Boiling Springs Middle School

2026-2027



“Be the BEST at what you do, Every Day!”

August 1, 2027

Dear Bulldog family,

We are excited to welcome you as a member of the BSMS family!

The beginning of each new school year brings numerous emotions. It is our hope you are ready for an exciting year as we continue to be "Leaders of the Pack". Our school staff has prepared all summer for your arrival, and we believe you are in for the best school year ever.

Boiling Springs Middle School has numerous opportunities for you to become an active member of our student body. We offer a full slate of athletic teams and numerous opportunities in the fine arts. Clubs and organizations are available for you to join as well. I encourage you to get involved quickly.

Our main focus is to continue our academic excellence at BSMS. Our teachers and staff are eager to take you to the next level in all subject areas. You must do your part by being an active learner.

You will be introduced to our L. E. A. D. principles and I look forward to seeing you display these throughout the year.

If you have questions or concerns, please see a member of our school community for assistance. We are here to serve all of our students and parents.

Sincerely,

Mr. Andy Rogers,
Principal

BSMS Mission: *Our Mission is to serve students by empowering them to realize their maximum potential while engaging in rigorous, relevant, real-world learning opportunities within a caring, collaborative, and creative environment.*

BSMS Vision: *Our Vision is to be the premier school in which to live and learn, ensuring all students are prepared for life's opportunities by providing a safe and positive culture with excellence in academics, athletics, and the arts.*

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

Students are expected to attend school regularly and present a valid written excuse, signed by a parent/guardian or present a medical excuse for all absences. Students arriving late or leaving early also need to present a note for the missed periods. A valid excuse must list the date of absence, the reason, and the telephone number and signature of the parent/guardian. The excuse must be presented to the first period teacher or the front office.

A. Lawful Absences shall include the following:

1. Students who are ill and whose attendance in school would endanger their health or the health of others.
2. Students who have a serious illness or death in the immediate family.
3. Recognized religious holidays of their faith.
4. Students who are suspended "in-school" will be counted present.

B. Unlawful/Unexcused Absences shall include:

1. Students who are willfully absent from school without the knowledge of their parents.
2. Students who are absent beyond 10 days without a medical excuse. Only 10 parent notes are accepted. **After the 10th absence, medical excuses are required**.

C. Course Credit

Any student who attends a class fewer than 170 days may not be eligible to receive credit in the class unless the local school board grants approval for each excessive absence in accordance with local board policy.

Constitutional and Statutory Provisions:

1. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

Section 59-65-90-State Board to establish rules and regulations defining lawful and unlawful absences.

2. State Board of Education Regulations:

Regulations for immediate implementation-Student Attendance, Lawful and Unlawful Absences, August 1, 1984.

D. Intervention

After three consecutive unlawful absences or a total of five unlawful absences, for reasons other than suspension, the school officials will notify the parent to arrange a conference. The purpose of the conference will be to develop a plan in conjunction with the student and parent/guardian to improve future attendance. The plan shall be written and shall identify the specific reasons for the unlawful absence.

The district plan for improving students' attendance shall include but is not limited to the following:

- Reasons for unlawful absences.
- Methods to resolve cause of unlawful absences.
- Action to be taken in the event unlawful absences continue.
- Signature of parent/guardian or evidence that an attempt has been made to involve parent or guardian.

***TRUANCY– Students with ten or more unexcused absences can be referred to the Solicitor's office.** Parents will be notified as part of the intervention plan prior to being referred. All additional days are subject to approval and may result in credit being denied.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE

The school accident insurance is available to all students. All students are given copies of insurance policy options at the beginning of school. Any insurance is strictly between the student and the insurance company. Schools no longer collect the money for student insurance. It is the parent who must have forms completed by the physician, dentist, or hospital and sent to the insurance company. The student must notify the supervising teacher at the time of any accident. The insurance company must receive insurance claims within the time specified on the policy. The school will assist as best it can, but the school has no power with regard to insurance claims.

ATHLETICS

Our purpose is to win honorably, display good sportsmanship, and create a competitive situation which will help our participants to become better citizens in the society in which they live.

The following sports are sponsored by the Boiling Springs Athletic Department: golf, football, baseball, basketball, soccer, tennis, track, wrestling, swimming, cheerleading, girls' softball, volleyball, volleyball, and lacrosse.

All students are urged to participate in the sports that best meet their interest and qualifications. As in all other schools involving competitive sports, coaches select those who best qualify in tryouts. The coaches will determine playing time of all athletes.

All athletes and parents will meet with our coaches before the season begins to review to academic/behavior expectations.

BETA CLUB

The purpose of the Junior Beta Club is to encourage effort and reward merit among the students of the junior grades of the public schools, and to promote those qualities of character that make for good citizenship in the school community. Requirements for membership are as follows:

1. Students must have an average of 90 in each subject the previous year.
2. Students with a poor conduct record will not be considered for membership.

BOOKS

Fees will be charged if damages to books occur. Once textbooks are issued, they become the students' responsibility.

BULLYING , HARASSMENT, AND INTIMIDATION

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying is defined as a gesture, an electronic communication, or a written, verbal, physical, or sexual act that is reasonably perceived to have the effect of:

1. Harming a student physically or emotionally, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in a reasonable fear of personal harm or property damage; or
2. Insulting or demeaning a student or group of students causing substantial disruption in or substantial interference with the orderly operation of the school.

Consequences for students who engage in harassment, intimidation, or bullying may include, but not be limited to, mandated counseling, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or expulsion from school, based on the severity of the incident.

BUSES

Director of Transportation – Jan Johnson

Late Bus - To aid parents in obtaining information concerning interruptions in bus schedules, the district has implemented a voice mail telephone service. The bus *information* number is 461-9888. To speak directly to the transportation office, the number is 599-9564.

Spartanburg County School District Two School Bus Discipline Policy

If you have any concerns about the buses, the bus drivers, or departure and arrival times for buses, please call 599-9564.

The School Board of Spartanburg County School District Two, the Superintendent and District Administrators are concerned about the health and safety of all students in the district. Therefore, we are certainly concerned about student passengers and driver safety where buses are concerned. Although riding a bus is a ***privilege*** afforded our students, the Board and District Administration feel that the privilege should not be abused. Necessary action will be taken promptly at all times. Where there is evidence of misconduct by either the passengers or drivers on our buses, immediate action will be taken to correct the situation and/or remove the passenger(s) or driver(s) from the bus(es).

The Director of Transportation will have the responsibility of supervising the drivers, and respective school principals and/or assistant principals will investigate and enforce the bus discipline code of the district in dealing with passengers.

The topic of conduct where bus passengers are concerned is addressed in the South Carolina Code of Laws in the following section:

***SECTION 59-67-240*. Duties of Driver and Discipline of Pupils for Misconduct**

The driver of each school bus shall cooperate with the teachers in their work in the school to which he is transporting pupils by being on time in the mornings and waiting in the afternoons until all pupils are dismissed by the school faculty and safely aboard the bus. The driver also shall take notice along his route in the bus. The driver shall be responsible for maintaining good conduct upon his bus and shall report promptly to governing head of the school, to or from which the pupils are transported, any misconduct or violation of the driver's instructions by any person riding his bus.

District boards of trustees in this State may authorize school administrators to suspend or expel pupils from riding a school bus for misconduct on the bus or violating instruction of the driver.

This section and others which are applicable to buses and pupil transportation will be used to enforce appropriate student conduct on all District Two buses. The Board of Trustees, Superintendent, nor the District Two Administrators will tolerate behavior that might lead to an accident or injury on our buses. The privilege of riding a bus will, when necessary, be denied as the safety of students is of utmost importance. The state law states that the school bus driver shall be responsible for the conduct of passengers while riding in the bus under his control, and that the driver shall report to school authorities, to or from which the students are transported, any offenses committed by the student on the bus.

Each bus driver should know the students who are to ride his or her bus. If a bus driver permits an unauthorized student to ride his/her bus, he/she will be subject to a possible suspension.

Realizing that the maintenance of good discipline on a school bus is a very difficult task, our drivers need all the help which the principals can render to them. Each school bus incident report is to be mailed to parents.

All existing regulations and laws in the state of South Carolina, as they apply to pupil transportation, will be enforced by the appropriate school officials and/or other authorities. These regulations/laws will be applied to any reported misconduct and subsequent disposition of cases of misconduct.

Should there be misconduct reported that is not addressed in the levels presented here, the individual principals will use their discretion in dealing with the matters. The Director of Transportation is always available for conferences and/or consultation where misconduct referrals are concerned.

When incidences occur involving students from two or more schools, the administrators in charge of buses at each school shall consult with each other as to the disposition of the problem.

When a student is suspended from riding a bus, he/she cannot ride another bus during the suspension. Should a student ride another bus while under suspension from his/her regular bus, he/she will be subjected to further disciplinary action by his/her school authorities and a parental conference will be required.

Any student who has been referred in any previous year beginning in grade 6th and has reached the point where he/she has been removed from the bus for the remainder of the school year can be removed from the bus for the remainder of any new school year if he/she is referred due to any misconduct on the buses of School District Two. All records (bus referrals) of those students who have been removed from the bus for a school year will be forwarded to the next school principal so that appropriate decisions can be made regarding student misconduct. Care should be taken to see that the Director of Transportation will also monitor those students who have been chronic problems on the district buses.

BUS RULES

Book bags and other items must be held in lap.
Cell phones must be off and out of sight.
No eating or drinking.
Keep all body parts inside the bus.
No profanity.
Do not distract the driver.
Remain seated while the bus is in motion.
Student must have a bus pass or note signed by the school staff to ride a different bus or to a different stop. **Only special circumstances will be allowed.**
The driver or monitor may assign seats.
Do not spray anything while on the bus.
Vandalism (cut seats, graffiti, etc.) will not be tolerated.

Due to most buses being at or near capacity, parent notes authorizing students to ride on an unassigned bus can no longer be honored automatically. Permission to ride a different bus cannot be granted except in critical circumstances that should be discussed with the student's principal in advance. Unexpected riders can result in overcrowded busses or extra routes. With parent authorization, students have in the past been allowed to ride home with a friend on the friend's bus. To keep numbers within capacity, only students assigned to a bus will be allowed to ride that bus unless an exception is granted for an unusual situation that can be accommodated. We appreciate your understanding as we implement this change with student safety in mind.

LEVEL I-MINIMUM STANDARDS OF STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

LEVELS OF MISCONDUCT

Disorderly conduct
Misconduct at a bus stop (depending on severity)
Disembarking from the bus at an authorized stop without permission
Entering or leaving the bus by way of the emergency door
Consuming bottled or canned drinks or food on the bus
Littering the bus
Standing while the bus is moving or violating other safety procedures
Riding the wrong bus
Continually making loud noises, yelling, etc.
Pushing, tripping, general horseplay
Rude behavior directed at passengers
Having electronic devises out of book bag, including cell phones
Spraying of chemicals, i.e., hair spray, cologne, etc.
Screaming or shouting out of the windows
Not maintaining the same dress code as required at school

Enforcement Procedures

FIRST OFFENSE- Probation/warning given by school administrator. The probation shall remain in effect for the school year in progress. Parental contact made concerning the misconduct.
Repeated offenses will be handled by the school administration in accordance to district policy.

LEVEL II-MINIMUM STANDARDS OF STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

LEVELS OF MISCONDUCT
Disruptive conduct
Misconduct at a bus stop (depending on severity)
Smoking on the bus
Throwing object(s) out of the bus
Throwing object(s) on the bus
Refusing to sit in assigned seat
Use of profanity or any abusive language among or between students
Having hands, arms, head, etc. out of windows and/or doors
Any rude, discourteous behavior directed toward the driver and/or monitor
Defacing property (writing or marking on the bus)
Rude behavior directed at other passengers (threats, stealing, etc.)
Fighting on the bus

Enforcement Procedures
Level II behaviors may also require out-of-school suspension, in-school suspension, referral to supporting agencies, and/or restitution of property as stipulated in the discipline codes of individual schools.

FIRST OFFENSE-Bus privilege may be denied for up to ten (10) school days. Parental contact made concerning the misconduct.
REPEATED OFFENSES- Bus privilege may be denied for the remainder of the school year. Level II behaviors may also require out-of-school suspension, expulsion, restitution of property and damage, referral to supporting agencies, notification of law enforcement agencies, and/or enforcement of the district drug policy.

LEVEL III-MINIMUM STANDARDS OF STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

LEVELS OF MISCONDUCT
Criminal conduct
Misconduct at bus stop (depending on severity)
Carrying weapons, explosives, fireworks on the bus
Carrying any object that may be used as a weapon on the bus
Persistent uncontrollable conduct
Possession, use, or distribution of alcohol, drugs or any controlled or unauthorized substance on the bus
Any pushing or tripping that leads to injury
Vandalism -- destruction of seats or interior and/or exterior parts of the bus
Criminal behavior directed at passengers (sexual offenses, extortion, assaults, theft, arson, etc.)

Enforcement Procedures
ANY OFFENSE-Bus privilege may be denied for the remainder of the school year in progress. Level III behaviors may also require out-of-school suspension, expulsion, restitution of property and damage, referral to supporting agencies, notification of law enforcement agencies, and/or enforcement of the district drug policy.

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students should not be using phones for personal or recreational use. Cell phones should be ***turned off*** during the school day. **Students are not to make or receive cell phone calls or texts during the school day.** A violation of these rules could have the following consequences. These punishments are minimum consequences. Additional punishment could result if for instance a student disrupted class as a result of using his/her cell phone. **Consequences could be:**

- **1st Offense**: Confiscate phone and call the parent to pick it up. **Phones will not be returned to student.**
- **2nd Offense**: 1 day ISS
- **3rd Offense:** 1 day OSS
- **4th Offense:** 2 days OSS
- **5th Offense:** 3 days OSS and so on

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Parents are required to inform the office of any changes in address or telephone numbers and must present proof of residence (utility bill-water, power, lease agreement, land-line telephone bill, deed, or tax receipt on real estate property).

CLASSROOM OR SCHOOL DISTURBANCES

No radios, cameras, electronics, squishes, toys, sports cards, trading cards, playing cards, fidget spinners, or other disruptive devices or any items that would prove harmful to another are permitted at school or on the bus.

COURSES/CLASSES

Due to the large number of requests, we are unable to accept requests for individual teachers, for groups of teachers, or for students to be placed with friends. Thanks in advance for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

The following classes are required for all students: English Language Arts, math, science, social studies, and physical education/health. Students may be placed in differing levels of math and English Language Arts classes based on information from the end of the previous school year, including: grades in each subject and the spring standardized test scores in math and reading. Students enrolling from schools outside of District 2 must supply guidance with a copy of their last report card and standardized test scores from the previous spring in order to be screened for eligibility in honors level classes.

The Algebra I and English I classes count towards a student's cumulative high school grade point average. Since the Algebra I and English I classes carry high school credit, students may not enter Algebra I or English I after the first five (5) school days as this would interfere with students receiving credit for the classes.

DELIVERIES TO SCHOOL

No flowers, balloons, or food, etc. are to be delivered to students.

DISTRICT TWO ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE POLICY

The Board adopts the stipulations of the Drug Act passed by South Carolina Legislature. This act states that it is unlawful for a person to knowingly or intentionally possess a controlled substance (depressant, stimulant, counterfeit or illegal drug) unless obtained from or pursuant to a valid prescription or ordered by a practitioner. Any students who violate this act are subject to suspension and/or expulsion from school and prosecution by law enforcement officers. In addition, students are to be notified that any person over 18 years of age who distributes a controlled substance to a person under 18 years of age shall be deemed guilty of a felony and sentenced to not more than 20 years in prison with no suspension and no probation as provided for in the Drug Act. Students are not allowed to knowingly possess, use, transmit, or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind:

1. on the school grounds during and immediately before or immediately after school hours.
2. on the school grounds at any other time when the school is being used by any school group.
3. off the school grounds at a school activity, function or event.

Students using a drug authorized especially for them by a medical prescription from a registered physician are not considered violators of this policy.

VIOLATION CONSEQUENCES:

A. POSSESSION,*USE and/or UNDER THE INFLUENCE:
   1. If possible, the drugs are confiscated.
   2. Parents or guardians are notified and asked to come to the school.
   3. The violation and accompanying evidence are reported to the police.
   4. The first offense may result in expulsion for the remainder of the school year. A second offense may result in permanent expulsion.

B. SELLING, TRANSMITTING (Pushing) **
   1. If possible, the drugs are confiscated.
   2. Parents or guardians are notified and asked to come to school.
   3. The violation and accompanying evidence are reported to the police.
   4. The student may be permanently expelled from school.

C. Students guilty of a combination of offense (possession, use, under the influence, transmission) are to be disciplined in accordance with the penalty prescribed for the most serious of the multiple offenses.

* Possession is construed to mean on the person himself, in his locker, books, desk, automobile, or any other student property which at the time is or was on school property.

** A distinction is to be made between the casual distribution or transfer of drugs and the so-called "pusher". A student guilty of the casual sharing of drugs is considered as being in "possession".

Adopted March 23, 1982

DISTRICT TWO DRESS POLICY

- The dress code described in this administrative rule applies to all students enrolled in Spartanburg County School District Two schools.
- Clothing and/or hair should not be so extreme or inappropriate to the school setting as to disrupt the educational process. Therefore, clothing deemed distracting, revealing, overly suggestive or otherwise disruptive will not be permitted.
- Wearing accessories or clothing that could pose a safety threat to one's self or others is not allowed. This includes heavy chains not made as jewelry, fishhooks, multiple-finger rings (rings welded together resembling brass knuckles or rings that can be

used as a weapon), studded bracelets or collars, nose/lip to ear chains, etc. Unusual body piercing that is disruptive to the order of the school, or is a distraction to the learning environment, will not be allowed.

- Attire must not evidence membership or affiliation with a "gang" in any negative sense of the term. Bandannas and do rags are not allowed on campus and will be confiscated. Hats are not allowed in school buildings. Picks or combs are not allowed in hair. Hair items such as plastic headbands, barrettes and ribbons are permitted. School administrators will not be held liable for confiscated items.
- Proper shoes must be worn at all times. Open back shoes are permitted. Shower shoes and bedroom slippers are not permitted.
- Attire must not be immodest, obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, indecent or offensive. Attire cannot reference or depict alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs or paraphernalia.
- Pants must be worn at the natural waistline and undergarments are not to be visible. If they do not fit properly, a belt must be worn to keep them in place.
- Shirts must be tucked in to the extent that belts or waistbands are clearly visible at all times unless it is clear that a weapon or contraband cannot be concealed under the shirt.
- Blouses/tops made to the worn on the outside of the pants must extend at least to the waistline, but not hang excessively below the waistline so as to create a safety risk.
- Sleeveless attire cannot reveal undergarments. Shirts cannot be tight, low cut or show cleavage. Shirts should be loose fitting and fully cover the upper body. Tank tops, halter-tops, shirts with spaghetti straps and see through shirts will not be allowed.
- Clothing must cover waist, shoulders and back with no skin showing between the top and bottom garments.
- Pants and slacks must not touch the floor (no bagging, sagging or dragging clothing).
- No exposed undergarments.
- No transparent or mesh clothing without an appropriate shirt underneath.
- No clothing that is excessively form fitting (i.e. spandex).
- No sunglasses may be worn inside the buildings.
- Pajamas are not permitted.
- No wallet chains or other type chains that may be dangerous or disruptive.
- Shorts, skirts and dresses must not be shorter than the bottom of fingertip length, when standing with arms extended straight down at the sides. Lower garments should be of adequate length to assure modesty when the student is seated or engaged in school activities.
- Bottoms may not have any holes, or exposed skin above the end of fingertips, when standing with arms extended straight down at the sides.
- Students may not continue to attend class wearing inappropriate clothing. Neither parents/legal guardians nor students will place the burden of enforcing the dress code solely on the school. Parents/Legal guardians and students are expected to comply with this regulation to ensure that a comfortable, safe and non-confrontational environment is provided for all students. Administrators and faculty members are expected to strictly enforce the dress code at all times.

Violations of the dress code will result in the following.
Student(s) will be required to return home and change into appropriate attire or parent/legal guardian can bring proper clothing to school or student will be sent to ISS.
Repeated violations of this dress code will be treated as disruptive behavior in violation of the student code of conduct. However, dress code violations will not carry over on the student's discipline record to subsequent years.

DRUG DOGS

Spartanburg School District Two has the right to contract with local agencies to provide drug dog searches in/on school grounds.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Any student leaving school or class before the end of the school day must be officially dismissed through the office or will be subject to immediate suspension from school.

Once a student has been officially dismissed by the office, he/she is not to return to school that day unless he/she reports immediately to the office with a written statement from a parent or doctor.

If a student is to leave school early, use an alternative method of transportation, or be picked up by someone not listed on their pick up list, a note from the parent must be presented to the main office. Bus passes are required for special instances of riding a bus to a location other than home.

We ask that all students remain in class to receive maximum quality instruction. Please limit early dismissal interruptions unless for emergencies or scheduled appointments. Please bring a medical excuse or parent note to document the early dismissal.

After lunch, students will be dismissed from school early during class changes only.

12:25-12:30, 1:20-1:25, 2:15-2:20

End of Day Dismissal - 3:10

ELECTION FOR STUDENT COUNCIL

The Boiling Springs Middle School Student Council will have two officers: President & Vice President

Requirements to hold office

1. Scholastic average of at least 85 for preceding year.
2. Shall maintain a scholastic average of 85 while in office.
3. Maintain satisfactory conduct towards administration and staff.
4. May hold no more than one major office.
5. Must have appropriate approval from election committee.

Student Council Grade Level Representatives are elected for each grade level.

FEES

Each year a minimal instruction fee is charged to cover various consumable supplies and science labs.

FIELD TRIPS

In order to go on field trips, a student must submit a written permission slip signed by his parent or guardian. A student must be in good standing with the school in order to participate in field trips. A student may not participate on a field trip if the student has served 3 days in ISS/3 days OSS or a combination of the two per semester. We will not be refunding field trip money once the deadline has passed because we have to pay for travel and the event prior to the field trip taking place.

FLAG

The American and South Carolina flags will fly from the school flagpole.

FUND RAISING

No sales of any kind will be permitted unless approved through the sponsor and the principal's office. All proceeds will go to the school. There will be no door-to-door sales of any school sale items.

GUIDANCE

The counselors are available for conferences with parents and students. Students should not go to the guidance counselors without a written pass from the classroom teacher. If a counselor is not available at that time, students should complete the appointment request form found in the counselor's door, and return to class. The counselor will schedule a time to meet with the student. These procedures are intended to minimize class absences. Cooperation is greatly appreciated.

HALLS

Students are only to be on the hall where they are assigned classes. Students are not to run in the halls. Students are to walk on the right side of the hall at normal speed to their destination. Loitering anywhere in halls is not permissible. Students are not to block the doorways or hallways.

ILLNESS

No student is to depart school at any time for any reason until the parent or guardian first approves this with the administration. If a student becomes sick at school, and is too sick to remain in class, the student will be sent to the nurse's office. Upon return to school, the student should bring a note explaining his absence.

iPad EXPECTATIONS:

Use school-issued iPads for educational purposes only. Keep iPads in your bookbag unless instructed otherwise. iPads are put away in a bookbag before and after school and in the hallways. Respect others' privacy—no photos, videos, or audio without permission. Do not access inappropriate websites, apps, or content. Keep devices safe, secure, and in good working condition. Do not remove or damage the iPad case or keyboard (includes keys, lattice, etc). Be responsible for your device, charger, and accessories.
Student iPad Expectations

INTERNET SAFETY

Our school utilizes the Fortinet Internet Safety Program along with GAGGLE.

LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER

The library offers to all students a collection of books, magazines, newspapers, pamphlets, and material for use in preparation of class assignments, research work, and reading.

Library Materials-Two-Week Period-All fiction and most non-fiction books in the library may be checked out for two-week periods and may be renewed as needed, unless there is a waiting list for the book. During the time when specific books are needed by many students for class assignments, they will be circulated for overnight use only so that all students may have an opportunity to use them.

Overnight Materials - Encyclopedias, dictionaries, magazines, pictures, pamphlets, and non-fiction books in great demand may be checked out for overnight use only. They must be returned by 8:00 a.m. the following morning.

Library Fines – Fines are charged only for days when school is in session. Fines are assessed according to the following plan: Ten cents per day for overdue overnight material and five cents per day for overdue two-week material. If you are absent on the day your book is due, but return your book on the day you return to school, you will not be charged a fine.

LOST BOOKS (Media Center or Textbooks)

If a book is lost, the price of the book will be charged to the student.

LOCKS

All students are to keep lockers locked. A school issued lock must be kept on lockers at all times. If this lock is lost, it must be replaced at the student's expense. The cost of replacing a lost lock is $10.00.

LOCKERS

Students will be assigned lockers upon request. Lockers will be used before school, during locker breaks, and after school. Each student remains responsible for any books or possessions wherever he puts them. No books or materials are to be left anywhere except locked in lockers. Students are not to share lockers with other students.

Lockers are under the jurisdiction of school authorities, and failure to keep the locker locked, is a violation that can result in the loss of a locker.

LOST AND FOUND

Any item lost on the school grounds should be reported to the office. Any item found should be turned into the office. Lost and Found locations are located in the gym and in the cafeteria. Any items not claimed by the end of the year will be donated to needy families.

LUNCH PROCEDURES

All students will receive free breakfast and lunch during the '26-'27 school year.

One of the aims and purposes of the cafeteria is to promote good lunch habits. If a plate of food or any paper products are dropped, the student is expected to clean it up. Students should never break in line.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

Students are not allowed to bring medications to school except as directed below:

1. Before the principal, nurse, or school designee will administer medication, the student must submit a dated request, signed by his/her parent or guardian to the school nurse. It should include: *child's name, physician's name, name of the medication, and time to be administered.*
2. One Permission Request Form per year is required for each new or different medication.
3. Parents may reclaim any unused medications within one week of the termination of the treatment or at the end of the school year. The school will dispose of the unused portion not claimed.
4. The district will not be responsible for any adverse drug reaction when the medication has been given in the manner prescribed.
5. The district retains the discretion to reject requests for administration of medicine.
6. Medications must be brought to school in a current, individual, pharmacy-labeled container. Medications will be kept in a locked cabinet. Parent/guardian should deliver the medication to the school when possible.
7. School personnel, under no circumstances, will supply students with medication not brought by the student.
9. Injections will not be administered to staff or students except in life threatening situations.
9. Changes in dosages will require notification from student's doctor. This can be faxed to school.
10. Students may keep inhalers and epi-pens in their possession, if stated on doctor's orders.
11. The same regulations and rules apply to students going on field trips.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

These are the personal and direct responsibility of each student. Students are discouraged from having large sums of money while at school.

PICK UP AFTER SCHOOL AND EXTRA CURRICULUR ACTIVITIES

- Students should be picked up in the car line by 3:45 each day.
    - If your student is not picked up by 3:45, a parent will have to come in the front office and sign the student out.
- Students staying after school for practices, club meetings, or attending athletic events should be picked up within 10 minutes of the event ending.
- If student is not picked up within 10 minutes, the student may not be allowed to attend the next after school event.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All middle school students are required to take physical education. Students are asked to provide their own gym shoes. Students are expected to participate daily unless under doctor's care with written notification. Personal Skills is a PE class.

REPORT CARDS

Following each nine weeks' grading period, all students will be issued report cards reflecting their academic progress. The following grading system will be used:

90-100: A
80-89: B
70-79: C
60-69: D
Below 60: F

SAFETY

Any student who is aware of any dangerous situation should inform a teacher, an administrator, or office personnel immediately. All building and classroom doors will remain locked at all times.

SCREENINGS

Vision and hearing screenings are conducted for 8th grade students each year. Dental screenings for the 7th grade are conducted by the Drum Dental Health Program, yearly.

SKATEBOARDS

Skateboards, roller blades, etc. are not permitted on school property.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE / CODE OF CONDUCT

Located at the end of student handbook..

TARDY - TO SCHOOL OR TO INDIVIDUAL CLASSES

Students not in first period by 8:00 or in any scheduled class on time are considered tardy. Any student arriving after the tardy bell rings at 8:00 will report to the office. Please see the updated tardy policy in the Level 1: Disorderly Conduct under Student Discipline.

TRANSFER OF STUDENT

If a student plans to transfer to another school, he should report this to the guidance department and his teachers. Parents should make an appointment with the guidance secretary to withdraw their child from school and to complete the necessary forms. All books should be returned to the Assistant Principal. A completed and signed withdraw form should be returned to the front office.

VISITORS / CONFERENCES

To insure an uninterrupted instructional program, visits by students from other schools are prohibited. Students are requested not to bring guests to school. Only Boiling Springs Middle School students will be permitted in class. Any visitor must report to the office.

Parents of students are always welcome to visit the school campus. Parents are encouraged to arrange conferences with individual teachers by appointment. They should report to the office to be signed in and to obtain a visitor's badge.

INTERIM REPORTS ISSUED

Interims will be issued at the mid-way point during each nine week period. All Interim Reports are emailed to parents through Bright Arrow Notifications.

MEAL FEES-Subject to change

All students will receive free breakfast and lunch for the '26-'27 school year.

MEDIA PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOLS
RELEASE OF STUDENT/EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

Media on Campus

All media representatives are to contact the District Office of Public Relations when interested in videoing or conducting interviews at any District 2 schools. The PR office will coordinate with the administration at the school that will be the focus of the story to try and accommodate media requests. If a principal or other staff member is contacted by the media they should be courteous and relay the request to the PR office in a timely manner. Media representatives should be accompanied by the principal or their designee the entire time they are present on campus. When finished, they then should be escorted out and their departure visually confirmed. This prevents "spontaneous contact" and inappropriate release of information. The media are free to interview anyone at any time when not physically on school property, unless you are on a school-sponsored field trip or event. Once students leave your school grounds/jurisdiction, you cannot be held responsible for media contact.

Any media requests concerning the entire district should be directed to the PR office or the Superintendent. Principals or school staff should notify the District Office immediately if members of the media arrive on campus without notice.

Guidelines for Student Interviews

Student interviews must be **approved by the principal**, and the **student must be willing** to be interviewed. The principal should use discretion regarding the selection of students, the topic of the interview, and the student's schedule. The principal or his/her designee should remain with the media during all interviews with students on campus or at any school-sponsored activity. (Please note that the media can interview students when they are not on school property or under school jurisdiction without school approval.)

"Special" students, if identifiable as such, cannot be interviewed or photographed without written parental permission. The *Individual/Specific Media Release Consent Form* may be used as needed for these students.

Interview questions cannot invade the privacy of the family, and students cannot answer questions about religion, rules in the household, divorce, sex, or other "sensitive" issues unless the parent is present or the parent/guardian has given specific written permission to discuss those topics with the media.

Media coverage cannot interfere with classroom instruction, as outlined by the EIA. Assembly programs and other activities not involving direct student instruction may be exempt from these guidelines.

Student spokespersons may be identified at the beginning of the school year, with parental permission obtained using the *Individual/Specific Media Release Consent Form*, for the students to be interviewed by the media when "general" interviews about student life, activities, etc. are requested. Selected students usually hold office in a student organization such as Student Council, or they are leaders in the school. May 2014/rgrh

Release of Student Information

Both state and federal laws protect the release of personal information about students who are minors. No personally identifiable information about a student should be released without parental consent.

Directory-type student information—information about a student that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed—may be used judiciously for positive purposes, as stated in the *Directory Information Notice,* if the parents have not notified you to the contrary. Refer to *Board Policy JRA-R—Student Records* for details.

Notification of Rights under FERPA

The *Directory Information* notice gives parents the opportunity to exclude their children from publicity and protects the school/district in the appropriate use of general student information, including photographs. *Directory Information* and *Education Records* (concerning access to student records) notices are required annually by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Individual/Specific Media Release Consent Form

This form may be used in the following cases:

1. To obtain permission to release Special Education/other special program student information/photo-graphs
2. For one-on-one interviews with students
3. For student spokespersons
4. To include in a particular promotional piece students whose parents otherwise have objected to release of directory information
5. *As an extra measure of precaution*

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS/PRIVACY NOTICE

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Students participate in a variety of school-related events and activities that are subject to some form of publicity—from honor rolls to media coverage of special events. In publicizing student accomplishments or school events, due care is taken to ensure that it serves the best interest of students. A school or district office employee is present whenever a student is photographed or interviewed. Information about students may appear in newspaper articles, on television, in radio broadcasts, on displays, on the World Wide Web, or in district or school promotional pieces (school annuals, brochures, fliers, newsletters, programs for sports or cultural events, television shows, videotape, websites, etc.).

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act allows schools to release "directory information." The District considers the following as directory information: age, name, the most recent school attended, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of athletic team members, dates of attendance, diploma or certificate and awards received, and photographs.

With the exception of electronic images related to school-sponsored or district-sponsored events, activities, and special recognitions, the District will treat all video recorded of students through surveillance videos on District property or school buses as student records entitled to confidentiality pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and other applicable federal and State laws.

In addition, federal laws require schools to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories—names, addresses, and telephone listings—unless parents have advised the school that they do not want their student's information disclosed. **If for some reason you object to your child's inclusion/identification in publicized school recognitions/events/activities, including a school or District-maintained website/social media page, or wish to opt out of the provision for contact information to the military, you must, within 15 days of registration, advise the principal in writing (annually) of the specific type of directory information to withhold.**

EDUCATION RECORDS

A student's cumulative education record contains directory information, scholastic information, standardized test data, health records, and other similar information. Individual student records are not available for public inspection. However, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records:

1. *To inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of receipt of written request for access*

Parents or eligible students should write to the school principal, identifying the record(s) that they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. *To request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes to be inaccurate or misleading (FERPA provisions do not apply to grades and educational decisions made by school personnel)*

Parents or eligible students may ask Spartanburg County School District Two to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed and specifying why it is inaccurate or misleading.

If the district decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the district will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of the right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. With this notification, the district will provide additional information regarding hearing procedures.

3. *To consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's records, except to the extent that t FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent*

One exception that permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person/company with whom the district 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 disciplinary or grievance committee) or assisting a school official in performing his or her task s. 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. Upon request and without consent, the district discloses education records to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

4. *To file a complaint with the US Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA*

Contact information for the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
US Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202-4605

The following letter to parents was written by Jerry Gibson, MD, Chief, Bureau of Disease Control

SCHOOL EXCLUSION LIST 1st-12th grades

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are asking for your help to keep your child's school a healthy place to learn. **We request that you keep your child out of school, including before- and after-school childcare, when he or she has an illness that can be spread to others.**

DHEC has developed Exclusion Lists to help parents decide when children are too ill to go to school. The School Exclusion List applies to all students in grades 1-12, except those students identified as Medically Fragile. The School Exclusion List describes conditions and illnesses that keep students out of school, and the types of notes needed for students to return to school when they have been sick.

We hope that your child never has to miss school because of illness or disease. The best protection from disease is prevention. You can help prevent many illnesses by making sure your child's immunizations are up-to-date, and by teaching your child to wash his or her hands often.

If you have any questions about the School Exclusion List or about ways to help your child stay healthy, please call your school nurse or your local health department.

Thank you for helping us to keep South Carolina's schools healthy places to learn.

You can find more information about the
School Exclusion List on the Internet at:
www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/exclusion.htm

CODE OF CONDUCT

2026 - 2027

Middle School
Grades 6-8

3231 OLD FURNACE ROAD
CHESNEE, SC 29063

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Chapter 1
Middle School Grades 6-8 Level I - III

Spartanburg School District 2 Middle School Code of Conduct

Level I Offenses

Acts considered as Level I Offenses include, but are not limited to, those listed below:

- Class disruption or disruption of school activities or environment, including school bus.
- Creating or participating in a classroom disturbance that interferes with the instructional process.
- Harassment.
- Inappropriate display of affection.
- Engaging in verbal or written abuse, name calling, (i.e., ethnic or racial slur, or derogatory statements about sexual orientation) intentionally addressed publicly to others that may disrupt the school educational program or incite violence.
- Inappropriate behavior.
- Possession, use, sale, or distribution of unauthorized materials at school (ie. lighter, match, ...)
- Inappropriate physical contact, including, but not limited to, pushing or shoving.
- Unauthorized or inappropriate use of school equipment, including, but not limited to computers.
- Violation of health room rules. All medication (to include over the counter drugs such as Benadryl, Tylenol, etc. or personal prescriptions) brought to school must be in the original container, labeled appropriately and administered by the school nurse. Exceptions under a physician's order are managed by the school nurse.
- Cutting class or school.
- Excessive tardiness/early dismissals.
- Cheating.
- Being in an unauthorized area.
- Profanity/obscene gesture directed toward another student or directed toward no one in particular.
- Violation of the Technology/Internet Acceptable Use Agreement.
- Failure or refusal to obey a staff member or any other adult authorized by the school to supervise students.
- Dress code violations.
- Leaving or attempting to leave school grounds without permission, whether or not the school day has actually begun.
- Walking out of a class (without teacher approval).
- Misuse of Electronic Communication Devices - cell phone, tablets, computers on school grounds during school hours.
- Any behavior or act that interferes with the safe operation of a school bus.
- Provoking or simulating a fight.
- Disrespect to teacher or staff member or other adult approved by the school to supervise students, including volunteers.
- Violation of a behavior contract.
- Gambling (games of chance for money or profit).
- Unauthorized entry to any school sponsored events.

Level I Consequences

Consequences for students who commit Level I Offenses are as follows:

A. The following consequences for middle school students will be assigned for all Level I Offenses:

1st Offense - Administrative conference, parent conference, referral to counselor, removal from class, detention, in-school suspension and/or possible out-of-school suspension.
2nd Offense - Administrative conference, parent conference, referral to counselor, removal from class, detention, in-school suspension and/or possible out-of-school suspension. Up to two (2) days in-school suspension and/or possible out-of-school suspension.

3rd Offense - Up to Three (3) days out-of-school suspension.

4th Offense - Up to Five (5) days out-of-school suspension.

5th Offense - Out-of-school suspension and possible recommendation for alternative school placement or expulsion.

B. Restitution of property and damages where appropriate will be sought by the school or the district.

C. Students who are suspended from school immediately forfeit the opportunity to ride any school bus or other school vehicle for the duration of the suspension.

Consequences for students who commit a Level I Offense *on the bus or district vehicle* will be as follows:

1st Offense – Up to Three (3) day bus suspension.

2nd Offense – Up to Five (5) day bus suspension.

3rd Offense – Up to Ten (10) day bus suspension.

4th Offense - Indefinite suspension from the school bus or school vehicle.

Level II Offenses
Acts considered as Level II Offenses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Health Code Violation including but not limited to biting, spitting, urination and or defecation in a public or inappropriate location.
- Selling, possessing, transferring or using items represented as being illegal, controlled substances, prescription drugs or over the counter drugs without regard to amount.
- Fighting.
- Possession and/or detonating (in any way causing to go off) fireworks, incendiary devices, smoke and/or stink bombs or other noxious gas devices.
- Sexual harassment.
- Indecent exposure.
- Making serious threats to a staff member or any other person authorized by the school to supervise students.
- Profanity/obscenity, racial or ethnic slurs directed to a staff member or to any adult authorized by the school to supervise students, including volunteers.
- Possession/use or transfer of tobacco or tobacco products. ("This includes electronic cigarettes/devices, vapors, juul/vape pods, juuling devices, vape devices, paraphernalia. (SC State Statute 16-17-501(7) and SC State Statute 16-17- 501(8))
- Participation in Gangs or Gang-Related Activity.
- Direct refusal to obey a staff member or any adult authorized by the school to supervise students, including volunteers.
- Physical assault of a student.
- Planning and/or organizing and/or instigating and/or participating in an activity that causes substantial disruption to the educational program.
- Possession of any item of drug paraphernalia.
- Fraud such as request for emergency services, financial identity fraud, or identity fraud.
- Any other behavior, whether on or off campus, that threatens the safety of students or staff members (regardless of where behavior takes place) or disrupts the operation or function of the school. This does include coming on school/district property after consuming non-prescribed controlled substances and/or illegal drugs.
- Trespassing.
- Vandalism or theft, or possession or transfer of personal or school district property (Minor)
- Possession/distribution of pornographic or obscene material.
- Possession of a knife with a blade two inches or less, starter pistol, replica weapon/device or bat. The blade will be measured from tip to base. This does not include approved aesthetic equipment, etc...

Level II Consequences
Consequences for students who commit any Level II Offense are as follows:

1st Offense - Up to eight (8) days suspension from school and/or possible recommendation for alternative school placement or expulsion.

2nd Offense – Eight (8) to Ten (10) days out-of-school-suspension and possible recommendation for alternative school placement or expulsion.

3rd Offense - Immediate suspension from school with a possible recommendation for alternative school placement or expulsion.

Note 1: In determining whether a student is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, the student's appearance or manner, their behavior and/or the presence of an alcohol odor, as well as statements made by the student as to consumption of alcohol or drugs, will be considered.

Note 2: Any student who violates the alcohol, inhalant or controlled and/or illegal substance rule will be suspended from participation and attendance in any and all extracurricular activities.

Note 3: Middle School students who commit alcohol, drug or sexual harassment related violations may be recommended to complete an approved alcohol and drug counseling program.

Note 4: Restitution of property and damages where appropriate will be sought by the school or district.

Note 5: If the violation occurs on the bus, the school's administration will conduct the preliminary investigation, take action regarding the opportunity to ride a bus and refer the violation to the school for further action. Students who are suspended out-of-school forfeit the opportunity to ride the school bus or other school district vehicle for the duration of the suspension.

Consequences for students who commit a Level II Offense *on the bus or district vehicle* will be as follows:

1st Offense – Up to Five (5) day bus suspension.

2nd Offense – Up to Ten (10) day bus suspension.

3rd Offense - Indefinite suspension from the school bus or school vehicle.

Level III Offenses

Acts considered as Level III Offenses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Furnishing, possessing or transferring dangerous explosives, plastic explosives, chemical reaction-type, pipe bomb materials including, but not limited to, Molotov cocktails, dynamite, or poison.

- Participating in sexual conduct/activity, which also includes compromising situations and circumstances. Such conduct may involve only the individual student or may involve other people. (Follow Title IX protocols, if applicable)

- Illegal use of technology (e.g. communicating threats of violence).

- Threatening, bullying, intimidating, cyberbullying or extorting students, a staff member, or any other adult designated by the school to supervise students including volunteers.

- Communicating a Threat of a Destructive Device or Weapon: Communicating, writing, threatening, or transmitting to a person or school facility that there is, or will be, a destructive device, bomb, shooting, or dangerous event, with the intent of intimidating, threatening, or interfering with government functions or school activities; or, harboring one who is guilty of this offense.

- Unauthorized tampering with security, fire, access control or surveillance system or alarms.

- Arson, which is the intentional damage of school property, or attempted arson of school property.

- Active participation in an act of mob violence, to include lynching. A mob is described as two or more people.

- Assault of a staff member or any other adult designated by the school to supervise students, including volunteers.

- Burglary to a school, portable classroom, school district building, or any structure on school district property.

- Possession, transfer, distribution, or use in any amount of **marijuana** (including marijuana seeds), hallucinogenic drugs, inhalants, edibles, or any other controlled or illegal substance. This includes being present on District/school property or at any school-sponsored event after using any amount of these substances, (See Glossary: Under the Influence or Inhalants)

    - **Note 1: In determining whether a student is under the influence of drugs, the student's appearance/manner/behavior, as well as statements made by the student as to consumption of drugs will be considered.**

- Sexual assault.

- Possession, transfer, distribution, use in any amount, or being under the influence of **alcohol**. Since alcohol consumption is illegal by minors, consumption of any amount of alcohol will constitute a violation of this section. This includes being present on District/school property or at any school- sponsored event after using any amount of these substances.

    - **Note 1:** In determining whether a student is under the influence of alcohol, the student's appearance/manner/behavior and or the presence of an alcohol odor, as well as statements made by the student as to consumption of alcohol will be considered.

- Non-forcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

- Auto Breaking unlawful entry into a motor vehicle on school property or into a school district vehicle at any location.

- Vandalism or theft, possession or transfer of personal or school district property (Major)

- Possession, transfer or use of a firearm.

- Use of any item not generally considered as a weapon but used as a weapon to inflict bodily harm. Such items include, but are not limited to, a knife with a blade two inches or less, starter pistol, replica weapon/device, paintball gun, bat, etc...

- Possession, transfer or use of a prohibited weapon other than a firearm including a knife with a blade over two inches, BB gun, paint ball gun, pellet gun, air-soft pistol, razor, razor blade, martial arts throwing star, metal knuckles, taser, mace and pepper spray, blackjack, a metal pipe or pole. Box cutters and utility/X-Acto knives containing any size blades are also considered a violation of this section. (SC 16-23-430.)

Level III Consequences

Consequences for students who commit Level lll Offenses are as follows:

A. During the investigative period, middle school students may be suspended from school for up to 10 school days pending a possible recommendation for expulsion. Once the investigation has been completed, the principal or his/her designee shall meet with the student and his/her parent/guardian to discuss the results of the investigation and to provide the student due process to discuss the opportunity to present his/her defense to the matter. At the conclusion of the investigation, the principal or his/her designee shall inform the student whether she/he intends to proceed forward with the recommendation for alternative school placement or expulsion.

B. Whenever Level lll Offenses are committed, law enforcement will be called and charges (Juvenile petition or warrant) will be filed against the perpetrator. Although in some cases, law enforcement's decision whether to press criminal charges for weapons or drugs may require possession of that item on the person, in all such cases the school administrator will still contact law enforcement and file an incident report.

C. When Level lll Offenses are committed on a school bus or other school vehicle, the school's administration will conduct a preliminary investigation and report their findings to the appropriate school administrator for action. Students who are suspended out-of-school immediately forfeit the opportunity to ride the school buses or other district vehicle for the duration of the suspension or until a decision is made otherwise by the principal.

D. Restitution of property and damages where appropriate will be sought by the school or district.

E. Middle school students who commit alcohol, drug, or sexually related violations may be recommended to complete an appropriate counseling program.

F. Students who are expelled for possession of a firearm will be subject to the 1995 Federal and State laws that mandate a one-year (365 days) expulsion term, unless the Superintendent determines to reduce the term of expulsion.

Consequences for students who commit a Level III Offense <u>on the bus or district vehicle</u> will be as follows:

- Indefinite suspension from the school bus, district vehicle or other contracted vehicle

Law Enforcement Involvement

Section 59-24-60. Requirement of school officials to contact law enforcement authorities when criminal conduct occurs:

In addition to other provisions required by law or by regulation of the state board of education, school administrators must contact law enforcement authorities immediately upon notice that a person is engaging or has engaged in activities on

school property or at a school sanctioned or sponsored activity which may result or results in injury or serious threat of injury to the person or to another person or his property as defined in local board policy.

Bus Rules & Conduct

In addition to all Level I - III rules, the following School Bus Safety Rules must be followed at all times while on a School Bus, Activity Bus or other district vehicle used for the purpose of transportation of students to or from school, sports programs and other school sponsored events such as field trips. Consequences will be for any violation of these rules and additional school consequences may be applied. If a student is removed from the bus for the remainder of the school year at any time in prior years, once in 6th grade, students can be denied bus privileges for the remainder of the year for any infraction.

Riding the bus is a privilege and not a right. Correct behavior is the responsibility of the student, not the driver. Students will be held responsible for obeying all Student Transportation Regulations and School District Conduct Code.

School Bus Levels of Misconduct

Level I

- Disorderly conduct
- Misconduct at a bus stop
- Disembarking the bus at an authorized stop without permission
- Entering or leaving the bus by an emergency door
- Consuming food or drinking while on the bus
- Littering
- Standing while the bus is in motion
- Riding the wrong bus
- Continually making loud noises
- Pushing, tripping, and general horseplay
- Rude behavior toward passengers
- Having out electronic devices
- Spraying of chemicals
- Screaming or shouting out of the windows
- Not maintaining school dress code

Level I Consequences

First offense

- Probation/warning

Second offense

- Suspension up to 10 days

Third offense

- Bus privilege may be denied for the remainder of the school year

Level II

- Disruptive conduct
- Misconduct at a bus stop
- Smoking/Vaping
- Throwing objects out of the windows
- Throwing objects on the bus
- Refusing to sit in an assigned seat
- Use of profanity/inappropriate language
- Having body parts out of the windows
- Defacing property
- Rude behavior
- Fighting

Level II Consequences

1st Offense

- Suspension up to 10 days

2nd Offense

- Bus privilege may be denied for the remainder of the school year
- Consequences can also include out of school or in-school suspension

Level III

- Criminal conduct
- Misconduct at a bus stop
- Possession or use of weapons, explosions or fireworks
- Carrying any object that may be used as a weapon
- Persistent uncontrollable conduct
- Possession, use or distribution of alcohol, drugs, and unauthorized substances
- Pushing or tripping that leads to injury
- Vandalism of the interior or exterior of the bus

Level III Consequences

1st Offense

- Bus privilege may be denied for the remainder of the school year
- Consequences can also include out of school or in-school suspension, expulsion, restitution, notification to law enforcement

Additional information on bus expectations can be found on our district website:
https://www.spart2.org/departments/transportation/school_bus_safety_rules_and_regulations

Chapter 2

Policy JKD Suspension of Students

Issued 2/09

Purpose: To establish the board's vision for the suspension of students. It is the policy of the district to provide due process of law to students, parents/legal guardians and school personnel through procedures for the suspension of students pursuant to the requirements of federal law, state law and regulations and board policies.

The board delegates the power of suspension to the district administration and to the principal or his/her designee. The administration may suspend a student for the commission of any crime, gross immorality, gross misbehavior, persistent disobedience or the violation of district or state board of education policies, rules or regulations. The administration may also suspend a student when the presence of the student is detrimental to the best interest of the district or one of its schools.

A student may be suspended for up to 10 school days for any one offense. Suspension means the student cannot attend school or be on district or school property, cannot attend any school related events or activities on or off campus and cannot ride a school bus.

The only suspensions that the board will review are suspensions that occur within the last 10 days of the school year when the suspension would make a student ineligible to receive credit for the school year, unless the presence of the student constitutes an actual threat to a class or school or unless a hearing by the district hearing officer is granted within 24 hours of the suspension.

Adopted 4/1/97; Revised

2/21/06, 2/10/09 Legal

references:

S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

Section 59-19-90(3) - Gives district trustees authority to prescribe rules of pupil conduct, including provisions for suspension or dismissal of those failing to comply with such rules. Section 59-63-210, *et seq.* - Grounds for suspension,

expulsion or transfer. Section 59-63-240 -

Expulsion hearings - times, procedures, legal rights

appeals.

Policy AR JKD-R Suspension of Students

Issued 2/09

Investigation of Misbehavior

When it appears that a student has engaged in misbehavior warranting suspension, an administrator will investigate the matter and interview those who have knowledge about what occurred. The student will be advised, verbally or in writing, of the accusations against him/her. The administrator also will advise the student of the evidence against him/her and provide the student with an opportunity to tell his/her side of the story. If the student asks the administrator to speak to other witnesses, the administrator will do so, if possible.

After completing the investigation, the administrator will determine if suspension is in order and the number of school days, from one to 10, the suspension should run.

Summary Suspension

If the administrator sees or is advised of any student misbehavior and concludes the student should be removed from school immediately in order to restore order or to protect others at the school, the administrator may summarily suspend the student for up to two school days. In these cases, the administrator does not have to investigate the matter first. By the end of the next school day following the summary suspension, however, the administrator should investigate the matter, as outlined above and determine what, if any, additional suspension days, not to exceed a total of 10, are appropriate.

If the administrator determines that the student should not have been suspended, arrangements will be made for the student to make up any work he/she missed while on summary suspension. The administrator also will remove any reference to the summary suspension from the student's record.

Sending a Suspended Student Home During the School Day

When a student is suspended, the administrator will attempt to contact the parent/legal guardian to request he/she pick up the student from school. If a parent/legal guardian cannot come for the student, the school may take the student home as long as a parent/legal guardian is at home to take charge of the student. If the administrator cannot reach the parent/legal guardian, the student must stay at school until the end of the school day.

If the student is summarily suspended, he/she may be removed from the school grounds immediately. Depending upon his/her age, however, it may be necessary to keep him/her at school until the parent/legal guardian can be reached.

Notification to Parent/Legal Guardian

By the end of the next school day following any suspension, the administrator must notify the parent/legal guardian in writing of the following:

the acts committed by the student
the rule(s) violated
the length of the suspension
the time and place when he/she will be available to meet with the parent/legal guardian for a conference

Written notification should be sent via hand-delivery by the student **and** through regular U.S. mail. The conference with the parent/legal guardian will be set within three school days of the date of the suspension. If the parent/legal guardian is unable to meet at the scheduled time, upon request, the administrator will establish a mutually agreeable time for the conference.

Limits on Suspension

A student may not be suspended for more than a total of 30 school days in one school year. An administrator may not suspend a student from school during the last 10 school days of the school year if the suspension would result in the loss of the course credit unless the board approves or if the student is an actual threat to the class or the school or a hearing before the hearing officer is granted by the end of the next school day following the suspension.

Suspension Appeals

After a parent/guardian is notified in writing of a suspension, the parent/guardian has 5 school days to request an appeal of the suspension. The request for appeal must be in writing and should state the specific basis for the appeal. Suspensions may be appealed as follows:

A. To the Principal if the decision to suspend was made by a school-level designee. (Assistant Principal)
B. To the Director of Student Services if the decision to suspend was made by the Principal.
C. In the event that the Principal determines that he/she has been too involved in the decision to suspend or to conduct an impartial hearing, the Principal may request that the Director of Student Services conduct the appeal hearing.
D. All in-school suspensions and out-of-school suspensions may not be appealed beyond the school level unless the suspension was initially assigned by the principal. There is no appeal for detentions or lesser consequences beyond the school level.
E. All suspensions should begin immediately.
F. The Board of Trustees hears only expulsion appeals.

Chapter 3

Policy JKE Expulsion of Students

Issued 2/09

Purpose: To establish the board's vision for the expulsion of students.

A student may be expelled for any reason listed in the student code of conduct; for the commission of any crime, gross immorality, gross misbehavior or the violation of any other written policies, rules or regulations established by the board or the state board of education; or when the presence of the student is deemed to be detrimental to the best interest of the district. Expulsion means the student cannot attend school or be on district or school property, cannot attend any school-related events or activities on or off campus and cannot ride a school bus.

If procedures for expulsion are initiated, the parent/legal guardian of the student will be notified in writing of the time and the place of a hearing before the district hearing officer. The hearing will take place within 10 school days of the written notification of expulsion at a time and place designated by the district hearing officer and a decision will be rendered within seven school days of the hearing. The student may be suspended from school and all activities during the time of the expulsion procedures.

At the hearing, the parent/legal guardian has the right to legal counsel and to all other regular legal rights, including the right to question witnesses in a manner determined by the district hearing officer. The right to appeal the decision of the district hearing officer to the board is reserved to either party in accord the AR accompanying this policy.

Adopted 11/12/96; Revised 2/10/09 Legal references:

United States Code:

20 U.S.C. 7151 - Gun-Free Schools.

Education of Individuals with Disabilities, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400, *et seq.*

29 U.S.C. Section 794, *et seq.* (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended). Code of Federal Regulations, 34 CRF parts 300 and 301.

Code of Federal Regulations, 34 CFR Part 104.

S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

Section 59-19-90(3) - Gives district trustees authority to prescribe rules of pupil conduct, including provisions for suspension or dismissal of those failing to comply with such rules.

Section 59-63-210 - Grounds for suspension, expulsion or transfer Section 59-63-235 - district must expel student.

Section 59-63-240 - Expulsion hearings - times, procedures, legal rights appeals.

S.C. Supreme Court:

Davis v. The School district of Greenville County, 374 S.C. 39, 647 S.E.2d 219 (S.C. 2007).

Investigation and Action Taken by The Administrator

If a school principal or his/her designee or district administrator investigates a report of student misbehavior and decides to recommend expulsion, the administrator will suspend the student and notify the student's parent/legal guardian of his/her right to meet with the administrator within three school days of the date of the suspension. If, after meeting with the parent/legal guardian (or if the parent/legal guardian has not come in for a meeting by the third school day), the administrator still intends to recommend expulsion, the matter will be referred directly to the district hearing officer. This expulsion procedure will be followed in all cases, regardless of the offense charged.

Notice of Expulsion Recommendation

By the end of the third school day following receipt of an expulsion recommendation, the district hearing officer or other person as designated by the superintendent (district hearing officer) will notify the student and parents/legal guardians, in writing, of the following.

- The rule(s) infraction alleged to have occurred
- The right of the student to review his/her record including the investigative documents the administration intends to present at the expulsion hearing
- The right of the student to a hearing on the evidence
- The time and place of the hearing, which must be held within 10 school days of the date of notification unless the parent/legal guardian or his/her representative agree otherwise
- The procedure to be followed at the hearing including the right to be represented by legal counsel at the student's own expense

Hearing Procedure

The administrator, the administrator's representative, the student, the parent/legal guardian and/or the student's representative may be present at the hearing. If the district hearing officer and the parent/legal guardian agree, the student may be dismissed during portions of the hearing. The administrator and the student or their representatives will be allowed to present witnesses or witness statements and, within the discretion of the district hearing officer, cross-examine the other party's witnesses. The district hearing officer may ask the witnesses questions. The parent/ legal guardian and/or the student's representative will be given an opportunity to argue their position or express their views on the case. A recording of the testimony or written minutes of the hearing will be kept on file by the district hearing officer for at least one calendar year.

Action Following the Hearing

Within seven school days of the hearing, the district hearing officer will decide whether the student committed the alleged rule(s) violation or misconduct based on the evidence presented at the hearing and determine the appropriate consequence. If the district hearing officer determines that grounds for expulsion exist, he/she may expel the student for the remainder of the current school year, permanently expel, or give punishment other than expulsion including, but not limited to, suspension or probation. Probation means special restrictions have been placed on the student's right to attend school. Violations of probation restrictions will result in immediate suspension and a recommendation for expulsion. Assignment to the alternative school or program means loss of the right to participate in extracurricular activities in the home school during the assignment period. The district hearing officer will report his/her decision in writing to the parent/legal guardian, the superintendent and the school. If the district hearing officer determines that grounds for expulsion do not exist, absences resulting from the suspension will be excused and the student's record cleared. The student will be allowed to make up missed work.

Expulsion Appeals

Only the district hearing officer's decision to expel the student from all district schools or assign the student to the alternative school or program may be appealed by the student to a three-member panel of the board, provided written notice of appeal is made to the superintendent within five school days of notification of the district hearing officer's decision. An appeal will normally be limited to the established record and no new testimony will be allowed unless the board panel desires to hear additional testimony. The board panel may uphold, reverse or alter the expulsion or reassignment decision of the district hearing officer. If the board panel upholds the district hearing officer's decision to expel or assign the student to the alternative school or program, the student may appeal the decision to the full board, whereupon the same process will be followed. If the recommendation for expulsion or reassignment is reversed on appeal, all absences resulting from the suspension will be excused, the student's record cleared and the student will be allowed to make up all missed work.

Petitions for Readmission

Students who have been expelled for the remainder of the current school year may make a written request to the superintendent or his/her designee for readmission for the subsequent school year. The request must specify the reasons why the student should be allowed to return. If the superintendent or his/her designee denies the student's request or in all cases of permanent expulsion, the student may make a written request to the board for readmission and may include a request to appear before the board. If the request is denied by the board, the student may submit another request prior to the following school year. Issued 2/10/09

Expulsion From School

Expulsions will be recommended only by the Principal of the school to which the student is assigned. Procedures to be followed regarding expulsions are specified in Board policy, JKE-Expulsion of students. Expelled students may not attend any event in which a Spartanburg School District Two school is participating nor be on any District property during the period of expulsion. Any expelled student who is on district property after school hours for church services, recreational league sports, or if it is court ordered (monitored) community service hours must have the prior written permission of the superintendent or his/her designee.

Transfer in Lieu of Expulsion

Any student transferred to Whitlock Flexible Learning Center in lieu of expulsion may not attend any school sponsored event nor be on any District Two property during the period of their transfer. All transferred students will sign a behavior contract prior to enrolling at the Academy for Success. The Director of Student Services will hear all appeals for dismissal from Whitlock Flexible Learning Center.

Dismissal of Expelled Students from Whitlock Flexible Learning Center

1. Each student accepted at Whitlock Flexible Learning Center will be placed on a behavior contract.

2. The Principal of Whitlock Flexible Learning Center will have the authority to recommend for dismissal any student from Whitlock Flexible Learning Center based upon the student's behavior violations while enrolled at the school.

3. The student and parent/guardian will be notified of the reason for recommendation dismissal in writing.

4. The recommendation for dismissal will be heard by the Director of Student Services

Technology Offenses:

With the increasing use of technology in the school curriculum, the appropriate use of the computer and other equipment, systems and data is vital. See individual categories for specific offenses and consequences.