students until the maximum age is reached.

For more information contact Dena Decker.

2. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination and assures that disabled students are provided equal benefits and educational opportunities as non-disabled students. It provides reasonable accommodations for students with instructional classroom needs and physical or mental impairments that substantially limit one or more major life activities. For additional information related to 504 Services contact the LEA Supervisor at the Cross County High School office. For Procedural Safeguards Notice, including grievance procedures, go to www.crosscountyschools.com.
For more information contact Dena Decker.

RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION (RTI)

Response to Intervention (RTI) is a problem-solving process, whose foundation is the provision of systematic, research based instruction and interventions to struggling learners. It assumes that the instruction/interventions are matched to students' needs and that the monitoring of progress is continuous. RTI is designed to prevent screening students, providing high-quality instruction and

implementing and assessing targeted interventions within a general education setting. RTI will not replace and/or augment the I.Q. discrepancy model for identifying students with learning disabilities. Both academic and behavioral issues can be addressed through RTI.

HOMELESS

Cross County School District will afford the same services and educational opportunities to homeless children as are afforded to non-homeless children. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall appoint an appropriate staff person to be the local educational liaison for homeless children and youth whose responsibilities shall include coordinating with the state educational liaison for homeless children and youth to ensure that homeless children are not stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless and such other duties as are prescribed by law and this policy. Homeless students living in the district are entitled to enroll in the district's school that non-homeless students who live in the same attendance area are eligible to attend.

If there is a question concerning the enrollment of a homeless child due to a conflict with policy the child shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought pending resolution of the dispute. It is the responsibility of the District's local educational liaison for homeless children and youth to carry out the dispute resolution process. The District shall act according to the best interests of a homeless child and to the extent feasible do one of the following. (For the purposes of this policy "school of origin" means the school the child attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled.)

1. Continue educating the child who became homeless between academic years or during an academic year in their school of origin for the duration of their homelessness,

2. Continue educating the child in his/her school of origin who became permanently housed during an academic year for the remainder of the academic year; or

3. Enroll the homeless child in the school appropriate for the attendance zone where the child lives. If the District elects to enroll a homeless child in a school other than their school of origin and such action is against the wishes of the child's parent or guardian the District shall provide the parent or guardian with a written explanation of their reason for so doing which shall include a statement of the parent/guardian's right to appeal. In any instance where the child is unaccompanied by a parent or guardian, the District's local educational liaison for homeless children and youth shall assist the child in determining his/her place of enrollment. The Liaison shall provide the child with a notice of his/her right to appeal the enrollment decision. The District shall be responsible for providing transportation for a homeless child, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth the Liaison) to and from the child's school of origin. For the purposes of this policy, students shall be considered homeless if they lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and

a. Are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;

b. Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for ordinarily use as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings,

c. Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing bus, or train stations, or similar settings,

d. Are migratory children who are living in circumstances described in clauses (a) through(c).

For more information contact Carol Crow at the elementary school, or Susan Morgan at the high school.

COUNSELING PROGRAM

The counseling program assists students in the process of growing in personal/social, academic and career development.

A. Personal/Social Development
1. Establish and maintain a sense of positive self-image,
2. Develop appropriate emotional responses to life experiences,
3. Understand roles and responsibilities in school family and community,
4. Acquire a knowledge of and respect for individual differences in abilities, interests, attitudes and background.

B. Academic Development
1. Achieve at a level in keeping with their potential,
2. Develop a sense of discovery about new knowledge,
3. Recognize their own academic strengths, weaknesses and areas of need.

C. Career Development
1. Discover the meaning of work and its relationship to the individual,
2. Develop a positive attitude and personal identity as a worker, who contributes to self and to social needs,
3. Understand their own aptitudes and develop their own abilities as they pertain to the world of work.

The school counselor helps all pupils by establishing individual, group and classroom contacts with them, collaborating with teachers, and coordinating with other school or community guidance resources. The counselor does classroom guidance each week. The counselor sees students individually to work on personal/social or academic concerns which impact the child's ability to function effectively and efficiently. Several times during the year, the counselor will have group counseling with students who need help with anger management and other specific problems that require coping strategies. Groups provide students an opportunity to give and receive feedback, which contributes to their understanding

of themselves and others. It also allows them to practice interpersonal and personal skills in a safe, reinforcing environment.

For more information contact: Carly Owens, Elementary Counselor or Susan Morgan, High School Counselor.

MIGRANT

The general purpose of the Migrant Education Program (MEP) is to ensure that migrant children fully benefit from the same free public education provided to other children by addressing the needs of migrant children to better enable the student to succeed academically.

Eligibility:

A child must:

1. Be younger than 22 and not graduated from high school or have a GED
2. Moved with a parent or guardian (or on his/her own) for the purpose of seeking or obtaining agricultural related work
3. Move across school district lines within the past three (3) years.

Services we can provide:

1. Family Assistance and Support: provide a support system to assist families in receiving basic needs and meeting emergency situations through collaborative and referrals with other agencies.
2. Free School Meals: All migrant students are eligible for free school meals (Public Law 018-265). The cooperative will provide certification of eligibility.
3. Health Services: Vision/Hearing Screening, Wellness Check-ups, Blood Pressure, Dental ($80 limit), eyeglasses ($144 limit, Doctor's Visit ($40 limit), Prescriptions ($40 limit).
4. Preschool Packets: Contains books and appropriate educational materials.
5. Educational and Personal Care Packets
6. Migrant Tutor: with sufficient enrollment the cooperative will reimburse the cost of a tutor (full or half time).

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Cross County Schools provides enrichment opportunities for students at all grade levels through the use of project-based learning, accelerated instruction, school-wide learning outcomes, and character education.

SPEECH SERVICES

The Cross County School District provides speech services free of charge to any student whose communication deficits adversely affect his/her ability to acquire basic educational skills at his/her grade level. A parent, the classroom teacher, the physician, or the student may make a referral for evaluation. In order to be placed in speech therapy the student must be evaluated (with consent of the

parent or guardian) by the licensed speech pathologist. The assessment must support the presence of Clinical Speech/Language Impairment in one of the following areas: articulation (speech sound production), language development voice (pitch, quality, or loudness) or fluency (stuttering). Once a student qualifies for speech services, an Individual Education Program (IEP) is developed. Speech therapy is provided during the regular school year to achieve the goals and objectives in the IEP.

Speech and language therapy services may be terminated when one or more of the following criteria have been met, and it is the decision of the evaluation/programming committee that:

1. The speech/language problem is no longer a disability as demonstrated by norm-referenced and/or criterion-referenced assessment results and/or clinical procedures.
2. The student's terminal IEP objectives and goals have been attained and no adverse effect of educational performance is present.
3. The student has achieved a level of performance commensurate with expectations given his clinical condition.
4. The student has achieved the same level of performance as measured by standardized tests and/or procedures over a period of time indicating to the committee that the student cannot reasonably benefit from continued treatment at the present time. For more information contact Jessica Sheffer.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students must participate in P.E. K-12. High school students must have ½ credit of P.E. to graduate and ½ credit of Health Education. Students must have a doctor's written excuse to avoid participation. Parents must provide athletic shoes and appropriate clothing for P.E. Students will have physical activity periodically in addition to P.E.

MEDIA CENTER

The library is a place for a student to read for pleasure and to conduct research. The library and its materials and machines should be respected. Therefore, library privileges may be lost due to inappropriate use of the library or library materials. In the event a student loses library materials, the student will be responsible for the replacement costs.

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The district will provide an alternative learning environment (ALE) which shall be part of an intervention program designed to provide guidance, counseling, and academic support to students who are experiencing emotional, social or academic problems.

The superintendent or his/her designee shall appoint an Alternative Educational Placement Team, which shall have the responsibility of determining student placement in the ALE. The team should consist of at least a school counselor, the ALE director or principal, a parent or legal guardian, and a regular classroom teacher.

Students who are placed in the ALE shall exhibit at least two of the following characteristics:

- Disruptive behavior
- Dropout from school
- Personal or family problems or situations
- Recurring absenteeism
- Transition to or from residential programs

For the purposes of the ALE, personal or family problems or situations are conditions that negatively affect the student's academic and social progress. These may include but are not limited to:

- Abuse: physical, mental or sexual
- Frequent relocation of residency
- Homelessness
- Inadequate emotional support
- Mental/physical health problems
- Pregnancy
- Single parenting

The teachers and administrator of the ALE shall determine exit criteria for students assigned to the district's ALE on which to base the student's return to the regular school program of instruction. The district's ALE program shall follow class size, staffing, and expenditure requirements identified in the ADE Rules Governing and Distribution of Student Special Needs Funding.

The District's Alternative Learning Environment (ALE) program shall be evaluated at least annually to determine its overall effectiveness at providing a non-punitive environment that:

- Is conducive to learning;
- Eliminates traditional barriers to learning; and
- Is in compliance with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Student Special Needs Funding.

The evaluation shall specifically address how the use of ALE funds is in alignment with the district's school district support plan in addressing identified achievement gaps and student performance deficiencies.

STUDENT PROGRESS

Reporting to Parents

Student's quarterly grades are reported to parents at least twice a year, at the end of each semester.

Supplementary notes of communication, suggestions for improvement, parental conferences, room meetings and similar means of communication will be used to keep parents informed of a student's progress. Teachers will meet with the parent or guardian of each student at least once a semester through parent-teacher conferences, telephone conferences, etc. as needed.

Progress Reports

Progress reports will be used to inform parents of a child's progress before he is given a nine weeks or semester grade. This will prevent a misunderstanding between teachers and parents. Each teacher will send a progress report to parents every three weeks or update ECHO/TAC regularly. Grades will reflect educational objectives only. Parents are invited to visit the schools to confer with the teachers, relative to the instruction of their children. Classroom visitation is encouraged for all parents, however conferences and classroom visits must be pre-arranged through the office.

HOMEWORK POLICY

Philosophy of Homework

Homework is an integral component of the instructional program and should be used to complement class work and reinforce the curriculum frameworks.

Purpose of Homework

- To reinforce prior learning
- To provide background information; example, reading assignment to prepare students for classroom discussion
- To encourage individual and creative learning; example, long-term projects, term papers, notebooks, etc.

Homework Responsibilities

Teachers:

- Clearly explain directions. Homework papers should have directions so that parents are able to assist their students.
- Provide extended time for turning in homework for students involved in school-related activities.
- Grade homework and provide feedback in a timely manner.
- Provide prior notice of assignments when appropriate.
- Communicate with parents if students are not turning in homework assignments.

Students:

- Record assignments and the date they are due.

- Turn in all homework assignments.
- Initiate makeup work after an absence.

Homework is not to be:

- Busy work
- Used as a punishment
- Used to teach material not covered in classroom instruction

Amount of Homework:

- The difficulty of homework should vary with the difficulty of the instructional objectives.
- Advanced placement and honors classes will have more homework.
- Math is a sequential subject and requires repetition to reinforce new concepts; therefore, math homework can be expected every day.

Teachers must be sensitive to student activities.

Teachers must communicate with each other concerning the amount of homework assigned and the due date for special projects.

MAKE-UP WORK/LATE WORK

Students are expected to make up any work in the event of that student's absence. Students who miss school due to an absence shall be allowed to make up the work they missed during the absence under the following rules:

1. Students are responsible for asking the teachers of the classes they missed and/or checking ECHO to see what assignments they need to make up.

2. Teachers are responsible for providing the missed assignments and/or providing them on Echo.

3. K-6 Elementary student assignments will be sent home by the teacher on the student's first day back in school after an absence. The student will be required to complete the make-up work within the number of consecutive days that were missed. Example: If 2 days were missed, the student will have 2 days to make up the work.

4. Grades 7-12 students will be required to complete the make-up work within the number of consecutive days that were missed. Example: If 2 days were missed, the student will have 2 days to make up the work without any points being deducted from the grade..

5. Unless approval from the principal, no late work will be accepted 10 school days after the original due date.

6. If a student misses an assignment because of an athletic event or extra-curricular event, said student has 2 school days to submit any work without any points being deducted from the grade.

7. Make-up tests are to be rescheduled at the discretion of the teacher, but must be aligned with the schedule of the missed work to be made up.

8. Make up work not turned in for an assignment shall receive a zero.

9. Students are responsible for turning in their make-up work without the teacher having to ask for it.

10. Make up work shall follow the student's Individual Education Program or 504 program.

11. Late Work: Students turning in work late past the given deadline may have points deducted from their Agency grade for the given assignment if the teacher is using a points-deduction system. In the event the teacher does not assign an Agency grade and is deducting-points/using a point deduction system for late work, teachers using this system may deduct up to 40% of the final grade of the late assignment turned in. Teachers may adopt a different procedure for late work that is not a points-deduction system.

12. In addition to the make up work process above, at the conclusion of a pregnancy-related or parenting-related period of absence, a student may choose from various options to make up missed work, including without limitation: retaking a semester at the District enrolled in, participating in online course credit recovery program, being granted six (6) weeks to continue at the same pace and finish the semester at a later date provided the student may complete the coursework with the current school year or attend previously scheduled summer school classes made available by the District where the student is enrolled, and receiving home-based instruction services.

GRADING

The purpose of grading is:

- To give information for students guidance and counseling;
- To show the achievement of students in relation to others;
- To assist in grouping, promotion, retention, transfers, and grade placement;
- To inform parents of the progress of their child's education;
- To help professional staff evaluate the effectiveness of the school's program of instruction.
- The grades will reflect performance in educational objectives only.

Cross County School District Grading Scale

A----------90-100----------4.0
B----------80-89----------3.0
C----------70-79----------2.0
D----------60-69----------1.0
F----------0-59---------- .0

Students enrolled in special education classes receive instruction and are evaluated according to their Individual Education Plan. Rubrics are often used to grade assignments. Teachers may use percentage grades, rubrics, letter grades, or a combination in determining a student's grade. The following conversions may be used in calculating a student's grade:

Rubric Score	Letter	Percentage equivalent
4	A	95%
3	B	85%
2	C	75%
1	D	65%
0	F	50%

Lack of work or completion will result in scoring 0%.

Beyond content, student's final grades will reflect performance in school-wide learning outcomes. Different grade levels are assessed on different school-wide learning outcomes:

K-3: written communication, oral communication, and problem solving
4-6: written communication, oral communication, problem solving, and collaboration
7-12: written communication, oral communication, knowledge and thinking, collaboration, and agency

Advanced Placement

Students in grades seven through twelve who take advanced placement courses or honors courses approved for weighted credit by the Arkansas Department of Education shall be graded according to the following schedule.

A =100 – 90
B = 89 – 80
C = 79 – 70
D = 69-60
F = 59 and below

For the purpose of determining grade point averages, the numeric value of each letter grade shall be:

A = 5 points
B = 4 points
C = 3 points
D = 2 point
F = 0 points

Students taking AP courses shall receive weighted credit as described in this policy. Credit shall be given for each grading period during the course of the year, but shall be retroactively removed from a student's grade for any course in which the student fails to take the applicable AP exam. Students who do not take the AP exam shall receive the same numeric value for the grade he/she receives in the course as if it were a non-AP course.

Students who transfer into the district will be given weighted credit for the Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, or honors courses approved for weighted credit by the Arkansas Department of Education, and concurrent college courses taken for weighted credit at his/her previous school(s) according to the preceding scale.

Oral Communication Requirement: Students will receive their required .5 credit of Oral Communication from the average of their two highest English grades from 9th-11th grade. This grade will be placed on the student's transcript at the end of their junior year.

Virtual Learning: Students participating in virtual learning will follow the provider's grading policy. The grading scale will remain in-line with the above mentioned scales for A-F grades.

SEMESTER EXAM POLICY

Seventh through twelfth grade students will take a comprehensive exam per class for each semester. Comprehensive semester exams will be given covering all work done. High school students cannot be exempt from nine-weeks courses.

High school semester exams will count as 20% of their final grade in the gradebook. Students who meet the exemption criteria will not have to take the final exam during the second quarter (December) and fourth quarter (May). Students will be considered exempt from the final exam during the second quarter (December) and fourth quarter (May) if the following criteria are met. A student who receives OSS or ISS will not be considered for exemption from semester exams.

Students with an A average (90-100) (per the class):

- No more than 4 unexcused absences during the semester
- No more than 4 tardies during the semester
- Must be cleared of all fines and charges (library, lunch, technology, classroom materials, uniforms, class dues, etc)

- All community services hours for that semester must be completed (6 per semester/12 per year 9-12).

Students with a B average (80-89%) (per the class):

- No more than 3 unexcused absences during the semester
- No more than 2 tardies during the semester
- Must be cleared of all fines and charges (library, lunch, technology, classroom materials, uniforms, class dues, etc)
- All community services hours for that year must be completed (6 per semester/12 per year 9-12)

**Co-taught classes attendance will be a total of both periods.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2027 AND THEREAFTER

Information regarding Graduation requirements will be sent home with students prior to their enrolling in seventh (7^{th}) grade, or when a seventh (7^{th}) through twelfth (12^{th}) grade student enrolls in the district for the first time. This policy is to be included in student handbooks for grades six (6) through twelve (12) and both students and parents must sign an acknowledgement they have received the policy. All students are required to fulfill the Core curriculum or the Alternate Pathway to Graduation when required by their IEP to be eligible for graduation. Counseling by trained personnel shall be available to students and their parents or legal guardians as part of the creation of the student's Student Success Plan.

This policy and the courses necessary for graduation shall be reviewed by staff, students, and parents as part of the annual school district strategic plan development process[31] to determine if changes need to be made to better serve the needs of the district's students. The superintendent, or the superintendent's designee, shall select the composition of the review panel.

Sufficient information relating to the district's graduation requirements shall be communicated to parents and students to ensure their informed understanding; this shall be accomplished through holding an informational meeting for parents, legal guardians, or persons standing in loco parentis to students enrolled in grades six through twelve (6-12) with the school counselor and may be accomplished through any or all of the additional following means:[42]

- Inclusion in the student handbook of the graduation requirements;
- Discussion of the graduation requirements at the school's annual public meeting, PTA meetings, or a meeting held specifically for the purpose of informing the public on this matter; and/or
- Distribution of a newsletter(s) to parents or guardians of the district's students.

Administrators, or their designees, shall train newly hired employees, required to be licensed as a condition of their employment, regarding this policy. The district's annual professional development shall include the training required by this paragraph.[53]

To the best of its ability, the District shall follow the requirements covering the transfer of course credit and graduation set forth in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and the

Arkansas Military Child School Transitions Act of 2021 for all students who meet the definition of "eligible child" in Policy 4.2—ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS including the waiving of specific courses that are required for graduation if similar coursework has been satisfactorily completed.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The number of units students must earn to be eligible for high school graduation is to be earned from the categories listed below. A minimum of twenty-two (22) units is required for graduation. In addition to the twenty-two (22) units required for graduation by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the district requires an additional __ units to graduate for a total of __ units. The additional required units may be taken from any electives offered by the district.[64] Accelerated learning courses or career education courses that are determined by DESE to be eligible for use in the place of a listed course may be substituted for the course as designated by DESE.

All students must receive a passing score on the Arkansas Civics Exam in order to graduate.

Students shall be trained in quality psychomotor skill bases in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillators in order to graduate.

Personal and Family Finance

All students shall receive credit in a course covering the Personal and Family Finance Standards in order to graduate.

Computer Science

All students shall earn one (1) unit of credit in a computer science or computer science related career and technical education course in order to graduate.

Community Service

Except as otherwise provided by this policy or the student's IEP, each student must receive seventy-five (75) hours of community service that is certified by the service agency or organization where the student volunteers or the student's parent. The community service must be in programs or activities, either in Arkansas or outside of Arkansas, that meet the requirements established by the State Board and the District Board of Directors and include preparation, action, and reflection components. A student who transfers into the District after ninth (9th) grade must receive at least the following documented clock hours of community service each year:

- Fifteen (15) hours for students in grade nine (9);
- Twenty (20) hours for students in grade ten (10);
- Twenty (20) hours for students in grade eleven (11); and
- Twenty (20) hours for students in grade twelve (12).

Students transferring into the District after grade nine (9) or students who are graduating early may receive a diploma provided that the minimum requirement for each year the student attends the District is met. The District Board of Directors may grant a waiver of the community service requirement for extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis, which may include without limitation:

- A major illness associated with a student or a family member of a student;
- Student homelessness or housing insecurity; and
- Notice to the public school district board of directors if the student is a major contributor to family income.

English: four (4) units – 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th
Oral Communications: one-half (½) unit
Mathematics: four (4) units

- Algebra or its equivalent***** - 1 unit
- Geometry or its equivalent***** - 1 unit
- All math units must build on the base of algebra and geometry knowledge and skills.
- (Comparable accelerated learning courses may be substituted where applicable)
- A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a math credit beyond Algebra I and Geometry.

***** A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two units of the four (4) unit requirement.
Science: three (3) units

a. DESE approved biology – 1 credit;
b. DESE approved physical science – 1 credit; and
c. A third unit that is either:

- An additional science credit approved by DESE; or
- A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a third science credit.

Social Studies: three (3) units

- Civics one-half (½) unit
- World history, one (1) unit
- American History, one (1) unit
- Other social studies – one-half (½) unit

Physical Education: one-half (½) unit
Note: While one-half (½) unit is required for graduation, no more than one (1) unit may be applied toward fulfilling the necessary units to graduate.
Health and Safety: one-half (½) unit
Economics – one half (½) unit – dependent upon the licensure of the teacher teaching the course, this can count toward the required three (3) social studies credits or the six (6) required Career Focus elective credits.[75]
Fine Arts: one-half (½) unit

CAREER FOCUS: - Six (6) units

All career focus unit requirements shall be established through guidance and counseling based on the student's contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to the curriculum policy of the district and reflect state curriculum frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

A student who enlists in a branch of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard through the military delayed entry program, the National Guard Split Training Option, or other similar early entry program and completes basic training before graduating from high school shall receive two (2) units of the Career Focus graduation requirements.

CAPSTONE AND COLLEGE/CAREER COURSE

Additionally, unless the school's administrator grants prior permission, all students must take the senior Capstone course. The senior Capstone will be paired with senior-level English. All senior Capstone students must complete a satisfactory portfolio to receive credit for the second semester of the combined (English and Capstone) course.

Unless the school's administrator grants prior permission, all students must also take the College and Career course in the 11th grade.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Schedule changes will be kept to a minimum. It is a very high priority for a student to pick up his/her schedule in August. All changes should be handled at that time. A student's dislike of a class or a teacher is not a good reason for a change. A student meeting the criteria for a schedule change must receive permission from a counselor or the principal before a class change will be allowed. Until a student's schedule change has been completed (proper forms filled out, signed, and returned to the office), the student is expected to report to his/her scheduled class. Changes can be made only during the first week of each semester.

HONOR ROLL

Students in kindergarten through grade six (K-6) who maintain all As or all As AND Bs for the grading period will be recognized as honor roll students for that grading period. Semester grades will determine the honor roll at the end of each semester.

Students in grades seven through twelve (7-12) maintain a 3.0 GPA for the grading period, will be recognized as honor roll students for that grading period. Semester grades will determine the honor roll at the end of each semester.

HONOR GRADUATES

Students who wish to graduate with honors, with high honors, or with highest honors must have successfully completed the minimum core of courses recommended for preparation for college as defined by the State Board of Higher Education, the State Board of Education and the Cross County School District Board of Education. All honor graduates must complete the following beyond the minimum:

- Minimum 23 units of credit
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.35
- Two credits of the same foreign language or two college-level foreign language courses approved by the school
- Four credits of mathematics: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and a choice of Pre-Calculus, Advanced Topics and Modeling in Mathematics, or an Advanced Placement mathematics, or Algebra III (A comparable concurrent credit course may be substituted upon prior approval by the principal.)
- Four credits of Science: Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, AP Biology, AP Environmental Science, or Anatomy and Physiology (A comparable concurrent credit course may be substituted upon prior approval by the principal.)
- Four credits of English
- Four credits of Social Studies
- Additionally, the student must take at least three courses from the following list:
    - Advanced Placement;
    - International Baccalaureate;
    - Honors courses approved for weighted credit by the Arkansas Department of Education;
    - Concurrent credit offered by an accredited college or university.
    - Complete a program of study in a High wage/ high demand program pathway.
- Status will be reviewed at the end of seven (7) semesters. Students will lose honor graduate status if they do not meet requirements at the end of eight (8) semesters. Students working towards honor graduate status may still gain honor graduate distinction in the 8th semester. Students must meet the above criteria to be recognized as an honor graduate.
- The two honor graduates with the highest GPA will be invited to give an honors address at the graduation commencement.

The honor graduate designation will be as follows for students meeting honor graduate requirements:

1. With Highest Honor-Summa Cum Laude - GPA 4.0 or better (Blue and Gold cord)
2. With High Honor – Magna Cum Laude - GPA 3.75 - 3.9999 (Blue and Silver cord)
3. With Honor – Cum Laude - GPA 3.35 - 3.7499 (Blue and Bronze cord)

Parents or guardians of a student, or a student eighteen (18) years of age or older, who choose to not have the student publicly identified as an honor roll or honor graduate student must submit a written request that the student not be so identified.

CONCURRENT CREDIT

A ninth through twelfth grade student who successfully completes (a) college course(s) from an institution approved by the Arkansas Department of Education shall be given credit toward high school grades and graduation as long as the course is available in the course catalog for high school credit. Unless approved by the school's principal, prior to enrolling for the course, the concurrent credit shall be applied toward the student's graduation requirements as an elective.

Students are responsible for having the transcript for the concurrent credit course(s) they've taken sent to their school in order to receive credit for the course(s) if that course is available in the course catalog for high school transcripts. The transcripts are to be received by the school within 10 school days of the end of the semester in which the course is taken. Students may not receive credit for the course(s) they took or the credit may be delayed if the transcripts are not received in time, or at all. This may jeopardize students' eligibility for extracurricular activities, graduation, or graduation ceremonies.

Students will retain credit applied toward a course required for high school graduation from a previously attended, accredited, public school.

Before a student is allowed to enroll in a concurrent course, he or she must meet all of the college's admission requirements. The student will be responsible for the costs of taking the qualifying test if fees are assessed.

PARTICIPATION IN GRADUATION / CAP AND GOWN REQUIREMENTS

No student may participate in graduation exercises until all graduation requirements have been met. Graduation is a school-sponsored event. Students will be required to dress and act appropriately to participate in graduation exercises. Graduation practice is mandatory for all graduates unless approved by the principal. Seniors with twelve (12) or more unexcused absences in any class will not be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies.
In addition, students must pay all debts and return all books, computers, uniforms or other items belonging to the school before participating in graduation ceremonies or receiving their diploma. Additionally, all seniors must have completed all 48 community services hours to participate. Beginning with the class of 2027, students must have completed 75 community service hours to graduate. All students participating in the graduation ceremony must wear dress shoes or clean boots, dress pants/slacks, button up or collared shirt under their graduation gown. Additionally, female students can opt to wear a skirt and blouse or dress under their graduation gown. All graduation caps may not be altered with pictures, words, or colors. Students who do not meet these requirements will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony or may be pulled out of the ceremony if they make a change while the ceremony is in progress.

PROMOTION/ RETENTION

PROMOTION/ RETENTION (Elementary School)

1. Students in grades 3-6, who fail (below 60%) in two or more academic subjects (reading, language arts (includes writing, reading, and spelling), science, social studies, and math) when the two semester grade percentages are combined, may not be promoted to the next grade.

2. Students identified as disabled under state and federal regulations are subject to retention if they fail to meet the goals and objectives of their IEP.

3. Since the core of the elementary school program centers on reading, the student must be on grade level for DRA in Kindergarten-3rd grade. The students must be on grade level for math. Other assessments or criteria may be considered to determine retention of students.

A student who does not achieve these reading and/or mathematics levels at basic level or above will be retained in that grade.

Possible Exceptions:

The student may not be affected if he/she has been retained in that grade or has been retained twice previously. Special Education students may be exempt under certain circumstances. Students with serious illnesses may be exempt under certain circumstances.

PROMOTION/RETENTION (High School)

1. Students in grades 7th-8th grade, who fail (below 60%) in any core subject (English, math, science, social studies) when the core subject's first semester and second semester grade percentages are combined, may not be promoted to the next grade.
2. Students in grades 7th-8th grade, who fail 75% or more of their elective courses, may be retained.
3. Students identified as disabled under state and federal regulations are subject to retention if they fail to meet the goals and objectives of their IEP.
4. Students who do not meet the criteria for promotion may be promoted to the next grade after a conference with the principal under any of the following circumstances:

    1. The student has been admitted to an alternative learning environment at the next grade level.

    2. The student is placed in the next grade pursuant to an Individual Education Plan.

Promotion/retention or graduation of students with an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) shall be based on their successful attainment of the goals set forth in their IEP.

Credit Recovery Course(s)

- Can only be used to make up a failed course or a course that cannot be scheduled due to a conflict with a required course at Cross County High School. In the event the course is used to make up a failed course, a maximum grade of a D may be granted.
- May be taken during the school year and/or during summer school.

STUDENT CLASSIFICATION

Students will be classified according to the number of credits they earn by the end of each school year. In order to be classified as a sophomore, a student must earn at least 6 credits; to be classified as a junior, a student must earn at least 12 credits; and to be classified as a senior, a student must have earned at least 18 credits. The credits will be calculated at the beginning of each school year. Any student who will be able to graduate by the end of the school year will be reclassified as a senior by the end of the 1st semester. Students will need a total of 23 credits to graduate.

SENIOR MODIFIED SCHEDULE REQUEST

Students in 12th grade may request a modified schedule that would allow them to leave campus before the end of the school day. 12th graders wishing to participate in the modified scheduling policy may apply to participate. The applicant should describe their planned use of the time outside of school and how it will benefit their educational goals and objectives. This plan will be reviewed and amended by the students, administrators or guidance counselors as needed. Students must maintain a grade of a C or above in their courses. If a student falls below the grade requirement, it may result in this schedule and agreement being canceled.

Cross County High School will create a track for 12th graders to participate in the modified scheduling policy. Participation in this program is not required, and 12th grade students may enroll in a full day's (8 periods) course load if they choose. All participants in the modified scheduling policy must be on track to meet or exceed all graduation requirements.

Students participating in the modified scheduling policy are only allowed on campus during their chosen track. Once students arrive on campus they must remain on campus until they have completed their coursework. This policy **does not** create an open campus and students **cannot** leave and return to campus later in the day unless it is for school sanctioned, after school extra-curricular activities. Students must attend lunch or get a lunch to-go daily. The time schedules are approximate and may change.

For more information and to apply for this program, please contact Stephen Prince, principal or Susan Morgan, counselor.

TEXTBOOKS

The school will provide the necessary instructional materials for our curriculum.

SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The use of instructional materials beyond those approved, as part of the curriculum/textbook program must be compatible with school and district policies. If there is uncertainty concerning the appropriateness of supplemental materials, the personnel desiring to use the materials shall get approval from the school's principal prior to putting the materials into use. All instructional materials used as part of the educational curriculum of a student shall be available for inspection by the parents or guardians of the student. For the purposes of this policy, instructional materials is defined as instructional content provided to the student regardless of its format, including printed or representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital formats. The term does not include academic tests or academic assessments. Parents or guardians wishing to inspect instructional materials used as part of the educational curriculum for their child may schedule an appointment with the student's teacher at a mutually agreeable time. The rights provided to parents under this policy transfer to the student when he/she turns 18 years old.

SIXTH GRADE CELEBRATION

The celebration will include the presentation of the awards. Student work of all kinds will be celebrated including art and projects from throughout the year. School dress code will be followed.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Keeping in mind the fact that parents and teachers are partners in the education of children, the following plan is set forth by the school system. Two yearly conferences have been scheduled: See school calendar.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITMENT

Cross County School District will foster effective parental involvement strategies and support partnerships among school, parents, and the community to improve student achievement. The district provides coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement. The full policy is located at www.crosscountyschools.com and at each campus. We will utilize programs such as messaging systems and social media, as well as, the school website to keep families and the community informed.

SCHOOL INSURANCE

The school district will make available health and accident coverage for all students while they are at school or on a school related activity. The cost for this coverage to parents will be very reasonable. For more information you may contact the school.

SCHOOL ATHLETIC INSURANCE

The Cross County School District provides supplemental/secondary insurance for students who participate in extracurricular events or who may get hurt during a school event/function. This insurance

coverage is completely supplemental and does not mean it will cover the cost in full after personal primary insurance. Cross County School District and its members are not responsible for covering costs that are not covered by the students insurance and the school provided supplemental insurance.

BREAKFAST – LUNCH

Please note the following items are not permitted for students: pop top cans of any kind or glass containers. Only re-sealable containers with soft drinks, water or juice will be permitted and they must be thrown away before leaving the cafeteria. Under no circumstances can food or drink be in the bag with the laptop. If this happens, computer privileges will be lost for a week. For sanitary considerations, the Arkansas State Food Service prohibits the students from giving or accepting food in the cafeteria.

Cross County School District participates in the national school lunch and breakfast program called the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program for the 2025 - 2026 school year. All enrolled students are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at school for no cost each day. The school does provide the opportunity for students to purchase additional food items in the cafeteria during lunch time. Students are not allowed to charge for additional items.

SCHOOL LUNCH SUBSTITUTIONS

The district only provides substitute meal components on menus to accommodate students with handicapping conditions meeting the definition of a disability as defined in USDA regulations. A parent/guardian wishing to request such dietary accommodation must submit a Certification of Disability for Special Dietary Needs Form completed by a licensed physician to the district's Food Service Director. If a student has an allergy, they must have a letter signed by a physician stating the nature of the allergy and another meal will be supplied.

FIRE, TORNADO, EARTHQUAKE, AND BUS EVACUATION DRILLS

All schools in the District shall conduct fire drills at least monthly. Tornado drills shall also be conducted not fewer than three (3) times per year. Students who ride school buses, shall also participate in emergency evacuation drills at least twice each school year.

The District shall annually conduct a lockdown drill at all schools in the District in collaboration with local law enforcement and emergency management personnel. The lockdown drill training will include use of the District's emergency communication method with law enforcement. Students will be included in the drills to the extent that is developmentally appropriate for the age of both the students and grade configuration of the school.

Drills may be conducted during the instructional day or during non-instructional time periods.

Other types of emergency drills may also be conducted to test the implementation of the District's emergency plans in the event of violence, terrorist attack, natural disaster, other emergency, or the

District's emergency communication with law enforcement methods. Students shall be included in the drills to the extent practicable.

SEVERE WEATHER POLICY

Usually school will not be in session when the weather makes it dangerous for school buses to run. On doubtful mornings, the local radio stations will announce the decision as early as possible. It is impossible many times to predict the road conditions in advance so the decision on bus operation may have to be made shortly before regular bus departure time.

If during the day, weather conditions become bad enough to require buses to make their runs before the regularly scheduled time, the local radio station will be notified.

If there is severe weather during school, the students will be taken to the school's safe room. There will be an announcement and the teachers will escort the students to their particular place in the safe room. No one will be allowed to leave. In case of severe weather, parents can come in and stay in the safe room with their child but may not leave the building with children. All students and staff will be in the safe room.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARTIES/TREATS

Seasonal parties should be limited to two party/treat days (one in spring and one in fall) per year with no more than an hour of instructional time used per party. All treats must be store bought. Nutritional standards prohibit birthday parties at school. At all parties, the teacher and principal should have full control. For safety concerns, balloons cannot be taken on the bus.

SCHOOL TRIPS

The school principal must approve all school trips. Students making the trip will use transportation furnished by the school unless the principal grants special permission. School trips are a privilege and these trips can be revoked because of conduct such as stints in ISS, OSS or other behaviors deemed by the principal that may indicate a student's liability to cause disruptions or be a behavior issue. Only students from the class taking the trip may ride the bus. Students from other grades are discouraged from attending. Reservations will be made through the school for staff and students only. Parents are responsible for making their own arrangements unless it is required by the organizations that parents pay through the school.

TELEPHONES

The school telephone is for business calls only. Children are not called to the telephone except in case of an emergency. Please make arrangements for your children in advance in the event of an unexpected early closing of school. If you wish to speak to a teacher, leave your name and number with the school secretary and she/he will return your call as soon as possible. The nurse or secretary will contact the parents when a child needs to go home because of illness.

ELEMENTARY CELL PHONE & ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

The Cross County School District will follow the Bell to Bell, No Cell ACT 122. Students will follow the following guidelines set forth by ACT 122:

Students are responsible for conducting themselves in a manner that respects the rights of others. Possession and use of any electronic device, whether district or student owned, that interferes with a positive, orderly classroom environment does not respect the rights of others and is expressly forbidden.

The school is not responsible for lost or stolen devices.

Students are not allowed to use personal electronic devices at any time during the school day from 7:50 a.m to 3:15 p.m. The use of personal electronic devices will be allowed in a case of emergency, which is considered a serious, unexpected, and dangerous situation that requires immediate actions, including without limitation:

an active fire
an active tornado or earthquake
active shooter/intruder
evacuation of school grounds
medical emergency

A personal electronic device means without limitation a:
Cellular telephone
Paging device/beeper
Mobile telephone that offers advance computing and internet accessibility
Digital media player
Portable gaming console, tablet , notebook, or laptop computer
Digital camera, video recording device
Smart Watch or device that can connect and transmit data through bluetooth (Headphones)

Students will be allowed to use personal electronic devices:

- The personal electronic device is required by the student's individual education plan (IEP), 504 Plan, or Individual Health Plan for health reasons
- The use of the personal electronic device is during an emergency as defined by this policy
- The student is enrolled in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course at an institution of higher education, and the use of the personal electronic device is necessary in order to utilize two-factor authentication to access course work and resources for the endorsed concurrent enrollment course. The use of the personal electronic device shall be limited to the time necessary to complete the two-factor authentication process.
- During after school functions or during pep rallies/school events that are announced and approved by the school building administration.

Students will be allowed to use personal electronic devices:

- The personal electronic device is required by the student's individual education plan (IEP), 504 Plan, or Individual Health Plan for health reasons
- The use of the personal electronic device is during an emergency as defined by this policy
- The student is enrolled in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course at an institution of higher education, and the use of the personal electronic device is necessary in order to utilize two-factor authentication to access course work and resources for the endorsed concurrent enrollment course. The use of the personal electronic device shall be limited to the time necessary to complete the two-factor authentication process.
- During after school functions or during pep rallies/school events that are announced and approved by the school building administration.

The discipline policy for personal electronic devices will be as follows:
1st offense: device taken to office, must have parent/guardian pick up
2nd offense: 1Day ISS, parent pick up device
3rd offense: 2 Days ISS, parent pick up device
4th offense: 2 Days OSS, parent pick up device

If a student deceives school by turning over a fraudulent device, the student will receive 3 days of OSS instead of original discipline.

HIGH SCHOOL **CELL PHONE & ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY**

The Cross County School District will follow the Bell to Bell, No Cell ACT 122. Students will follow the following guidelines set forth by ACT 122:

Students are responsible for conducting themselves in a manner that respects the rights of others. Possession and use of any electronic device, whether district or student owned, that interferes with a positive, orderly classroom environment does not respect the rights of others and is expressly forbidden.

The school is not responsible for lost or stolen devices.

Students are not allowed to use personal electronic devices at any time during the school day from 7:55 a.m to 3:30 p.m. The use of personal electronic devices will be allowed in a case of emergency, which is considered a serious, unexpected, and dangerous situation that requires immediate actions, including without limitation:

an active fire
an active tornado or earthquake
active shooter/intruder
evacuation of school grounds
medical emergency

A personal electronic device means without limitation a:
Cellular telephone
Paging device/beeper
Mobile telephone that offers advance computing and internet accessibility
Digital media player
Portable gaming console

tablet , notebook, or laptop computer
Digital camera, video recording device
Smart Watch or device that can connect and transmit data through bluetooth (Headphones)

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- The personal electronic device is required by the student's individual education plan (IEP), 504 Plan, or Individual Health Plan for health reasons
- The use of the personal electronic device is during an emergency as defined by this policy
- The student is enrolled in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course at an institution of higher education, and the use of the personal electronic device is necessary in order to utilize two-factor authentication to access course work and resources for the endorsed concurrent enrollment course. The use of the personal electronic device shall be limited to the time necessary to complete the two-factor authentication process.
- During after school functions or during pep rallies/school events that are announced and approved by the school building administration.

The discipline policy for personal electronic devices will be as follows:
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2nd offense: 1Day ISS, parent pick up device
3rd offense: 2 Days ISS, parent pick up device
4th offense: 2 Days OSS, parent pick up device

If a student deceives school by turning over a fraudulent device, the student will receive 3 days of OSS instead of original discipline.

LASER POINTERS

Students shall not possess any hand held laser pointer while in school; on or about school property, before or after school; in attendance at school or any school-sponsored activity; en route to or from school or any school-sponsored activity; off the school grounds at any school bus stop or at any school-sponsored activity or event. School personnel shall seize any laser pointer from the student possessing it and the student may reclaim it at the close of the school year, or when the student is no longer enrolled in the District.

VISITORS

School policy requires every visitor to check in at the principal's office on arrival. Visitors can only enter through the front entrance. All doors will be locked. You must buzz the office to enter at the front door. Do not disturb classrooms between 7:50a.m-3:20 p.m**.** ***All visitors must have a driver's license or State ID to get a visitor's badge.*** The visitor badge must be worn at all times when on campus. While on campus, the campus' office will keep your ID until you check out. Visitors may not go directly to a classroom. No loitering in the hallways between 7:50-3:20. Parents must stay in office until the secretary calls for their child and the child comes to the office. A parent or guardian must sign in any student arriving after school starts at the elementary school. High school students can sign themselves in after school has started.

The board strongly believes that the purpose of school is for learning. Social visitors, generally, disrupt the classroom and interfere with learning that should be taking place. Therefore, visiting with students at school is strongly discouraged, unless approved by the principal and scheduled in advance. This includes visits made by former students, friends, and/or relatives of teachers or students. Any visitation to the classroom shall be allowed only with the permission of the school principal.

CONTACT BY NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS

If there is any question concerning the legal custody of the student, the custodial parent shall present documentation to the principal or the principal's designee establishing the parent's custody of the student. It shall be the responsibility of the custodial parent to make any court ordered "no contact" or other restrictions regarding the non-custodial parent known to the principal by presenting a copy of a file-marked court order. Without such a court order on file, the school will release the child to either of his/her parents. Non-custodial parents who file with the principal a date-stamped copy of current court orders granting unsupervised visitation may, to extend authorized by the court order, eat lunch, volunteer in their child's classroom, or otherwise have contact with their child during school hours and the prior approval of the school's principal. Such contact is subject to the limitations outlined in Policy 4.16, Policy 6.5, and any other policies that may apply. The District shall not act as a supervisor for non-custodial parent visitation purposes under any circumstance.

STUDENTS RIDING SCHOOL BUSES

Students are subject to the same rules of conduct while traveling to and from school grounds. Appropriate disciplinary actions may be taken against commuting students who violate student code of conduct rules.

1. BUSES ARE A PROVIDED PRIVILEGE, NOT A REQUIREMENT. Be at the school bus stop at the scheduled time. Stand back about ten feet from the bus stop and wait until the door is opened before moving closer to the bus. Do not play on the highway or the road. If you miss the bus, do not attempt to catch a ride to or from school.

2. While loading or unloading, enter or leave the bus orderly and quickly.

3. While riding the bus, students are under the supervision of the driver and must obey the driver at all times.

4. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that they will not distract the attention of their driver or disturb other riders on the bus (which includes keeping your hands to yourself, being well-mannered, leaving other students alone, and be reasonably quiet.)

5. Students are not to tamper with any of the safety devices, such as door latches, fire extinguishers, etc. Students must keep seated while the bus is in motion and must not move while it is stopped except as the driver directs. Students are not to put their hands, arms, or bodies out of the window. Do not yell at anyone outside the bus.

6. Students are not to deface the bus or any school property. Do not write on the bus or damage seats, etc. Do not eat or drink on the bus. Do not throw paper, food, or other objects on the floor of the bus. The use of tobacco products is prohibited while riding the bus. Keep the aisle clear of books, lunches, coats, etc. Do not put your feet in the aisle.
7. Do not ask the driver to let you off the bus up town, at the store, to get mail out of the box, or any other place, except at your regular stop.

8. If you must cross the road or highway to enter the bus, always try to be on the right side of the road waiting for the bus. If you should arrive at the stop just as the bus approaches the stop, wait until the bus has come to a complete stop and the driver has signaled for you to cross in front of the bus, unless the driver directs you differently.

9. Students who must cross the road after leaving the bus in the afternoon must go to a point on the shoulder of the road fifteen feet in front of the bus. Cross the road only after the driver or student patrol has signaled you to do so.

10. Students cannot ride any bus except their own without a note from their parents or pass from the office. Visitors are not allowed except in case of an emergency. Permission must be secured from the Principal or office.

11. This is not intended to cover all the "dos" and "don'ts", but is a very specific guide. The driver may find it necessary to interpret these policies in light of his/her own bus needs.

12. Any infraction of the bus riding rules will have a minimum penalty of reprimand to a maximum penalty of total loss of bus riding privileges.

13. Act 1516 of 1999 provides that passing a stopped school bus which is discharging or receiving passengers is a Class A misdemeanor.

14. All riders must ride the same bus to and from school each day. DO NOT CHANGE BUSES.

15. No one will be allowed to go home with a friend unless they have written permission from their parents. Both parties bring a note. The office will then send a note to the bus driver.

16. NO KNIVES OR SHARP OBJECTS OF ANY KIND ARE ALLOWED-NEITHER FIREARMS, ANY ITEM RESEMBLING A FIREARM, PETS, NOR OTHER LIVING ANIMALS, ETC.

First Offense: Written warning with parent signature or notification (may include a call or mail)
Second Offense: Bus privileges suspended for 5 days.

Third Offense: Bus privileges suspended for 10 days.
Fourth Offense: Bus privileges suspended for 30 days.
Fifth Offense: Bus privileges suspended for remainder of school year.

These steps may be skipped in cases of serious offenses, which include, but are not limited to, bullying, fighting, drugs, etc.

STUDENTS WHO WALK OR ARE TRANSPORTED BY PRIVATE AUTOMOBILES

Students who are transported in private automobiles will have a designated area to be dropped off and picked up. Students who walk to the high school must have a note from their parents and wait until all buses have left. PARENTS MAY NOT PICK UP THEIR CHILD IN THE BUS ZONE.

STUDENT DRESS AND GROOMING

The Cross County Board of Education recognizes that dress can be a matter of personal taste and preference. At the same time, the District has a responsibility to promote an environment conducive to student learning. This requires limitations to student dress and grooming that could be disruptive to the educational process because they are immodest, disruptive, unsanitary, unsafe, could cause property damage, or are offensive to common standards of decency.

The general standard of appearance for a student is that he/she be clean, neat, and properly dressed.

- Tops must cover the entire front, side, back of the student's body, and shoulder. A shirt must be worn under a sheer fabric shirt; tank tops, shirts with shoulder straps, etc. are not to be worn at school unless worn under another shirt.
- Without prior approval from the school's principal or designee, a student cannot wear sunglasses indoors.
- The bottom of skirts and dresses must hit the top of the knee.
- Shorts must be no shorter than the tip of a student's longest finger when standing.
- Short shorts, halter-tops, half or cutoff shirts, "sagging pants", and any clothing where under-garments show are examples of unacceptable clothing.
- Clothing with holes higher than the tip of a student's longest finger when standing is not allowed.
- Pants should be worn at least as high as the top of the hip bones.
- Legging may be worn as long as the shirt reaches the tip of the middle finger as measured when standing.
- A student's shirt is too short if his/her stomach shows.
- Headwear of any type will not be allowed at school. This includes but is not limited to hats and bandanas. A student should leave all headwear at home or in his/her vehicle for the entire school day.

- Clothing with vulgar or suggestive slogans or pictures; beer, tobacco, or drug-related advertisements, or sexually degrading messages, etc., displayed in plain sight are also unacceptable.
- Clothing that exposes underwear, buttocks, or the breast may not be worn.
- Shoes must be made for indoor and outdoor use and worn at all times.
- In an effort to foster professionalism in our students, pajamas or anything that resembles pajamas, will not be allowed to be worn at school.
- Students should not bring blankets to school.

Any exception to this rule must receive prior approval from the principal. Any clothing that causes or has the potential to cause a disruption of the educational environment is prohibited.

This dress code applies to all school-sponsored events. However, school-approved uniforms that do not meet dress code cannot be worn during the school day unless modifications to meet dress code are made and approved by the school principal. This policy may be relaxed for dances and other social events at the sole discretion of the principal.

All students not following dress must change or contact a parent or guardian to bring them a change of clothes. Parents, please be aware of what your child is wearing to school each day.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

It is felt that self-discipline is one of the most desirable traits a student can learn while in school. Because of this, students are given every opportunity to comply with certain rules and policies. Students will find that staff members will treat them with respect and consideration. In fact, as long as students act like ladies and gentlemen, they will be treated as such.

Of course, this means that there will be no fighting on campus or at school activities, no firearms, no gambling, no use or possession of any substance of a drug or alcoholic nature, no disrespect toward teachers, school personnel, and other students, no abusive or profane language, no immoral conduct, or destruction of school property.

The following suggestions will help students know what is expected of them by their fellow students and teachers. The student will also be informed as to what disciplinary action will occur should violations occur. Each student should note the following: A.C.A. 6-18-511 authorizes teachers to remove students from class in order to maintain effective discipline in the classroom.

Some steps may be omitted or skipped because of the severity of offense.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL **PROCEDURES FOR DISCIPLINE**

Violations or discipline policy will be dealt with according to severity of action and/or the frequency of violation. At the discretion of the principal or the superintendent, any incident may be elevated to a higher-level offense based on the severity of the conduct and its consequences. All violations will range from a minimum of verbal warning to a maximum of recommendation of expulsion. Corporal punishment may be used as a consequence for offenses.

Minor Infractions:

Such as, less than 4 tardies; excessive talking; or other minor offenses as deemed by teacher and/or administrator.

Consequence: The classroom teacher will take care of minor infractions with consequences in classroom.

Level I Offenses

- Disregard of directions and commands
- Disruptions and interference with school
- Cheating (additionally, no credit will be given for the work)
- Dress code violation
- Using computers for non-educational purposes during instructional time
- Downloading or streaming during the school day without permission
- Insubordination
- Profanity
- Any other offenses deemed by the principal

Consequences

1st level I offense – appropriate consequences as deemed by the classroom teacher
2nd level I offense – conference with principal
Lunch detention assigned by the teacher, principal or principal's designee

*All subsequent Level I offenses will be treated as Level II offenses.
*Insubordination of, refusal of, the punishment levied by the Principal or Principal's Designee will lead to higher levels of punishment by the Principal or Principal's Designee.

Level II Offenses
In school suspension may be assigned for Level II offenses. In the event that ISS is unavailable when consequences are assigned, OSS of the same duration will be issued.

- Excessive Level I offenses

- Excessive Insubordination
- Public display of affection
- Gambling
- Sexual harassment
- Bullying (see anti-bullying policy for additional information)
- Forgery
- Possession of Laser pointer
- Excessive Profanity
- Any other offenses deemed by the principal

Consequences

1st Level II offense	1 day ISS
2nd Level II offense	2 days ISS
3rd Level II offense	3 days ISS

*All subsequent Level II offenses will be treated as Level III offenses.
*Insubordination of, refusal of, the punishment levied by the Principal or Principal's Designee will lead to higher levels of punishment by the Principal or Principal's Designee.

Level III Offenses

Out of school suspension will be assigned for Level III offense.

- Excessive Level II offenses
- Fighting
- Recording a fight on school property by any means, or distributing, or posting such a recording on the Internet**
- Battery
- Possession of tobacco, nicotine, or vape in any form
- Willfully or intentionally damaging, destroying or stealing school property
- Excessive/continued bullying
- Hazing
- Verbal abuse/threat of a teacher, other staff member, or student
- Gang activity
- Possession of fireworks and toy weapons on campus
- Compromising the security of a school-owned computer or the school network
- Any other offenses deemed by the principal

Consequences

1st Level III offense	1 day OSS
2nd Level III offense	3 days OSS
3rd Level III offense	5 days OSS

*All subsequent Level III offenses will be treated as Level IV offenses.
*Insubordination of, refusal of, the punishment levied by the Principal or Principal's Designee will lead to higher levels of punishment by the Principal or Principal's Designee.
** If this occurs, subsequent offenses of being caught with a cell phone will result in the phone being taken up and the parent/guardian having to pick up the phone from school.

LEVEL IV OFFENSES

- Excessive level III offenses
- Possession of a weapon
- Possession, selling, distributing or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, any illegal drug, drug devices, or the inappropriate use or sharing of prescription, over the counter drugs, inhalants, or other intoxicants, or anything represented to be a drug
- Sexual assault
- Verbal abuse/threat of a teacher, other staff member, or student
- Other offenses defined in the handbook or Computer Use agreement
- Any other offenses deemed by the principal

Some levels or steps may be skipped based on severity of cases.
*Insubordination of, refusal of, the punishment levied by the Principal or Principal's Designee will lead to higher levels of punishment by the Principal or Principal's Designee.

Consequences

Students will be recommended for expulsion for Level IV offenses. Expulsion may be for the remainder of the semester, for the remainder of the school year, or for a calendar year depending on the student's disciplinary record and the severity of the offense. If the superintendent accepts the principal's recommendation for expulsion, the student will be suspended until a hearing is set before the board of education.

Discipline of the Disabled

Discipline for disabled students under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA):
Disabled students who engage in misbehavior are subject to normal school disciplinary rules and procedures so long as such treatment does not abridge the right to free appropriate public education or does not follow applicable state and federal laws and local policy as related to approved disciplinary measures. The individualized education plan (IEP) team for a disabled student will consider whether a particular discipline procedure should be adopted for that student and included in the IEP.

HIGH SCHOOL **PROCEDURES FOR DISCIPLINE**

Violations of discipline policy will be dealt with according to severity of action and/or the frequency of violation. The consequences of a disciplinary action may range from a minimum of a warning to a maximum of a recommendation for expulsion. At the discretion of the principal or the superintendent, any incident may be elevated to a higher-level offense based on the severity of the conduct or its consequences. Corporal punishment may be used as a consequence for offenses.

Level I Offenses

- Using computers for non-educational purposes
- Downloading or streaming during the school day without permission
- Mild profanity
- Minor classroom rules being broken or classroom disruptions
- Any other offenses deemed by the principal or designee

Consequences

1st level I offense – appropriate consequences as deemed by the classroom teacher
2nd level I offense – conference with principal or designee

*All subsequent Level I offenses will be treated as Level II offenses.

* Tardies:
- First offense: Warning
- Second Offense or More: Lunch detention

Level II Offenses

ISS will be held during school hours, but separate from the regular classroom. If a student is absent the day in which ISS is assigned, the student will serve the next school day.

- Excessive level I offenses
- *Insubordination
- Disruptive behavior that interferes with orderly school operations
- Gambling
- Forgery
- Possession of Laser pointer
- Cheating (O%/ F, additionally)
- Engaging in any behavior that places a school computer or the school network at risk of damage
- Language/actions that are deemed to be discrimination
- Tardies
- Public Displays of Affection (PDA)
- Using computers for non-educational purposes during instructional time

- Dress code violations
- *Possession of tobacco/vape or other form
- Verbal abuse/threat of a student
- Leaving school campus without permission
- Skipping class (not going to your assigned class without prior approval from all teachers involved)
- Any other offenses deemed by the principal or designee

Consequences

1st level II offense lunch detention
2nd level II offense 1 day ISS
3rd level II offense 3 days ISS
4th level II offense 5 days ISS

- *Exception: Possession of tobacco/vape or other form will result in the following consequences:
  1st Offense: 3 Days ISS
  2nd Offense: 2 Day of OSS
  3rd Offense: 3 Days of OSS
  4th Offense: 4 Days of OSS
  On 5th offense and each offense there after will result in possible level 3 or level 4 discipline.

- * Exception: Leaving school campus without school permission
  1st Offense: 1 Day ISS
  2nd Offense: 1 Day OSS
  3rd Offense: 2 Day OSS, with possibility of further disciplinary action (Semester expulsion)

Insubordination of, refusal of, the punishment levied by the Principal or Principal's Designee will lead to higher levels of punishment by the Principal or Principal's Designee.
*All subsequent Level II offenses will be treated as Level III offenses.

LEVEL III Offenses

Out of school suspension will be assigned for Level III Offenses.

- Excessive level II offenses
- Sexual harassment
- Bullying (see anti-bullying policy for additional information)
- Fighting/battery**
- Recording a fight on school property by any means, or distributing, or posting such a recording on the Internet
- Willfully or intentionally damaging, destroying or stealing school property

- Willfully or intentionally damaging, destroying or stealing property that belongs to another student
- Engaging in behavior designed to taunt, degrade, or ridicule another person on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, or disability
- Hazing
- Verbal abuse/threat of a teacher, other staff member,
- Gang activity
- Possession of fireworks on campus
- Compromising the security of a school-owned computer or the school network
- Deliberately damaging any school-owned computer or the school network
- Any form of Sexual Activity
- Any other offenses deemed by the principal

Consequences

1st level III offense 3 day OSS
2nd level III offense 5 days OSS
3rd level III offense 10 days OSS

Insubordination of, refusal of, the punishment levied by the Principal or Principal's Designee will lead to higher levels of punishment by the Principal or Principal's Designee.

*All subsequent Level III offenses will be treated as Level IV offenses.

**Fighting and/or battery is unacceptable for any reason at Cross County High School and will not be tolerated. A fight is defined as a physical altercation occurring between 2 or more students. The physical nature of a fight could include but is not limited to hitting, punching, slapping, poking, grabbing, pulling, tripping, kicking, and pinching.

Any student who engages in such actions as defined above may be taken to the Cross County Sheriff's office by a local police officer. Cross County School District will recommend that charges be filed against such individuals and that the students answer to the Cross County Juvenile Court System.
The student will face grade retention if they miss an unreasonable amount of schooling.

It will be left up to the administrator's discretion as to whether an individual's participation in a fight will be considered self-defense. If the administrator deems the actions as self-defense, then a lesser punishment may be issued to that participant.

LEVEL IV Offenses

Students will be recommended for expulsion for Level IV offenses. Expulsion may be for the remainder of the semester, for the remainder of the school year, or for a calendar year depending on the student's disciplinary record and the severity of the offense. If the superintendent accepts the principal's

recommendation for expulsion, the student will be suspended until a hearing is set before the board of education.

- Excessive level III offenses
- Possession of a weapon
- Possession, selling, distributing, or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, any illegal drug, drug devices, or the inappropriate use or sharing of prescription, over the counter drugs, inhalants, or other intoxicants, or anything represented to be a drug
- Refusing to take a drug or alcohol test when there is a reasonable suspicion that a student is under the influence of a controlled substance or alcohol
- Sexual assault
- Other offenses defined in the handbook or Computer Use agreement
- Threats of serious bodily harm to staff and students
- Any other offenses deemed by the principal

Insubordination of, refusal of, the punishment levied by the Principal or Principal's Designee will lead to higher levels of punishment by the Principal or Principal's Designee.

Discipline of the Disabled

Discipline for disabled students under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): Disabled students who engage in misbehavior are subject to normal school disciplinary rules and procedures so long as such treatment does not abridge the right to free appropriate public education or does not follow applicable state and federal laws and local policy as related to approved disciplinary measures. The individualized education plan (IEP) team for a disabled student will consider whether a particular discipline procedure should be adopted for that student and included in the IEP.

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

Students and staff require a safe and orderly learning environment that is conducive to high student achievement. Certain student behaviors are unacceptable in such an environment and are hereby prohibited by the Board. Prohibited behaviors include, but shall not be limited to the following:

1. Disrespect for school employees and failing to comply with their reasonable directions or otherwise demonstrating insubordination;
2. Disruptive behavior that interferes with orderly school operations;
3. Willfully and intentionally assaulting or threatening to assault or physically abusing any student or school employee;
4. Possession of any weapon that can reasonably be considered capable of causing bodily harm to another individual;
5. Possession or use of tobacco in any form on any property owned or leased by any public school;
6. Willfully or intentionally damaging, destroying, or stealing school property;

7. Possession of any and use of a personal electronic device except as authorized by Policy 4.47 or by the student's IEP or 504 Plan;
8. Possession, selling, distributing, or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, any illegal drug, unauthorized inhalants, or the inappropriate use or sharing of prescription or over the counter drugs, or other intoxicants, or anything represented to be a drug;
9. Sharing, diverting, transferring, applying to others (such as needles or lancets), or in any way misusing medication or any medical supplies in their possession;
10. Inappropriate public displays of affection;
11. Cheating, copying, or claiming another person's work to be his/her own;
12. Gambling;
13. Inappropriate student dress;
14. Use of vulgar, profane, or obscene language or gestures;
15. Truancy;
16. Excessive tardiness;
17. Engaging in behavior designed to taunt, degrade, or ridicule another person on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability;
18. Possess, view, distribute or electronically transmit sexually explicit or vulgar images or representations, whether electronically, on a data storage device, or in hard copy form;
19. Hazing, or aiding in the hazing of another student;
20. Gangs or gang-related activities, including belonging to secret societies of any kind, are forbidden on school property. Gang insignias, clothing, "throwing signs" or other gestures associated with gangs are prohibited;
21. Sexual harassment;
22. Bullying;
23. Operating a vehicle on school grounds while using a wireless communication device; and
24. Theft of another individual's personal property.
25. Antisemitism

The Board directs each school in the District to develop implementation regulations for prohibited student conduct consistent with applicable Board policy, State and Federal laws, and judicial decisions.

DEFINITIONS OF DISCIPLINARY OPTIONS

Warning

Some minor discipline problems can be handled by a simple warning to the student. The warning may be in oral or written form.

High School Lunch Detention

Lunch detention occurs during a student's lunch. They are required to remain silent during the entirety, before eating, while eating, and after eating. Lunch detention occurs at a location outside of the HS cafeteria. Any student who is absent for lunch detention will receive lunch detention the next day. Students who do explicitly follow all rules, guidelines, and instructions during lunch detention, will

receive ISS. IF a student is later than 5 minutes to detention, the student will be assigned another day of detention. While in lunch detention, students are required to complete a reflection sheet about the reason they are in detention. If the student does not complete the reflection to the satisfaction of the staff member that assigned the detention, the student will be assigned another day of detention to properly complete the reflection sheet.

Corporal Punishment

A. ACT 333 or 1995 requires "provision for administration of the punishment, including that it be administered only for cause, be reasonable, follow warnings that the misbehavior will not be tolerated, and be administered by a teacher or a school administrator and only in the presence of the principal.

B. In 1977, the U.S. Supreme Court held that spanking children as means of maintaining school discipline did not constitute cruel and unusual punishment in violation of the Eighth Amendment of the U. S. Constitution.

C. Corporal punishment can be administered according to the following:

a. It will be used only after other alternatives, (including, but not limited to counseling), have failed or in unusual circumstances.
b. It will be administered in the presence of the principal or designee.
c. It will not be administered in the presence of other students, with malice or anger or in excess.
d. Before corporal punishment is administered, the student should be advised of the rule and infraction for which the student is being punished in the presence of the witness. If the student claims innocence, the certified employee will permit the student to state his/her position. School officials are not required to conduct formal hearings prior to corporal punishment.
e. Refusal to take corporal punishment may result in suspension or other disciplinary measures.
f. The principal or his designee will be present when corporal punishment is administered and a written report will be filed in the principal's office.
g. As applicable and/or restricted by state law and local policy

<u>In-school Suspension (ISS) Rules</u>

1. Students are responsible for making up work missed while in ISS. Failure to do this can result in the student losing credit for the assignment.

2. The student will be given work to complete while in ISS. (No magazines or newspapers are permitted.)

3. Students will not be allowed to eat, drink, sleep, or talk during ISS.

4. There will be a bathroom break in the morning, at lunch, and in the afternoon.

5. Students will go to lunch with the ISS Instructor. Students may bring their lunch, purchase their lunch, or not eat, but they will walk to and from the cafeteria with the ISS instructor and sit with the instructor. When deemed necessary due to weather conditions, unacceptable behavior, violation of cafeteria rules etc., ISS students may eat in other designated areas.

6. Students will NOT be allowed to participate in after/before school practice on days in which ISS is served and will NOT be allowed to participate in designated games or matches on days in which ISS is served.

Suspension

Students who are not present at school cannot benefit from the educational opportunities the school environment affords. Administrators, therefore, shall strive to find ways to keep students in school as participants in the educational process. There are instances, however, when the needs of the other students or the interests of the orderly learning environment require the removal of a student from school. The Board authorizes school principals or their designees to suspend students for disciplinary reasons for a period of time not to exceed ten (10) school days,[1] including the day upon which the suspension is imposed. The suspension may be in school or out of school. Students are responsible for their conduct that occurs:

- At any time on the school grounds;
- Off school grounds at a school-sponsored function, activity, or event; and
- Going to and from school or a school activity.

A student may be suspended for behavior including, but not limited to, that:

1. Is in violation of school policies, rules, or regulations;
2. Substantially interferes with the safe and orderly educational environment;
3. School administrators believe will result in the substantial interference with the safe and orderly educational environment; and/or
4. Is insubordinate, incorrigible, violent, or involves moral turpitude.

OSS shall not be used to discipline a student for skipping class, excessive absences, or other forms of truancy.

The school principal or designee shall proceed as follows in deciding whether or not to suspend a student:

1. The student shall be given written notice or advised orally of the charges against him/her;
2. If the student denies the charges, he/she shall be given an explanation of the evidence against him/her and be allowed to present his/her version of the facts; and
3. If the principal finds the student guilty of misconduct, he/she may be suspended.

When possible, notice of the suspension, its duration, and any stipulations for the student's re-admittance to class will be given to the parent(s), legal guardian(s), person(s) with lawful control of the student, person(s) standing in loco parentis, or to the student if age eighteen (18) or older prior to

the suspension. Such notice shall be handed to the parent(s), legal guardian(s), person(s) having lawful control of the student, person(s) standing in loco parentis, or to the student if age eighteen (18) or older or mailed to the last address reflected in the records of the school district.

Generally, notice and hearing should precede the student's removal from school, but if prior notice and hearing are not feasible, as where the student's presence endangers persons or property or threatens disruption of the academic process, thus justifying immediate removal from school, the necessary notice and hearing should follow as soon as practicable.

It is the responsibility of a student's parents, legal guardians, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis to provide current contact information to the district, which the school shall use to immediately notify the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of a student, or person standing in loco parentis upon the suspension of a student. The notification shall be by one of the following means:

- A primary call number;
- The contact may be by voice, voice mail, or text message;
- A regular first class letter to the last known mailing address.

The district shall keep a log of contacts attempted and made to the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis.

The District shall establish programs, measures, or alternative means and methods to continue student engagement and access to education during a student's period of OSS.

During the period of their suspension, students serving OSS are not permitted on campus except to attend a student/parent/administrator conference or when necessary as part of the District's engagement or access to education program.

During the period of their suspension, students serving in-school suspension shall not attend or participate in any school-sponsored activities during the imposed suspension.

Suspensions initiated by the principal or his/her designee may be appealed to the Superintendent, but not to the Board.

Suspensions initiated by the Superintendent may be appealed to the Board.

Students will not be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities within an ISS or OSS suspension period.

<u>Expulsion</u>

The Board of Education may expel a student for a period longer than ten (10) school days for violation of the District's written discipline policies. The Superintendent may make a recommendation of expulsion to the Board of Education for student conduct:

- Deemed to be of such gravity that suspension would be inappropriate;
- Where the student's continued attendance at school would disrupt the orderly learning environment; or
- Would pose an unreasonable danger to the welfare of other students or staff.

Expulsion shall not be used to discipline a student in kindergarten through fifth (5th) grade unless the student's behavior:

a. Poses a physical risk to himself or herself or to others;
b. Causes a serious disruption that cannot be addressed through other means; or
c. Is the act of bringing a firearm on school campus.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall give written notice to the parents, ~~or~~ legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis (mailed to the address reflected on the District's records) that he/she will recommend to the Board of Education that the student be expelled for the specified length of time and state the reasons for the recommendation to expel. The notice shall give the date, hour, and place where the Board of Education will consider and dispose of the recommendation.

The hearing shall be conducted not later than ten (10) school days[1] following the date of the notice, except that representatives of the Board and student may agree in writing to a date not conforming to this limitation.

The President of the Board, Board attorney, or other designated Board member shall preside at the hearing. The student may choose to be represented by legal counsel. Both the district administration and School Board also may be represented by legal counsel. The hearing shall be conducted in open session of the Board unless the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, person standing in loco parentis, or student if age eighteen (18) or older, requests that the hearing be conducted in executive session. Any action taken by the Board shall be in open session.

During the hearing, the Superintendent, or designee, or representative will present evidence, including the calling of witnesses, who gave rise to the recommendation of expulsion. The student, or his/her representative, may then present evidence including statements from persons with personal knowledge of the events or circumstances relevant to the charges against the student. Formal cross-examination will not be permitted; however, any member of the Board, the Superintendent, or designee, the student, or his/her representative may question anyone making a statement and/or the student. The presiding officer shall decide questions concerning the appropriateness or relevance of any questions asked during the hearing.

Except as permitted by policy 4.22, the Superintendent shall recommend the expulsion of any student for a period of one (1) year for possession of any firearm prohibited on school campus by law. The Superintendent shall, however, have the discretion to modify the expulsion recommendation for a student on a case-by-case basis. Parents, ~~or~~ legal guardians, persons having lawful control of a student, or persons standing in loco parentis of a student enrolling from another school after the expiration of an expulsion period for a weapons policy violation shall be given a copy of the current laws regarding the

possibility of parental responsibility for allowing a child to possess a weapon on school property.[2] The parents, or legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis shall sign a statement acknowledging that they have read and understand said laws prior to the student being enrolled in school.

The Superintendent and the Board of Education shall complete the expulsion process of any student that was initiated because the student possessed a firearm or other prohibited weapon on school property regardless of the enrollment status of the student.

The District shall establish programs, measures, or alternative means and methods to continue student engagement and access to education during a student's period of expulsion. The District's program shall include offering an expelled student an opportunity for enrollment in digital learning courses or other alternative educational courses that result in the receipt of academic credit that is at least equal to credit the expelled student may have received from the District if the student had not been expelled.

Additional Definitions and Clarification

1. Disregard of Directions or Commands

A student shall comply with reasonable directions or commands of teachers, student teachers, substitute teachers, teacher aids, principals, administrative personnel, superintendent, school bus drivers, school security officers, or other authorized personnel. Students will be considered insubordinate when they refuse to obey any rule or regulation of the school or school district personnel.

2. Disruptions and Interference with School
   a. No Student Shall:
   - Block the doorway, corridor, or walkway
   - Prevent students from attending a class or school activity
   - Block normal pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
   - Use violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear harassment, passive resistance, or any other conduct intentionally causing disruption
   - Refuse to identify him/her on request
   - Encourage other students to violate any rule or school board policy

3. Immorality

A student shall abstain from indecent and immoral acts, and use of vulgar language. Possessing, viewing, distributing, or electronically transmitting sexually explicit or vulgar images or representations, whether electronically, on a data storage device, or a hard copy is strictly forbidden.

4. Fireworks

A student shall not possess, handle, or store firecrackers, smoke bombs or any other kind of fireworks that reasonably could be a danger to himself/herself or to other students, that could cause damage to school property, or that could be disruptive to the learning climate of the school.

5. Cheating

A student shall not cheat on any classroom assignments or tests.

6. Gambling/Trading

Students shall not participate in any activity, which may be termed gambling or wagering where the stakes are money or any other object or objects of value. A student shall not participate in any trading of personal property.

7. Physical Abuse, Threat or Assault of School Staff

(Act 104 of 1983 Special Session)
Students shall not cause or attempt to cause physical injury to a school employee, fellow student, or any other individual. Act 888 of 1995 requires the principal of a public school to report all felonies or other violent criminal acts committed against a teacher, school employee, or student to the appropriate local law agency and school district.

8. Threats to Assault or Abuse Other Students (Act 706 of 1997)

A student should not willingly and intentionally assault or threaten to assault or abuse any student.

9. Verbal Abuse Threat by a Student on a School Employee

No student shall inflict verbal abuse such as name calling or cursing a school employee.
10. The possession of any Firearm or other Weapon Prohibited on School Property (Act 567 of 1995)

a. A student shall not possess, handle or transmit a knife, razor, ice pick, explosive, handgun, rifle, shotgun, pellet gun, or any other object that can be considered a weapon or any kind of ammunition.

b. Dangerous instrument: It shall be unlawful for any student, or any other person using school-owned property to conceal any gun, drug, or any other contraband in any desk, locker, or other school-owned property in this state. The superintendent of any school district shall suspend any student from school for a period of not less than one (1) year for possession of any firearm or other weapon prohibited upon the school campus by law; provided, however, that the superintendent shall have discretion to modify such expulsion requirement for a student on a

case-by-case basis. Act 1282 or 1999 to amend AR. Code 5-73-119 to prohibit firearms on school property, school buses or school bus stops.

11. Damage or Destruction of School Property (Act 104 of 1983 Special Session)

a. A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to school property or steal or attempt to steal school property. Defacing of school property such as marking walls and desks and carving on desks is forbidden.

b. The school district will attempt to recover damages from the student destroying school property.

12. Theft

a. A student shall not steal or attempt to steal property.

b. Students shall make restitution of any property stolen by them and shall be subject to other disciplinary measures.

13. Misconduct at School Activity

a. As a student you should keep in mind that you are responsible for your conduct at all times during the school related activities where you may be in attendance. This includes school related activities that take place on other campuses. Unacceptable behavior will be subject to disciplinary action.

14. Gangs or gang related activities, including belonging to a secret society of any kind, is forbidden on school property. Hazing, or aiding in hazing of another student is also prohibited.

15. Additional Provisions

a. Other violations punishable by suspension, expulsion, or other disciplinary actions:
All regulations contained herein are applicable to any student who may be utilizing the school transportation system for transportation either to or from school or to and from any school activity. Students will be given specific regulations as they pertain to the school transportation system.

b. Parents of any minor student under the age of 18 may be liable for damages caused by said minor in an amount not in excess of $2,000.00.

16. Public Display of Affection

Public display of affection is not appropriate behavior at school or sponsored trips.

17. Immoralities and Pornography

A student shall abstain from indecent and immoral acts. A student shall not possess or distribute pornographic materials.

18. Physical Abuse, Threats or Assault by a Student on a School Employee or a Person Not Employed by the School

A student shall not cause or attempt to cause physical injury or behave in such a way could reasonably cause physical injury to a school employee, fellow student, or any other individual. Violence will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

19. Skipping School (Truancy)

Once a student arrives on the school property, he/she becomes the responsibility of the school officials. Students must receive permission from the principal or superintendent before leaving the campus. It is hoped that all students will have a sincere consideration for the rights of others and that each student will take pride in being a member of this school's student body and make an effort to constantly improve it. Students who are truant may be referred to appropriate officials.

20. Sexual Assault: See State statutes for definition

BULLYING

Definitions

"Attribute" means an actual or perceived personal characteristic including without limitation race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, socioeconomic status, academic status, disability, gender, gender identity, physical appearance, health condition, or sexual orientation;

"Bullying" means the intentional harassment, intimidation, humiliation, ridicule, defamation, or threat or incitement of violence by a student against another student or public school employee by a written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that may address an attribute of the other student, public school employee, or person with whom the other student or public school employee is associated and that causes or creates actual or reasonably foreseeable:

- Physical harm to a public school employee or student or damage to the public school employee's or student's property;
- Substantial interference with a student's education or with a public school employee's role in education;
- A hostile educational environment for one (1) or more students or public school employees due to the severity, persistence, or pervasiveness of the act; or
- Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment;

Examples of "Bullying" include, but are not limited to, a pattern of behavior involving one or more of the following:

1. Cyberbullying;

2. Sarcastic comments "compliments" about another student's personal appearance or actual or perceived attributes,
3. Pointed questions intended to embarrass or humiliate,
4. Mocking, taunting or belittling,
5. Non-verbal threats and/or intimidation such as "fronting" or "chesting" a person,
6. Demeaning humor relating to a student's actual or perceived attributes,
7. Blackmail, extortion, demands for protection money or other involuntary donations or loans,
8. Blocking access to school property or facilities,
9. Deliberate physical contact or injury to person or property,
10. Stealing or hiding books or belongings,
11. Threats of harm to student(s), possessions, or others,
12. Sex harassment, as governed by policy 4.27, is also a form of bullying, and/or
13. Teasing or name-calling related to sex characteristics or the belief or perception that an individual is not conforming to expected gender roles or conduct or is homosexual, regardless of whether the student self-identifies as homosexual or transgender (Examples: "Slut", "You are so gay.", "Fag", "Queer").

"Cyberbullying" means any form of communication by electronic act that is sent with the purpose to:

- Harass, intimidate, humiliate, ridicule, defame, or threaten a student, school employee, or person with whom the other student or school employee is associated; or
- Incite violence towards a student, school employee, or person with whom the other student or school employee is associated.

Cyberbullying of School Employees includes, but is not limited to:

a. Building a fake profile or website of the employee;
b. Posting or encouraging others to post on the Internet private, personal, or sexual information pertaining to a school employee;
c. Posting an original or edited image of the school employee on the Internet;
d. Accessing, altering, or erasing any computer network, computer data program, or computer software, including breaking into a password-protected account or stealing or otherwise accessing passwords of a school employee;
e. Making repeated, continuing, or sustained electronic communications, including electronic mail or transmission, to a school employee;
f. Making, or causing to be made, and disseminating an unauthorized copy of data pertaining to a school employee in any form, including without limitation the printed or electronic form of computer data, computer programs, or computer software residing in, communicated by, or produced by a computer or computer network;
g. Signing up a school employee for a pornographic Internet site; or
h. Without authorization of the school employee, signing up a school employee for electronic mailing lists or to receive junk electronic messages and instant messages.

Cyberbullying is prohibited whether or not the cyberbullying originated on school property or with school equipment, if the cyberbullying results in the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment or is directed specifically at students or school personnel and maliciously intended for the purpose of disrupting school and has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose.

"Harassment" means a pattern of unwelcome verbal or physical conduct relating to another person's constitutionally or statutorily protected status that causes, or reasonably should be expected to cause, substantial interference with the other's performance in the school environment; and

"Substantial disruption" means without limitation that any one or more of the following occur as a result of the bullying:

- Necessary cessation of instruction or educational activities;
- Inability of students or educational staff to focus on learning or function as an educational unit because of a hostile environment;
- Severe or repetitive disciplinary measures are needed in the classroom or during educational activities; or
- Exhibition of other behaviors by students or educational staff that substantially interfere with the learning environment.

Respect for the dignity of others is a cornerstone of civil society. Bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, robs a person of his/her dignity, detracts from the safe environment necessary to promote student learning, and will not be tolerated by the Board of Directors. Students who bully another person shall be held accountable for their actions whether they occur on school equipment or property; off school property at a school sponsored or approved function, activity, or event; going to or from school or a school activity in a school vehicle or school bus; or at designated school bus stops.

Students are encouraged to report behavior they consider to be bullying, including a single action which if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, to their teacher or the building principal. The report may be made anonymously. Teachers and other school employees who have witnessed, or are reliably informed that, a student has been a victim of behavior they consider to be bullying, including a single action which if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, shall report the incident(s) to the building principal, or designee, as soon as possible. Parents or legal guardians may submit written reports of incidents they feel constitute bullying, or if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, to the building principal, or designee.

The person or persons reporting behavior they consider to be bullying shall not be subject to retaliation or reprisal in any form.

Students found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, consideration may be given to other violations of the student handbook which may have simultaneously occurred.

REPORTING BULLYING

Anyone may report bullying, including parents, teachers, students, and other school officials. Reporting can be done in a number of ways: phone call, email, or completing a bullying report form.

BULLYING REPORTING FORM

Person reporting bullying_____
Today's date_____
Victim of bullying_____
Date bullying occurred_____
Who is bullying?_____
What happened? _____
Did anyone else see this? Tell the student's names:
_____
_____
_____
_____

Where did this occur? Check one.

___Classroom	____Lunchroom	___Playground	___Restroom
___Hall	___Gym		
___Ball game	____School Trip	___Internet	
___Bus	____Other		

Disposition: (office use only)

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

It is the policy of the Cross County School District that any school employee, student substitute teacher or visitor subjects none of its students to sexual harassment. Any person who alleges sexual harassment by any school employee, student, substitute, volunteer or visitor in the district may register the complaint with the principal or the staff member's immediate supervisor. If the complaint involves the principal, the complaint may be made to the superintendent of school. Inappropriate notes, language, touching, and jesters are behaviors that are considered to be sexual harassment.

CROSS COUNTY SCHOOLS POLICY ON NARCOTICS, BEVERAGES CONTAINING ALCOHOL, AND DRUGS

In recent years, drug, alcohol and tobacco related activity among people has increased. This is particularly true among many younger people. The public school system is a place of gathering for persons in this age group. Unfortunately, some school age people choose to participate in this activity. It would be our hope that students of Cross County School would not choose to participate in any activity of this nature. However, in cases where some do, the following policy will be followed:

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Possession, selling, distributing, or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, any illegal drug, unauthorized inhalants, or the inappropriate use or sharing of prescription or over the counter drugs, or other intoxicants or anything represented to be a drug is prohibited. The sale, distribution, or attempted sale or distribution of over-the-counter (OTC) medications, dietary supplement or other perceived health remedy not regulated by the US Food and Drug Administration, or prescription drugs is prohibited. The possession or use of OTC medications, dietary supplement or other perceived health remedy not regulated by the US Food and Drug Administration, or prescription drugs is prohibited except as permitted under Policy 4.35

At school or at school-sponsored activities, a student shall not possess, sell, use, transmit, or be under any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, or any other controlled substance as defined in ACT 590 of 1971 of the State of Arkansas as amended, or beverage containing alcohol or intoxicant of any kind.

Controlled substances in the form of prescription drugs may be possessed and used by a student who has a prescription for the substance provided the substance remains in the container in which it was obtained from the pharmacist. Upon arrival at school, all controlled substances in the form of prescription drugs must be taken to the office and may be picked up at the end of the day. Any student believed to be exceeding the prescribed dosage of a prescription drug will be subject to being detained in the office of the principal until a parent or guardian arrives and a determination is made as to the appropriate procedures.

If a student is found to be in violation of this policy, the penalties will be as follows:
Students using or transmitting substances which are not considered controlled substances and which are not prescription drugs may nevertheless be disciplined under this policy if such substances are being used or transmitted for hallucinogenic, simulative, depressant, or intoxicating purposes. Students found to be in violation of this policy shall:

A. Be detained in the office of the principal until the investigations concerning the accusations are completed.
B. Have their parents or guardian notified if available.
C. Be confronted with the accusations against them.
D. Be given the opportunity to explain the violation.

When controlled or non-prescription substances are found at school or at school-sponsored activities, the proper legal authorities will be notified and they shall make the decision whether prosecution under the criminal laws shall be pursued. In the event such prosecution is pursued, school authorities shall release any controlled substances found at the school or school-sponsored activities to such local authorities. Parents and law enforcement will be notified.
Any student involved in the above will be afforded all rights of due process.

TOBACCO USE

Smoking or use of tobacco or products containing tobacco in any form (including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, e-cigarettes, vapes, chewing tobacco, and snuff) in or on any real property owned or leased by a District school, including school buses owned or leased by the District, is prohibited. Students who violate this policy may be subject to legal proceedings in addition to student disciplinary measures.
With the exception of recognized tobacco cessation products, this policy's prohibition includes any tobacco or nicotine delivery system or product. Specifically, the prohibition includes any product that is manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pips, or under any other name or descriptor.

STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT THERE BE NO SMOKING ON SCHOOL PROPERTY—INSIDE OR OUTSIDE.

STUDENT USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Definitions

> "Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools" means Software applications or platforms that utilize machine learning algorithms to perform tasks typically requiring human intelligence, such as generating content, providing recommendations, or solving problems. For purposes of this policy, AI tools do not include the use of spell check or grammar check.

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the responsible use of AI tools by District students. The policy applies to all students enrolled in the District and covers the use of AI tools when completing District assignments or projects.

The district shall provide teachers and students resources and education on AI literacy and digital citizenship. The District shall establish a committee who shall be responsible for the review and selection of AI tools that shall be available for students to use. All AI tools selected by the committee shall comply with applicable state and federal data privacy laws. Students shall only use AI tools that were approved by the District committee for classroom assignments or projects.

Teachers are responsible for providing instructions on when and how AI tools may be used for classroom assignments. Students may use AI tools as approved by their classroom teacher to enhance learning and develop future-ready skills.

Students should use AI tools ethically and responsibly, aligning with the district's educational objectives, and in a manner that does not harm themselves or others. As part of using AI tools responsibly, students should be cautious about the information they provide to AI tools and consult with a teacher if unsure. At no time shall Students share personal, sensitive, or confidential information with AI tools, especially AI tools requiring data input.
When a student uses AI tools, a student shall:

1. Review and verify the accuracy of content that is generated by an AI tool;
2. Cite AI tools used as part of an assignment or project as a source, following District citation guidelines; and
3. Be transparent about their use of AI in completing assignments.

Students must ensure all submitted work is their own and properly acknowledge or cite any assistance from AI tools. Students are encouraged to ask questions if they are unsure about the acceptable use of AI tools.

The following actions regarding AI tools are strictly prohibited:

- Misuse of AI tools for cheating, plagiarism, or any form of academic dishonesty, including the submission of assignments that were fully generated by an AI tool and presented as original student work;
- Altering or falsifying academic documents or records using AI tools;
- Using AI tools to:
- Gain unauthorized access to District systems; or
- Bypass District security measures;
- Using AI tools to produce misleading or false information, imagery, or any form of false outputs about themselves, other students, or staff members.

Students should report any inappropriate content or security concerns encountered while using AI tools to a teacher or administrator.

Violations of this policy shall be handled in accordance with the District's disciplinary procedures.
Level II offense: Student will receive a 0%

SEARCH, SEIZURE, AND INTERROGATIONS

The District respects the rights of its students against arbitrary intrusion of their person and property. At the same time, it is the responsibility of school officials to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all students enrolled in the District in order to promote an environment conducive to student learning. The Superintendent, principals, and their designees have the right to inspect and search school property and equipment. They may also search students and their personal property in which the student has a reasonable expectation of privacy, when there is reasonable and individualized suspicion to believe such student or property contains illegal items or other items in violation of Board policy or dangerous to the school community.[1] School authorities may seize evidence found in the search and disciplinary action may be taken. Evidence found which appears to be in violation of the law shall be reported to the appropriate authority.

School property shall include, but not be limited to, lockers, desks, and parking lots, as well as personal effects left there by students. When possible, prior notice will be given and the student will be allowed to be present along with an adult witness; however, searches may be done at any time with or without notice or the student's consent. A personal search must not be excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

The Superintendent, principals, and their designees may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to help conduct searches. Such searches may include the use of specially trained dogs.

A school official of the same sex shall conduct personal searches with an adult witness of the same sex present.

State Law requires that Department of Human Services employees, local law enforcement, or agents of the Crimes Against Children Division of the Division of Arkansas State Police, may interview students without a court order for the purpose of investigating suspected child abuse. In instances where the interviewers deem it necessary, they may exercise a "72-hour hold" without first obtaining a court order. Other questioning of students by non-school personnel shall be granted only with a court order directing such questioning, with permission of the parents of a student (or the student if above eighteen [18] years of age), or in response to a subpoena or arrest warrant.

If the District makes a report to any law enforcement agency concerning student misconduct or if access to a student is granted to a law enforcement agency due to a court order, the principal or the principal's designee shall make a good faith effort to contact the student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis. The principal or the principal's designee shall not attempt to make such contact if presented documentation by the investigator that notification is prohibited because a parent, guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis is named as an alleged offender of the suspected child maltreatment. This exception applies only to interview requests made by a law enforcement officer, an investigator of the Crimes Against Children Division of the Division of Arkansas State Police, or an investigator or employee of the Department of Human Services.

In instances other than those related to cases of suspected child abuse, principals must release a student to either a police officer who presents a subpoena for the student, or a warrant for arrest, or to an agent of state social services or an agent of a court with jurisdiction over a child with a court order signed by a judge. Upon release of the student, the principal or designee shall give the student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis notice that the student has been taken into custody by law enforcement personnel or a state's social services agency. If the principal or designee is unable to reach the parent, he or she shall make a reasonable, good faith effort to get a message to the parent to call the principal or designee, and leave both a day and an after-hours telephone number.

DUE PROCESS

Every student is entitled to due process in every instance of disciplinary action for which the student may be subjected to penalties of suspension or expulsion (See AR Stat. Ann. 80-1516)

A. Due process is afforded to students in disciplinary cases of some magnitude such as
   a. Suspension
   b. Expulsion

c. Statements removed from students' records and
d. Clearing one's reputation

B. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1975 that, for every suspension not exceeding ten days, the student has the right to be accorded the minimum requirements of the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

C. The due process rights of students and parents are as follows:
a. Prior to any suspension, the school principal or his/her designee shall advise the pupil in question of the particular misconduct of which he or she is accused, as well as the basis for such accusation.
b. The student shall be given an opportunity at that time to explain his/her version of the facts to the school principal or his/her designee.
c. Written notice of suspension and the reason (s) for the suspension shall be given to the parent (s) of the pupil or legal guardian of that student.

PRIVACY OF STUDENTS' RECORDS/ DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Except when a court order regarding a student has been presented to the district to the contrary, all students' education records are available for inspection and copying by the parent of his/her student who is under the age of eighteen (18). At the age of eighteen (18), the right to inspect and copy a student's records transfers to the student. A student's parent or the student, if over the age of 18, requesting to review the student's education records will be allowed to do so within no more than forty five (45) days of the request. The district forwards education records, including disciplinary records, to schools that have requested them and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer.

The district shall receive written permission before releasing education records to any agency or individual not authorized by law to receive and/or view the education records without prior parental permission. The District shall maintain a record of requests by such agencies or individuals for access to, and each disclosure of, personally identifiable information (hereinafter "PII") from the education records of each student. Disclosure of education records is authorized by law to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A personal record kept by a school staff member is not considered an education record if it meets the following tests:

- it is in the sole possession of the individual who made it;
- it is used only as a personal memory aid; and
- information contained in it has never been revealed or made available to any other person, except the maker's temporary substitute.

For the purposes of this policy a school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a

parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

For the purposes of this policy a school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility, contracted duty, or duty of elected office.

The District discloses PII from an education record to appropriate parties, including parents, in connection with an emergency if knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals. The superintendent or designee shall determine who will have access to and the responsibility for disclosing information in emergency situations.

When deciding whether to release PII in a health or safety emergency, the District may take into account the totality of the circumstances pertaining to a threat to the health or safety of a student or other individuals. If the District determines that there is an articulated and significant threat to the health or safety of a student or other individuals, it may disclose information from education records to any person whose knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.

For purposes of this policy, the Cross County School District does not distinguish between a custodial and noncustodial parent, or a non-parent such as a person acting in loco parentis or a foster parent with respect to gaining access to a student's records. Unless a court order restricting such access has been presented to the district to the contrary, the fact of a person's status as parent or guardian, alone, enables that parent or guardian to review and copy his child's records.

If there exists a court order, which directs that a parent not have access to a student or his records, the parent, guardian, person acting in loco parentis, or an agent of the Department of Human Services must present a file-marked copy of such order to the building principal and the superintendent. The school will make good-faith efforts to act in accordance with such court order, but the failure to do so does not impose legal liability upon the school. The actual responsibility for enforcement of such court orders rests with the parents or guardians, their attorneys and the court, which issued the order.

A parent or guardian does not have the right to remove any material from a student's records, but such parent or guardian may challenge the accuracy of a record. The right to challenge the accuracy of a record does not include the right to dispute a grade, which must be done only through the appropriate teacher and/or administrator, the decision of whom is final. A challenge to the accuracy of material contained in a student's file must be initiated with the building principal, with an appeal available to the Superintendent or his designee. The challenge shall clearly identify the part of the student's record the parent wants changed and specify why he/she believes it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school determines not to amend the record as requested, the school will notify the requesting parent or student of the decision and inform them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amending the record. The parent or eligible student will be provided information regarding the hearing procedure when notified of the right to a hearing.

Unless the parent or guardian of a student (or student, if above the age of eighteen [18]) objects, "directory information" about a student may be made available to the public, military recruiters, post-secondary educational institutions, prospective employers of those students, as well as school publications such as annual yearbooks and graduation announcements. "Directory information" includes, but is not limited to, a student's name, address, telephone number, electronic mail address, photograph, date and place of birth, dates of attendance, his/her placement on the honor roll (or the receipt of other types of honors), as well as his/her participation in school clubs and extracurricular activities, among others. If the student participates in inherently public activities (for example, basketball, football, or other interscholastic activities), the publication of such information will be beyond the control of the District. "Directory information" also includes a student identification (ID) number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by a student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems and a student ID number or other unique personal identifier that is displayed on a student's ID badge, provided the ID cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a personal identification number (PIN), password or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user.

A student's name and photograph will only be displayed on the district or school's web page(s) after receiving the written permission from the student's parent or student if over the age of 18.

The form for objecting to making directory information available is located in the back of the student handbook and must be completed and signed by the parent or age-eligible student and filed with the building principal's office no later than ten (10) school days after the beginning of each school year or the date the student is enrolled for school. Failure to file an objection by that time is considered a specific grant of permission. The district is required to continue to honor any signed-opt out form for any student no longer in attendance at the district.

The right to opt out of the disclosure of directory information under FERPA does not prevent the District from disclosing or requiring a student to disclose the student's name, identifier, or institutional email address in a class in which the student is enrolled.

Parents and students over the age of 18 who believe the district has failed to comply with the requirements for the lawful release of student records may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education at:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

COMPLAINTS

A. Disciplinary Complaints

If a pupil and/or the parent of the pupil involved in a disciplinary ruling wishes to contest a disciplinary ruling, they must state their complaint on the appeal form to the school principal asking that the ruling be changed. If the principal does not satisfactorily resolve the complaint, an appeal can be taken to the superintendent, then to the school board.

B. Other Complaints

Any person who feels aggrieved concerning any matter connected with the schools should discuss the matter first with the teacher and principal and then with the superintendent of schools. If the superintendent of schools is unable to adjust the matter satisfactorily, the person making the complaint is then invited to refer the matter to the school board. Procedure for referring the matter to the school board is to address a letter to the school board in care of the superintendent one-week in advance of the meeting of the school board.

Grievance Procedures
For
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race),
Title IX (sex) of the Education Amendment of 1972
Section 504 (handicap) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

A. Complaints concerning the previous may come from the following:

Students, Parents, Teachers, Other Employees, and Concerned Citizens or Organizations.

B. Procedures for filing complaints

All complaints by the party/parties listed above should be in writing or on tape and be submitted to the Coordinator. The complaint should be dated and signed or the person identified, if on tape.

C. Procedures for handling complaints

a. The Equity Coordinator, upon receipt of a complaint, will meet with the principal of the school, who has the administrative responsibility of the program. This person will then appoint a committee made up of a parent, at least one teacher, a school administrator, and a student, if applicable. This shall be done within one week of the date on which the complaint was filed.

b. The above committee shall hold a hearing with the complaining party/parties within seven days of their appointment.

c. All hearing proceedings will be transcribed or recorded

d. During the hearing, the complaining party/parties shall have the opportunity to question witnesses, question parties involved and present evidence.

e. The committee will make a written report of their feelings to the superintendent.

f. A decision based on the findings of the committee will be made by the superintendent. This decision shall be in written form and will be sent to the complaining party/parties within thirty days from the time the complaint was filed.

D. Appeal

The complaining party/parties shall have the right to appeal the administrator's decision within thirty days after the receipt of the local decision to the Equity Assistance Center, #4 Capitol Mall, Room 402-A, Little Rock, Arkansas 72202-1071, phone number 501-683-4213. This appeal shall be written, signed and dated.

Equity Coordinator Telephone 870-588-3337

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

No student in the Cross County School District shall, on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity sponsored by the District.

Inquiries on non-discrimination may be directed to Nathan Morris, who may be reached at 870-588-3337. Inquiries regarding Section 504, contact Dena Decker at 870-588-3337

Equal Educational Opportunity

No student in the Cross County School District shall be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity sponsored by the District on the basis of any protected classification under the law. The District has a limited open forum granting equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other youth groups.
Inquiries on non-discrimination may be directed to Dena Decker, who may be reached at 870-588-3337. Any person may report sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, to the Title IX Coordinator in person or by using the mailing address, telephone number, or email address provided above. A report may be made at any time, including during non-business hours, and may be on the individual's own behalf or on behalf of another individual who is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or sex based harassment.
For further information on notice of non-discrimination or to file a complaint, visit https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html; for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.

POLICY FOR REPORTING SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT

When any Cross County School District personnel has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been subjected to physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or observes the child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which would reasonably result in abuse, he/she shall immediately report or cause a report to be made. The school personnel shall immediately notify the person in charge of the school or the school counselor who shall then become responsible for making a report or cause a report to be made. In addition, any other personnel may make a report if those personnel have reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected. A report shall be made to the Department of Human Services and/or the Sheriff's Office.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES POLICY

School Board Policy which is designed to limit excessive interruptions and absences, but which encourage student involvement outside the normal academic environment governs activities outside the regular school setting. Scheduling must have administrative approval.

- Students must maintain a 2.0 grade point average and meet the attendance policy.
- Students must be at school for ½ day to play or practice. The principal will have discretion based on certain circumstances.
- If a student has been suspended, he/she is not allowed to attend any extracurricular activity. Students will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities within an ISS or OSS suspension period. When a student has been suspended from school (OSS), the student will not be allowed to play in a game that is scheduled for that evening or the same day as the offense, nor will they be able to play in a game for the day that the OSS is assigned. The student will not be eligible for any school activity until they return to school from their suspension. For example, if a student is given an out of school suspension on Monday for an offense, they will not be able to play in a Monday night game or the evening of the day of suspension if there is a game on that day. This means if the student is suspended for all day on a Thursday, they are not eligible to play in that evening's game.
- If a student has missed more than seven (7) unexcused absences in any single period, they will no longer be eligible to participate in the students NEXT scheduled competition and/or team game played. Extra-curricular activities include, but not limited to, sports, band, choir, etc. for the current semester. Every two unexcused absences beyond 8 will result in a one game/competition suspension.
- Students will NOT be allowed to participate in before or after-school practice on days in which ISS is served and NOT be allowed to participate in designated games or competitions on days in which ISS is served.

Example:
Student has the following number of unexcused absences:
1st period 3, 2nd period 2, 3rd period 5, 4th period 1, 5th period 0, 6th period 1, 7th period 0, 8th period 6… this student would STILL be eligible for all extracurricular

Student has the following number of unexcused absences:

1st period 3, 2nd period 2, 3rd period 5, 4th period 8, 5th period 0, 6th period 1, 7th period 0, 8th period 6… this student would NOT be eligible for their next extracurricular activity due to having 8 unexcused absences in 4th period.

The Board believes in providing opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular activities that can help enrich the student's educational experience. At the same time, the Board believes that a student's participation in extracurricular activities cannot come at the expense of his/her classroom academic achievement. Students shall not attend any school-sponsored activities during an imposed suspension nor shall the student participate in any school-sponsored activities. Additionally, a student's participation in, and the District's operation of, extracurricular activities shall be subject to the following policy. All students meeting this policy's criteria are eligible for extracurricular activities.

Definitions:

Extracurricular activities are defined as: any school sponsored program where students from one or more schools meet, work, perform, practice under supervision outside of regular class time, or are competing for the purpose of receiving an award, rating, recognition, or criticism, or qualification for additional competition. Examples include, but are not limited to, interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, band, choral, math, or science competitions, and club activities.

Academic Courses are those for which class time is scheduled which can be credited to meet the minimum requirements for graduation, which is taught by a teacher required to have State certification in the course, and has a course content guide approved by the Arkansas Department of Education. Any of these courses for which concurrent high school credit is earned may be from an institution of higher education recognized by the Arkansas Department of Education. In order to participate in extracurricular activities students must pass four (4) academic courses per semester as required by this policy.

Supplemental Improvement Program is an additional instructional opportunity for identified students outside of their regular classroom and meets the criteria outlined in the current Arkansas Activities Association Handbook.

Academic Requirements: Junior High

A student promoted from the sixth to the seventh grade automatically meets scholarship requirements. A student promoted from the seventh to the eighth grade automatically meets scholarship requirements for the first semester. The second semester eighth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if he/she has successfully passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester, three (3) of which shall be in the core curriculum areas specified by the Arkansas Department of Education's Standards of Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools.

The first semester ninth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if he/she has successfully passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester, three (3) of which shall be in the

core Curriculum areas specified by the Arkansas Department of Education's Standards of Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools.

The second semester ninth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if he/she has successfully passed (4) academic courses the previous semester, which count toward his/her graduation requirements.

Ninth-grade students must meet the requirements of the senior high scholarship rule by the end of the second semester in the ninth grade in order to be eligible to participate in the fall semester of their tenth-grade year.

Academic Requirements: Senior High

In order to remain eligible for competitive interscholastic activity, a student must have passed (4) academic courses the previous semester and either:

Have earned a minimum Grade Point Average of 2.0 from all academic courses the previous semester;

Or

If the student has passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester but does not have a 2.0 GPA the student must be enrolled and successfully participating in a supplemental instruction program to maintain their competitive interscholastic extracurricular eligibility.

STUDENTS WITH AN INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLAN

In order to be considered eligible to participate in competitive interscholastic activities, students with disabilities must pass at least four (4) courses per semester as required by their individual education program (IEP).

ARKANSAS ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

In addition to the foregoing rules, the district shall abide by the rules and regulations of the Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) governing interscholastic activities.

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM EVENTS

All students participating in school activities should ride the provided school transportation to and from events. The school realizes that extenuating circumstances sometimes dictate that students riding from a school-sponsored event in school transportation may cause undue hardship on the student or parents. Therefore, students are allowed to ride home with a parent, an immediate family member who is not a school age student, or another adult included on a release form filled out by the student's family and

authorized by the principal or athletic director. If this is the case, the student must have a signed release form on file in the office. The release form requires a parent/guardian signature and the name(s) of the adult(s) who is providing the transportation for the student. An adult will be considered any non-school age student and immediate family will be defined as any family member living in the same residence. The adult providing transportation for the student must personally speak to the coach or sponsor before the student will be released. If the parents need someone else to pick up their child, other than a name on the release form, they need to make contact with the coach/ sponsor /principal before the team departs for the event

HOMECOMING/HOOPFEST COURT POLICY

Female court members are referred to as "maids."

Eligibility of Maids

- Students grades 7-12
- Students must have a 2.0 GPA based on the previous semester's coursework
- Receive no OSS during the school year
- Received ISS no more than one stint per semester based on the current and the last previous semester

Once a student has been selected for Homecoming or Hoopfest they will be ineligible for nomination or selection in subsequent events until one (1) Homecoming and one (1) Hoopfest has taken place. This does not apply to students who will be in the 12th grade.

Homecoming/Hoopfest court requirements

- Court members must ride in the Homecoming Parade. Each class is responsible for its ride and decoration.
- Court members must attend practice.
- Court members must appear at the designated time and place for official homecoming portraits.
- Court members will not chew gum during an official presentation.
- Maids must sit in the designated area for the homecoming court until the 4th quarter of the ballgame.
- Maids will not eat while sitting on the stage.
- Court members will follow proper homecoming dress code:
    - Pep Rally: Maids must follow school dress code. Skirts must be no shorter than (6) inches above the knee.
    - Homecoming night: formal attire and dress shoes. Skirt length should follow the school dress code , as maids will be sitting on a raised stage. Wear shoes to practice. Homecoming Court candidates that are unwilling to fulfill the requirements should decline their nomination.

CLASS FEES AND FINES

Class fees are $15.00 per year for students in grades 9-12. Money obtained from class fees is used to pay for class activities such as floats, prom, dances, and special gifts that a class may wish to present. All class fees should be paid at the first of the school and must be paid before the end of first semester, unless prior arrangements have been made with the building principal. A student moving into our district will pay only fees for time spent at CCHS. Refunds will not be given upon transfer. Other fines and fees must be paid before the final report card will be mailed to the student. In addition, a student must pay all debts before participating in graduation.

All students who attend prom must be up-to-date on community service hours and class fees and fines.

STUDENT VEHICLES

A student, who has presented a valid driver's license and proof of insurance to the appropriate office personnel, may drive his/her vehicle to school. Vehicles driven to school shall be parked in the area designated for student parking. Parking on school property is a privilege, which may be denied to a student for any disciplinary violation, at the discretion of the student's building principal.

Students are not permitted to loiter in parking areas and are not to return to their vehicles for any reason unless given permission to do so by school personnel.

It is understood that there is no expectation of privacy in vehicles in parking areas. Drivers of vehicles parked on a school campus will be held accountable for illegal substances or any other item prohibited by District policy found in their vehicle. Any student parking a vehicle on campus is granting permission for school or law enforcement authorities to search that vehicle

A student with a valid driver's license will be allowed to drive to school. The vehicle must be parked in the assigned, numbered student parking space. The Cross County High School office sells parking permits for $5.00 per vehicle. Each student driving onto campus must have a parking permit. The student will be charged a $3.00 fee to replace a lost parking permit. The fee for parking permit is not refundable. Parking permits will be sold on a first come, first served basis. The student is required to complete a parking/ regulation form before he/she will be sold a parking permit. The parking/ regulation form is available in the high school office. The student driver must follow all Cross County High School driving rules and regulations.

Rules and Regulations

- A student must have a regular driver's license. A restricted license or permit is not permissible.
- The driver must show proof of liability insurance.
- A student driver must park and lock his/her vehicle when first arriving on the high school campus.
- The student driver is not to re-enter the vehicle without permission from a teacher or the high school office until the end of the student's school day.

- The driver must obey all traffic rules. Speeding, reckless driving, and squealing tires will not be tolerated.
- A vehicle with loud pipes will not be permitted on campus.
- The student is not allowed to play loud music.
- The parking permit must be displayed.
- No student is allowed to loiter in or around the vehicle; he/she must enter the building immediately.
- The student is not allowed to drive though the elementary school campus, unless he/ she is delivering or picking up elementary students.

The student is completely responsible for his/her vehicle. The student can lose driving privileges even if someone else is driving his/her vehicle. The police will ticket a student who parks in a handicapped space illegally. Cross County High School has the right to have any illegally parked vehicle towed away at the owner's expense. A student who drives to school and then leaves without permission, and/or a student who takes another student off campus who does not have permission to leave will lose driving privileges for (5) five days for the first offense and the rest of the school term for the second offense. If a student has car trouble and must use a car without a parking sticker, the student will be given two (2) days to acquire an additional parking sticker. The student must report this problem to Cross County High School.

Punishment range for driving and parking violations

- First offense, warning
- Second offense, driving privileges suspended for (5) days
- Third offense, driving privileges will be suspended for the term

SCHOOL DANCES/PROM

Scheduling of all dances must be approved by the high school principal. All school rules will be enforced at dances. The principal may relax the dress code to allow for proper attire for dances. At all school dances, once a student leaves the building, he/she may not return. The principal must approve all non-Cross County High School dates in advance. Middle school students may not attend high school dances. A student asked to leave a dance for disciplinary reasons must also take their date with them if the date is not a student at Cross County High School.

SCHOOL CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND GOVERNMENT

The superintendent of schools, local school principals, school staff members, and students shall establish regulation for the operation of school-sponsored clubs, organizations and governments that operate for the welfare and the best interest of the students and the school. School-sponsored clubs, organizations, and government shall be under the direct control of the school principal.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Members of the student council are elected by the student body and are held to a high standard. Students elected to student council must adhere to the following:

- Maintain a minimum of a 2.5 GPA
- Must participant in school activities (Dress-up days, active in the pep rally, being at events)
- Be a leader inside and outside the classroom
- Encourage students to participate in activities and help build school pride and spirit

Selection Process:

Officers are selected by a vote of their class-level peers. The president and vice-president of each class election serves as a member of the student council. Of those members, the school president and vice-president is then selected by a vote of the student body from members of the student council.

The following summarizes each officer's requirements:

- The President must serve at least two years on student council before running for student-body president.
- The Vice President must serve at least one year on student council before running for student-body vice president.
- The Secretary is responsible for taking minutes and notes during meetings
- The Reporter is responsible for communicating information from meetings to the student body, principal, and staff.

If there is a run-off for one of the positions then a panel of two teachers, two students, one administrator will hear a students' presentation and will be selected using a rubric for scoring.

DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE

As required by the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the Cross County Schools. Violation of this prohibition shall result in Administrative action as determined by the School Board. The violator shall also be subject to prosecution in accordance with the provisions of the laws of the State of Arkansas.

As a condition of employment, each employee shall abide by the above stated terms of the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988. Further, an employee shall notify the Superintendent in writing of his or her

conviction for a violation of a criminal drug status occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after such conviction.

TRUANCY

A student is truant if he is absent from school:

1. Without permission of parent or guardian;
2. Leaving school without permission of the principal.
3. Included in the above shall be skipping any class, study time, or homeroom period.
4. Not reporting to the principal after having been sent out of class.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

The board has a responsibility to maintain discipline, protect the safety, security, and welfare of its students, staff, and visitors while at the same time safeguarding district facilities, vehicles, and equipment. As part of fulfilling this responsibility, the board authorizes the use of video/audio surveillance cameras.

The placement of video/audio surveillance cameras shall be based on the presumption and belief that students, staff and visitors have no reasonable expectation of privacy anywhere on or near school property, facilities, vehicles, or equipment, with the exception of places such as restrooms or dressing areas where an expectation of privacy is reasonable and customary.

Signs shall be posted on campus buildings and in district vehicles to notify students, staff, and visitors that video cameras may be in use. Parents and students shall also be notified through the student handbook that cameras may be in use in school buildings, on school grounds and in school vehicles. Students will be held responsible for any violations of school discipline rules caught by the cameras. The district shall retain copies of video recordings until they are erased which may be accomplished by either deletion or copying over with a new recording. Videos containing evidence of a violation of student conduct rules and/or state or federal law shall be retained until the issue of the misconduct is no longer subject to review or appeal as determined by board policy or student handbook; any release or viewing of such records shall be in accordance with current law.

Students who vandalize, damage, disable, or render inoperable (temporarily or permanently) surveillance cameras and equipment shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action and referral to appropriate law enforcement authorities.

CROSS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
NETWORK USING POLICY AGREEMENT

In accordance with Act 801 of 1997, this policy document has been developed to meet the Cross County School Board's responsibility for securing its network and computer systems. The intent of the policy includes the prevention of unauthorized user access and/or abuse, while making the systems

accessible for authorized users. Users are hereby informed of the district's standards of conduct and the consequences for not adhering to them. Violation of certain provisions of this policy will result in the temporary or permanent suspension of user accounts. Any deliberate damage of equipment will result in monetary replacement by the user. The School Board hereby makes it known that it will use its authority to assist state and federal authorities in enforcing copyright, intellectual property rights, and network abuse laws.
The primary purpose of enforcing these policies shall be to maintain an atmosphere of a wholesome learning environment for both students and staff and promote personal responsibility and professionalism. This policy document, effective February 9, 1998, shall be reviewed periodically and amended when necessary by action of the School Board.

General Principles

The Internet is an unregulated communications environment. The district intends to make only school district PreK-12 curriculum related educational resources available to authorized users. This shall be accomplished in the following manner:

1. All connections to the Internet, commercial online resources or community access information networks will be through the district's APSCN (Arkansas Public School Computer Network) Gateway or other Board Approved WAN providers. It is the district's intent that encountering questionable material occurs only as a result of a conscious choice on the part of the user.

2. All computers with Internet access will be in supervised areas. School staff shall monitor student computer use providing assistance or taking corrective action when necessary.

3. Designated district staff shall assist in providing:
    a. Training for students and other staff on the responsible use of online resources.
    b. Direction to on-line resources that relate to curriculum, teaching, and learning.
    c. An opportunity to become aware of and review the district's Network User Policy.

User Responsibilities

1. Use of Network resources is a privilege, not a right

2. A certified or designated non-certified professional staff member must be present to monitor the student's use of e-mail and electronic on-line resources.

3. The user is responsible for following local, state, federal, and international copyright, intellectual property rights, and adhering to acceptable network use.

4. The user is responsible for protecting their own network accounts and is solely responsible for all actions taken while accessing and using information resources.

5. The user is expected to work in a moral and ethical fashion that supports district goals.

6. The user is responsible for adhering to the policies of other networks accessed.
7. Users will not violate the integrity of a network or computer system, change its performance or intentionally make it malfunction, or add or delete any programs or information resources unless acting upon approved authorization.

8. Non-local and local e-mail activities must be conducted in a manner consistent with guidelines approved by the district's designated curriculum coordinator. In the absence of such guidelines, authorized district personnel reserve the right to occasionally access student email accounts to monitor activity.

9.Users may not transfer programs to or from the district's local area network.
All such transfers shall be completed or directed by authorized network supervisors or operators.

10. A user's access privilege may be temporarily or permanently revoked for inappropriate use or violation of the district's policy. In each specific case, the professional staff monitoring such activities must initiate such action. Violations shall be documented. Documented violations and repeated violations by the user shall be presented to the school administrator for appropriate action.

Proper Respect for Copyright

1. If the user did not create a non-public domain written work, piece of art, photograph or music, or obtain distribution rights to it, the user does not own it.

2.If the user does not own the non-public domain material, the user may not copy it or distribute it to others.

3.The author or owner of a document or other type of information must explicitly relinquish rights in order to place a work in the "public domain" and thereby make copying/distribution without specific authorization possible.
4.Fair use allows the user to copy small portions of a work the user does not own without permission, but only for criticism, education, news reporting and the like.

5.When in doubt, the user should ask the creator or owner of material for permission to use the work.

6.The user understands that Freeware is free, however, before downloading and using the Freeware, the user must honor any statements that place restrictions upon the use of the Freeware and limitations on changes in the program code.

7.The user understands that Shareware may be used on a trial basis. However, the use of Shareware (including the sharing with others) carries with it the obligation to pay the specified price by some specified time in the future.

Any action, including theft, tampering, or damage, that results in the operation of a computer network being interrupted temporarily or permanently will be dealt with accordingly. The consequences will be as follows: (Ark. Stat. 5-41-104, 5-41-103)

1. Monetary restitution to repair or replace
2. Out of school suspension
3. Appropriate criminal charges will be filed

Google Workspace for Education

Google Workspace for Education Notice to Parents and Guardians

Cross County School District is actively integrating educational technology tools into the curriculum through Google Workspace for Education. These tools will help our students as we work together to achieve academic success. Google Workspace for Education is a web service that may be utilized on any computer or device with Internet access. The education version of Google Apps provides a self-contained, ad free, and filtered environment for students and staff to create, edit, collaborate and share information with each other as well as, when appropriate, publish some resources publicly.

The features and options available will be based on grade level, student awareness, requirements for coursework, and formal permission from parents/guardians. Cross County School District will create a school Google account (@crosscountyschools.com) for all students
K-12. This account will allow students to be able to utilize Chromebooks as well as a variety of Google Core and Additional Services. Core Services include, but not limited to: Assignments, Calendar, Classroom, Cloud Search, Drive and Docs, Gmail, Google Meet, Google Vault, Groups for Business, Keep, Sites, Tasks, Youtube, Google Maps, Google Alerts, Google News, Google Photos, Google Play Console, Scholar Profiles.

Students in grades K-3 will not have an operational Google email address. Students in grades 4-8, when activated, will have a functioning email address. Students in grades 4-8 can only email Cross County School District staff email accounts. In other words, students will not be able to email anyone other than their teacher's work email account. Students in grades 9-12 will have the same email settings as other grades, with the exception of emailing outside the crosscountyschools.com domain. Before a student can email outside of the crosscountyschools.com domain, the System Administrator must approve communication with the specific email address for the protection of the student's privacy and network security. The school accounts will be used at school for class related assignments and projects.

Responsible Use Guidelines Student Responsibility

Along with opportunity comes responsibility. Student use of Google Apps follows the expectations and disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Handbook and District USE AGREEMENT FOR INTERNET AND OTHER ELECTRONIC RESOURCES which can also be viewed online at www.crosscountyschools.com. Although the apps can be accessed outside of school, any use of the account on the crosscountyschools.com domain is bound by the same rules and guidelines as when the student is at school. Use of the account should always be for educational purposes just as if the student were in school.

School Responsibility for Google Workspace

Google Workspace student accounts are created for all students, Kindergarten through twelfth grade. Available Google Workspace applications are assigned based on the student's grade and/or teacher's academic needs within the guidelines of Google's Terms of Use. Internet safety education will be included as part of introducing new web based tools to students. In school, teacher supervision and school content filters are used to prevent access to inappropriate content and to ensure that student use of the digital tools follows the District Acceptable Use Policy referenced above. Student accounts can be accessed by domain administrators at any time and account information will be shared with parents/guardians.

Parent/Guardian Responsibility for Google Workspace

Parents/Guardians assume responsibility for the supervision of Internet use outside of school. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to discuss family rules and expectations for using Internet-based tools, including Google Workspace for Education. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to report any evidence of cyberbullying or other inappropriate use to the school.

FUNDRAISERS

The elementary school and high school have several fundraisers throughout the year, but students are not required to participate. We want all students who participate to be aware of the safety issues. Under no circumstances is any child forced to take part. The principal must approve all fundraisers occurring with the school with the appropriate group sponsor.

CELEBRATE FREEDOM WEEK

Act 682 of 2003 states that "Celebrate Freedom Week" will be recognized the last full week of classes in September. This recognition will educate students about the sacrifices made for freedom in the founding of this country and the values on which this country was founded. Social Studies instruction will include the meaning and the importance of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution, with an emphasis on the Preamble and the Bill of Rights, etc. On Veterans Day, the school will have an assembly or program honoring veterans.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Act 1333 of 2003 requires student participation in a daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in grades K-12 during the first class of each school day. Any student or employee can be exempt on religious, philosophical, or other grounds but are required to quietly stand or sit at their desk while others recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

SERVICE ANIMALS

In accordance with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Arkansas statutes, service dogs and trained miniature horses (hereinafter referred to as *service animals*) are permitted for use by individuals with disabilities on district property and in district facilities provided the individuals and their animals meet the requirements and responsibilities covered in the full District policy. Please see www.crosscountyschools.com under the tab "School Required Information" for further information.

PROFESSIONAL CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Cross County School District has staff that has been trained through the Professional Crisis Management Association (PCMA). It is committed to providing the most comprehensive, safe, and effective crisis management training and programming to schools. The management is accomplished through four primary strategies and interventions: crisis prevention strategies; crisis de-escalation strategies; crisis intervention procedures; and post-crisis strategies. PCM defines crisis as one or more of the following behaviors: continuous aggression, and/or continuous self-injury, and/or continuous high-magnitude disruption. PCM is only implemented for the safety of the child and others.

CROSS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

The Cross County School District agrees to allow the student identified below ("Student") to use the district's technology to access the Internet under the following terms and conditions:

Conditional Privilege: The Student's use of the district's access to the Internet is a privilege conditioned on the Student's abiding to this agreement. No student may use the district's access to the Internet unless the Student and his/her parent or guardian have read and signed this agreement.

Acceptable Use: The Student agrees that he/she will use the District's Internet access during the instructional day for educational purposes only. In using the Internet, the Student agrees to obey all federal and state laws and regulations. The Student also agrees to abide by any Internet use rules instituted at the Student's school or class, whether those rules are written or oral.

Penalties for Improper Use: If the Student violates this agreement and misuses the Internet, the Student shall be subject to disciplinary action.

"Misuse of the District's access to the Internet" includes but is not limited to the following:

- Using the Internet during the instructional day for other than educational purposes;
- Gaining intentional access or maintaining access to materials which are "harmful to minors" as defined by Arkansas law;
- Using the Internet for any illegal activity, including computer hacking and copyright or intellectual property law violations;
- Making unauthorized copies of computer software;
- Accessing "chat line" unless authorized by the instructor for a class activity directly supervised by a staff member;
- Using abusive or profane language in private messages on the system; or using the system to harass, insult, or verbally attack others;
- Posting anonymous messages on the system;
- Using encryption software;
- Wasteful use of limited resources provided by the school including paper;
- Causing congestion of the network through lengthy downloads of files;
- Vandalizing data of another user;
- Obtaining or sending information which could be used to make destructive devices such as guns, weapons, bombs, explosives, or fireworks;
- Gaining or attempting to gain unauthorized access to resources or files;
- Identifying oneself with another person's name or password or using an account or password of another user without proper authorization;
- Invading the privacy of individuals;
- Divulging personally identifying information about himself/herself or anyone else either on the Internet or in e-mail. Personally identifying information that includes full names, address, and phone number;
- Using the network for financial or commercial gain without district permission;
- Theft or vandalism of data, equipment, or intellectual property;
- Attempting to gain access or gaining access to student records, grades, or files;
- Introducing a virus to, or otherwise improperly tampering with the system;
- Degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance;
- Creating a web page or associating a web page with the school or school district without proper authorization;
- Providing access to the District's Internet access to unauthorized individuals;
- Failing to obey school or classroom Internet use rules; or
- Taking part in any activity related to Internet use, which creates a clear and present danger of the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the district or any of its schools.
- Installing or downloading software on district computers without prior approval of technology director or his/her designee.

Liability for Debts: Students and their cosigners shall be liable for any and all costs (debts) incurred through the student's use of the computers or the Internet including penalties for copyright violations.

No Expectation of Privacy: The Student and parent/guardian signing the Acceptable Use Agreement and Laptop Agreement agree that if the Student uses the Internet through the District's access, that the Student waives any right to privacy the Student may have for such use. The Student and the parent/guardian agree that the district may monitor the Student's use of the District's Internet Access and may also examine all system activities the Student participates in, including but not limited to email, voice, and video transmissions, to ensure proper use of the system. The District may share such transmissions with the Student's parents/guardians.

No Guarantees: The District will make good faith efforts to protect children from improper or harmful matter, which may be on the Internet. At the same time, in signing this agreement, the parent and Student recognize that the District makes no guarantees about preventing improper access to such materials on the part of the student.

LAPTOP/DEVICE AGREEMENT

Learning in the Present; Preparing for the Future

Cross County School District is pleased and proud to offer our students and staff in Grades K - 2 access to an iPad and in grades 3 -12 access to an Apple Macbook Laptop computer and the Internet. Use of the wireless network will provide Cross County Elementary School and Cross County High School access to numerous software programs and the Internet for educational purposes.

Cross County School District believes that using 21st Century tools will improve the educational opportunities for our students. Internet connection at home will be beneficial to students. We are trying to identify Internet Service Providers that will provide service to families at a low monthly cost. This information will be provided to parents. The laptop computers will have many uses at home without Internet Access, but the students' ability to get full benefit from their assigned computer will be much greater if they have Internet access.

We hope that you share our excitement of being able to offer the laptop computers as an instructional resource to our students and teachers at Cross County School District. The impact on teaching and learning will be enormous. Our students will gain access to up-to-date information and will be able to use this information to enhance learning. In addition, their technology skills will increase and better prepare them for higher education and the workforce. As with any new initiative, there will be constant assessment and necessary changes to make this project work to the maximum benefit of our students. We are committed to that goal.
This Agreement represents and outlines the Laptop Policies and Procedures. By signing this Agreement, students and parents/guardians agree to follow the Policies and Procedures. Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to read and understand these Policies and Procedures prior to signing this Agreement.

Access to the Cross County School District computers and systems is a privilege, not a right. Violating the letter or spirit of the regulations may be cause to deny a student access to the Cross County School District computers and systems, and/or may result in more serious disciplinary action(s) and/or financial obligations.

Cross County School District has insured the laptops for the current year. The following charges will be incurred for each occurrence if the laptop or accessories are damaged, lost, or stolen:

First Breakage: The actual cost of repair/replacement or $50.
Second Breakage: The actual cost of repair/replacement or $75.
Third Breakage: The actual cost of repair/replacement of $150. A campus committee may devise a plan for the student's possible further use of the equipment.

Intentional Damage: The actual cost of repair. Students lose laptop privileges until the financial obligations are taken care of and a campus committee devises a plan for the student's possible further use of the equipment. The principal shall determine whether damage to the computer was intentional.

Responsibilities of Stakeholders:

General Care of the Laptops/Devices

* Treat the laptop with care by not dropping it, getting it wet, leaving it outdoors, or using it with food or drink nearby
* Honor your family's values when using the Internet. Parents will discuss family values and expectations regarding the use of the Internet at home. Parents will supervise their child's use of the laptop at home.
* If the computer is damaged or not working properly, it must be turned into the TIP room for repair or replacement. Parents/guardians and students are not authorized to attempt repairs themselves, or contract with any other individual or business for the repair of the laptop.
* Keep your laptop closed or your device put away when transporting it.
* Do not leave your device in an unsecured area
* Do not loan the device to anyone not in your immediate family
* Protect the laptop/device by unplugging the power supply and other peripherals when transporting
* Protect the display by carefully closing the lid when moving the laptop
* When transporting their device to and from school, students should always be sure it is placed in a carrying case, and the case is fully closed. Students are expected to treat their device with care and respect. The computer/device and case are the property of Cross County School District, and should be kept clean and free of marks at all times.
* Students should not use their device while walking, on the bus, or otherwise being transported. Laptops should only be used while they are on a flat, stable surface such as a table. Devices can be fragile, and if they are dropped they may break.
* Students should protect their device from extreme heat or cold. Devices should never be left in a car, even if the car is locked.
* Devices should be protected from the weather, water or other liquid, food, and pets. Students should never eat or drink while using their laptop, or use their device near others who are eating and drinking.
* Heavy objects should never be placed or stacked on top of your device. This includes books, musical instruments, sports equipment, etc.
* Students should use care when plugging in their power cord or phone cord.

* Computers should never be placed in their carrying case while they are turned on. The computer should either be turned off or in "sleep" mode. In addition, computers should not be placed on or under soft items such as pillows, chairs or sofa cushions, or blankets. This will cause the computer to overheat, and will result in damage to the computer.

General Use of the Devices and the CCSD Network System

Cross County School District fully expects that all members of the school community will use the computer systems in a responsible, appropriate, and legal manner. Use the following regulations as a guide when working within our computers on computer system:

- Follow the Cross County School District Acceptable Use Policy when using the Internet at home or at school.
- Any inappropriate or careless use of a device should be reported to a teacher or other staff member immediately.
- Students must immediately report theft or damage to a teacher and to the TIP room. For hardware and software problems, students must take their device to the TIP room.
- Do not load software from the Internet unless you have permission from a teacher.
- Do not remove programs or files from the device.
- Do not give personal information when using the Internet.
- During school hours the school's Internet connection should be used only for research or information gathering that is directly related to academic assignments or extracurricular projects supervised by the Cross County Elementary School faculty.
- During school hours, game playing on computers is not allowed unless the game is directly related to a school assignment or activity.
- E-mail (or any other computer communication) should be used only for legitimate and responsible communication between students, faculty and the outside world. Rude, abusive, threatening, or otherwise inappropriate language is not permitted.
- Students should access only those files that belong to them or which they are certain they have permission to use. Students are expected to follow all copyright laws.
- Students will not download copyrighted material to a school-owned computer unless part of a class project and under the supervision of the teacher.
- Files stored within the school computer systems (both devices and file servers) shall be limited to those relating to formal school courses or activities. Games, commercial software, or graphic files that are not for a school project or formal activity should not be stored on the school computer systems.
- Students are expected to only access teacher authorized sites at the appropriate times.
- Students shall notify their teacher immediately if they accidentally access an inappropriate site.
- Students shall only use their assigned network drive to store school related files only.
- Students shall always protect their user account by logging off when not at their computer.
- Each device is assigned to an individual student. Students shall never "swap" or "share" their device with another student. Devices should be in a student's possession or secured at all times.
- Students shall never share their password with another student. Passwords should always be kept confidential.

- Students are responsible for saving or backing up their documents.
- Students shall never attempt to "hack" into any computer system or engage in unauthorized use of the network.
- All users must never maliciously damage or steal school computer equipment or electronic data.
- All users must never change the settings of school-supplied software.
- If the device is stolen while at home, parents/guardians should immediately report the theft to the local police. This information should also be conveyed to the campus principal at the first opportunity available. A copy of the police report is to be turned in to the principal.
- The use of chat rooms or instant messaging systems or free email on the Internet is prohibited. The students may only use the email account and chat software that is set up by Cross County School District.
- Placing stickers or anything with an adhesive, writing or drawing on, engraving or otherwise defacing the laptop or carrying case are not allowed and may result in loss of privileges and disciplinary consequences.

Daily Preparation Tasks

* Recharge the device battery every night. If you are unable to recharge it yourself, check the laptop into the TIP room for recharging before leaving school for the day.
* Bring the device to school every day and have it ready to work at the beginning of each class.
* If a student fails to bring their fully charged device to school each day, consequences outlined in the student code of conduct may be applied.
* Students who do not have permission to take their device home may pick up their device in the TIP room each morning, and are required to return their laptop to the TIP room at the end of each day.
* Students may be allowed to recharge their device during classes that are conducive to this. Very few classes will have this capability, so avoid any potential problems by charging them each night at home.

Using the Computer for Internet and E-mail

Students and parents/guardians understand that Cross County School District does not have control over information found on the Internet. While every attempt is made to block access from inappropriate material while the student is at school, the district is not able to monitor student usage of the computer while at home. It is the parent/guardians' responsibility to supervise the information that a student is accessing from the Internet while at home. Students should be aware that Internet access and e-mail, and other media that are accessed, created or stored on their computer are the sole property of the District. The District has the right to review these items for appropriateness, and to limit or revoke a student's access to them at any time, and for any reason.

No Expectation of Privacy

The Student and parent/guardian by signing the Acceptable Use Agreement and Device Agreement agree that if the Student uses the Internet through the District's access, that the Student waives any right

to privacy the Student may have for such use. The Student and the parent/guardian agree that the district may monitor the Student's use of the District's Internet Access and may also examine all system activities the Student participates in, including but not limited to email, voice, and video transmissions, to ensure proper use of the system. The District may share such transmissions with the Student's parents/guardians.

Consequences of Inappropriate Use

The use of any district technology is a privilege and not a right. Students are expected to use their device in accordance with these Policies and Procedures, and District Acceptable Use Policy and any applicable laws. Failure to use this computer in an appropriate manner will result in consequences, as determined by the staff and administration of Cross County School district.
In addition to any disciplinary consequences the following consequences shall apply to violations of this agreement:

1. Compromising the security of any school-owned computer/device or the school network will result in the loss of the use of any school computer or network for the rest of the school year.

2. Deliberately damaging any school-owned computer/device or the school network will result in the loss of the use of any school computer or network for the rest of the school year.

3. Violating the schools acceptable use policy or this agreement may result in the loss of computer/device or network privileges for a period of five days up to the remainder of the school year depending on the severity of the infraction and the frequency of the offense.

4. Students who leave the District and fail to return their device and related equipment will have felony theft charges filed against them immediately upon the District's knowledge of such an event. The District will prosecute the occurrence to the fullest extent of the law.

COMPUTER/DEVICE USE POLICY

The Cross County School District makes computers/devices and/or Internet access available to students, to permit students to perform research and to allow students to learn how to use technology. Use of district computers and devices during the instructional day is for educational and/or instructional purposes only. It is the policy of this school district to equip each computer with Internet filtering software designed to prevent users from accessing material that is harmful to minors. The designated District Technology Administrator or designee may authorize the disabling of the filter to enable access by an adult for a bona fide research or other lawful purpose. No student will be granted Internet access until and unless an acceptable-use agreement, signed by both the student and the parent or legal guardian (if the student is under the age of eighteen [18]) is on file. The current version of the acceptable use agreement is incorporated by reference into board policy and is considered part of the student handbook.

Student use of computers/devices during the instructional day shall only be as directed or assigned by staff or teachers; students are advised that they enjoy no expectation of privacy in any aspect of their computer/device use, including email, and that monitoring of student computer use is continuous. Students must not disable or bypass security procedures, compromise, attempt to compromise, or defeat the district's technology network security or Internet filtering software, alter data without authorization, or disclose passwords to other students. Students who misuse district-owned computers/devices or Internet access in any way, including using computers/devices to violate any other policy or contrary to the acceptable use agreement, or using the computers to access or create sexually explicit or pornographic text or graphics, will face disciplinary action, as specified in the student handbook and/or acceptable use agreement. In an effort to help protect student welfare when they navigate the Internet, the district will work to
educate students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyber-bullying awareness and response.

CROSS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Guidelines for Interacting with our District Social Media Sites

Cross County School District manages open Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages for the purpose of keeping all students, parents, alumni and fans connected with the latest news and events and to showcase the accomplishments of our students.

In keeping with the intent of our social media pages, we ask everyone in our community to be respectful and keep to the following norms:
• Use this page for the purpose of building strong, positive relationships that serve to support our students as learners and responsible citizens.
• Positive questions for the good of the entire Thunderbird community are always welcome and will be answered on the page.
• Individual questions/concerns should be addressed with the staff member closest to the issue. Call our main office at 870-588-3338 so we may direct you to the person who can best help you.
• Feel free to make a post wishing our students well or sharing some great news about our students' accomplishments or great things going on in the community; we love to share the good news.
• Negative or defamatory comments about the school or an individual person will be removed from our pages promptly. The CCSD Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages are intended to be a place of positive, supportive interaction and we reserve the right to remove any comment, image, fan or follower we feel is disrespectful, inappropriate, profane or obscene.

We ask adults and students alike to model good digital citizenship when interacting on our social media pages. The safety and wellbeing of our students is our top priority as we display responsible online interaction.

If you have questions regarding the content on any of the Cross County School District social media pages, please email news@nt.crosscountyschools.com

<u>SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION</u>
Cross County Elementary Technology Academy

2622 HWY 42, Cherry Valley, AR 72324
Phone: 870-588-3337 Fax: 870-588-4454

Cross County High School, *A New Tech School*
21 CR 215 , Cherry Valley, AR 72324
Phone: 870-588-3337 Fax: 870-588-4606

RIGHT TO KNOW

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Our schools in Cross County School District receive federal funds for Title I, Part A programs. Throughout the school year, we will be providing you with important information about this law as it relates to your child's education. This letter lets you know about your right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of the classroom staff working with your child. Our district or school will be able to provide you with the following information regarding the qualifications of your child's teacher(s):

- Whether the teacher meets the state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or provisional status because of special circumstances.
- Whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and the field of discipline of the teacher's certification or degree.

You will be notified if your student is being taught for four (4) or more consecutive weeks by a teacher(s) that is not highly qualified or certified in the area. You also have the right to request information regarding the qualifications of the paraprofessional(s) assisting your child's teacher(s). If your child is receiving Title I, Part A services from a paraprofessional, then our district or school is able to provide you with the following information:

- Whether the paraprofessional has completed at least two years of study at an institution of higher education.
- Whether the paraprofessional has completed an associate's degree (or higher)
- Whether the paraprofessional has met a rigorous standard of quality through our state's certification procedure for determining the quality of paraprofessional staff.
- Whether the paraprofessional has: (a) the knowledge of and ability to assist in instructing reading, writing, and mathematics or (b) the knowledge of and the ability to assist in learning activities, such as homework, reading readiness, writing, mathematics, and other support as appropriate.

To request any of this information please contact the Superintendent at 870-588-3338 or by email at nathan.morris@crosscountyschools.com . Should you have any other questions regarding your child's education, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Nathan Morris, Superintendent

It is impossible to anticipate all student behaviors; therefore, any behavior not listed in this handbook will be handled by the administration on a case-by-case basis. Any student activity not covered must be approved by the administration. Any action taken as a result of a problem must be handled through the proper channels beginning with the teacher and progressing through the principal to the superintendent.