

It is the policy of the Harris County Board of Education that age-appropriate student codes of conduct designed to improve the student learning environment and which will comply with state law and State Board of Education Rule 160-4-8-15, shall be developed for use in all schools during school hours, at school-related functions, and on school property. School property shall include public school buses and stops for public school buses as designated by the Board of Education. This policy may apply to off-campus behavior as specified in Section C. One student code which is age appropriate and includes all offenses in the Harris County Student Behavior Code shall be developed for use in all elementary schools; another shall be developed for use in middle schools, with a third for the high schools. Each code of conduct shall include the following:

1. Standards for student behavior designed to create the expectation that students will behave themselves in such a way so as to facilitate a learning environment for themselves and other students. The standards should be designed also to encourage students to respect each other and school district employees, to motivate students to obey student behavior policies adopted by the Board and to obey student behavior rules established at each school within this school district;
3. Progressive discipline processes designed to create the expectation that the degree of discipline imposed by each school will be proportion to the severity of the behavior of a particular student, the previous discipline history of the student and other relevant facts, while ensuring that each student receives the due process mandated by federal and state law;
4. Parental involvement processes designed to enable parents, guardians, teachers and school administrators to work together to improve and enhance student behavior and academic performance. The process should enable parents, guardians and school employees to communicate freely their concerns about student behaviors which detract from the learning environment.

Bus Conduct

Each student code of conduct shall include the following specific provisions prescribing and governing student conduct and safety rules on all school buses:

Students shall be prohibited from acts of physical violence as defined by Code Section 20-2-751.6, bullying as defined by subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-751.4, physical assault or battery of other persons on the school bus, verbal assault of other persons on the school bus, disrespectful conduct toward the school bus driver or other persons on the school bus, and other unruly behavior;

Students shall be prohibited from using any electronic devices during the operation of a school bus, including but not limited to cell phones; pagers; audible radios, tape or compact disc players without headphones; or any other electronic device; and

Students shall be prohibited from using mirrors, lasers, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective devices in a manner that might interfere with the school bus driver's operation of the school bus.

If a student is found to have engaged in physical acts of violence as defined by Code Section 20-2-751.6, the student shall be subject to the penalties set forth in that Code section.

A meeting of the parent or guardian of the student and appropriate school district officials must be held to form a school bus behavior contract whenever:

A student is found to have engaged in bullying; or

A student is found to have engaged in physical assault or battery of another person on the school bus.

The school bus behavior contract shall provide for age-appropriate discipline, penalties, and restrictions for student misconduct on the bus. Provisions may include, but are not limited to, assigned seating, ongoing parental involvement, and suspension from riding the bus.

These provisions regarding use of a bus behavior contract are not to be construed to limit the instances when other code of conduct violations may require use of a student bus behavior contract.

The consequences for physical violence against a teacher, school bus driver, or other school personnel may include expulsion for the remainder of the student's eligibility to attend public schools.

Parents shall be involved in developing and updating student codes of conduct. Each code shall require disciplinary action for each infraction of the code. All student codes of conduct shall be submitted to the Board for approval.

The student code of conduct shall be distributed to each student and the student's parents or guardians following development and thereafter during the first week of school and upon enrollment of each new student. The parents shall be requested to sign an acknowledgement of the receipt of the code of conduct and return promptly the acknowledgement to the school. The student code of conduct shall be available in the school office and each classroom.

TEACHER REPORTING REQUIREMENT

A teacher shall have the authority, consistent with Board policy, to manage his or her classroom, discipline students, and refer a student to the principal or his designee to maintain discipline in the classroom. Any teacher who has knowledge that a student has exhibited behavior which violates the student code of conduct and repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in his/her class or with the ability of such student's classmates to learn shall file a report of such behavior with the principal or his designee. The principal and teacher shall thereafter follow the procedures set forth in Georgia law, specifically O.C.G.A. 20-2-737-738. The school superintendent shall fully support the authority of principals and teachers to remove a student from the classroom pursuant to Code Section 20-2-738.

The Superintendent and/or designee shall develop procedures as necessary for implementation of this policy and this state of law.

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A. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

It is the purpose of the Harris School District to operate each school in a manner that will provide an orderly process of education and that will provide for the welfare and safety of all students and employees within the district. In accordance with that purpose, the Board of Education has adopted a policy which requires students to conduct themselves at all times in order to facilitate a learning environment for themselves and other students. These standards for behavior require students to respect each other and school district employees, to obey student behavior policies adopted by the Board and to obey student behavior rules established at each school within the district.

The Harris County School District's primary goal is to educate, not to punish; however, when the behavior of an individual student comes in conflict with the rights of others, corrective actions may be necessary for the benefit of that individual and the school as a whole. Accordingly, students shall be governed by policies, regulations and rules set forth in this Code of Conduct.

Also, students may be disciplined for conduct off campus which is felonious or which may pose a threat to the school's learning environment or the safety of students and employees.

Parents are encouraged to become familiar with the Code of Conduct and to be supportive of it in their daily communication with their children and others in the community.

B. AUTHORITY OF THE PRINCIPAL

The principal is the designated leader of the school and, in concert with the staff, is responsible for the orderly operation of the school. In cases of disruptive, disorderly or dangerous conduct not covered in this Code, the principal may undertake corrective measures which he or she believes to be in the best interest of the student and the school provided any such action does not violate school board policy or procedures.

Unless specifically stated in the policy, discipline for students in grades K-5 will be at the discretion of the principal; however, discipline determinations by tribunal also apply to students in K-5 if the principal deems it to be necessary.

C. PLACES AND TIMES OF ENFORCEMENT

The following rules are designed to protect all members of the educational community in the exercise of their rights and duties. These rules are effective during the following times and in the following places:

1. On the school grounds during and immediately before or immediately after school hours or off school grounds while en route to or from school.
2. On the school grounds at any other time when the school is being used by a school group.
3. Off the school grounds at a school activity, function, or event.
4. En route to and from school on a school bus or other school vehicle or while waiting off school grounds for a school bus to transport a student to or from school or a school activity.
5. Off school grounds when the prohibited conduct is directed, because of a school-related connection, against the person, family, property, privacy or tranquility of an employee of the Harris County Board of Education.
6. Apply to conduct by student whether directed to or committed upon another student or a teacher, administrator, or other school personnel or toward persons attending school related functions.
7. Apply to any off-campus behavior of a student which could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony and which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at school or which disrupts the educational process.

D. PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

When it is necessary to impose discipline, school administrators and teachers will follow a progressive discipline process. The degree of discipline to be imposed by each school official will be in proportion to the severity of the behavior of a particular student and will take into account the student's discipline history, the

age of the student and other relevant factors.

The Code of Conduct provides a systematic process of behavioral correction in which inappropriate behaviors are followed by consequences. Disciplinary actions are designed to teach students self-discipline and to help them substitute inappropriate behaviors with those that are consistent with the character traits from each school's program.

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

Warning and/or Counseling with a School Administrator or Counselor

Loss of Privileges

Isolation or Time Out

Temporary Removal from Class or Activity

Notification of Parents

Parent Conference

Corporal Punishment

Detention/Saturday School

Temporary Placement in an Alternative Education Program

Short-term Suspension

Referral to a Tribunal for Long-term Suspension or Expulsion

Suspension or Expulsion from the School Bus

Referral to Law Enforcement or Juvenile Court Officials: Georgia law requires that certain acts of misconduct be referred to the appropriate law enforcement officials when school officials determine such referral to be necessary or appropriate.

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

Parents or students may elect not to contest whether a student has violated the Code of Conduct or the appropriate discipline, and in such case, an agreement may be negotiated which would include the parents or students waiving a right to a hearing before a disciplinary tribunal. Such an agreement and waiver must be approved also by the disciplinary tribunal or hearing officer in accordance with local Board policy.

Before a student is suspended for ten days or less, the principal or designee will inform the student of the offense for which the student is charged and allow the student to explain his or her behavior. If the student is suspended, the student's parents shall be notified. School officials may involve law enforcement officials when evidence surrounding a situation necessitates their involvement or when there is a legal requirement that an incident be reported.

School officials may search a student if there is reasonable suspicion the student is in possession of an item that is illegal or against school rules. Student vehicles brought on campus, student book bags, school lockers, desks and other school property are subject to inspection and search by school authorities at any time without further notice to students or parents. Students are required to cooperate if asked to open book bags, lockers or any vehicle brought on campus. Metal detectors and drug or weapon sniffing dogs may be utilized at school or at any school function, including activities which occur outside normal school hours or off the school

campus at the discretion of administrators.

E. STUDENT BEHAVIOR CODE

The following listing of offenses and conduct are declared to be prohibited by all students enrolled in the County Schools. Violation of this policy shall result in disciplinary actions and may include appropriate hearings and review, and the suspension, short or long term, or the expulsion of a student from the school along with other progressive discipline unless otherwise stated.

These offenses are applicable to include acts against students, teachers, administrators, bus drivers, or other school personnel as well as persons legitimately on school property or attending school related functions.

OFFENSES INVOLVING THE PERSON

1.00 Verbal/Visual Assault

A student commits the offense of verbal/visual assault when he/she either: (1) Utters a racial slur or implied racial slur (2) makes an insensitive or insulting comment related to socioeconomic status and/or (3) displays or wears symbols or emblems which is commonly known to be offensive, cause a student to feel belittled, inferior or embarrassed.

1.01 Simple Assault

A student commits the offense of simple assault when he either: (1) Attempts to commit a violent injury to the person of another; or (2) Commits an act which places another in reasonable apprehension of immediately receiving a violent injury.

1.02 Aggravated Assault

A student commits the offense of aggravated assault when he assaults: (1) With intent to rob; or (2) With a deadly weapon or with any object, device, or instrument which, when used offensively against a person, is likely to or actually does result in serious bodily injury.

1.03 Simple Battery/Physical Violence

A student commits the offense of simple battery when he either: (1) Intentionally makes physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person of another; or (2) Intentionally makes physical contact which causes physical harm to another unless such physical contacts or physical harm were in defense of himself or herself.

1.04 Battery

A student commits the offense of battery when he intentionally causes substantial physical harm or visible bodily harm to another. The term "visible bodily harm" means bodily harm capable of being perceived by a person other than the victim and may include, but is not limited to, substantially blackened eyes, substantially swollen lips or their facial or body parts, or substantial bruises to body parts.

1.05 Aggravated Battery

A student commits the offense of aggravated battery when he maliciously causes bodily harm to another by depriving him of a member of his body, by rendering a member of his body useless, or by seriously disfiguring his body or a member thereof

1.06 Hazing

A student commits the offense of hazing when he subjects another student to an activity which endangers or is likely to endanger the physical health of a student, regardless of a student's willingness to participate in such activity, in connection with or as a condition or precondition of gaining acceptance, membership, office, or

other status in a school organization.

1.07 Affray

A student who commits the offense of affray when he fights with one or more other persons in a public place to the disturbance of the school tranquility.

1.08 Bullying

A student commits the offense of bullying when the student commits an act which occurs on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities, or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a local school system, that is:

1. Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so;
2. Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; or
3. Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, that:
 - a. Causes another person substantial physical harm within the meaning of Code Section 16-5-23.1 or visible bodily harm as such term is defined in Code Section 16-5-23.1;
 - b. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education;
 - c. Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
 - d. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

1.09. Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is defined as -

A. A student commits the offense of cyberbullying when the student uses any electronic communication, by individuals or groups, to:

1. Make a true threat against a student or school employee;
2. Materially disrupt school operations; or
3. Substantially impinge on the rights of another student such as, but not limited to: creating reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or property; creating a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health; substantially interfering with a student's academic performance or interfering with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the school; or being so severe, persistent, or pervasive as to cause severe emotional distress.

B. Includes conduct that is based on, but not limited to, a student's actual or perceived race, color, national origin, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity, distinguishing physical or personal characteristic, socioeconomic status; or association with any person identified in section I (2)(b)(i)-(ix).

C. As used herein, the term "electronic communications" means communications through any electronic device, including, but not limited to computers, telephone, mobile phone, and pagers, and any type of communication, including, but not limited to, emails, instant messages, text messages, text messages, pictures messages, and web-sites.

D. Jurisdiction for Cyberbullying

1. No student shall be subjected to cyberbullying by an electronic communication that bears the imprimatur of the school regardless of whether such electronic communication originated on or off the school's campus.

2. The school shall have jurisdiction to prohibit cyberbullying that originates on the school's campus if the electronic communication was made using the school's technological resources or the electronic communication was made on the school's campus using the student's own personal technological resources.

3. The school shall have jurisdiction to prohibit cyberbullying that originates off the school's campus if: (a) it was reasonably foreseeable that the electronic communication would reach the school's campus; or (b) there is a sufficient nexus between the electronic communication and the school which includes, but is not limited to, speech that is directed at a school-specific audience, or the speech was brought onto or accessed on the school campus, even if it was not the student in question who did so.

2. MANDATORY PUNISHMENTS

Bullying and Cyberbullying - Any student in grades 6-12 who has committed and been punished twice for the offense of bullying and cyberbullying as defined in Section 1.08 Bullying and Section 1.09 Cyberbullying who is alleged to have committed a third act of bullying or cyberbullying within a school year shall be referred to a hearing before a disciplinary hearing tribunal. If the student is found guilty of a third offense by the tribunal of the offense of bullying or cyberbullying, the student shall be assigned to the Harris County Educational Opportunity Center for such time as the tribunal deems appropriate; provided however, this shall not prohibit the expulsion or long-term suspension of the student for the third offense. A student may also in the discretion of the school administration be referred to a disciplinary hearing tribunal for the first or second offense of bullying or cyberbullying. Administration may apply age appropriate guidelines. Any conflicts or omissions shall be governed by the Harris County Board of Education Policy JC DAG.

OFFENSES INVOLVING THEFT

2.01 Theft by Taking

A student commits the offense of theft by taking when he unlawfully takes or, being in lawful possession thereof, unlawfully appropriates any property of another with the intention of depriving him of the property, regardless of the manner in which the property is taken or appropriated.

2.02 Theft of Lost or Mislaid Property

A student commits the offense of theft of lost or mislaid property when he comes into control of property that he knows or learns to have been lost or mislaid and appropriates the property to his own use without first taking reasonable measures to restore the property to the owner.

2.03 Theft by Receiving Stolen Property

A student commits the offense of theft by receiving stolen property when he receives, disposes of, or retains stolen property which he knows or should know was stolen unless the property is received, disposed of or retained with intent to restore it to the owner. "Receiving," means acquiring possession or control of the property.

2.04 Theft by Extortion

A student commits the offense of theft by extortion when he unlawfully obtains property of or from another person by threatening to: (1) Inflict bodily injury on anyone or commit any other criminal offense; (2) Accuse anyone of a criminal offense; (3) Disseminate any information tending to subject any person to hatred, contempt, or ridicule; or (4) Testify or provide information or withhold testimony or information with respect to another's legal claim or defense.

OFFENSES INVOLVING ROBBERY

3.01 Robbery

A student commits the offense of robbery when, with intent to commit theft, he takes property of another from the person or the immediate presence of another: (1) By use of force; (2) By intimidation, by the use of threat or coercion, or by placing such person in fear of immediate serious bodily injury to himself or to another; or (3) By sudden snatching.

3.02 Armed Robbery

A student commits the offense of armed robbery when, with intent to commit theft, he takes property of

another from the person or the immediate presence of another by use of an offensive weapon, or any replica, article, or device having the appearance of such weapon.

OFFENSES INVOLVING WEAPONS

4.01 Weapons, Dangerous Instruments, or Explosive Compounds

No student shall possess, handle, carry or have under his control any weapon or explosive compound to include fireworks of any kind.

The term "weapon" means and includes any pistol, revolver, or any weapon designed or intended to propel a missile of any kind, or any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife regardless of the length the blade, box cutter, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, metal knucks, blackjack, or any flailing instrument which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or mace or pepper gas, or any other object which may be used to injure or harm another.

4.02 Replica of Dangerous Instruments or Explosive Compounds

No student shall possess, handle, carry or have under his control any replica of weapons or explosive compounds described in 4.01.

OFFENSES INVOLVING DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO

5.01 Possession of Drugs or Alcohol

A student shall not have, possess, handle, carry or exercise control over or transmit any controlled substance or dangerous drug prohibited by Georgia law to include but not limited to marijuana, cocaine, amphetamine, barbiturate or alcoholic beverages of any kind; nor shall a student have, possess, carry, handle or exercise control over or transmit any substance represented or thought to be a controlled substance, dangerous drug or alcoholic beverage.

5.02 Sale of Drugs or Alcohol

A student shall not sell or attempt to sell or buy or attempt to buy any controlled substance or dangerous drug prohibited by Georgia law or substances represented or thought to be drugs or alcoholic beverages of any kind.

5.03 Use of Drugs or Alcohol

A student shall not use or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage of any kind, controlled substance or dangerous drug prohibited by Georgia law or any drugs except by a prescription from a physician for a specific medical condition.

5.04 Possession or Use of Tobacco Products

No student shall have, handle, possess, carry or exercise control over or use tobacco products of any nature, including but not limited to cigars, cigarettes, snuff, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, or e-cigarettes or any vapor products. Possession or use of a vape on school property or at a school function is prohibited.

5.05 Drug Related Objects

A student shall not have, handle, possess, carry or exercise control over a drug related object. A drug related object means any machine, instrument, tool, equipment, contrivance, or device which an average person would reasonably conclude is intended to be used for one or more of the following purposes: (1) To introduce into the human body any dangerous drug or controlled substance under circumstances in violation of the laws of this state; (2) To enhance the effect on the human body of any dangerous drug or controlled substance

under circumstances in violation of the laws of this state; (3) To conceal any quantity of any dangerous drug or controlled substance under circumstances in violation of the laws of this state; or (4) To test the strength, effectiveness, or purity of any dangerous drug or controlled substance under circumstances in violation of the laws of this state.

OFFENSES INVOLVING FALSE INFORMATION

6.01 False Statement

A student to whom a request has been made by a school official to provide information regarding any school related matter commits the offense of furnishing a false statement when he, knowingly and willfully, makes a false statement, whether orally or in writing.

6.02 Perjury

A student to whom a lawful oath or affirmation has been administered commits the offense of perjury when, in a student disciplinary proceeding, he knowingly and willfully makes a false statement material to the issue or point in question.

6.03 Forgery

A student commits the offense of forgery when he knowingly makes, alters, or possesses any school related writing, record, or document in a fictitious name or in such manner that the writing, record or document as made or altered purports to have been made by another person, or at another time with different provisions, or by authority of one who did not give such authority.

OFFENSES INVOLVING SCHOOL ORDER

7.01 Threat and Intimidation

A student commits the offense of threats and intimidation when the student by words, verbal or written or by physical action (1) threatens to commit any act of violence against another; or (2) causes another to fear for his or her safety; or (3) threatens to burn or damage a school building, school facility or bus or causes the evacuation thereof.

7.02 Riot

Any two or more students commit the offense of riot when they do an unlawful act of violence or any other act in a violent and tumultuous manner.

7.03 Inciting to Riot

A student commits the offense of inciting to riot when, with intent to riot, he does an act or engages in conduct which urges, counsels, or advises others to riot, at a time and place and under circumstances which produce a clear and present danger of a riot.

7.04 Preventing or Disrupting Gatherings

A student shall not recklessly or knowingly commit any act which may reasonably be expected to prevent or disrupt a school meeting, gathering, procession or assembly.

7.05 False Report of a Crime

A student shall not willfully or knowingly give or cause a false report of a crime to be given to any law enforcement officer or school official.

7.06 False Report of a Fire

A student shall not transmit in any manner to a fire department, a false report of a fire, knowing at the time that there is no reasonable ground for believing that such fire exists.

7.07 False Public Alarm

A student who transmits in any manner a false alarm to the effect that a bomb or other explosive of any nature is concealed in such place that its explosion would endanger human life, knowing at the time that there is no reasonable ground for believing that such a bomb or explosive is concealed in such place, commits the offense of transmitting a false public alarm.

7.08 Refusal to Obey a School Official

A student shall not refuse to obey the directions, requests or orders of a school official.

7.09 Influencing Witnesses

A student shall not with intent to deter a witness from testifying freely, fully, and truthfully to any matter pending in any disciplinary or in any administrative proceeding, communicate directly or indirectly, to such witness any threat of injury or damage to the person, property or employment of any relative of the witness or who offers or delivers any benefit, reward, or consideration to such witness or to a relative of the witness.

7.10 Participation in Gang Activity

No student shall actively participate in any gang with knowledge that its members engage in or have engaged in a pattern of gang activity and who willfully promotes, furthers, or assists in any criminal conduct or violation of school rules.

7.11 False Report of Inappropriate Behavior by School Personnel

No student shall falsify, misrepresent, omit or erroneously report information regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator or other school employee towards a student.

OFFENSES INVOLVING DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

8.01 Damage to School Property

A student commits the offense of damage to school property when he marks, destroys, damages, or defaces school property. School property shall include, but not be limited to textbooks, library books, reference materials, desks, lockers, athletic equipment and school facilities. Students may be disciplined hereunder if this offense occurs during off-school hours.

8.02 Damage to Private Property

A student shall not damage, destroy, mark or deface the personal property of other students or school personnel. A student may be disciplined hereunder if the offense occurs off-school hours.

8.03 Unauthorized Entry

A student commits the offense of unauthorized entry when he knowingly and without authority enters the locker or desk of another person or into any part of any vehicle for an unlawful purpose.

OFFENSES INVOLVING ATTEMPT, SOLICITATION AND CONSPIRACY

9.01 Party to an Offense

Every student concerned in the commission of an offense of the Student Behavior Code is a party thereto and may be charged with the offense. A student is concerned in the commission of an offense only if he: (1) Directly commits the offense; (2) Intentionally causes some other person to commit the crime under such

circumstances that the other person is not guilty of any offense in fact; (3) Intentionally aids or abets in the commission of the offense; or (4) Intentionally incites, advises, encourages, hires, counsels, or procures another to commit the offense.

9.02 Attempt

A student commits the offense of attempt when, with intent to commit a specific offense, he performs any act which constitutes a substantial step toward the commission of that offense.

9.03 Solicitation

A student commits the offense of solicitation when he solicits, requests, commands, importunes, or otherwise attempts to cause the other person to engage in conduct which would constitute an offense under or be a violation of the Harris County Student Behavior Code.

9.04 Conspiracy

A student commits the offense of conspiracy when he together with one or more persons conspires to commit any offense and any one or more of such persons does any overt act to effect the object of the conspiracy.

OFFENSES INVOLVING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

10.01 Academic Achievement

A student shall make a reasonable effort toward academic achievement and progress. Refusal or failure to make a reasonable effort toward academic achievement and progress shall constitute an offense hereunder.

10.02 Completion of Assignments

A student shall complete all classes and home work assignments. Continued or repeated refusal or failure to complete such class or homework assignments shall constitute an offense hereunder.

10.03 Disruptive Conduct

No student shall conduct himself or behave in any manner which is disruptive to the orderly educational process in a classroom or other school setting.

10.04 Cheating

A student shall not cheat on tests, examinations, projects, homework or reports by giving or receiving unauthorized assistance.

10.05 Unexcused Absences and Tardiness

A student shall not be unlawfully absent from school, cut or skip any class, be tardy or leave the school during the school day without permission from a school official. Students must comply with compulsory attendance as required under Georgia Law Code Section 20-2-609.1 which requires that students between the age of six and sixteen must be enrolled and attend a public school, private school, or home study program.

OFFENSES INVOLVING COMMUNICATION WITH OTHERS

11.01 Rude or Disrespectful Behavior

A student shall at all times show respect for all school officials and shall not talk back to, argue with, or in any manner, whether by tone of voice, action or use of words, be disrespectful to a school official.

11.02 Use of Profane or Obscene Language

No student shall use profane, vulgar or obscene words, gestures or other actions to any other student or school personnel or towards any person attending a school-related function.

OFFENSES INVOLVING MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

12.01 Inappropriate Display of Affection

A student shall not engage in any inappropriate display of affection with another student to include but not limited to holding hands, kissing or embracing.

12.02 Criminal Conduct

A student shall not violate any of the criminal laws of the State of Georgia, not otherwise defined in this Disciplinary Code.

12.03 Electronic Devices

During the academic day, students shall not use personal electronic communication devices, except for health or other unusual reasons which have been approved by an administrator. The definition for electronic devices includes, but is not limited to cell phones, pagers, audible radios, tape or compact disc players or any electronic device that might interfere with instructions. These devices are prohibited during the operation of a school bus. Any electronic device that might interfere with school bus communications equipment or the drivers' operation of the school bus is prohibited. Electronic signaling devices shall be turned off during class time and at any other time directed by an administrator or instructional personnel. If disruption occurs, the employee may direct the student to turn off the device and/or confiscate the device until the end of the class period, school day, or activity or at the discretion of the school administration. A fine may be assessed.

12.04 Gambling

No student shall gamble or solicit others to gamble. Gambling shall include but limited to betting on any event, shooting dice, matching, or playing poker or other games of chance. No student shall solicit, offer to buy, sell, trade or arrange for the purchase of lottery tickets sold by the State of Georgia.

12.05a Other Conduct

Students shall be prohibited from using mirrors, lasers, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective devices in a manner that might interfere with a school bus driver's operation of the school bus.

12.05b Any conduct not specifically provided for herein which operates to the prejudice of the good order and discipline of the schools of Harris County shall constitute an offense hereunder for which disciplinary action may be taken.

12.06 Other Policies

Violation of any other policies of the Harris County Board of Education shall constitute an offense hereunder, for which disciplinary action may be taken.

12.07 Disruption of Educational Climate

A student who has been arrested, charged, or convicted of a felony, whether as a juvenile or an adult, or arrested, charged, or convicted of a violation of the Georgia Controlled Substances Act and whose continued presence at school is reasonably certain to endanger other students or school official or to cause a substantial disruption to the educational climate may be disciplined hereunder.

12.08 Outside Conduct

A student who commits any act or exhibits conduct outside of school hours or away from school which may adversely affect the educational process or endanger the health, property, safety, morals, or well being of

other students, teachers, or employees within the school system may be disciplined hereunder.

12.09 Chronic Misbehavior

A student commits the offense of chronic misbehavior when the student engages in repeated, continued or habitual acts of misconduct which acts, when considered together (a) are reflective of a defiance of school authority, (b) significantly interfere with the learning opportunities of fellow students, or (c) are indicative of an abandonment or disregard of educational opportunities available to the student. Willful and persistent violations of the Student Behavior Code of Conduct may be disciplined hereunder.

12.10 Reckless Conduct

A student commits the offense of reckless conduct when the student causes bodily harm or endangers the physical safety or the health of another by disregarding a substantial or unjustifiable risk that the student's conduct will cause harm or endanger another. Such reckless conduct includes but is not limited to such conduct as throwing objects, propelling objects with a rubber band, spitting, transmitting bodily fluids or excessive horseplay.

OFFENSES INVOLVING SCHOOL TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS, OTHER SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND BUS DRIVERS

13.01 Physical Violence of an Insulting or Provoking Nature to School Personnel

No student shall commit any act of physical violence against any teacher, administrator, other school employee or bus driver employed by the Harris County Board of Education. Physical violence in this offense is defined as intentionally making physical contact in an insulting or provoking nature with the person of a teacher, administrator, school employee or bus driver.

13.02 Physical Violence Causing Physical Harm to School Personnel

No student shall commit any act of physical violence against any teacher, administrator, other school personnel employee or bus driver employed by the Harris County Board of Education. Physical violence in this offense is defined as intentionally making physical contact which causes physical harm to another unless such physical contact or harm were in defense of himself or herself.

13.03 Threat of Physical Violence to School Personnel

No student shall offer to commit or threaten to commit any act of physical violence against any teacher, administrator, other school personnel employee or bus driver employed by the Harris County Board of Education.

OFFENSES INVOLVING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

14.01 Sexual Harassment

A student commits sexual harassment when he/she engages in unwelcome and/or uninvited sexual conduct that creates an uncomfortable environment for a student.

Sexual harassment may include, but not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, touching of a sexual nature, graffiti of a sexual picture, displaying or distributing of sexually explicit, drawings, pictures and written materials, sexual gestures, sexual or "dirty" jokes, pressure for sexual favors, touching oneself sexually or talking about one's sexual activity in front of others, spreading rumors about or rating other students as to sexual activity or performance, pinching, hugging, cornering, and kissing or as defined by Title IX of the education amendment of 1972. (See Harris County Board of Education policy GAEB)

14.02 Sexual Battery

A student commits the offense of sexual battery when he intentionally makes physical contact with the

intimate parts of the body of another person regardless of the consent of that person. The term "intimate parts" means the primary genital area, anus, groin, inner thighs, or buttocks of a male or female and the breasts of a female or as defined by Title IX of the education amendment of 1972. (See Harris County Board of Education policy GAEB).

14.03 Sexual Propositions

No student shall make written, verbal or physical propositions, suggestions or invitations to another student to engage in sexual acts of any nature.

14.04 Public Indecency

A student commits the offence of public indecency when the student performs any of the following acts: (i) a lewd exposure of the sexual organs or genital area; a lewd appearance in a state of partial or complete nudity; or any act suggestive of sexual relations.

14.05 Sexually Explicit Material

A student shall not possess, handle, exercise control over, transmit, exhibit to other students, sell, attempt to sell, buy or attempt to buy (a) any sexually explicit photographs or other material which shows, depicts or represents any person, whether male or female, in a partial or total state of nudity; or (b) any photographs or other material which is lewd, obscene or sexually suggestive in nature.

14.06 Sexual Relations

A student shall not engage in any act of oral sex, sexual intercourse, sodomy or any other sexual act with another person regardless of the consent of that person; and no student shall engage in any act of masturbation, or commit any act of physical sexual assault to include rape or child molestation.

POLICY STATEMENT

Administrators, teachers, bus drivers, parents, and students are mutually responsible for maintaining a safe, convenient, and economical school transportation system. The safety of students is the primary concern of the Harris County Board of Education. Eligibility of students to be transported shall be deemed a privilege dependent upon proper conduct and the extension of courtesy and obedience to the bus drivers by all riders at all times.

The Harris County Board of Education requires that students conduct themselves in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. When infractions of transportation rules occur, which require disciplinary action, students may be temporarily or permanently denied riding privileges depending on the severity of the infraction. The building principal or his/her designee shall administer discipline within the framework of the transportation rules of conduct and the Discipline Policy of the Harris County School System. Revocation of riding privileges is not an action to be taken lightly. The administrator charged with bus discipline at each building is instructed to work with teachers, students, drivers, and parents to develop the kind of self-discipline that leads to mature responsibility.

DEFINITIONS

1. APPROPRIATE CONDUCT

Students who have the opportunity to ride district school buses may do so as long as they display behavior that is reasonable and safe. Each transported student has the right to a safe and enjoyable ride to and from school that is free from intimidation, threat, or harassment. Choosing to follow unacceptable behavior will result in loss of bus service. The bus driver is responsible for the safety and discipline of students on the bus. The building principal will give assistance to the driver and will determine the class and consequences of misbehavior and the reinstatement of bus service for the offending students should a suspension become necessary. A suspension applies to all buses. Revocation of bus riding privileges is not considered an exclusion,

expulsion, or suspension from school.

All transported students must maintain appropriate conduct while waiting for the school bus and while traveling to and from school in order to ensure a safe and enjoyable ride for all students. Student behavior guidelines apply to all transported students while on the school bus and while in school bus loading or unloading areas. Each student, and his/her parents, or guardians, is responsible for the behavior of that student while on the school bus and in school bus loading or unloading areas (including stop locations).

Because all possible violations cannot be predicted, any not spoken to will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. If a student commits offenses of different classes during the same incident, the consequences associated with the more serious class of offense will be applied.

Loss of transportation for the remainder of the year is classified as a minimum of 60 school days. If there is less than 60 school days left, the suspension will carry over to the next year.

REGULATIONS

1. RIDING A DIFFERENT BUS OR PICK UP AT NON-SCHEDULED STOP

Parents/Guardians should not request that a child be allowed to ride a bus on which he/she is not regularly assigned except in emergency situations. If a parent/guardian wishes their child to ride a bus other than the regular method of transportation, they must complete the following:

The student must have a permission slip signed by a parent and an administrator stating that the student has the parent's permission to ride the different bus. The permission slip must be presented to the driver. Bus assignments are made by each school in conjunction with the Transportation Department. If a student has a change of address during the school year, then the school office and transportation department should be notified so that the student can be assigned a new bus.

2. BUS STOPS

Bus stops are established at various locations throughout the county. Parents should see that their children arrive at the designated stop well before the scheduled pickup time to avoid missing the bus. Parents are reminded that responsibility for the supervision of their children between the home and the bus stop, and while waiting for the bus arrival, rests with the parent or legal guardian. The principal, and/or designee, is primarily responsible for supervising the orderly loading and unloading of pupils at each school, according to state regulations.

3. USE OF DIGITAL RECORDINGS

School bus digital recordings may be viewed by the Harris County School System transportation staff, the building level principal (and/or designees), and school resource officer or other appropriate law enforcement agency representatives as a means for protecting the safety of students and enabling administrators to ensure that bus rules are enforced in a consistent manner. Parents are not allowed to view the audio/video due to data privacy laws. The audio/videotape recordings may be used by the building principal to assist in determining whether the incident occurred and if so, the severity of the incident. Audio/videotape recordings revealing unlawful actions may be brought to the attention of law enforcement agencies. Recordings are routinely written over unless school officials have reason to view the recording.

4. BUS DRIVER READINESS

Safety is of prime importance for students as they are transported to and from school. Safety depends upon the alertness of bus drivers and the good conduct and courtesy of students being transported. In order to assist the bus driver in making every trip a safe trip, students should be aware of the guidelines that follow:

(a) Students should not talk to the driver except in emergencies. Students shall not engage in any activity that might divert the driver's attention and cause an accident.

(b) Students should help keep the bus clean by picking up any trash that is dropped. Students should help keep the bus free of damage. Reports shall be made promptly to the driver if any damage is done to the bus. Persons causing damage shall be expected to defray its full cost.

(c) Students shall follow driver directions the first time they are given.

(d) Students shall keep hands, feet and objects to themselves.

(e) Students shall stay in the seat with feet on floor while the bus is in motion.

(f) Students will use only the designated bus stop and the bus assigned to them. Any changes require parental permission and the principal's approval.

(g) Students shall arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is due. Students shall behave in an orderly manner at the bus stop.

(h) If a student assists another student in violating any school rule, they will be disciplined and may be subject to suspension or expulsion. Students are expected to resist peer pressure and exercise sound decision-making regarding their behavior.

For the safety of everyone aboard, the driver must devote full attention to the road. Safety of the whole group depends upon the proper, safe conduct of each individual.

5. GENERAL BUS RULES

There must be an attitude of respect and cooperation on the part of each student towards the bus driver and the bus driver towards the student.

1. The driver of the school bus is responsible for the safety of all students riding on the bus.

2. The driver has the same responsibility as a teacher in controlling discipline.

3. The first duty of the passengers is to obey the driver's directions promptly and cheerfully.

4. The driver must concentrate on driving the bus and any distractions may cause him/her (the driver) to have an accident.

Harris County Board of Education rules, violations, and consequences include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Students will follow the directions of the driver promptly.

2. Students should be at the bus stop 5 minutes before the bus arrives, waiting in a safe place, clear of traffic and 10 feet from where the bus stops.

3. Students will wait in an orderly line and avoid playing.

4. Students will cross the roadway in front of the bus after the bus has stopped. Students must look at the driver for a hand signal, and then students look in both directions for traffic.

5. Students will signal the driver with a waving motion if something dropped outside the bus and wait for the driver to give a signal before picking up the object.

6. Students will move directly to the first available or assigned seat when entering the bus. Keep aisles and exits clear.

7. Students will remain properly seated, back against the seat back, bottom against the bench section, and keep hands and feet to themselves.

8. Students will not eat, drink, chew gum, or bring tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or any controlled substances on the bus (exception: field trips when additional supervision is present).
9. Students will not carry animals, glass objects, nuisance items, hazardous materials, or weapons onto the bus. Students may carry only objects that can be held on their laps.
10. Students will refrain from using loud voices, profanity, and/or obscene gestures, and respect the rights and safety of others.
11. Students will not extend head, arms, or objects out of the bus windows.
12. Students will be totally silent at railroad crossings.
13. Students will stay seated until time to get off the bus. The open door is the signal to get up from the bus seat.
14. Students must provide a written note, signed by a parent or guardian and a school administrator giving permission to ride a different bus or to get on or off at a different stop location.
15. Students will keep their bus clean and in good condition.
16. All school building rules and procedures apply on the school bus as well.

6. VIOLATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

LEVEL 1 VIOLATIONS

1. Blocking the school bus aisle.
2. Bothering (poking, pushing, annoying) other bus riders
3. Eating or drinking on bus
4. Leaving or discarding trash or other debris on the bus (littering)
5. Not meeting or exiting the bus promptly
6. Possession of CD/player, radio, iPods, or any other electronic devices.
7. Use of cell phones including texting or gaming is prohibited
7. Riding unassigned bus without permission or using unassigned bus stop
8. Dress Code Violation
9. Other misbehavior

LEVEL I CONSEQUENCES

Consequences for Level I offenses may include but not be limited to: warning, parent conference, loss of privilege, suspension from bus and/or restitution. Level I consequences shall be progressive in

nature.

LEVEL II VIOLATIONS

1. Excessive horseplay (mischief) shouting, yelling, screaming, or excessive noise
2. Unacceptable language or gestures
3. Failure to cross ten feet in front of the bus
4. Leaving seat/standing while bus is in motion
5. Tripping or pushing a student at, on or near the school bus including bus stops
6. Extending head, arms, or legs out of window of the bus
7. False identification/refusal of student to provide name to driver
8. Occupying more space in a seat than is needed, and refusing to allow another passenger to sit down.
9. Pushing/shoving another student at, on or near a bus
10. Tampering with emergency equipment including lighting system, radio, video equipment and fire extinguisher.
11. Tampering with the property of others, or vandalism or willful damage of the school bus or property of others (restitution will be made).
12. Public display of affection
13. Unacceptable language or gestures
14. Open opposition and defiance of the bus driver
argumentative/insubordinate/disrespectful behavior
15. Failure to follow the driver's instructions
16. Riding while under suspension from transportation
17. Theft or robbery
18. Any safety issues (Ex. chasing, or running beside, a moving bus.
Holding onto/or attempting to hold onto any portion of the exterior of the bus)
19. Making false accusations against the bus driver

20. Throwing or shooting an object(s), in the bus, out of the bus window or at the bus driver (10 day suspension minimum).

LEVEL II CONSEQUENCES

Consequences for Level II offenses may include but not be limited to: warning, parent conference, loss of privilege, suspension from bus (up to 10 days), restitution, and/or referral for long term suspension from the bus. Level II consequences shall be progressive in nature. Some Level II Violations may result in an automatic 10 day suspension.

LEVEL III VIOLATIONS

1. All incidents involving the police.
2. Fighting (5 day in-school and 5 day out-of-school suspension minimum)
3. Assault (verbal/physical) or threat of assault on the school bus driver (i.e. cursing the driver)
3. Opening any emergency exit, or exiting or attempting to exit, from a moving school bus
4. Sexual harassment in any form including but not limited to words, gestures, actions, unacceptable sexual conduct or indecent exposure
5. Using or possessing alcohol, tobacco, non-prescription drugs or paraphernalia
6. Participating in or contributing to harmful trends or crazes (smoking Smarties, choking games, sexting, etc.)
7. Possession of a handgun, knife, other weapon, ammunition, or look-a-like weapon
8. Possession or ignition of any type of fire, matches, lighters, or detonation of a pyrotechnic device on the school bus

LEVEL III CONSEQUENCES

Consequences for Level III offenses may include but not be limited to: parent conference, long term suspension from bus (10 days or more), suspension from bus for remainder of semester or school year and/or

restitution. Level III consequences shall be progressive in nature.

MANDATORY SUSPENSION PROCEDURES

Suspensions may begin the afternoon route of the same day. Parents must make arrangements to pick up children in the afternoon.

7. PROCEDURES FOR ALL LEVEL VIOLATIONS

A. Warning to student--When inappropriate behavior occurs, the driver shall initially attempt various forms of intervention with the student, depending on the severity of the behavior. This may include talking to the student, changing the student's seat assignment or other forms of intervention. The driver shall also begin developing a case history of repeated inappropriate behavior including dates of incidents.

B. Begin Referral Process--If warning fail to resolve the situation, the driver shall send a "Harris County Bus Disciplinary Referral" to the student's school administrator. This notice shall contain information regarding the inappropriate behavior. The school administrator will consider the appropriate violation class and action. The school administrator will send the appropriate copies to notify the parents/guardians, the driver, and transportation office of the action taken. If a student's riding privileges are suspended, the school administrator or his/her designee will also contact the parents/guardians to notify them of the action taken. The school administrator may require a conference with the student, parents/guardians, driver, and/or transportation department representative.

8. MANDATORY SUSPENSION PROCEDURES--Suspensions may begin the afternoon route of the same day. Parents must make arrangements to pick up children in the afternoon. If a student is suspended from one school bus, he/she is suspended from all other buses as well. **A school bus suspension is not an excused absence from school.** Students will be expected to be at school each day of their bus suspension.

- 1. INVESTIGATION OF PUPIL MISCONDUCT**--Due to the fact that we cannot predict all possible violations, any violation not addressed will be evaluated on a case by case process. The school administrator will determine the class of the violation. The principal or his/her designee is primarily responsible for investigating behavior problems, which occur while the pupils are at the bus stop and en route to and from school. The principal or designees may conduct an investigation of the pupil or pupils involved in the bus problems and, if necessary, the bus driver. If a student commits offenses of different classes during the same incident, the consequences associated with the more serious class of offense will be applied.

If you have any questions, concerns, or complaints about bus discipline, call your child's school.

- 1. 0. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**--Bus riding privileges can be suspended at any time at the discretion of the school level administrator and/or his/her designee. The violations/consequences offer a standardized outline for administrators to follow. When determined by the school level administrator or designee, riding privileges can be **revoked** at

any time for chronic or serious offenses. Offenses not listed will

be handled on a case-by-case basis.

G. DISCIPLINARY PROTOCOL

Upon the violation of any of the foregoing offenses, the disciplinary procedures set forth in Policy JDD-Student Suspension/Expulsion/Due Process, and EDCB-Bus Discipline Process will be followed.

H. SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special education students with "Individuals Educational Plans" (I.E.P's) concerning appropriate punishment

will be disciplined consistent with their I.E.P's; the safety and welfare of the other students, employees, patrons, and the protection and security of the school facility will be considered. Also, for children in grade five and under, the elementary principal may reduce the severity of the punishment based on mitigating circumstances; however, the safety and welfare of the other students, employees, patrons, and the protection and security of the school facility will be considered.

I. DEFINITIONS OF DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Expulsion - Expulsion shall mean the denial to the student of the privilege of continuing in school beyond the current school quarter or semester. (O.C.G.A. 20-2-751).

Suspension- (Short-term suspension) - a short-term suspension shall mean the denial to a student of the right to attend school and take part in any school function for a period not exceeding ten (10) school days. (O.C.G.A. 20-2-751)

Long-Term Suspension- Long-term suspension shall mean denial to a student of the right to attend school and take part in any school function for any period of more than ten (10) school days but not beyond the current school quarter or semester. (O.C.G.A. 20-2-751)

In-School Suspension - removal of the student from all classes and school-sponsored activities during the school day by the administration. If the student denies the charges, the principal shall explain to the student the evidence known to the school authorities, and permit the student the opportunity to state his/her version of the facts and call witnesses either to sustain or oppose the charges to include after-school.

Corporal Punishment - if allowed, physical punishment by the principal or his/her designee. If administered, it must be in good faith and must not be excessive or unduly severe. It must be administered in conformity with regulations set forth by the Harris County Board of Education and Georgia law.

Detention - a requirement that the student report to a specified school location and to a designated teacher or school official to make up work missed or to receive specific instruction in behavior modification. Detention may require the student's attendance before school, after school, on Saturday, or during scheduled class or school activity time if school officials deem removal of the student from his/her regular school schedule essential to the well being of the student or school.

Bus Suspension- removal of a student from all Harris County School System transportation facilities for a designated period of time not to exceed ten (10) school days.

Student Probation- student has been informed that future occurrences of rule violations will result in further punishment for past conduct. A student may be placed on probation for a trial period by the school principal with conditions for release from probation set by the principal following conferences with relevant school personnel and the student's parents or guardian.

Educational Writing- students may be given a written assignment related to the subject area in violation, general school discipline, specific violation or school rules, or may be required to submit a plan in writing of how he may correct his behavior.

Withholding Unstructured Break Time - in grades K-5, students unstructured break time may be withheld for violation of general school discipline or for specific violation of any school rule.

J. MANDATORY PUNISHMENTS

1. A student found to have violated Section 4.01 Weapons, Dangerous Instruments or Explosive Compounds by possessing a firearm as defined by 18 USC 921 shall be expelled from the Harris County Board of Education for a period of not less than one (1) calendar year. On a case by case basis, a disciplinary hearing tribunal or the Superintendent are authorized to place a student determined to have brought a firearm to school in the Harris County Cross Roads Alternative School if extenuating circumstances are found to exist.

2. Bullying- Any student in grades 6 - 12 who has committed and been punished twice for the offense of bullying as defined in Section 1.09 Bullying and who is alleged to have committed a third act of bullying within a school year shall be referred to a hearing before a disciplinary hearing tribunal . If the student is found guilty by the tribunal of the offense of bullying, the student may be assigned to the Harris County Cross Roads Alternative School for such time as the tribunal deems appropriate. This shall not prohibit the expulsion or long- term suspension of the student. A student may also in the discretion of the school administration be referred to a disciplinary hearing tribunal for a first or second offense of bullying. Administration may apply age appropriate guidelines.

3. Students found by a tribunal to have committed any act of physical violence against a teacher, school bus driver or any other school official or employee will be subject to a tribunal hearing. Any student alleged to have committed an act of physical violence, shall be suspended pending the hearing by the tribunal.

If a student is found to have engaged in physical acts of violence defined as intentionally making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person or another, including teachers, school bus drivers, or other school official or employee; or intentionally making physical contact which causes physical harm to another unless such physical contacts or physical harms were in defense of himself or herself, the student shall be suspended pending a hearing by a tribunal. The tribunal shall determine all issues of fact and intent and shall submit its findings and recommendations to the local school board for imposition of punishment. If appropriate, the tribunal's recommendations shall include a recommendation as to whether the student may return to public school and the time for the student's return to public school. The local school board has the discretion to follow the recommendation of the tribunal or to impose other penalties not recommended by the tribunal.

A student who is found guilty of an act of physical violence against a teacher, school bus driver, school official, or school employee shall be expelled from the public school system. The expulsion shall be for the remainder of the student's eligibility to attend public school pursuant to Code Section 20-2-150. The Harris County School Board may, at its discretion, permit the student to attend Cross Roads Alternative School.

K. STUDENT SUPPORT PROCESSES

The Harris County Board of Education provides a variety of resources which are available at every school within the district to help address student behavioral problems. The school discipline process will include appropriate consideration of support processes to help students resolve such problems. These resources include Student Support Teams, school counselors, chronic disciplinary problem student plans.

L. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

This Code of Conduct is based on the expectation that parents, guardians, teachers and school administrators will work together to improve and enhance student behavior and academic performance and will communicate freely their concerns about, and actions in response to, student behavior that detracts from the learning environment. School administrators recognize that two-way communications through personal contacts are extremely valuable; therefore, they provide information to parents as well as on-going opportunities for school personnel to hear parents' concerns and comments.

Parents and students should contact the principal of the school if specific questions arise related to the Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct specifies within its standards of behavior various violations of the Code which may result in a school staff member's request that a parent or guardian come to the school for a conference. Parents are encouraged to visit the schools regularly and are expected to be actively involved in the behavior support processes designed to promote positive choices and behavior.

Georgia law mandates that any time a teacher or principal identifies a student as a chronic disciplinary problem student, the principal shall notify by telephone call and by mail the student's parent or guardian of the disciplinary problem, invite the parent or guardian to observe the student in a classroom situation, and request at least one parent or guardian to attend a conference to devise a disciplinary and behavioral

correction plan.

Georgia law also states that before any chronic disciplinary problem student is permitted to return to school from a suspension or expulsion, the school shall request by telephone and by mail at least one parent or guardian to schedule and attend a conference to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan.

The law allows a local board of education to petition the juvenile court to require a parent to attend a school conference. If the court finds that the parent or guardian has willfully and unreasonably failed to attend a conference requested by the principal pursuant to the laws cited above, the court may order the parent or guardian to attend such a conference, order the parent or guardian to participate in such programs or such treatment as the court deems appropriate to improve the student's behavior, or both. After notice and opportunity for hearing, the court may impose a fine, not to exceed \$500.00, on a parent or guardian who willfully disobeys an order of the court under this law.

M. PROTOCOL AND MANDATORY PUNISHMENTS FOR OFFENSES AGAINST SCHOOL PERSONNEL

1. Procedure - Any student who has alleged to have committed any act of physical violence as defined in Section 13.01 and 13.02 against a teacher, school administrator, or other school official or employee, or school bus driver shall be referred to a disciplinary hearing tribunal of the Harris County Board of Education. The students alleged to have committed such act of physical violence shall be suspended out of school pending a hearing by the tribunal. The tribunal will be composed of three teachers or certified education personnel appointed according to Board policy. The tribunal shall determine all issues of fact and intent and shall submit findings and recommendations to the Harris County Board of Education for imposition of punishment if the student is found guilty of the charges. The tribunal's recommendations shall include a recommendation as to whether the student may return to the public school and if return is recommended, the recommended time for the student's return to Harris County Schools. The Harris County Board of Education may follow the recommendation of the tribunal or it may impose penalties not recommended by the tribunal regardless of whether such penalties may be harsher and not recommended.
 2. Punishment for Violation of 13.01 - Any student who is found by a tribunal to have committed an act of physical violence by intentionally making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature against a teacher, administrator, school personnel or employee, or bus driver as defined in Section 13.01 may be disciplined by expulsion, long term suspension or short term suspension as those terms are defined in the Official Code of Georgia and Harris County Board of Education Policies.
 3. Punishment for Violation of 13.02 - A student found by a tribunal to have committed an act of physical violence by making physical contact which causes physical harm as defined in Section 13.02 against a teacher, administrator, school personnel or employee, or bus driver shall be expelled from the Harris County Schools. The expulsion shall be for the remainder of the student's eligibility to attend public schools pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-150. The Harris County Board of Education, at its discretion, may permit the student to attend an alternative school program for the period of the student's expulsion. If the student who commits an act of violence by making physical contact which causes physical harm as defined in 13.02 is in Kindergarten through grade 8, then the Harris County Board of Education, at its discretion, and on the recommendation of the tribunal may permit such student to re-enroll in the regular public school program for grades 9 through 12. If Harris County Board of Education does not operate an alternative education program for students in Kindergarten through grade 6, the Harris County Board of Education, as its discretion, may permit a student in Kindergarten through grade 6 who has committed an act of physical violence against a teacher, administrator, school personnel or employee, or bus driver as defined in 13.02 to re-enroll in the public school system.
 4. Juvenile Court Referral - Any student found by a tribunal to have committed an act of physical violence as defined in Section 13.01 or 13.02 against a teacher, administrator, school personnel or employee, or bus driver shall be referred to Juvenile Court with a request for a petition alleging delinquent behavior.
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