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J. Students

This section contains policies and regulations on students—admission, attendance, rights and responsibilities, conduct, discipline, health and welfare, and school-related activities

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JA	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Student Policies Goals/Priority Objectives	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

In order to establish an environment conducive to learning for each student, the George County Board of Education establishes the following goals:

1. To assure all students the same educational opportunities regardless of race, color, creed, religion, ethnic origin, sex or disabilities;
2. To protect and observe the legal rights of students;
3. To enhance the self-image of all students by helping them feel respected and worthy through a learning environment that provides positive encouragement from frequent success;
4. To provide an environment of reality in which students can learn personal and civic responsibility for their actions through meaningful experiences as school citizens;
5. To deal with students in matters of discipline in a fair and constructive manner;
6. To provide for the safety, health and welfare of students; and
7. To promote faithful attendance and good work.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JB	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Equal Educational Opportunities	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

Students, their parents, and employees of the George County School District are hereby notified that this school system does not discriminate on the basis of gender and is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 not to discriminate on the basis of gender in its educational activities and employment practices.

As provided under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, no person in the U.S. shall, on the basis of gender, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

Every pupil of the district will have equal educational opportunities regardless of race, color, creed, sex, disability, religion or marital status. No student shall be excluded on such basis from participating in or having access to any course offerings, athletics, counseling, employment assistance, and extra-curricular activities. School board policies follow federal laws related to nondiscriminatory practices in the operation of the school district set forth in the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964

Any person having inquiries concerning compliance with Title IX by the George County School District Board of Education is directed to contact: Dr. Terri Nyman, Section 504 Coordinator, George County School District, 5152 Main Street, Lucedale, MS, 39452, Phone: 601-947-6993, Fax: 601-947-8805.

Reference: MS Code §37-15-35, Mississippi Public School Accreditation Standards, 1972 Education Amendments, Title IX; 45 CFR Part 86; 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title VI; 45 CFR Part 84; 1973 Rehabilitation Act, Section 503; 1973 Rehabilitation Act, Section 504; Brown v. Board of Education, 347 U.S. 483 (1954) See also Policy AC, Policy BA, Policy CA, and Policy IA.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JBA	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Discrimination on the Basis of Race, Ethnicity, Disability, Religion, or Gender	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The George County School District Board of Education adheres to requirements for nondiscrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, disability, religion, or gender and handles complaints through procedures and standards established in Policy GBEBB.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JBAA	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Students with Disabilities Section 504 Complaint Procedures	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i> February 1, 2011

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibit discrimination against persons with a disability in any program receiving federal financial assistance. No discrimination against any person with a disability will knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and practices of the school system. To ensure the George County School District's compliance with the Section 504/ADA as it applies to students with disabilities, the following procedures have been adopted:

If the district has reason to believe that a student may be eligible under Section 504 as a result of a disability that is impacting the student's education, and that the student may be in need of special accommodations or related services in the regular education setting in order to participate in the school program, the district must first follow its procedures for a comprehensive evaluation for IDEA, including the requirement to implement the Three-Tier Intervention Process. If the student is found ineligible for IDEA, then the student shall be considered for 504. One exception to this rule is that the student may be considered for 504 without going through the Three-Tier Intervention process if chronic health problems exist, or if the school and parents agree that the student has a disability that would likely qualify the student for IDEA services and interventions would have little or no impact. Otherwise, the school must follow the Three-Tier Process as mandated by the Mississippi State Board of Education.

The above process also applies to a student who transfers to the District with a current 504 eligibility from either out-of-state or from another school district within the state. The District has a right to conduct its own evaluation and will take steps in a timely manner to determine if the student is a student with a disability who requires the provision of reasonable accommodations that cannot be accomplished without a 504 Plan. A meeting will be held with the parents and District personnel to determine what accommodations are needed during the pendency of the evaluation process.

The George County School District Board of Education adheres to requirements for nondiscrimination on the basis disability and handles complaints through procedures and standards established in Policy GBEBB. See also Policy GBK, Policy AC, and Policy ACG.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JBAB	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Student Complaints of Sexual Discrimination/Harassment—Title IX Procedures	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

Students in the George County School District are protected from sexual discrimination, including sexual harassment, by Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972 to the Civil Rights Act and handles complaints through procedures and standards established in Policy GBEBB.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JBAC	<i>Approved</i> March 2, 2004
Education for Homeless Children and Youth	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

Homeless students in the district will have access to the education and other services needed to ensure that an opportunity is available to meet the same academic achievement standards to which all students are held. A liaison for students in homeless situations will be designated by the district to carry out duties as required by law.

The district will ensure that homeless students are not stigmatized nor segregated on the basis of their status as homeless. A homeless student will be admitted to the district school in the attendance area in which the student is actually living or to the student(s) school of origin as requested by the parent and in accordance with the student(s) best interest. Transportation will be provided to and from the student(s) school of origin at the request of the parent, or in the case of an unaccompanied student, the district(s) liaison for homeless students.

The superintendent or designee will produce written guidelines for distribution to each school that explains the rights of homeless students and the responsibilities of the school to meet their needs and eliminate barriers to school attendance. This information shall also be disseminated in writing and by other means designed to raise awareness of these rights and responsibilities to staff, homeless families and students, the public, and homeless service providers.

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy, children are deemed to be homeless under the following conditions:

A child who is lacking a fixed regular and adequate nighttime residence and who has a primary nighttime

residence that is a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living accommodations, a temporary residence prior to being placed in an institution, or a place not designated or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

A child who is placed in a transitional or emergency shelter before placement in a foster home or home for neglected children.

A child who is temporarily living in a trailer park or camping area due to lack of adequate living accommodations.

A child who is living in doubled-up accommodations due to loss of housing or other similar situation.

A child who is placed in a foster home due to lack of shelter space.

A migratory child who is staying in accommodations not fit for human habitation.

A child who has run away from home and lives in a runaway shelter, abandoned building, the street, or other inadequate accommodations.

A child who is placed in a state institution because s/he has no other place to live.

A child who has been abandoned by his/her family and is staying in a hospital.

A child whose parents or guardian will not permit him/her to live at home and who lives on the street, or other inadequate accommodations.

School-age unwed mothers or expectant mothers who are living in homes for unwed mothers because they have no other available living accommodations.

SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED

Pursuant to and in compliance with the requirements of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1990, 41USC11431, it shall be the policy of this school district, to the extent practicable under requirements relating to education established by state law, that each eligible child of a homeless individual and each eligible homeless youth will have access to a free appropriate education comparable to the education provided the children of district residents who are non-homeless, without isolation or stigma.

The placement of an eligible homeless child or youth will be made according to Policy JFABB Assignment of Pupils, and will take into consideration the best interests of the homeless child or youth and placement requests made by a parent.

The choice of placement in either the “school of origin” or the school serving the “place of abode” will take place regardless of whether the child or youth is living with the homeless parent(s) or has been temporarily placed elsewhere by the parent(s).

Provided the homeless child or youth meets eligibility criteria, he/she will be provided transportation services; compensatory education programs for the disadvantaged; educational programs for the handicapped and for students with limited English proficiency; programs in vocational education; programs for the gifted and talented; and school meals programs.

Any and all records ordinarily kept by this school district, including immunization records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, evaluations for special services and programs shall be kept on homeless children and youth and shall be forwarded in a timely fashion should a child or youth enter a new school or school district; and in a manner consistent with S1232g of Title 20.

Should this school district receive assistance under S11432 of the Act, it shall coordinate with local social

service agencies and other agencies or programs providing services to such children or youth and their families.

Should this school district receive assistance under S11432 of the Act, it shall designate a homelessness liaison to insure that the homeless children and youth enroll in and succeed in the schools of their district; and, homeless families, children and youth receive educational services for which they are eligible, and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services, and other appropriate services.

The homelessness liaison shall inform school personnel, service providers and advocates working with homeless families of the duties of the liaison.

This school district has and will continue to review and revise, to the extent practicable under the requirements relating to education established by state law, any policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless children and youth in schools selected in accordance with paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 above.

In reviewing and revising such policies, to the extent practicable under the requirements relating to education established by state law, consideration shall be given to issues concerning transportation, requirements of immunization, residency, birth certificates, school records, or other documentation and guardianship.

Disputes which may arise regarding the assignment of a homeless child or youth will be directed to the attention of the school official responsible for that particular matter for prompt resolution. If this dispute cannot be resolved locally, any aggrieved party may make written request for a review of the matter to:

Coordinator of the Homeless Program
Mississippi Department of Education
P.O. Box 771
Jackson, MS 39205

LEGAL REF.: McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JC	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
School Attendance Areas	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The George County School District is composed of eight schools: five elementary schools, one intermediate school, one middle school, and one high school.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Agricola Elementary School | Grades K-5 |
| 2. Benndale Elementary School | Grades K-5 |
| 3. Central Elementary School | Grades K-5 |
| 4. Lucedale Elementary School | Grades K-3 |
| 5. Rocky Creek Elementary School | Grades K-5 |
| 6. Lucedale Intermediate School | Grades 4-5 |
| 7. George County Middle School | Grades 6-8 |
| 8. George County High School | Grades 9-12 |

Alternative programs are located at George County High School and Lucedale Intermediate School. The district Pre-K special education is housed at Lucedale Elementary and Rocky Creek Elementary.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JCA	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Assignment of Students to School	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

Students in the George County School District who live within an attendance zone as established by the federal court must attend the school designated as their attendance zone unless the board grants a transfer to another zone due to a documented hardship or legitimate educational reason.

No minor child may enroll in or attend any school except in the school district of his/her residence, unless such child be lawfully transferred from the school district of his/her residence to a school in another school district in accord with the statutes of this state now in effect or which may be hereafter enacted.

Children whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are employees of the George County School District may at such employee's discretion enroll and attend the school or schools of their parent's or legal guardian's employment regardless of the residence of the child.

No child shall be required to be transported in excess of 30 miles on a school bus from his/her home to school, or in excess of 30 miles from school to his/her home, if there is another school in an adjacent school district located on a shorter school bus transportation route by the nearest traveled road. Those children residing in such geographical situations may, at the discretion of their parent(s) or legal guardian(s), enroll and attend the nearer school, regardless of the residence of the child. In the event the parent or legal guardian of such child and the school board are unable to agree on the school bus mileage required to transport the child from his or her home to school, an appeal shall lie to the State Board of Education, or its designee, whose decision shall be final.

Children lawfully transferred from the school district of his/her residence to a school in the George County School District prior to July 1, 1992, may, at the discretion of their parent(s) or legal guardian(s), continue to enroll and attend school in the district. Provided further, that the brother(s) and sister(s) of said children lawfully transferred prior to July 1, 1992, may also, at the discretion of their parent(s) or legal guardian(s), enroll and attend school in this school district. MS Code §37-15-29 (1992)

Any transfer student from a school or program (correspondence, tutorial, or home study) not accredited by a regional or state agency is given either a standardized achievement test(s) or teacher-made special subject test(s) to determine the appropriate classification of the student. MS Code §37-15-33 The administrative head of each public school shall ensure that each pupil applying for transfer shall be tested within 30 days after the filing of such application for transfer. Notice shall be given to the applicant not less than five days prior to the date of the administration of such test. See also Policy JG, Policy JF, Policy JFAA, and Policy JFABC.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JCA-R	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Assignment of Students to School-Regulations	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

CRITERIA FOR HARDSHIP TRANSFERS

1. If a child has an in-school problem, a determination is made as to whether the problem may be solved within the school, or if a transfer is more likely to solve the problem.

2. Where there is a broken home or family difficulties, if the effect on the particular child is such that a transfer under the facts would materially aid the child in his/her health and/or education.
3. If there is a physical problem or disability, will a transfer mitigate difficulties for the child and/or render its parental care to/from school easier, for the direct benefit of the child.
4. If there is an emotional problem or disability, will a transfer materially help the child educationally, and tend to improve his/her self-esteem.
5. Medical statement in support of transfer request primarily for physical and/or emotional reasons will be given weight when related to the reason for the transfer request.
6. Statements of school personnel personal knowledge about a student through a professional relationship will be given weight when related to the reason for the request for transfer.
7. Where a student qualifies for special education courses and/or classes not present in his/her residency school, a transfer will be granted but not if such courses or classes are available in the school from which transfer is sought.
8. Requests/recommendations of law enforcement authorities, including youth court, for a transfer will be given weight in a decision.
9. Where there are custody problems, not necessarily a legal guardianship or custodian, this may be a factor, taken together with other factors, which will justify a transfer.
10. If a child has had frequent change of school and is having educational and/or emotional difficulties because of these changes, so that a transfer would stabilize the school situation and help alleviate the problem.
11. If the transfer is sought primarily for social reasons, it will be denied.
12. If the transfer is sought primarily for convenience of the child and/or parent, it will be denied, unless it combines with other factors to make it more than a mere inconvenience.
13. Where several reasons for the transfer request are given, it will not be denied if there are one or more valid reasons given.
14. Factors which, standing alone, will not justify a transfer may, when taken together, constitute sufficient grounds for a transfer.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JCAA	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
School Districting/Redistricting Procedures	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

Should there be legitimate educational or other reasons for the redistricting of attendance zones, the redistricting shall be done by the board in a manner that advances desegregation in the George County School District.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JCAC	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Alternative School Program	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i> February 2, 2010

Upon approval by the George County School District Board of Education, the superintendent shall establish maintain and operate an alternative school program to serve the compulsory school-age children:

1. Who have been suspended for more than 10 days or expelled from school, except that such placement may be denied when the expulsion was for possession of a weapon or other felonious conduct;
2. Who are referred for placement based upon a documented need by the parent, legal guardian or custodian

- because of disciplinary problems;
3. Who are referred by order of a chancellor or youth court judge, but only with the consent of the principal; and
 4. Whose presence in the classroom, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, is a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the students and teacher of such class as a whole.

Before placement in the alternative school program, the principal or program administrator of the alternative school program shall obtain verification of the child's suitability for the program. Before a student can be removed to an alternative school education program, the superintendent shall determine that the written and distributed disciplinary policy of this district is being followed and that the policy includes standards for:

1. The removal of a student to an alternative education program that will include a process of educational review to develop the student's individual instruction plan and the evaluation at regular intervals of the student's educational progress; the process shall include classroom teachers and/or other appropriate professional personnel, as defined by district policy, to ensure a continuing program for the removed student;
2. The duration of the alternative placement; and
3. The notification of parents or guardians, and their appropriate inclusion in the removal and evaluation process, as defined in the district policy.

The board or the superintendent shall provide for the continuing education of a student who has been removed to an alternative school program. The alternative school program shall be operated as part of and in accordance with the regulations applicable to the regular school program and with all requirements of the law and guidelines of the Mississippi Department of Education. Students placed in the alternative school program are subject to the policies and rules of conduct and discipline as well as any other rules of conduct and discipline deemed appropriate by the superintendent and/or principal.

The district may provide a program of general educational development (GED) preparatory instruction in the alternative school program. However, any GED preparatory program offered in an alternative school program must be administered in compliance with MS Code §37-13-92 (4).

Any such alternative school program operated under the authority of this section shall meet all appropriate accreditation requirements of the Mississippi Department of Education. The alternative school program may be held within the district or may be operated by two or more adjacent school districts, pursuant to a contract approved by the State Board of Education.

The State Board of Education shall promulgate minimum guidelines for alternative school programs. The guidelines shall require, at a minimum, the formulation of an individual instruction plan for each student referred to the alternative school program and, upon a determination that it is in a student's best interest for that student to receive general educational development (GED) preparatory instruction, that the local school board assign the student to a GED preparatory program established under MS Code §37-13-92 (4). The minimum guidelines for alternative school programs shall also require the following components:

1. Clear guidelines and procedures for placement of students into alternative education programs which at a minimum shall prescribe due process procedures for disciplinary and general educational development (GED) placement;
2. Clear and consistent goals for students and parents;
3. Curricula addressing cultural and learning style differences;
4. Direct supervision of all activities on a closed campus;
5. Full-day attendance with a rigorous workload and minimal time off; Attendance requirements that allow for education and workforce development opportunities.
6. Selection of program from options provided by the local school district, Division of Youth Services or the youth court, including transfer to a community-based alternative school;
7. Continual monitoring and evaluation and formalized passage from one step or program to another;

8. A motivated and culturally diverse staff;
9. Counseling for parents and students;
10. Administrative and community support for the program; and
11. Clear procedures for annual alternative school program review and evaluation.

Upon request, the Mississippi Department of Education shall provide the district informational material on developing an alternative school program that takes into consideration size, wealth and existing facilities in determining a program best suited to the district.

Any student who becomes involved in any criminal or violent behavior shall be removed from the alternative school program and, if probable cause exists, a case shall be referred to the youth court. The removal of a student from the alternative school program on these grounds shall be reported in accordance with the applicable school board policies.

The State Board of Education, in its discretion, may exempt not more than four school district alternative school programs from any compulsory standard of accreditation for a period of three years. MS Code §37-13-92 (2000)

Each school district having an alternative school program shall submit a report annually to the State Department of Education describing the results of its annual alternative school program review and evaluation undertaken pursuant to subsection (7)(k). The report shall include a detailed account of any actions taken by the school district during the previous year to comply with substantive guidelines promulgated by the State Board of Education under subsection (7)(a) through (j).

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

As provided under Section 2 of Senate Bill 2506 (1999 Legislative Session), “Educational services for children with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled from school shall be provided based on the requirements of IDEA, applicable federal regulations and state regulations.”

STUDENT CONDUCT AND GRADES

Criteria used in the evaluation process to determine a student’s grade must be supported by rationale. The criteria must be in writing and must include the following:

1. Course content (goals, objectives, materials, etc.) as outlined in the curriculum guides
2. Methods of evaluation. Grades will reflect some combination of the areas listed below:
 - a. Class work
 - b. Homework
 - c. Test scores
 - d. Participation
 - e. Skill application
 - f. Preparation for class
3. The effect of absence on grades
4. Procedures for making up assigned work and tests
5. Other criteria as may be approved by the superintendent and school board

According to a 1998 Attorney General Opinion, automatic fail provision of an absences policy may not apply against legal, excused absences. Such absences policies may not be applied against absences resulting from disciplinary suspensions if absences policies are applied to truant children who are otherwise passing, the district must afford the child procedural due process. Attorney General Opinion, *Carter*, 1-9-98, #183, 97-0817 See also Policy IA, Policy IHBA, Policy IHBH, Policy IFB, IHDB, Policy JE, Policy JH, and Policy JHB.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JD	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
School Census	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The George County School District is required by law to make an enumeration of educable children in the school district. See also Policy CBC.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JE	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Student Attendance	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i> February 6, 2007

It is the policy of the George County School District Board of Education that students shall be expected to be present each day that schools are in session. School officials should use every means to encourage students to be regular in attendance. Absences due to reasons other than illness or participation in school activities should be discouraged.

DROPOUT PREVENTION PROGRAM

The George County School District shall implement a dropout prevention program approved by the Office of Dropout Prevention of the State Department of Education by the 2008-2009 school year.

It is+ the intent of the Legislature that, through the statewide dropout prevention program and the dropout prevention programs implemented by each school district, the graduation rate for cohort classes will be increased to not less than eighty-five percent (85%) by the 2018-2019 school year. The Office of Dropout Prevention shall establish graduation rate benchmarks for each two-year period from the 2008-2009 school year, which shall serve as guidelines for increasing the graduation rate for cohort classes on a systematic basis to eighty-five percent (85%) by the 2018-2019 school year. S.B. 2602 (2006 Legislative Session) See also Policy JRE.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JEA	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Compulsory Attendance Ages	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i> August 5, 2003 February 2, 2010

The George County School District shall comply shall comply with the requirements of the "Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law" MS Code §37-13-91. Appropriate data shall be provided to the Office of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement within the State Department of Education, as may be required under House Bill 1443 (1998 Regular Session). See also Policy CBC, Policy JH, JHA, JHB, JHBA, JHBB, and Policy JJ.

AGE / REQUIREMENTS

"Compulsory school-age child" means a child who:

1. Has attained or will attain the age of 5 years on or before September 1 and has enrolled in a full day public school kindergarten program;
2. Has attained or will attain the age of 6 years on or before September 1 of the calendar year, beginning in the school year that commences during the year the child attains the age of 6 years;

3. Has not attained the age of 17 years on or before September 1 of the calendar year; and if the child's birthday occurs during the school year, who has not completed the school year during which the child attains the age of 17 years.

A parent of a five year old enrolled in a full day public school kindergarten shall be allowed to disenroll that child from the program once without the child being deemed a compulsory school student until the child reaches the age of six. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school-age child in this state shall cause the child to enroll in and attend a public school or legitimate nonpublic school for the period of time that the child is of compulsory school age, except under the following circumstances:

1. When a compulsory school-age child is physically, mentally or emotionally incapable of attending school as determined by the appropriate school official based upon sufficient medical documentation.
2. When a compulsory school-age child is enrolled in and pursuing a course of special education, remedial education or education for handicapped or physically or mentally disadvantaged children.
3. When a compulsory school-age child is being educated in a legitimate home instruction program.

REPORTS

If a compulsory school-age child has not been enrolled in school within 15 calendar days after the first day of the school year or if a child has accumulated five unlawful absences during the school year, the superintendent or his/her designee shall, within two school days or within five calendar days, whichever is less, report, on the form provided by the Mississippi Department of Education, the absences to the school attendance officer. The principal, shall report any student suspensions or student expulsions to the school attendance officer when they occur. MS Code §37-13-91 (6)

The district shall maintain accurate records documenting enrollment and attendance in a manner that allows the Mississippi Department of Education to make an assessment of changes in enrollment and attendance, including dropout rates. The Mississippi Department of Education shall compile an annual statewide report on the school district's effectiveness in reducing absentee problems, dropout rates, and other attendance-related problems during the previous school year, incorporate the information into the annual Mississippi Report Card required by MS Code §37-3-53 (1972) on school district performance and offer technical assistance and coordination services to assist districts in improving performance.

UNLAWFUL ABSENCES /VALID EXCUSES

An "unlawful absence" is an absence during a school day by a compulsory school-age child, which absence is not due to a valid excuse for temporary nonattendance. Days missed from school due to disciplinary suspension shall not be considered an "excused" absence under this section. Each of the following shall constitute a valid excuse for temporary nonattendance, provided satisfactory evidence of the excuse is provided to the superintendent or his/her designee:

1. Attendance at an authorized school activity with the prior approval of the superintendent of the school principal.
2. Illness or injury that prevents the student from being physically able to attend school.
3. When isolation is ordered by the county health officer, by the State Board of Health or appropriate school official.
4. Death or serious illness of a member of the immediate family, which includes children, spouse, grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters, stepbrothers and stepsisters.
5. A medical or dental appointment with prior approval of the superintendent or his/her designee, except in the case of emergency.
6. Attendance at the proceedings of a court or an administrative tribunal if the student is a party to the action or under subpoena as a witness.
7. Observance of a religious event, with the prior approval of the superintendent or his/her designee. (Approval should not be withheld unless, in the professional judgment of the superintendent or his/her designee, the extent of the absence would adversely affect the student's education.)
8. Participation in a valid educational opportunity, such as travel including vacations or other family travel, with the prior approval of the superintendent or his/her designee. (Approval shall be based on the professional judgment of the superintendent or his/her designee but shall not be withheld unless the extent of the absence would adversely affect the student's education.)
9. Other conditions sufficient to warrant nonattendance, with prior approval of the superintendent or his/her

designee. However, no absences shall be excused when any student suspensions or expulsions circumvent the intent and spirit of the compulsory attendance law. MS Code §37-13-91 (4)

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICER

The superintendent and principals shall cooperate with the school attendance officer employed by the Mississippi Department of Education, pursuant to MS Code §37-13-85 and shall implement procedures for monitoring and reporting student absences as specified in the Mississippi Compulsory Attendance Law.

Notes:

1. According to a 1998 Attorney General Opinion, automatic fail provision of an absentee policy may not apply against legal, excused absences. Such absences policies may not be applied against absences resulting from disciplinary suspensions if absences policies are applied to truant children who are otherwise passing, the district must afford the child procedural due process. (Attorney General Opinion, *Carter*, 1-9-98) (#183) (§97-0817) SB2284
2. MS Code §37-13-9 (1999) provides that unlawful absences by a kindergarten student in excess of the number allowed by a local school district may not be the reason for a school district's determination to withhold or recommend the withholding of the student from promotion to the first grade.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JEB	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Entrance Age Requirements	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

State law sets the age for students entering the first grade in the George County School District. The age for students entering kindergarten will be determined by the age required for entrance into first grade the following year. See Policy JEA. MS Code §37-15-9 Any child who transfers from an out-of-state school whose state law provides for an enrollment date subsequent to September 1 may be enrolled if specific provisions of law are met. See also Policy JF.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JEBA	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Entrance Age Verification	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

SB 2225 (2002) establishes additional evidence that shall be used regarding the date of birth that is required for a child to enroll in kindergarten or first grade. If the first prescribed evidence is not available, the next evidence obtainable, in the order set forth below, shall be accepted:

1. A certified birth certificate.
2. A duly attested transcript of a certificate of baptism, showing the date of birth and place of baptism of the child, accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by a parent, grandparent, or custodian
3. An insurance policy on the child's life that has been in force for at least two years.
4. A bona fide contemporary Bible record of the child's birth, accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by a

- parent, grandparent, or custodian.
5. A passport or certificate of arrival in the United States showing the age of the child.
 6. A transcript of record of age shown in the child's school record for at least four years prior to application, stating date of birth.
 7. If none of these can be produced, an affidavit of age sworn to by a parent, grandparent, or custodian.

This section shall be repealed July 1, 2003.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i>	<i>Approved</i>
Student Admissions to/Withdrawals from School	JF	November 2002
	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

It is the policy of the George County School District Board of Education to follow state and federal laws and decisions of the courts in the dismissal from and admission to schools within the district.

1. No pupil shall be permanently enrolled in a school in the State of Mississippi who formerly was enrolled in another public or private school within the state until the cumulative record of the pupil shall have been received from the school from which he transferred. Should such record have become lost or destroyed, then it shall be the duty of the superintendent or principal of the school where the pupil last attended school to initiate a new record.
2. Any child who transfers from an out-of-state public or private school in which that state's law provides for a first-grade or kindergarten enrollment date subsequent to September 1, shall be allowed to enroll in the public schools of Mississippi, at the same grade level as their prior out-of-state enrollment, if:
 - a. The parent, legal guardian or custodian of such child was a legal resident of the state from which the child is transferring;
 - b. The out-of-state school from which the child is transferring is duly accredited by that state's appropriate accrediting authority;
 - c. Such child was legally enrolled in a public or private school for a minimum of four weeks in the previous state; and
 - d. The superintendent has determined that the child was making satisfactory educational progress in the previous state.
3. When any child applies for admission or enrollment in any public school in the state, the parent, guardian or child, in the absence of an accompanying parent or guardian, shall indicate on the school registration form if the enrolling child has been expelled from any public or private school or is currently a party to an expulsion proceeding. If it is determined from the child's cumulative record or application for admission or enrollment that the child has been expelled, the school district may deny the student admission and enrollment until the superintendent of the school or his/her designee has reviewed the child's cumulative record and determined that the child has participated in successful rehabilitative efforts including, but not limited to, progress in an alternative school or similar program. If the child is a party to an expulsion proceeding, the child may be admitted to a public school pending final disposition of the expulsion proceeding. If the expulsion proceeding results in the expulsion of the child, the public school may revoke such admission to school. If the child was expelled or is a party to an expulsion proceeding for an act involving violence, weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs or other activity that may result in expulsion, the school district shall not be required to grant admission or enrollment to the child before one calendar year after the date of the expulsion. MS Code §37-15-9 (1994)

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i>	<i>Approved</i>
Admission Procedures	JFA	November 2002
	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

In accordance with HB 1030 (2002) a parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian must accompany a child seeking to enroll in the George County School District and must provide the information listed below. Upon receipt of the following information, the school administration shall make the appropriate classroom assignment.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

1. The George County School District shall admit all eligible resident and legally transferred minor children who are over five and not over 20 years of age on September 1 of the school year.
2. Each minor child shall attend school in the school district of his/her residence unless legally transferred to another school district by the school board pursuant to MS Code §37-15-29 (1992).
3. Except for those students who have been legally transferred, each minor child seeking to enroll in this school district shall be a school district resident. All students shall register at the school they are assigned to attend.
4. Any new student enrolling in the school district or any continuing student whose residence has changed shall be accompanied to enrollment by a parent, guardian, adult custodian or adult agent of a social service agency of the district who shall register the minor child for admission, except students who have been legally transferred. The accompanying adult shall be required to verify his/her residence as herein provided as part of the registration process.
5. The person in charge of each school shall require any child enrolling in kindergarten or Grade 1 to present a certified birth certificate and valid immunization certificate upon enrollment. Except as provided in paragraph 6 below no child shall be admitted to any school in this school district during any school year unless such child will reach his/her fifth birthday on or before September 1 of said school year for kindergarten enrollment; or unless such child will reach his/her sixth birthday on or before September 1 of the school year for first grade enrollment. No child will be allowed to enroll in or attend any school without a certified birth certificate and valid immunization certificate.
6. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 7 below, any child who transfers from an out-of-state public or private school in which that state's law provides for a first grade or kindergarten enrollment date subsequent to September 1, shall be allowed to enroll in this school district at the same grade level as their prior out-of-state enrollment, if:
 - a. The parent, legal guardian or custodian of such child was a legal resident of the state from which the child is transferring;
 - b. The out-of-state school from which the child is transferring is duly accredited by that state's appropriate accrediting authority;
 - c. Such child was legally enrolled in a public or private school for a minimum of four weeks in the previous state; and
 - d. The superintendent has determined that the child was making satisfactory educational progress in the previous state.
7. When any child applies for admission or enrollment in any school in the district, the parent, guardian or child, in the absence of an accompanying parent or guardian, shall indicate on the school registration form if the enrolling child has been expelled from any public or private school or is currently a party to an expulsion proceeding. If it is determined from the child's cumulative record or application for admission or enrollment that the child has been expelled, the school district may deny the student admission and enrollment until the superintendent of the school or his/her designee has reviewed the child's cumulative record and determined that the child has participated in successful rehabilitative efforts including, but not limited to, progress in an alternative school or similar program. If the child is a party to an expulsion

proceeding, the child may be admitted to a public school pending final disposition of the expulsion proceeding. If the expulsion proceeding results in the expulsion of the child, the public school may revoke such admission to school. If the child was expelled or is a party to an expulsion proceeding for an act involving violence, weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs or other activity that may result in expulsion, the school district shall not be required to grant admission or enrollment to the child before one calendar year after the date of the expulsion.

8. No child in Grades 2 through 12 shall be allowed to enroll in or attend any school without a valid immunization certificate. Valid certificates include:
 - a. Form 121—Certificate of Compliance
 - b. Form 121-A — Medical Exemption Certificate
 - c. Form 121-T —Temporary Compliance Certificate

The Temporary Compliance Certificate, Form 121-T, is not valid after the date shown. After that date, the principal shall deny school attendance by such child unless or until the principal is furnished another Temporary Compliance Certificate, Form 121-T, or a Certificate of Compliance, Form 121, or a Medical Exemption Certificate, Form 121-A.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i>	<i>Approved</i>
Admission of Resident Students	JFAA	November 2002
	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

RESIDENCE VERIFICATION PROCEDURE

Definition of Residence for School Attendance Purposes: The student physically resides full time week days/nights and weekends, at a place of abode located within the limits of the George County School District.

1. Except for those students who have been legally transferred, each student identified in paragraph 4 above must establish his/her residency in the following manner:
 - a. Students Living with Parent(s) or Guardian(s)

The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a student seeking to enroll must provide this school district with at least two of the items numbered (1) through (10) below as verification of their address, except that a document with a post office box as an address will not be accepted.

 - (1) Filed Homestead Exemption Application form
 - (2) Mortgage documents or property deed
 - (3) Apartment or home lease
 - (4) Utility bills
 - (5) Driver's license
 - (6) Voter precinct identification
 - (7) Automobile registration
 - (8) Affidavit and/or personal visit by a designated school official
 - (9) Any other documentation that will objectively and unequivocally establish that the parent or guardian resides within the school district
 - (10) Certified copy of filed petition for guardianship if pending and final decree when granted.
 - b. Homeless Children

When a child is determined to be homeless as defined by the Stewart B. McKinney Act 42 USC Section 11431 (1), 11432 (e) and 11302 (a), this school district shall consider and take enrollment action that is in the best interest of the child pursuant to 42 USC 11432 (e) (3).
 - c. Students Living with Adults Other Than Parents or Legal Guardians
 - (1) The non-parent(s) claiming district residency must meet the criteria of subparagraph (a) (1) through (10) above, required of a parent or legal guardian.

- (2) The district resident must provide the school with an affidavit stating his or her relationship to the student, and that the student will be living at his/her abode full time, and provide documentation fully explaining the reason(s) (other than school attendance zone or district preference) for this arrangement. The superintendent or his/her designee will make the necessary factual determinations under Subsection II.1 (c) (2). Examples of situations where “in loco parentis” authority of an adult will be recognized to establish residency of the minor include but are not limited to the following:
 - (a) Death or serious illness of the child’s parent(s) or guardian(s);
 - (b) Abandonment of the child;
 - (c) Child abuse or neglect;
 - (d) Unstable family relationships or undesirable conditions in the home of the child’s parents or guardians having a detrimental effect on the child;
 - (e) Students enrolled in recognized exchange programs residing with host families.
 - (3) Whenever appropriate the person who has assumed responsibility for the care and custody of the child shall obtain legal guardianship of the child.
 - d. The requirements of Section II.1 (a) and (c) above are minimum requirements. The district may require additional documentation and verification at any time.
 - e. At the minimum, the school district shall maintain in a file a written instrument identifying the types of documents used to verify each student’s residency and copies of any relevant guardianship petition or decree.
 - f. The provisions of this policy do not apply to students who reside outside the school district, but who have legally transferred into the school district.
2. Any court-ordered procedure shall take precedent over any procedure contained herein.
See Also Policy JFAA, Policy JFABC, Policy JFABD, and Policy JG.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i>	<i>Approved</i>
Admission of Nonresident Students	JFAB	November 2002
	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i> March 2, 2004

TRANSFERRING STUDENTS

No student is to be enrolled in the George County School District until any and all questions regarding residence or immunizations have been resolved. Students suspended from another school or school district may not be allowed to enroll. Students expelled from another school or school district will not be allowed to enroll.

No pupil shall be permanently enrolled in a school in the district who formerly was enrolled in another school within the state or outside the state until the cumulative record of said pupil shall have been received from the school from which he transferred. Should such record have become lost or destroyed, then it shall be the duty of the superintendent or principal of the school where the pupil last attended school to initiate a new record.

Unless a transfer student is tested in the manner provided below, the student will be permanently enrolled and placed in a grade or class on the basis of an official transcript of credits from the last school attended. All students seeking to transfer from any school, public or private, within or outside of the boundaries of the State of Mississippi, to the school district shall be required to take a standardized test to determine the grade and class to which the pupil shall be assigned at the time of pupil transfer.

The administrative head of the school or designee shall administer the test or tests to such pupil or pupils as shall apply for transfer to such public school. Such test or tests shall be administered within 30 days after the

filing of each such application for transfer. Notice of the giving of such test shall be given the applicant not less than five days prior to the date of the administration of such test.

No transfer of a pupil shall be affected until the test has been given and the pupil is assigned to the grade and class for which the test shows he is best suited. No pupil shall be assigned to a grade and class more than three grades above or below the grade or class that the pupil would have been assigned to had the pupil remained in the school from which the transfer is being made. Pending the administration of the test herein provided for and its grading and an assignment based thereon the superintendent of this school district or the attendance center principal to which the pupil seeks admission may assign the pupil temporarily to a grade and class comparable to that in which the pupil would have been had the pupil continued in the school from which the transfer was being made.

If any student is transferred or reassigned within this school district by an order of the board as designated by law of the State of Mississippi and not at his/her own request, the requirement of that pupil's taking the standardized test shall be waived. Likewise, if a pupil shall transfer from one school district to another school district in the manner provided and required by the laws of the State of Mississippi, the requirement of such pupil taking the standardized test shall be waived.

The George County school board shall not recognize any legal guardianship formed for the purpose of establishing residency for school district attendance purposes. MS Code §37-15-1, §37-15-3, §37-15-9, §37-15-11, §37-15-13, §37-15-29, §37-13-33, & §41-23-37

Except for special provisions for school district employees, residents of adjacent school districts, and siblings provided in this policy, upon the petition in writing of a parent or guardian, resident of the school district of an individual student, filed or lodged with the president or secretary of the school board of a school district in which the pupil has been enrolled or is qualified to be enrolled as a student under MS Code §37-15-9, or upon the aforesaid petition or the initiative of the school board of a school district as to the transfer of a grade or grades, individual students living in one school district or a grade or grades of a school within the districts may be legally transferred to another school district, by the mutual consent of the school boards of all school districts concerned, said consent to be given in writing and spread upon the minutes of such boards.

The school board of the transferring school district to which such petition may be addressed shall act thereon not later than its next regular meeting subsequent to the filing or lodging of said petition, and a failure to act within said time shall constitute a rejection of such request. The school board of the other school district involved, the transferee board, and the county board of education, if applicable under paragraph (b) of this subsection, shall act on such request for transfer as soon as possible after the transferor board shall have approved or rejected such transfer and no later than the next regular meeting of the transferee board or county board of education, and a failure of such transferee board to act within such time shall constitute a rejection of such request. If such a transfer is approved by the transferee board, and the county board of education if applicable under paragraph (b) of this subsection, then such decision shall be final. If a transfer is refused by the school board of either school district or the county board of education, then the decision is final. Tuition is set at \$450 for the first child and \$200 for siblings for out-of-district students.

The affected school board shall not recognize any legal guardianship formed for the purpose of establishing residency for school district attendance purposes.

SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES (CERTIFIED AND NON-CERTIFIED)

Upon the petition in writing of any parent or guardian who is a resident of Mississippi and is an employee of the George County School District, but not a resident of such district, the school board shall consent to the transfer of any employee's dependent school-age children to the district and shall spread the same upon the minutes of the board. Upon the petition in writing of any parent or guardian who is not a resident of Mississippi and on January 1, 1993, is an employee of the George County School District, the school board shall consent to the transfer of such employee's dependent school-age children to its district and shall spread the same upon the minutes of the board.

The employer transferee school district shall notify in writing the school district from which the pupil or pupils

are transferring, and the school board of the transferor school district shall spread the same upon its minutes. Any such agreement by school boards for the legal transfer of a student shall include a provision providing for the transportation of the student. In the absence of such a provision the responsibility for transporting the student to the transferee school district shall be that of the parent or guardian. Any school district that accepts a student under the provisions of this subsection shall not assess any tuition fees upon such transferring student in accordance with the provisions of MS Code §37-19-27 (1972).

ADJACENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Upon the petition in writing of any parent or legal guardian of a school-age child who is a resident of an adjacent school district residing in the geographical situation described in MS Code §37-15-29(3) (1972) the school board of the school district operating the school located in closer proximity to the residence of the child shall consent to the transfer of the child to its district, and shall spread the same upon the minutes of the board. Any such agreement by school boards for the legal transfer of a student under this subsection shall include a provision for the transportation of the student by either the transferor or the transferee school district. In the event that either the school board of the transferee or the transferor school district shall object to the transfer, it shall have the right to appeal to the State Board of Education whose decision shall be final. However, if the school boards agreeing on the legal transfer of any student shall fail to agree on which district shall provide transportation, the responsibility for transporting the student to the transferee school district shall be that of the parent or guardian.

SIBLINGS

Upon the petition in writing of any parent or legal guardian of a school-age child who was lawfully transferred to another school district prior to July 1, 1992, as described in MS Code §37-15-29(4), (1972), the school board of the transferee school district shall consent to the transfer of such child and the transfer of any school-age brother and sister of such child to its district, and shall spread the same upon the minutes of the board. MS Code §37-15-31 (1994)

TESTING

All students seeking to transfer from any school, public or private, within or outside of the boundaries of the State of Mississippi, to this school district shall be required to take a standardized test to determine the grade and class to which the pupil shall be assigned at the time of pupil transfer. The administrative head of each public school shall administer the test or tests to such pupil or pupils as shall apply for transfer to such public school. Such test or tests shall be administered within thirty days after the filing of each such application to transfer. Notice of the giving of such test shall be given the applicant not less than five days prior to the date of the administration of such test. No transfer of a pupil shall be effected until the test has been given and the pupil is assigned according to the grade and class for which the test shows he is best suited. No pupil shall be assigned to a grade and class more than three grades above or below the grade or class that the pupil would have been assigned to had the pupil remained in the school from which the transfer is being made. Pending the administration of the test herein provided for and its grading and an assignment based thereon the superintendent of this school district or the attendance center principal to which the pupil seeks admission may assign the pupil temporarily to a grade and class comparable to that in which the pupil would have been had the pupil continued in the school from which the transfer was being made.

TESTING WAIVER

If any student is transferred or reassigned within the school district by order of the school board of this school district as designated by law of the State of Mississippi and not at his/her own request, the requirement of that pupil's taking the standardized test shall be waived. Likewise, if a pupil shall transfer from one school district to another school district in the manner provided and required by the laws of the State of Mississippi, the requirement of such pupil taking the standardized test shall be waived. MS Code §37-15-33, 1988

ALLOTMENTS AND LOCAL MAINTENANCE FUNDS

1. Legally transferred students going from one school district to another shall be counted for teacher allotment and allotments for supportive services by the school district wherein the pupils attend school, including cost allotments prescribed in MS Code §37-19-19 and §37-19-31 for school district administrative and clerical salaries and other expenses, but shall be counted for transportation allotment purposes in the school district

which furnishes or provides the transportation. The school boards of the school districts that approve the transfer of a student under the provisions of MS Code §37-15-31 shall enter into an agreement and contract for the payment or nonpayment of any portion of their local maintenance funds that they deem fair and equitable in support of any transferred student. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, local maintenance funds shall be transferred only to the extent specified in the agreement and contract entered into by the affected school districts. The terms of any local maintenance fund payment transfer contract shall be spread upon the minutes of both of the affected school district school boards. The school district accepting any transfer students shall be authorized to accept tuition from such students under the provisions of Ms Code §37 15-31 (1) and such agreement may remain in effect for any length of time designated in the contract. The terms of such student transfer contracts and the amounts of any tuition charged any transfer student shall be spread upon the minutes of both of the affected school boards. No school district accepting any transfer students under the provisions of MS Code §37-15-31(2), which provides for the transfer of certain school district employee dependents, shall be authorized to charge such transfer students any tuition fees.

2. Local maintenance funds shall be paid by the home school district to the transferee school district for students granted transfers under the provisions of MS Code §37-15-29(3) and §37-15-31(3) (1972), not to exceed the "individual student entitlement" as defined in MS Code §37-22-1(2)(d) (1972) multiplied by the number of such legally transferred students. §37-19-27 (1991)

SAFE PUBLIC SCHOOL CHIIICE TRANSFER REQUESTS

In the event a district school is identified by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) as persistently dangerous, or a student has been a victim of a violent criminal offense while in or on the grounds of a school the student attends, a transfer to meet the safe public school choice requirements of NCLB will be provided, subject to the following:

The district will provide notification to parents of all students attending a school identified as persistently dangerous of their students right to transfer as follows:

1. The notice will be in writing, provided within ten (10) school days from the time the district becomes aware that the school has been identified by MDE as persistently dangerous or from the time a parent or student has notified the district that the student has been the victim of a violent criminal offense as defined by MDE and will:
 - a. Inform parents that their student is eligible to attend another public school in the district due to the identification of the school as persistently dangerous, or inform the parent of a student who has been the victim of a violent criminal offense, as defined by MDE, while in or on the grounds of a school the student attends, that their student is eligible to attend another public school in the district;
 - b. Identify each public school in the district, including public charter schools, that the parent may select;
 - c. Explain why the choices made available may have been limited including, as applicable, that no choices are currently available; and
 - d. Describe the performance and quality of those schools of choice. Parents may request more detailed information and may ask to see a school's academic report card.
2. The transfer will be to a safe district school and to the extent possible, to a district school that is making adequate yearly progress and that has not been identified as in need of improvement, corrective action or restructuring;
3. Request to transfer must be in writing (standard mail or fax) and submitted to the school office for consideration generally no later than twenty (20) school days from the district notice. The district will confirm requests;
4. The district will consider the education needs and preferences of the student and parent. Parents may decline the assigned school;
5. Approved transfers will generally occur within thirty (30) school days from the time the district learns that the school has been identified as persistently dangerous. A student who has been a victim of a violent criminal offense will be transferred as soon as practicable;
6. Transfers may be temporary or permanent but will minimally be in effect as long as the student's original school is identified as persistently dangerous. Transfers for a student who has been the victim of a violent

criminal offense will remain in effect until such time as may be appropriate, based on the safety and welfare of the student. The district will consider the educational needs of all transfer students as well as other factors affecting the student's ability to succeed if returned to the transferring school;

7. The district may provide transportation using federal funds or through cooperative agreements with local victims assistance units.

In the event a district school is identified by MDE as persistently dangerous, or a student has been a victim of a violent criminal offense while in or on the grounds of a school the student attends and there is not another school in the district for the student to transfer to, the district may develop an agreement with a neighboring district to accept transfer students. The development of such agreements is at the discretion of the district. Transfer approval will be in accordance with established Board policy and administrative regulations.

See also Policy JF, Policy JFABC, Policy JFABD, and Policy JG.

NON-RESIDENT STUDENT TRANSFER REQUEST

George County School District • 5152 Main Street • Lucedale, MS 39452

Name of Student _____ School Year _____

Grade Level _____ Race _____ Phone Number _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School District of Residency _____ School Requesting to Attend _____

Check Qualifying Reason for Request:

_____ The student's parent/guardian is an employee of the George County School District.
Name of Parent/Guardian _____
Place of Employment _____ Assignment _____

_____ The student lives closer to a school in the George County School District than the school he/she would attend in his/her school district of residency. Note: The student's home school must be 30 miles or more from the student's residence.

_____ The student has a special educational need that is not provided by the school district of residency.
Release from the home school district is required.
Specify Need _____

_____ Other _____

STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES

As a non-resident of the George County School District, I hereby request that the above-named child be permitted to attend school in the George County School District pursuant to MS Code §37-15-29 or §37-15-31. In making this request, I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of this child and that the child resides with me full-time, weekdays and weeknights. Further I certify that the information given is true and accurate. I understand that this transfer, if approved, can be revoked by the receiving school district if I have provided erroneous information, if there is a change in the status upon which I am making this application, or if there is overcrowding in the school. I agree to notify the receiving school district of any changes that may affect the status of this request. Further, I understand that if my child has a consistent or excessive record of being tardy or absent and/or violates school rules and regulations that he/she is subject to having the transfer revoked. I understand the school district will make the school assignment.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Action Taken by the George County School District Board of Education

Transfer request ___ approved ___ denied.

If approved, school assignment: _____

Signature of Board President _____ Date of Board Action _____

Signature of Superintendent _____ Date _____

TRANSFERS AND WITHDRAWALS OF STUDENTS AGREEMENT FORM

**AGREEMENT FOR PAYMENT OR NON-PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FUNDS &
TUITION FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS**

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, COUNTY OF GEORGE

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislature passed Senate Bill No. 2155 during its Regular Session, 1989; and,

WHEREAS, Laws, 1991, Ch. 349, S4, effective June 30, 1991, amended MS §37-19-27 (1972) to require an agreement for payment or non-payment of maintenance funds and for tuition for transfer students; and,

WHEREAS, the George County School District and the _____ School District now desire to adopt an agreement to comply with this requirement.

IT IS NOW, THEREFORE, agreed as follows:

- I. That this agreement shall be effective from and after passage by both school boards and terminate ____ (date) ____, but may be renewed upon the joint action of the parties hereto.
- II. That the school boards agree that the amount of local maintenance funds which they deem fair and equitable in support of a transferred student shall be \$ _____. Such funds do not exceed the "individual student entitlement" as defined in MS Code §37-22-1(2)(d) (1972) multiplied by the number of such legally transferred students.
- III. That the school boards agree that the amount of tuition to be charged any transfer student shall be \$ _____.
- IV. That the terms of this agreement shall be spread upon the minutes of both of the affected school boards.

UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED this the _____ day of _____, 20__.

SCHOOL BOARD

SCHOOL BOARD

PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT

VICE-PRESIDENT

VICE-PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

SECRETARY

BOARD MEMBER

BOARD MEMBER

BOARD MEMBER

BOARD MEMBER

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JFABA	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Nonresident Tuition Charges	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i> March 4, 2003

The George County School District Board of Education shall annually set the tuition to be charged legally transferred out-of-district students. The nonresident fee is \$450 for the first child and \$200 for siblings. Effective with the 2003-04 the fee is due on or before the beginning of school. A student that is enrolled in the George County School District and moves out of the county at one-half of the school year, may pay one-half of the tuition charge to complete the present school year. Any student living out of district enrolling one-half of the school year in the George County School District will pay the full amount—no prorating.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JFABB	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Assignment Of Pupils	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i> March 4, 2003 March 2, 2004

In the event a district school is identified for school improvement, corrective action or restructuring under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), the district shall, no later than the first day of the school year following such identification, provide all students enrolled in the school the option to transfer to a safe district school meeting adequate yearly progress standards as defined by law. Transfer priority will be given to the lowest achieving students from low income families. A transferring student will be permitted to remain in the school until he/she completes the highest grade in that school.

A student who becomes a victim of a violent criminal offense, as determined by state law, while in or on the grounds of a school the student attends, or any student attending a district school that is identified by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) as persistently dangerous, may transfer to a safe district school that has not been identified as in need of improvement.

The district will provide transportation, as provided by Board policy EEAD, Student Transportation. That obligation will end at the completion of the school year for students transferring from a school identified for improvement or as persistently dangerous, if the school from which the student has transferred is no longer identified for improvement, subject to corrective action or restructuring or persistently dangerous.

Notice to parents of their right to request the transfer of their student as provided by this policy will be provided as required by law.

The Board recognizes there may be circumstances that arise under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, when it is necessary to release a student who resides within the boundaries of the district to attend school in another district that agrees to accept the student. Interdistrict transfers of resident students for other purposes may be permitted, subject to criteria established by the district.

LEGAL REF.: P.L. 107-110 No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JFABC	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Admission of Students from Non-Accredited or Home School Programs	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

Any transfer student from a school or program (correspondence, tutorial, or home study) not accredited by a regional or state agency is given either a standardized achievement test(s) or teacher-made special subject test(s) to determine the appropriate classification of the student in the George County Schools. MS Code §37-15-33

The superintendent or principal shall ensure that each pupil applying for transfer shall be tested within 30 days after the filing of such application for transfer. Notice of the administering of such test(s) shall be given to the applicant not less than five days prior to the date of the administration of such test.

All students seeking to transfer from any school, public or private, within or outside of the boundaries of the State of Mississippi, to a public school within the state may be required to take a test to determine the grade and class to which the pupil shall be assigned at the time of pupil transfer.

The administrative head of each public school shall administer the test or tests to such pupil or pupils as shall apply for transfer to such public school. Such test or tests shall be administered within 30 days after the filing of each such application for transfer. Notice of the giving of such test shall be given the applicant not less than five days prior to the date of administration of such test.

No transfer of a pupil shall be effected until the test has been given and the pupil is assigned according to the grade and class for which the test shows he is best suited. No pupil shall be assigned to a grade and class more than three grades above or below the grade or class that the pupil would have been assigned to had the pupil remained in the school from which the transfer is being made. Pending the administration of the test herein provided for and its grading and an assignment based thereon the superintendent of the school district or the attendance center principal to which the pupil seeks admission may assign the pupil temporarily to a grade and class comparable to that in which the pupil would have been had the pupil continued in the school from which the transfer was being made. MS Code §37-15-33 See also Policy JF, Policy JFAA, and Policy JG.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JFABC—R	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Admission of Students from Non-Accredited or Home School Programs — Regulations	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The parent of any student who is home schooled or who attends a non-accredited school seeking to enroll in the George County School District must comply with the following regulations:

- 1. Verification of School Attendance Officer (Home School Program)**
Provide the school documentation that the school attendance officer approved the home schooling program.
- 2. Re-Enrollment at Beginning of Semester/Course**
Elementary. Complete the semester/course test at 70 per cent competency or higher for each course for the semester/year or placement will be determined by a national standardized test using grade-equivalent scores if enrollment is at the beginning of a semester or school year. If a semester exam is not administered, the student must take the nine-week exams.
Secondary. Complete the semester/course exam at 70 per cent competency or higher for each course for which credit is awarded.

3. **Re-Enrollment During the School Year.**

If enrollment is during the semester, grading period tests will be used to determine competency in material included in the regular school program.

4. **Course Requirements**

Show documentation of major course requirements in each course for which instruction is being verified, e.g., book reports, research paper, etc. If credit is requested for a laboratory course, i.e., biology, chemistry, home economics, typing, art, etc., documentation of products must be provided.

5. **Portfolio of Student's Work**

Provide a portfolio of a sample of the student's work in each course for which verification of the quality of course work is requested.

6. **Computing Grade Average**

The grade recorded will be the grade earned on the district's test(s) for each subject. This grade average will be used to compute final grades in the course for the year. (The parent/guardian assumes the responsibility for providing the child with appropriate grade-level instruction when home schooling placement is made.) If it is been determined that the student has not demonstrated competency on course objectives as measured by the appropriate instrument(s), the student will, in all probability, have to repeat the grade-level at elementary school and specific subjects at the secondary school level.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JFABD	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Admission of Homeless Students	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

It shall be the policy of the George County School District to comply with PL 101-645—Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendment Act of 1990.

All homeless children and youth, as defined in federal legislation, seeking admission in the school district shall be afforded educational and supportive services—for which they meet eligibility criteria—in an environment and manner that does not stigmatize, isolate, label or penalize the child, youth or family for being homeless, including, but not limited to, compensatory education programs for the disadvantaged, migrant services, educational programs for the handicapped and for students with limited English proficiency, programs in vocational-technical education, and programs for the gifted, creative and talented. Additionally, supportive services shall include, but not limited to, transportation, child nutrition, tutorial services, counseling services, health services, extra-curricular programs, and immunization requirements as required by MS Code §37-7-301(i) and §41-23-37.

The permanent and cumulative records for homeless children and youth will contain the same data as required of all other students. Records will be maintained and disseminated in compliance with MS Code §37-3-49, §37-15-1 through §37-15-3 and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (PL 93-380).

The superintendent, or designee, shall designate a staff person as the liaison who will resolve disputes regarding enrollment and placement, and will provide training to school personnel and the community to promote awareness and sensitivity of homelessness.

The superintendent is directed to develop administrative guidelines necessary to implement this policy. PL 100-117 and PL 101-645—Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1990 as amended, PL 93-380—Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, MS Code §37-13-91, §37-15-1 through §37-15-3, §37-15-9, §37-15-13 through §37-15-21, §37-15-29, §37-15-31, §37-19-27, §37-7-301 (h)(i), and §41-23-37

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JFABD—R	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Admission of Homeless Students— Regulations	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

To be in compliance with PL 101-645—Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendment Act of 1990-the following regulations are to be implemented.

A homeless individual is defined as one who (1) lacks a fixed, regular and adequate residence of (2) has a primary nighttime residence in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter for temporary accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill), an institution providing temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. §103(a)(1)(2) of the Act.

Using this definition, in addition to residence in homeless shelters and on the streets the following children would also be considered homeless:

1. Children who are temporarily staying with relatives or friends (temporarily means homelessness as a recent development related to loss of job, housing, or finances as opposed to living together for cultural or traditional reasons.
2. Agricultural migrant children—children who typically do not remain in one location for more than two weeks.
3. Children who are in special shelters as a result of domestic violence when they may legally have a home but cannot live in it because of fear of harm are considered homeless.

The term "homeless" or "homeless individual" does not include any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained by an Act of Congress or a state law. §103 (c) of the Act. "Child" and "Youth" are defined as persons who, if they were children of residents of the state, would be entitled to a free public education. See Policy JBAC.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JFABE	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Admission of Foreign Exchange Students	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

It is the intent of the George County School District to participate in the foreign exchange program whereby students from foreign countries are allowed temporary enrollment in this school district to enhance cultural exchange. In order to facilitate placement of foreign exchange students in the school district, the following criteria will be considered by the building principal upon receipt of any such applications.

1. George County High School will accept no more than two foreign exchange students per school year.
2. The building principal prior to the start of the school year in which the student plans to attend must approve the applications for enrollment, and the application must be for the entire school year. The individual applications will be considered for selection in the order corresponding to the dates of the applications with the earliest application considered first.
3. Only placement agencies appearing on the NASSP list will be eligible to submit applications.
4. Each student application form will clearly indicate the English language proficiency of the student and state

the number of years (hours per week and number of weeks per year) devoted to the student of the English language. In cases when the student is temporarily enrolled but is unable to understand the English language as used in the classrooms, the school district reserves the right to rescind the temporary enrollment.

5. Since the intent of the foreign exchange student program is the cultural exchange between students of the United States and students of other nations, foreign exchange students should not enroll in the schools of this district expecting to receive a graduation diploma from this district. However, these students may earn Carnegie Units* for the courses taken while they are enrolled in the schools of this district if they score a passing grade in the courses. Also, foreign exchange students will be expected to meet the same enrollment deadlines as regular district students.
6. All applicants and/or agencies applying for enrollment and admission will be individually responsible to insure that all requirements of the Immigration and Naturalization Service are met.
7. All applications will have attached a resume of the host family with whom the student will be living during the school year. The resume will contain the names and ages of all members of the host family, address, and telephone numbers where the host family adults may be reached during and after school hours.

*Carnegie Unit: A standard measure of high school work indicating the minimum amount of time that instruction in a subject has been provided. Awarding of a Carnegie Unit indicates that the district has provided the equivalent of five 50-minute periods per week in regular and laboratory classes over a school year for a total of 145 hours.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i>	<i>Approved</i>
Assignment of Students to Classes and Grade Levels	JG	November 2002
	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

Classroom assignments shall be the sole responsibility of school principals. Assignments are to be made in a non-discriminatory manner and in compliance with state and federal laws, regulations, and court decisions.

Dependent school-age children whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are school employees, certified and classified, may, at the employee's discretion, enroll and attend the school of their parent's or legal guardian's choice, regardless of the residence of the child, provided that the school is grade-level appropriate or provides the specialized education program required by the child. The parent or legal guardian must petition, in writing, the superintendent and must assume the responsibility for transporting their children to and from school, provided that regular school bus transportation is not available. See also Policy JCA, Policy JF, Policy JFAA, and Policy JFABC.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JH	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Student Absences and Excuses	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

Good attendance with a minimum of tardiness and absenteeism is essential if students are to gain maximum benefit from the instructional program and attain high academic achievement. The George County School District Board of Education directs the superintendent to develop administrative rules governing tardiness and absences (excused and non-excused). Such rules shall be based on the “Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law” MS Code §37-13-91 and shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, expectations for good student attendance, parent responsibility, absentee limits, excused and unexcused absences, and tardiness.

Absences due to illness, participation in school activities, or by order of the court are considered excused; all other absences are unexcused. No student, if absent from class that day, unless previously excused by the principal, will be permitted to take part in any school-sponsored extra-curricular program or practice.

The school shall not participate in activities that require any student to miss more than 20 class periods nor more than five planned absences in the same class in courses for which grades and/or units of credit are issued during the school year. The building-level administrator shall develop procedures to monitor activities, events, field-trips, etc., which might violate the minimum number of hours of instruction a student should receive in any given subject.

The rules shall specify that no absence will be excused when it is due to suspension, expulsion or other disciplinary action. MS Code §37-13-91 (4) However, to avoid adopting a policy or administrative rule that would ensure a student’s failure, the district may permit or require suspended students who are not immediately placed in an alternative school program to make up work within specified deadlines.

The school district shall implement procedures for monitoring and reporting student absences as specified in the Mississippi Compulsory Attendance Law. MS Code §37-13-91

The school district shall implement programs designed to keep students in school and to lower student dropout rates. MS Code §37-3-46(c)

Rules developed under this policy shall be presented to the board for annual approval and published in the student/parent handbooks.

According to a 1998 Attorney General Opinion, automatic fail provision of an absentee policy may not apply against legal, excused absences. Such absences policies may not be applied against absences resulting from disciplinary suspensions if absences policies are applied to truant children who are otherwise passing, the district must afford the child procedural due process. *Attorney General Opinion, Carter, 1-9-98) (#183) (97-0817)* See also Policy CBC, Policy IE, Policy JEA, Policy JCAC, Policy JJ, and Policy JHB.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JHB	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Truancy	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

A "truant" is a student who is absent without a valid excuse as identified in Policy JEA. "Truancy" also includes absence without permission from any class, study hall or school-related activity for which a student is scheduled during the school day.

Disciplinary action shall be taken against students who are truant. Continued truancy may lead to academic failure, placement in the alternative school program and/or suspension or expulsion from the regular and/or alternative school programs. Reports of truancy shall be made in accordance with the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law and Policy JEA. See also Policy JEA, Policy JHBB, Policy JHBBB, and Policy JCAC.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JHBA	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Attendance Officer	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The superintendent and principals of the George County School District shall cooperate with the school attendance officer employed by the State Department of Education, pursuant to MS Code §37-13-85. Attendance officers shall be subject to fingerprinting and background checks as are applicable to employees of the George County School District. See Policy GBN.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JHBB	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Attendance Monitoring/Accounting	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The George County School District implements procedures for monitoring and reporting student absences as specified in the Mississippi Compulsory Attendance Law. MS Code §37-13-91

If a compulsory school-age child has not been enrolled in school within 15 calendar days after the first day of the school year or if a child has accumulated five unlawful absences during the school year, the superintendent shall, within two school days or within five calendar days, whichever is less, report, on the form provided by the Mississippi Department of Education, the absences to the school attendance officer. The superintendent, or

his/her designee, shall report any student suspensions or student expulsions to the school attendance officer when they occur. MS Code §37-13-91 (6)

The school district shall maintain accurate records documenting enrollment and attendance in a manner that allows the Mississippi Department of Education to make an assessment of changes in enrollment and attendance, including dropout rates.

The Mississippi Department of Education shall compile an annual statewide report on the school district's effectiveness in reducing absentee problems, dropout rates, and other attendance-related problems during the previous school year, incorporate the information into the annual Mississippi Report Card required by MS Code §37-3-53 (1972) on school district performance and offer technical assistance and coordination services to assist districts in improving performance. See Policy AE, Policy CL, Policy JIA, and Policy CM.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i>	<i>Approved</i>
Student Due Process Rights	JIA	November 2002
	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

A student who has been suspended or expelled from the George County School District or otherwise denied admission to attend school has the right to due process. All aspects, circumstances and records of the student's case shall be confidential and available only to authorized school officials dealing directly with the student or to the student's parents, legal guardians or attorneys for the student or for the board. The following procedures provide notice and opportunity to be heard in such matters.

STEP ONE: INITIAL INFORMAL HEARING

Applies to: Suspensions of 10 days or less
Suspensions of 11 days or more
Recommendations of Expulsions
Denials of admission

- A. An initial informal hearing is required in each case where disciplinary action may be taken against a student and where an expelled student makes application of readmission following the conclusion of the expulsion period. After an initial investigation appropriate under the circumstances, the principal, superintendent or designee shall:
1. Advise the student of the charges against him/her or reasons for non-admission;
 2. Afford the student a full opportunity to respond; and
 3. If the student denies the charges or contests the reasons for non-admission, explain the evidence in support thereof.
- B. After the informal hearing, the principal may take the following actions:
1. **Suspension of 10 Days or Less**
The principal may issue to the student and legal guardian a notice of suspension not longer than 10 consecutive school days. The suspension is effective immediately and no further due process is required.
 2. **Immediate Removal**
The principal may immediately dismiss the student from school for the day when such is necessary to restore order, to protect the safety of the student or others and/or to resume normal school functions but when an immediate suspension is not or may not be appropriate. A student sent home under these circumstances shall be instructed to return the following day with his/her legal guardian. Should the student not return as instructed, the principal shall mail a "Notice of Suspension" for 10 days or less, as appropriate.
 3. **Immediate Suspension and Recommendation of Expulsion**
The principal shall immediately suspend a student for 10 days or less and recommend expulsion when there is reason to believe that the student committed an unlawful or violent act, as defined or otherwise

provided by district policy. The suspension shall be effective immediately, pending conclusion of due process on the recommendation of expulsion.

4. **Immediate Suspension and Recommendation of Suspension of 11 Days or More/Expulsion**

The principal may immediately suspend a student for 10 days or less and recommend a suspension of 11 days or more or expulsion, as appropriate under the circumstances. The suspension shall be effective immediately, pending the conclusion of due process on the recommendation of long-term suspension or expulsion.

5. **Denial of Admission**

The principal may recommend a denial of admission that shall be effective immediately, pending the conclusion of due process.

STEP TWO: APPEAL

Applies to: Suspensions of 11 days or more
Expulsions
Denials of admission

If after the initial hearing the principal or superintendent determines that a recommendation of suspension for 11 days or more, expulsion or other denial of admission is the appropriate disciplinary action:

1. The principal shall give the student a written "Notice of Suspension and Recommendation of Expulsion/Non-admission and Statement of Rights" in a form provided by the superintendent for such purposes.
2. The notice shall contain a statement of the charges/reasons, advise the student of his/her rights to legal counsel, to present witnesses and to cross-examine witnesses presented against him/her and state the date, time and place for hearing. A copy of the notice will be hand-delivered to the student when possible and the original hand-delivered or mailed to the legal guardian.
3. A hearing before the School Discipline Appeals Committee shall automatically be scheduled no later than the tenth school day following the date of notice.
4. Pending the outcome of the hearing before the School Discipline Appeals Committee:
 - a. The student may be offered temporary placement in the alternative school program when the appropriate school personnel verify the student's suitability for such program and, in such case, the hearing before the School Discipline Appeals Committee may be held at any appropriate time without application of the 10-day limitation. However, the district may not offer temporary placement when the offense upon which the action is based is gang or group-related fighting, violation of prohibitions against weapons or controlled substances, assault of a staff member or other unlawful or violent act.
 - b. The student may be allowed to remain in school if the principal or, in the case of non-admission, the superintendent determines that his/her continued presence is not detrimental to the normal functioning of the school program and, in such case, the hearing before the School Discipline Appeals Committee may be held at any appropriate time without application of the 10-day limitation.
 - c. The hearing will be before the School Discipline Appeals Committee:
 - i. The committee shall be composed of three or more school administrators, counselors, or social workers, none of whom may be on the staff of the school from which the student is enrolled. One of the three must be the same race as the student, if possible. At least two must be administrators.
 - ii. The superintendent's designee will serve as the investigator, convener and administrative officer of the committee but shall not vote.
 - d. The committee shall hear and consider all cases presented and is authorized to:
 - i. To concur or not concur in the suspension, expulsion or non-admission recommendation;
 - ii. To confirm or specify the duration of a suspension of 11 days or more, to remove the suspension or expulsion or to recommend admission; and
 - iii. Subject to review and approval of the superintendent, to recommend limited or unlimited expulsion or non-admission to the board.
 - iv. The committee shall prepare a written summary of each case.
 - e. All expulsion and non-admission recommendations shall be subject to review by the superintendent and by the board.
 - f. After completing this appeal step, a parent, legal guardian or custodian aggrieved by a decision to

suspend his/her child may request review of the decision by the board. A request for review must be submitted to the board within two days after receiving a decision at this appeal step.

STEP THREE: REVIEW BY THE BOARD

Applies to: Suspensions (only upon request by parents)
Expulsions
Denials of admission

The board shall, at its next regular or special meeting following the recommendation, review and take final action on all recommendations for expulsions, denial of admission and any requests for review of suspensions. All consideration of student disciplinary actions shall be conducted in accordance with standard board procedure. All decisions by the board shall be final. MS Code §37-9-71, §37-15-9 §37-13-92

According to a 1998 Attorney General Opinion, automatic fail provision of an absence policy may not apply against legal, excused absences. Such absences policies may not be applied against absences resulting from disciplinary suspensions if absences policies are applied to truant children who are otherwise passing, the district must afford the child procedural due process. *Attorney General Opinion, Carter, 1-9-98) (#183) (97-0817* See Also Policy JF, Policy JFAA, Policy JCAC, Policy IHBA, Policy JEA, Policy JH, Policy JHBB, and Policy JK.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i>	<i>Approved</i>
Student Conduct—MS Safety Act 2001	JIC	November 2002
	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The Board of Education of the George County School District in full compliance with the Mississippi School Safety Act of 2001 directs that the superintendent, with input from staff, parents, and others, annually develop or revise a code of student conduct and discipline plan in compliance with law and that the code of conduct and discipline plan be presented to the board for approval. The board directs that the code of conduct and discipline plan be published and a copy provided to each student and their parents or guardians. For the purposes of the development and implementation of this policy:

1. The term “disruptive behavior” means conduct of a student that is so unruly, disruptive or abusive that it seriously interferes with a school teacher’s or school administrator’s ability to communicate with the students in a classroom, with a student’s ability to learn, or with the operation of a school or school-related activity, and which is not covered by other laws related to violence or possession of weapons or controlled substances on school property, school vehicles or at school-related activities. Such behaviors include, but are not limited to: foul, profane, obscene, threatening, defiant or abusive language or action toward teachers or other school employees; defiance, ridicule or verbal attack of a teacher; and willful, deliberate and overt acts of disobedience of the directions of a teacher; and
2. The term “habitually disruptive” refers to such actions of a student which cause disruption in a classroom, on school property or vehicles or at a school-related activity on more than two occasions during a school year, and to disruptive behavior that was initiated, willful and overt on the part of the student and which required the attention of school personnel to deal with the disruption. However, no student shall be considered to be habitually disruptive before the development of a behavior modification plan for the student in accordance with the code of student conduct and discipline plans of the school district.
3. Any student who 13 years of age or older for whom a behavior modification plan is developed by the school principal, reporting teacher and student’s parent and which student does not comply with the plan shall be deemed habitually disruptive and subject to automatic expulsion on the occurrence of the third act of disruptive behavior during a school year. After the second act of disruptive behavior during a school

year by a student who is younger than 13 years of age, a psychological evaluation shall be performed upon the child. See also Policy JK.

At the beginning of each school year, the George County School Board shall, upon the recommendation of the superintendent, adopt and make available to all teachers, school personnel, students and parents or guardians a code of student conduct developed in consultation with teachers, school personnel, students and parents or guardians. The code shall be based on the rules governing student conduct and discipline adopted by the school board and shall be made available at the school level in the student handbook or similar publication. The code shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Specific grounds for disciplinary action under the school district's discipline plan. See also Policy JICDA, Policy JK, and Policy JICDA.
2. Procedures to be followed for acts requiring discipline, including suspensions and expulsion, which comply with due process requirements. See also Policy JK, Policy JKD, and Policy JKE.
3. An explanation of the responsibilities and rights of students with regard to attendance, respect for persons and property, knowledge and observation of rules of conduct, free speech and student publications, assembly, privacy and participation in school programs and activities. See also Policy JH, See also Policy JI, Policy JICB, Policy JICE and Policy JICDA.
4. Policies and procedures recognizing the teacher as the authority in classroom matters, and supporting that teacher in any decision in compliance with the written discipline code of conduct; such recognition shall include the right of the teacher to remove from the classroom any student who, in the professional judgment of the teacher, is disrupting the learning environment, to the office of the principal or assistant principal. The principal or assistant principal shall determine the proper placement for the student, who may not be returned to the classroom until a conference of some kind has been held with the parent, guardian or custodian during which the disrupting behavior is discussed and agreements are reached that no further disruption will be tolerated. If the principal does not approve of the determination of the teacher to remove the student from the classroom, the student may not be removed from the classroom, and the principal, upon request from the teacher, must provide justification for his disapproval; (CR xxx-1)
5. Policies and procedures for dealing with a student who causes a disruption in the classroom, on school property or vehicles, or at school-related activities;
6. Procedures for the development of behavior modification plans by the school principal, reporting teacher and student's parent for a student who causes a disruption in the classroom, on school property or vehicles, or at school-related activities for a second time during the school year; (CR xxx-2)
7. Policies and procedures specifically concerning gang-related activities in the school, on school property or vehicles, or at school-related activities.(CR JICF)

To assure compliance with the act the board directs that:

1. A copy of the district's discipline plan be distributed to each student enrolled in the district and as mandated by state law the parents, guardian or custodian of each student shall be required to sign a statement verifying that they have been given notice of the discipline policies of the school district.
2. The district's official discipline plan and code of student conduct legally audited on an annual basis to insure that its policies and procedures are currently in compliance with applicable statutes, case law and state and federal constitutional provisions. As part of the first legal audit occurring after July 1, 2001, the school board attorney shall verify in writing that the provisions of the Mississippi School Safety Act of 2001 (Senate Bill 2239, 2001 Regular Session) are fully incorporated into the school district's discipline plan and code of student conduct.

As required by Mississippi Law the discipline plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school-age child enrolled in a public school district shall be responsible financially for his or her minor child's destructive acts against school property or persons. See also Policy JICB.
2. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school-age child enrolled in a public school district may be requested to appear at school by the school attendance officer or an appropriate school official for a

conference regarding acts of the child specified in this subsection, or for any other discipline conference regarding the acts of the child.

3. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school-age child enrolled in a school district who refuses or willfully fails to attend such discipline conference specified in this section may be summoned by proper notification by the superintendent or the school attendance officer and be required to attend such discipline conference.
4. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school-age child enrolled in a public school district shall be responsible for any criminal fines brought against such student for unlawful activity occurring on school grounds or buses.
5. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school-age child who (a) fails to attend a discipline conference to which such parent, guardian or custodian has been summoned under the provisions of this section, or (b) refuses or willfully fails to perform any other duties imposed upon him or her under the provisions of this section, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not to exceed \$250.
6. Any public school district shall be entitled to recover damages in an amount not to exceed \$20,000, plus necessary court costs, from the parents of any minor under the age of 18 years and over the age of six years, who maliciously and willfully damages or destroys property belonging to such school district. However, this paragraph does not apply to parents whose parental control of such child has been removed by court order or decree. The action authorized in this paragraph shall be in addition to all other actions which the school district is entitled to maintain and nothing in this section shall preclude recovery in a greater amount from the minor or from a person, including the parents, for damages to which such minor or other person would otherwise be liable.
7. The school district's discipline plan may provide that as an alternative to suspension, a student may remain in school by having the parent, guardian or custodian, with the consent of the student's teacher or teachers, attend class with the student for a period of time specifically agreed upon by the reporting teacher and school principal. If the parent, guardian or custodian does not agree to attend class with the student or fails to attend class with the student, the student shall be suspended in accordance with the code of student conduct and discipline policies of the school district See also Policy JK.

SCHOOL VIOLENCE/CRIMINAL ACT REPORTING FORM				
SECTION I: INITIAL REPORT			REPORT GOES TO: PRINCIPAL	
Reporting Party			Position	
School			District	
The following unlawful or violent act(s) has/have or may have occurred on school property or at a school-related activity:				
	Assault resulting in serious physical injury		Other violent act (action resulting in death or physical harm or attempt to cause death or physical harm to another.)	
	Assault involving use of weapon. Specify type of gun:		Rape	
	Assault on a school employee.		Sexual battery	
	Indecent liberties with a minor.		Other sexual offense	
	Possession of firearm or other weapon. Specify type of gun:		Murder	
	Possession, use, or sale of controlled substance.		Kidnapping	
Date of Incident			Time of Incident	
Alleged Perpetrator			STATUS	
Location of Incident			Employee	Student
Address (if known)			Parent	Visitor
Parent/Guardian		Phone	Other	
Signature of Reporting Party		Date	Time	
SECTION II. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT			GOES TO: LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY AND SUPERINTENDENT	
The undersigned principal has a reasonable belief that the above reported act(s) has/have occurred on school property or during a school-related activity.				
Law Enforcement Agency Notified		Date	Time	
Person Contacted				
Signature of Principal		Date	Time	
PART III: SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT OF STUDENT EXPULSION AND/OR CRIME			REPORT GOES TO: LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, YOUTH COURT, PARENT/GUARDIAN, SDE (IF GUN INVOLVED)	
	A. The above named was expelled from the George Co. School District on (Date) _____ 200__ for the unlawful or other violent act(s) as reported above.		B. The above named committed the crime of _____ on school property or during a school-related activity.	
Signature of Superintendent			Date	
Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority in and for the said county and state on the _____ day of _____, 200__, the superintendent named herein stated under oath that the above is true and correct.				
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY OF GEORGE				
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: _____ NOTARY PUBLIC: _____				

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JICA	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Student Dress	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The dress code shall be adopted by the George County School Board annually and published in the student handbook.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JICB	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Care of School Property by Students	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

If any student in the George County School District shall willfully destroy, cut, deface, damage or injure any school building, equipment or other school property, he/she shall be subject to suspension or expulsion and his/her parents, legal guardians or custodians shall be liable for all damages.

LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES

The district may institute legal proceedings against and recover damages provided by law from parents of minor students who maliciously and willfully damage or destroy school property. The discipline plan of each school shall contain a statement of parental responsibilities in this regard.

REPORTING VANDALISM

Citizens, students and law enforcement are urged by the George County School District Board of Education to cooperate in reporting any incidents of vandalism in district property and the name(s) of the person(s) believed to be responsible.

All district employees shall notify the principal of the school when they have knowledge that an act of vandalism has or may have occurred.

The principal shall notify the superintendent or his/her designee of all reports of vandalism. The superintendent is authorized to sign a criminal complaint and to press charges against perpetrators of vandalism against school property. He is further authorized to delegate authority to perform these functions. MS Code §37-11-19 and §37-11-53. See also JICDA and Policy JIKC.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JICC	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Student Conduct on School Buses	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

While Mississippi law requires the George County School District to furnish transportation to its eligible students, parents have the responsibility of supervising the students until they board the bus in the morning and after they leave the bus at the end of the school day. Furthermore, students have the responsibility to obey all rules of conduct while waiting for, riding and leaving the bus.

The school bus driver is authorized and responsible to the school district to maintain student order and to insure safety at all times. Therefore, he/she is authorized to instruct and otherwise control students while they are on the bus.

The principal and/or the district bus disciplinarian will be responsible for disciplining students reported to him/her by the driver. Questions and inquiries regarding discipline should be directed to the school principal. Questions and inquiries regarding stops, routes, and student eligibility must be directed to the director of transportation.

Emergency bus evacuation drills are conducted at least two times each year.

RULES OF CONDUCT

Students who do not conduct themselves properly will not be allowed to ride the bus. Students may be subjected to disciplinary action provided by district policies, including but not limited to suspension and expulsion from school or from the bus, for misconduct on the bus.

While riding a school bus, students must conform to all rules of conduct as established by the George County Board of Education and the student code of conduct. The principal shall provide to each student eligible to ride a bus a list of rules, including but not necessarily limited to the following:

Loading and Unloading

1. Be at your assigned loading zone on time.
2. Exercise extreme caution in getting to and from your assigned bus stop.
3. Look in both directions before stepping from behind parked cars.
4. Stay well off the roadway until the bus comes to a complete stop and the bus driver indicates that it is safe to board.
5. Do not play on or near the road while waiting for the bus to arrive.
6. Look in both directions before crossing any roadway.
7. Never walk on the road when there is a sidewalk or pathway.
8. Always walk on the left side of the road facing oncoming traffic and step off the road when a motor vehicle approaches.
9. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before trying to load and unload.
10. Use the handrail while getting on and off the bus.
11. If possible, wear white or light-colored clothing or carry a flashlight when you walk on the roadway at night in order that the motoring public might be aware of your presence.
12. When you must cross the road to enter the bus, or after leaving the bus, always cross in front of the bus and walk approximately 10 feet ahead of the bumper.

Riding the Bus

1. Do not distract the driver's attention other than when necessary.
2. Talk to your friends in a normal tone and do not shout. Do not talk or make unnecessary noise when the bus is approaching and crossing a railroad or a highway intersection.
3. Keep head, hands, and articles inside the bus.
4. Do not bring unauthorized articles on the bus (i.e., pets, combustibles, large articles, weapons).
5. Do not use profane language or make obscene gestures.
6. Do not fight or scuffle.
7. Be courteous to and follow the instructions of your bus driver and safety patrol.
8. Do not strike or threaten the bus driver.
9. Do not make excessive noise.
10. Do not throw objects inside or outside the bus.
11. Do not commit any other acts deemed improper by the student code of conduct or by the bus driver.
12. Student-to-student sexual harassment will not be tolerated. Complaints of student-to-student sexual harassment will be handled in accordance with Policy JICK.
13. Smoking or the use of tobacco is prohibited on the school bus and on all educational property. Violation of the no-tobacco rule will be handled in accordance with the "Mississippi Adult Tobacco Use on Educational Property Act of 2000." See also Policy ADC, Policy JICG, and Policy GBED.

MS Code §97-32-25 through §97-32-29 See also Policy EEAEC and Policy JICDA.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i>	<i>Approved</i>
Code of Conduct	JICDA	November 2002
	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The George County School District complies with state law and local board policy on student discipline. MS Code §37-7-301(e) (g), §37-9-14(r)(w)(x), and §37-11-18 through 23, 29-35, 53-57SB

The disciplinary policy includes a code of student conduct developed in consultation with teachers, school personnel, students, and parents or guardians and is based on the rules governing discipline and student conduct adopted by the board. The code of conduct includes specific grounds for disciplinary action, procedures to be followed for acts requiring discipline, and an explanation of specific responsibilities and rights of students as citizens of the school district.

The superintendent shall establish and the board shall adopt a code of student conduct that shall be provided to all teachers, school personnel, students and parents, legal guardians or custodians at the beginning of each school year. The superintendent shall develop the code of conduct in consultation with principals, teachers, school personnel, students and parents, legal guardians or custodians.

1. Specific grounds for disciplinary action;
2. Procedures to be followed for acts requiring discipline; and
3. Explanations of the rights and responsibilities of students with regard to:
 - a. Attendance;
 - b. Respect for persons and property;
 - c. Knowledge and observation of rules of conduct;
 - d. The right to learn;
 - e. Free speech and student publications;
 - f. Assembly;
 - g. Privacy; and
 - h. Participation in school programs and activities. *Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education*, 119 S. Ct. 1661 (1999)

The Code of Conduct shall be approved by the board and published annually in student and faculty handbooks and discussed with students, faculty, and parents as appropriate. See also Policy AC, Policy ADC, Policy GBAA, Policy JB, Policy JBAA, Policy JBAB, Policy JK, and Policy JLI.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JICE	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Student Publications	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The Board of Education of the George County School District encourages the student publication of a newspaper, yearbook, and journalistic writing. While encouraging student publications, the board recognizes that certain parameters must be established.

1. Student publications must serve an instructional purpose.
2. The superintendent, or designee, is directed to develop appropriate guidelines regarding such publications.
3. Student publications shall adhere to the normal rules for responsible journalism (the avoidance of libel, obscenity, defamation, false statements, or material advocating racial, sexual, or religious prejudice; material which advocates the breaking of any laws; ads for cigarettes, liquor, or any other product not permitted teenagers; or any material, the publication of which would cause substantial disruption of the school).
3. The building principal shall designate a member of the school's faculty to serve as the sponsor/advisor for any and all student publications.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JICF	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Secret Societies/Gang Activity	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

SECRET SOCIETIES

It shall be unlawful for any pupil attending the George County School District to become a member of or to belong to or participate in the activities of any high school fraternity, sorority, or secret society as defined in MS Code §37-11-37.

The George County School District Board of Education prohibits fraternities, sororities, or secret societies in all schools under its jurisdiction. It shall be the duty of said school board to suspend or expel from high schools under its control, any pupil or pupils who shall be or remain a member of or shall join or promise to join, or be pledged to become a member of, any fraternity, sorority or secret society, as defined in MS Code §37-11-37.

It shall be unlawful for any person not enrolled in high school to solicit any pupil enrolled in school, to join or pledge himself or herself to become a member of any school fraternity, sorority, or secret society, or to solicit any pupil to attend a meeting thereof or any meeting where the joining of any such high school fraternity, sorority, or secret organization shall be encouraged. Any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less \$25 nor more than \$100 for each and every offense.

Student behavior that harasses or threatens other students or school personnel will not be tolerated. The George County School District shall treat hazing, as defined in MS Code §97-3-105 and stalking, and as defined in MS Code §97-3-107, as serious offenses subject to criminal prosecution. MS Code §37-11-37 through 45; §97-3-105 & 107

GANG ACTIVITY

The George County School District is committed to maintaining a safe school environment for its students and staffs. Students are expected to adhere to the school and district standards of conduct that promote wellbeing and support the learning process. Gang activity will not be tolerated in any form. Where gang activity is suspected or confirmed a complaint will be filed in accordance with the “Mississippi Streetgang Act” MS Code §97-44-1 *et seq.* See also Policy JICDA and Policy JICK.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JICG	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Tobacco Use by Students	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The act known and cited as “Mississippi Adult Tobacco Use on Educational Property Act of 2000” prohibits the possession or use of tobacco by students on school property or at school-related events.

DEFINITIONS

1. Adult: any natural person at least 18 years old.
2. Minor: any natural person under the age of 18 years old.
3. Person: any natural person.
4. Tobacco product: any substance that contains tobacco, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, snuff, smoking tobacco or smokeless tobacco.
5. Educational property: any public school building or bus, public school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used or operated by any local school board, school, or directors for the administration of any public educational institution or during a school-related activity; provided, however, that the term “educational property” shall not include any sixteenth section school land or lieu land on which is not located a public school building, public school campus, public school recreational area or public school athletic field. Educational property shall not include property owned or operated by the state institutions of higher learning, the public community and junior colleges, or vocational-technical complexes where only adult students are in attendance

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION

No person shall use any tobacco product on any educational property as defined in this act. Any adult who violates this section shall be subject to a fine and shall be liable as follows:

1. For the first conviction, a warning;
2. For a second conviction, a fine of \$75; and
3. For all subsequent convictions, a fine not to exceed \$150 shall be imposed. MS Code §97-32-25 - §97-32-29 (2000)

See also Policy ADC, Policy EBABA, Policy GBED, and Policy JICC.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JICH	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Drug and Alcohol Use by Students	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i> August 5, 2003

Students in the George County School District Students are absolutely prohibited from carrying, possessing in any manner, using or selling any controlled substance.

The provisions of this policy shall not apply to any student who is taking prescription medications under a licensed physician's supervision and direction according to Policy JLCD.

The provisions of this policy shall apply to all students during all of the period of time that they are under and subject to the jurisdiction of this school district, while participating in or going to or from any school-related activity, while under the supervision and direction of any teacher, principal or other authority of this school district or when such conduct does or may threaten to interfere with or disrupt the educational process or pose a threat to the safety of the student or others.

Any student violating any of the provisions of this policy shall be suspended for ten (10) days and placed in the alternative school for a minimum of forty-five (45) days. A second violation will result in a recommendation for expulsion for up to a calendar year. The suspension shall be effective immediately subject to the procedures of due process as stated in Policy JIA. In the event of violation of this policy, all reporting requirements of Policy JIA shall be applicable.

This policy is for the discipline and protection of the students of this school district and their general welfare. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to avoid any prosecution under any pertinent criminal statute of the State of Mississippi. MS Code §37-11-18 and §41-29-101 *et seq.* See Policy ADB.

See also Policy JIA, Policy JICK, Policy JICKA, Policy JLCD, Policy JICH, Policy JIHA, Policy JICAA, Policy JIA, Policy JK, Policy JRH, and Policy JLDAC.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JICI	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Weapons in School/Gun-Free Schools	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i> March 2, 2004

WEAPONS

No student, employee or visitor may possess a weapon in, on or about school buildings, grounds, athletic fields or any other property used for school-related purposes, except as permitted by law

DEFINITION OF PROHIBITED WEAPONS

Prohibited weapons include, but may not be limited to, the following:

1. Gun, rifle, pistol, other firearm
2. Dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine or other explosive
3. BB gun, air rifle, air pistol
4. Bowie knife, dirk, dagger, switchblade, pocketknife or other knife
5. Slingshot
6. Lead cane, blackjack
7. Metallic or other artificial knuckles
8. Razors, razor blades
9. Any sharp-pointed or edged instrument (except instructional supplies, unaltered nail files and clips and tools used only to prepare food or for instruction and maintenance of school property)
10. Any instrument having the effect or appearance of a weapon (including utensils, imitation firearms or knives, etc.)

PERMITTED USES

The superintendent or principal, as appropriate and in his/her discretion, may give prior approval for weapons to be on or about campus under the following circumstances:

1. Students and employees may possess weapons on school grounds only when the weapons are used for valid educational purposes or school-sanctioned ceremonies.
2. Law enforcement officers and other government officials may carry weapons onto school grounds as permitted by law.

PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS

Any person violating this policy may be subject to criminal action and penalties as provided in MS §97-37-17.

1. Any student who violates this policy will be suspended and recommended for expulsion.
2. Any employee who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.
3. Any visitor who violates this policy will be asked to leave school property immediately and further action, including but not limited to filing criminal charges, shall be taken as necessary.

REPORTING VIOLATIONS

Violations of this policy shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement officials.

NOTICE

A copy of Miss. Code Ann. §97-37-17 shall be posted in public view at each school in the district. MS Code §97-37-17 (1995) See also Policies JICK, Policy JIH, and Policy JIHA.

GUN-FREE SCHOOLS

Any student who possesses a knife, handgun, other firearm or any other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm or who commits a violent act on school property as defined in MS Code §97-37-17 (1972) shall be subject to automatic expulsion by the superintendent or principal of the school in which the student is enrolled. Such expulsion shall take effect immediately subject to the constitutional rights

of due process, which shall include the student's right to appeal to the George County School District Board of Education.

As required under the No Child Left Behind Act, the term firearm includes, but is not limited to, any weapon designed to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, a muffler or silencer for such a weapon, or destructive device. The term destructive device means any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine, or device similar to any of the devices described herein.

FIREARMS PROHIBITED

No student is permitted to bring a firearm on school property. The school district may use video camera equipment for the purpose of monitoring school disciplinary problems.

The George County School District Board of Education authorizes a reward of up to \$500 to any person who provides information that leads to the confiscation by the school district or by a law enforcement agency of any illegal firearm on school property. The name of any person who provides such information leading to the confiscation of an illegal firearm shall remain confidential. The superintendent is charged with the responsibility of insuring that procedures are in place to maintain such confidentiality. House Bill 1236 (1997); §37-3-84 (1997)

DEFINITIONS

A "firearm" means any type of weapon, including a starter gun, which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; any destructive device, including any explosive, incendiary, poison gas, bomb, grenade, rocket, missile, mine or other similar device; and any type of weapon; any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described above and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled; or as otherwise defined by federal law.

"School property" includes any school building, bus, campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field or other property owned, used or operated by the district.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The penalty for bringing a firearm on school property shall be expulsion from the school program and all of its activities for a minimum period of one calendar year.

Any student who is charged with bringing a firearm on school property shall be automatically suspended for 10 days and recommended for expulsion for a minimum period of one calendar year by the principal. The suspension shall take effect immediately following the provision of initial due process and pending the conclusion of due process on the recommendation of expulsion, all in accordance district policies.

The superintendent who receives a recommendation for expulsion may determine, based upon the particular circumstances of a given case, that other disciplinary action or alternative placement is appropriate and may make such recommendation to the board.

RE-ADMISSION

A student who is expelled for bringing a firearm on school property must apply for readmission to the regular school program. Re-admission may be granted by the board upon a documented showing that the student has participated in successful rehabilitative efforts including but not limited to progress in an alternative school or similar program.

REPORTING

Violations of the firearm prohibition stated in this policy shall be reported in accordance with Policies JICK. The superintendent is hereby authorized to purchase, install and utilize metal detecting devices to enforce this policy.

Students who violate this policy shall be afforded all due process rights and procedures provided by any and all policies of the school district. However, suspensions awarded by the provisions of this policy shall not be

delayed or postponed because of tests and/or examinations.

The school district may use video camera equipment for the purpose of monitoring school disciplinary problems. This school board authorizes a reward of up to \$500 to any person who provides information that leads to the confiscation by the school district or by a law enforcement agency of any illegal firearm on school property. The name of any person who provides such information leading to the confiscation of an illegal firearm shall remain confidential. The superintendent is charged with the responsibility of insuring that procedures are in place to maintain such confidentiality. MS Code §37-3-84 (1997)

MS Code §37-3-83 (1997); §37-11-18 (1996); §97-37-17 (1995) See also Policy JICK, Policy JCAC, and Policy ECAE.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JICJ	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Use of Beepers/Cell Phones in School	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i> 5/1/07, 8/2/07, 4/2/09

The Board of Education of the George County School District prohibits the use of beepers or cell phones by teachers or students at school or on school property during school hours.

There shall be a Zero Tolerance for students with cell phones beginning in the 2007-2008 school year. On the First Offense, the cell phone will be taken and returned after 90 calendar days. After the First Offense, the Cell phones will be returned to students one calendar year from the date taken or 30 days after the student leaves the school. A \$25 holding charge will be paid for the return of the phone.

Cell Phone Policy punishment is as follows:

First OffenseTake the phone (including SIM cards, video cards, batteries, etc.) for 90 calendar days.

Second Offense....Take the phone for a calendar year and 3 Days ISI

Third Offense.....Take the phone for a calendar year and 3 Days OSI

Fourth Offense.....Take the phone for a calendar year and 45 days Alternative School.

Refusal to surrender phone would advance student to fourth offense.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JICK	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Student Crime and Violence/Sexual Harassment	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

Any unlawful or violent act is absolutely prohibited on school property or during school-related activities.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

A student shall be subject to automatic suspension and recommendation of expulsion by the superintendent or principal when there exists reasonable grounds to believe that a student has committed an unlawful or violent act on school property, during school-related activities or otherwise when the commission of the unlawful or violent act has or threatens a disruptive effect on the educational process or threatens the safety of the student or others. Such suspension pending expulsion shall take effect immediately subject to the procedures of due process stated in Policy JIA.

Any student who possesses any controlled substance, a knife, handgun, other firearm or any other instrument

considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm or who commits a violent act on school property shall be subject to automatic expulsion by the superintendent or principal of the school in which the student is enrolled. Such expulsion shall take effect immediately subject to the constitutional rights of due process, which shall include the student's right to appeal to the local school board.

REPORTING

All school employees shall report unlawful activities including sexual misconduct and violent acts. Failure to report shall constitute grounds for dismissal. The district will hold harmless any employee who make such a report in good faith.

DEFINITIONS

An "unlawful activity" means any of the following:

1. Possession or use of a deadly weapon;
2. Possession, sale or use of any controlled substance;
3. Aggravated assault;
4. Simple assault upon any school employee;
5. Rape;
6. Sexual battery;
7. Murder;
8. Kidnapping;
9. Fondling, touching, handling, etc. of a child for lustful purposes;
10. Any violent act.

A "violent act" is one that results in or is an attempt to cause death or physical harm of another person.

"School property" includes any school building, bus, campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field or other property owned, used or operated by the district.

DISRUPTION TO THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS

The superintendent and principal of a school shall have the power to suspend a pupil for good cause, including misconduct in the school or on school property, as defined in MS Code §37-11-29, on the road to and from school, or at any school-related activity or event, or for conduct occurring on property other than school property or other than at a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil, in the determination of the superintendent or principal, renders that pupil's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole, or for any reason for which such pupil might be suspended, dismissed, or expelled by the school board under state or federal law or any rule, regulation or policy of the local school district. However, such action of the superintendent or principal shall be subject to review by and approval or disapproval of the school board. If the parent, guardian or other person having custody of any child shall feel aggrieved by the suspension or dismissal of that child, then such parent, guardian or other person shall have the right to a due process hearing.

The parent or guardian of the child shall be advised of this right to a hearing by the appropriate superintendent or principal and the proper form shall be provided for requesting such a hearing. MS Code §37-9-71 (2000)

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT/HARASSMENT PROHIBITED

Sexual misconduct/harassment is dealt with in the George County School District through Policy GBEBB.

MS Code §37-11-18; §37-11-29 (6); §43-21-605 (4); §37-9-71 See also Policy EB Policy ECA, Policy ECAE, Policy JBA, Policy JICKA, and Policy JBAB.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JICKA	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Reporting of Unlawful or Violent Acts	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

Employees of the George County School District shall comply with all requirements imposed by law with regard to reporting unlawful or violent acts that have or may have occurred on school property or during school related activities or for which students have been expelled. The following reports shall be made in accordance with the law and with Policy JICKA.

NOTIFICATION TO PRINCIPAL

Any school employee shall notify his/her principal immediately upon obtaining knowledge that one of the following unlawful activities or a violent act has or may have occurred on school property or during a school-related activity:

1. Aggravated assault, including but not limited to
 - a. Assault resulting in serious physical injury or
 - b. Assault involving use of weapon;
2. Assault on a school employee, simple or aggravated;
3. Indecent liberties with a minor;
4. Possession of a firearm or other weapon;
5. Possession, use or sale of any controlled substance;
6. Rape;
7. Sexual battery;
8. Other sexual offense;
9. Murder or other homicide;
10. Kidnapping; or
11. Other violent act.

When an emergency situation exists and the principal is not available for immediate notification, the employee shall immediately notify the appropriate law enforcement agency and, as soon as possible thereafter, shall notify the principal or other school administrator.

NOTIFICATION TO SUPERINTENDENT

A principal receiving an employee's report or having personal knowledge of such acts shall immediately notify the superintendent or his/her designee and the school board attorney. See Policy GBEBB.

NOTIFICATION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

A principal shall orally notify the appropriate law enforcement agency when he has a reasonable belief that one of the above-stated acts has occurred and shall thereafter notify the appropriate local law enforcement agency in writing.

NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS, YOUTH COURT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

The superintendent shall notify the parents/legal guardians, the youth court and appropriate local law enforcement agency when a student is expelled because of unlawful or violent activity.

The superintendent shall notify the parents/legal guardians, youth court and appropriate local law enforcement agency when a crime has been committed by a student on school property or during a school-related event.

NOTIFICATION TO DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The superintendent or principal shall notify the district attorney of an accusation of fondling or sexual involvement with a minor student (under 18) by a school employee (18 or older) upon determination that there is a reasonable basis to believe that the accusation is true. See Policy GBEBB.

DEFINITIONS

1. "School property" means any school building, bus, campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used or operated by the district.
2. A "violent act" means any action that results in death or physical harm to another or an attempt to cause death or physical harm to another.
3. The "appropriate law enforcement agency" is the agency with jurisdiction in the place where the unlawful activity or violent act occurs.
4. The "appropriate local law enforcement agency" is the George County Sheriff's Department and/or the Lucedale Police Department.
5. The crimes that must be reported are defined by the applicable Mississippi law.

MS Code §37-11-29; §37-9-14(2)(w) and (x); §43-21-605(4) See Policies JICK, JICDA, JICC, and EEAEC.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JICKA—P	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Reporting of Unlawful or Violent Acts—Procedures	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The reports of unlawful or violent acts required by Policy JICKA shall be made in accordance with the following procedures:

ACTION BY DISTRICT PERSONNEL

When any school employee, principal or the superintendent has knowledge that an unlawful or violent act has or may have occurred on school property or at a school-related event:

1. IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIVING INFORMATION OF SUCH ACT, the following oral reports shall immediately be made:
 - a. The employee shall notify his/her principal.
 - b. The principal shall notify the superintendent or his/her designee.
2. ORAL NOTICE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT
 - a. IF AN EMERGENCY ("911-LIFE THREATENING") SITUATION EXISTS AND THE PRINCIPAL IS NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE, the employee is authorized to immediately contact the appropriate law enforcement official and, as soon as possible thereafter, to notify the principal or other school administrator.
 - b. IF THE PRINCIPAL HAS A REASONABLE BELIEF THAT AN UNLAWFUL OR VIOLENT ACT HAS BEEN COMMITTED, the principal shall also orally notify law enforcement officials immediately following receipt of the employee's report.
3. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, and in no event more than 24 hours of the oral report, the following written reports shall be made:
 - a. An employee making the oral report shall complete and submit to the principal a written report on a form provided by the superintendent for such purposes.
 - b. If the principal has a reasonable belief that an unlawful or violent act has been committed, he shall complete and submit to the appropriate local law enforcement agency and to the superintendent a written report on a form provided by the State Board of Education for such purposes.
 - c. If a crime was committed by a student, the superintendent shall complete and submit to the youth court and the appropriate local law enforcement agency an affidavit in a form prescribed for such purposes. If expulsion resulted from a student's unlawful activity or violent act, the affidavit shall contain such notice.
 - d. If the offense involved possession of a firearm in violation of the Policy JICI—Weapons in School, the

superintendent shall also submit the written report to the appropriate division of the Mississippi Department of Education.

4. Copies of all written reports and notices shall be retained by the principal and the superintendent.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

See Policy GBEB

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JIE	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Pregnant Students	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

Upon the written request of a pregnant student in the George County School District and the student's husband or parent, if the pregnant student is unmarried, a pregnant student shall be permitted to attend school and to participate in regular school programs until such time that the student's school attendance and participation in school programs endanger the health and safety of the student, as determined by the student's physician. Although school officials shall not exclude a pregnant student from enrollment in school solely because of the student's pregnancy, school officials shall have the authority and responsibility to take appropriate disciplinary action against a pregnant student, as well as any other student, for any actions or misconduct on school grounds which are either disruptive or in violation of school regulations.

If the pregnant student chooses to remain in school during the semester in which she expects to deliver the child, her attendance shall be governed by the same attendance policies, rules, and regulations that govern all other students. Although the pregnant student's school absence immediately preceding and following the delivery shall be an excused absence, the student shall be able to earn course credit only if minimum course requirements are met, as determined by the principal through consultation with the student's teachers.

The pregnant student who remains in school during the pregnancy should be under the direct care of a licensed physician. Also, the pregnant student shall be expected to fulfill the following responsibilities:

1. Notify the school principal or counselor after the pregnancy is confirmed.
2. Provide the principal with a written statement from the physician. The statement should include the physician's recommendation concerning school attendance for the pregnant student and confirmation of the expected date of delivery.
3. Participate in a joint conference with the principal and the pregnant student's husband or parent, if the pregnant student is unmarried. This required conference shall be held for the purposes of determining delivery, based upon the physician's recommendation.
4. Consult monthly with the school counselor or school nurse.

Within the limits of available resources, all secondary schools shall attempt to provide courses and instructional units in such areas as family living, family planning, and childcare. Pregnant students shall be encouraged to enroll in such courses. To be re-admitted to school during the semester of the delivery, the student should have a written statement from her physician certifying her readiness for re-admission.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JIG	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Married Students	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

Married students are not to be prohibited from attending school because of their marital status and shall be afforded all benefits available to other students. Students who are married are expected to adhere to the same rules and regulations as all other students.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JIH	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Student Interrogations, Searches, and Arrests (Including Concealed Observations)	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article 3, §23 of the Mississippi Constitution provides all people with the right to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches. However, circumstances will arise where searches of students' persons, possessions, lockers, desks and vehicles will be necessary. Administrators in the George County School District have the authority and obligation to exercise discretion in the implementation of this policy, balancing the district's responsibility to maintain discipline, order, and a safe environment conducive to education with the students' legitimate expectations of privacy.

REQUIREMENTS

All searches must be pre-approved by the superintendent, principal, assistant principal or acting principal. No other district employee may authorize a search except where an emergency situation exists. At least two district employees must be present while a search is conducted. If, in the discretion of the administrator or employee conducting the search, the search is particularly intrusive, the person conducting the search and the witnesses, or at least one of them, should be the same sex as the student. No student other than the student who is the subject of the search may be present during the search. All searches must be reasonable in scope.

SEARCHES PERMITTED

Searches are permitted as follows:

1. **PERSON, POSSESSIONS, LOCKERS:** Searches of a student's person, possessions or lockers may be conducted if a district employee has prior individualized reasonable suspicion that a student has violated or is violating a district policy, school rules or regulations or the law and that the search will result in discovery of evidence of such violation.
2. **DESKS, OTHER SCHOOL PROPERTY:** Searches of desks and other school property (except lockers) may be conducted at any time, with or without reasonable suspicion of a violation.
3. **VEHICLES:** Searches of vehicles driven to school by or for students may be searched by visual inspection with or without reasonable suspicion of a violation. If a visual search results in individualized

reasonable suspicion of a violation, a more intrusive search of the vehicle may be conducted at the direction of the principal.

4. **CANINE SEARCHES:** The district may at any time utilize canines to search vehicles, possessions not on the student's person, desks, lockers and other school property, with or without reasonable suspicion of a violation. A canine response indicating the presence of contraband constitutes reasonable suspicion and a more intrusive search may be conducted at the direction of the principal.
5. **GROUP SEARCHES:** Caution shall be exercised when a search involving a number of students is conducted. In most instances, in order to justify a search, the district's reasonable suspicion must be particularized to an individual student. Exceptions to this requirement are appropriate only where the intrusiveness of the search is minimal, such as canine searches of lockers, desks or book bags or automobile searches, etc.

DEFINITIONS

"Reasonable in scope" means that the degree of the intrusion must be consistent with the objective of the search. Factors to be considered in whether the scope of a search is reasonable include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The student's age, maturity, and sex;
2. The nature or level of seriousness of the suspected violation; and
3. The intrusiveness of the search, e.g. a canine search is less intrusive than a locker search; a locker search is less intrusive than a "pat down;" etc.

"Reasonable suspicion" refers to a flexible concept requiring the application of experience and common sense. Determinations of whether reasonable suspicion to support a search exists shall be made on a case-by-case basis with due consideration of all circumstances. In all cases, "reasonable suspicion" must be supported by facts.

Factors to be considered in making this determination include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The reliability of the information indicating that evidence of a violation may be discovered;
2. The existence of reasonable suspicion that such evidence will be discovered;
3. The individualization of the suspicion toward the person to be the subject of the search;
4. The prevalence or seriousness of the problem to which the search is directed;
5. The exigency of the circumstances; and
6. In some circumstances, the student's history and record in school.

An "emergency situation" exists if the destruction of evidence or use of contraband is an immediate possibility. In such a case, an administrator must be notified immediately. However, if an emergency situation does not exist, employees should take steps to prevent the possible destruction of evidence or use of contraband while securing approval for a search.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

If a search reveals grounds for a reasonable belief that a violation of a district policy, school rules or regulations or the law, the student will be subject to disciplinary action as provided by district policy.

POLICE SEARCHES

School officials are obligated to cooperate with law enforcement authorities who are validly carrying out their official duties. In such cases involving a student, the district shall make an immediate attempt to notify the student's parent, guardian, or custodian. The principal or principal's designee shall attend the search if conducted on or about the school premises and shall take any disciplinary action necessary as a result of the search. *New Jersey v. T.L.O.*, 469 U.S. 325 (1985); *Horton v. Goose Creek Independent School Dist.*, 690 F.2d 470 (5th Cir. 1982), cert. denied, 103 S.Ct. 35 (1983); *Tarter v. Raybuck*, 742 F.2d 977 (6th Cir. 1984), cert. denied, 105 S.Ct. 1749 (1985)

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JIHA	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Locker Searches/Book Bags	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The George County School District is committed to providing a safe environment wherein students can learn and teachers can provide focused instruction. A safe learning climate supports high academic achievement and fosters the best in students and staff.

Searches of a student's person, book bag, possessions, or lockers may be conducted if a district employee has prior individualized reasonable suspicion that a student has violated or is violating a district policy, school rules or regulations or the law and that the search will result in discovery of evidence of such violation. See also Policy JICI, Policy JICK, Policy JCAC, Policy JIH, and Policy ECAE.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JII	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Student Concerns, Complaints, and Grievances	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

Students have both the right and the responsibility to express school related concerns and grievances to the administration. For the discussion and consideration of a grievance, any student or group of students may request a meeting time and place of the principal. One faculty member of the student's choice must be present. A time and place will be designated within three school days of the written request for a hearing.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JIJ	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Student Protests, Demonstrations, and Strikes	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

To insure the orderly process of education and business affairs connected with the schools and the safety of persons and property, the Board of Education of the George County School District directs that the procedures below be followed in case of any type of disruptive demonstration on school property or within school buildings. This policy is not intended to discourage or prohibit the peaceful expression of opinions or ideas concerning the George County School District. However, since the board is required by law to provide proper school facilities and to maintain an appropriate program of instruction and is further required to bar any disruption of the schools or interference with their normal operation, the following steps shall be taken in the

event of any disruption of the normal operation of the schools:

1. The disruption shall be immediately brought to the attention of the superintendent or his/her representative by the administrative head of the school. The Superintendent shall have the authority at his/her discretion to alert the police authorities.
2. Students participating in a disruptive demonstration shall be directed by the building principal or his/her representative to go to their regular classroom assignment. At the same time, the principal or his/her representative will arrange for a meeting between the administration and the individual, leaders of a group, or the group, if feasible, to discuss in a rational, orderly manner the problem which has caused the disorder.
3. Non-student demonstrators and other unauthorized persons will be directed by the building principal or his/her representative to remove themselves from school property forthwith.
4. In the event steps 2 and/or 3 fail to stop the demonstration, the Superintendent or his/her representative will ask the police to remove the demonstrators and any individuals failing to comply under step 3.
5. When necessary for their safety, students and staff may be directed to leave the building and school property.
6. At no time, while any demonstration is in process, is the superintendent or any school or board personnel to enter into negotiations on the issues with the protestors, either orally or in written form.
7. As soon as normal educational and business processes can be resumed, the superintendent shall be charged with establishing communications with the leaders of the protesting group in order to resolve their requests or to refer them to the board in an orderly manner.
8. Students and/or employees participating in a disruptive demonstration on school grounds will be subject to suspension and/or expulsion or termination, if an employee.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i>	<i>Approved</i>
Student Activities (Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular)	JJ	November 2002
	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The George County School District Board of Education believes that student activities at the school are a vital part of the total educational program and should be used as a means for developing wholesome attitudes and good human relations, as well as knowledge and skills. The board further believes that any program of student activities should:

1. Require all student participation to be on a voluntary basis.
2. Require that student activity funds should be used for purposes that benefit the student body of the school.
3. Require that the management of student funds be the responsibility of the building principal with assistance from the organizational sponsor.
4. Permit the formation of student clubs or organizations to promote or pursue specialized athletic, school service, and student activities providing that all organizations have the prior approval of the superintendent.
6. Adhere to the accreditation standard that prohibits a student from missing any one class for more than 5 times or any combination of 20 class periods. The sponsor/advisor must secure approval from the building principal to participate in any out-of-school activity, following the district administrative guidelines, prior to discussing said participation with the students. See also Policy ID.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i>	<i>Approved</i>
Student Organizations	JJA	November 2002
	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

Student organizations shall be encouraged when they meet the simple criteria of contributing to learning rather than detracting from it. Such organizations will operate within the framework of the law, board policy, administrative regulations, and the parameters of the learning program. The building principal will develop general guidelines for student organizations, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. All clubs must have the approval of the principal.
2. All school clubs must have at least one member of the faculty as a sponsor/advisor.
3. Membership in subject area clubs shall be restricted to student enrolled in those subject areas.
4. A student may not hold membership in more than three clubs. A student may, however, hold office as a member of the student council or be a class officer in addition to having membership in three clubs.
5. Officers of any club must maintain at least a "C" average.
7. Club meetings and activities should be scheduled so as not to interfere with the school's instructional program.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i>	<i>Approved</i>
Student Social Events	JJB	November 2002
	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

In elementary schools, K-5, parties are permitted twice a year.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

No parties are permitted in the secondary schools, Grades 9-12, during the school day.

All evening parties and dances shall be scheduled with the administration in accordance with district policy and shall end no later than 10 P.M. for junior high school and 11:30 P.M. for senior high, unless special permission is granted from the superintendent.

1. Parties and dances will not be held on an evening during the school week. All junior high school parties or dances will be limited to events that do not permit students to rent or wear formal attire.
2. Students who indulge in or have possession of alcoholic beverages or drugs will be subject to disciplinary action as required under board policy regarding use and/or possession of alcohol or controlled substances on school grounds or at school events.

3. **Students who leave will not be allowed to return to the event.**
4. Parties or dances are given only for members of the sponsoring student body unless written permission is granted by the superintendent.
5. There will be no spontaneous parties or dances. Plans must be made by the sponsor of each activity and submitted in writing to the principal at least 10 school days before the activity.

The superintendent must give written approval before any final action is taken in regard to social activities.

Chaperones for parties, field trips, etc. will be approved by the principal. Any student group making a field trip of any kind will be required to have approval as required under board policy and the sponsor of that group must accompany.

CLASS TRIPS

No school-sponsored class trips will be allowed. This policy applies to seniors as well as all other grades.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JJC	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Student Performances/Exhibits/ Competition	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The George County School District Board of Education encourages the participation of students in performances that further the instructional program, and give recognition to the students, their parents, and the school.

Student participation in activities sponsored under the auspices of the Mississippi High School Activities Association, of which individual schools within the school district hold membership, needs only approval by the building principal. Participation in all activities shall adhere to district-wide administrative guidelines.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JJD/JJD-R	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Student Activities Fees/Regulation	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

Article I, §201 of the Mississippi Constitution of 1890 provides that the legislature may establish and provide free public education. The state legislature, in providing for an educational system in MS Code §37-3-11, states that there shall be "a...system of free public schools..." Based on these two references, the George County School District Board of Education has no authority to impose any fees for basic instructional purposes.

Students participating in activities that require additional equipment and material beyond that which is normally provided by the school district are subject to purchase or rent said equipment and materials. The George County school board hereby authorizes the superintendent to charge reasonable fees, but not more than the actual cost,

for the following:

1. Supplemental instructional materials and supplies, excluding textbooks;
2. Other fees designated by the superintendent as fees related to a valid curriculum educational objective, including transportation; and
3. Extracurricular activities and any other educational activities of the school district that are not designated by the superintendent as valid curriculum educational objectives.

All fees authorized to be charged under this policy, except those fees authorized under 3 above, shall be charged only upon the condition that a financial hardship waiver may be granted upon request pursuant to the following.

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP WAIVER POLICY

All fees charged under the fee policy above shall be assessed only upon the following conditions:

1. Applications for hardship waivers shall be kept in the strictest of confidence with all files and personal disclosures restricted from review by the general public.
2. Pupils eligible to have any such fee waived as a result of an inability to pay for said fees, shall not be discriminated against nor shall there be any overt identification of any pupil who has received a financial hardship waiver by use of special tokens or tickets, announcements, posting or publication of names, physical separation, choice of materials or by any other means.
3. In no case shall any of the George County School District's procedures expose any pupil receiving a hardship waiver to any type stigma or ridicule by other pupils or school district personnel.
4. The confidentiality provisions of this policy shall apply equally to any students who have an inability to pay any fees authorized by this policy.

In no case shall the inability to pay the assessment of fees authorized under the provisions of this fee policy result in a pupil being denied or deprived of any academic awards or standards, any class selection, grade, diploma, transcript or the right to participate in any activity related to educational advancement. The superintendent shall establish administrative procedures consistent with this policy for its implementation and duplicate the attached form for use by applicants. MS Code §37-7-335 See also Policy JB and Policy JQ.

CONFIDENTIAL FINANCIAL HARDSHIP WAIVER APPLICATION

To apply for financial hardship waiver, carefully complete this form and return to _____.

If you need help with this form, please call _____.

Student's Name _____ School _____

Student ID Number _____ Dollar amount of this waiver \$ _____

Explain in detail your reason for applying for this waiver (Use back if necessary.): _____

LIST ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS		MONTHLY INCOME			
Name of Adults	SSN	Monthly Earnings	Monthly Welfare Payments, Child Support &/or Alimony	Monthly Payments from Work Before Deductions	All Other Income
1.		\$	\$	\$	\$
2.		\$	\$	\$	\$
3.		\$	\$	\$	\$
4.		\$	\$	\$	\$
NAME OF CHILDREN	AGE/SCHOOL				
1.		\$	\$	\$	\$
2.		\$	\$	\$	\$
3.		\$	\$	\$	\$
4.		\$	\$	\$	\$

Total Monthly Income \$ _____

Do you receive food stamps? _____ Food Stamp Case Number _____

Do you receive AFDC? _____ AFDC Case Number _____

List any other aid you receive from any source: _____

What is your relationship to student? _____

CERTIFICATION		
This application is made with full knowledge that the law provides penalties for making false statements or concealing material facts to obtain the benefits of this waiver.		
Signature of Parent/Guardian _____	Home Address _____	
Printed Name of Parent/Guardian _____	Home Telephone _____	Work Telephone _____
Date Signed _____		
OFFICE USE		
Approved _____	Disapproved _____	By: _____ Date _____
Information verified by: _____		Date _____

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JJE	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Student Fundraising Activities	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The George County School District Board of Education recognizes the need for limited student fundraising activities. The type of and extent of these activities, however, must be rigidly restricted and limited to activities that have recognized educational value. Requests to raise funds of any kind must be submitted in writing to the superintendent's office. These requests shall include the following:

1. Type of fundraising activity
2. Specific purpose for raising funds
3. Educational value attributed to the activity
4. Participants (organization, sponsor, vendor)
5. Length of activity (inclusive dates)
6. Projected fundraising profits

The board will grant approval or deny approval for all fundraising activity, in accordance with the provisions outlined in this policy. The superintendent's approval or denial shall be in writing. No fundraising activity may be approved that is in direct conflict with this policy. The follow rules/restrictions apply to all fundraising activities.

1. Each school principal/director shall compile a school year fundraising activity calendar, which shall include all school related fundraising activities. The school location calendar shall be compiled with the input of interested school club sponsors and shall include all school related fundraising activities. Each fundraising activity listed shall have a written request as required by the district.
2. Each fundraising activity shall be supervised by a regular classroom teacher/club sponsor or other certified staff member employed by the school district. This person shall be held personally responsible for the fundraising activity and all profits incurred as a result of the activity. This person will be asked to sign the written request to the superintendent or his/her designee. By affixing his/her signature, the person is taking responsibility for the activity and resulting profits, assuming administrative approval. This same fundraising activity supervisor shall be responsible for completing a post-activity profit reconciliation sheet, showing accountability for purchases and sales of goods and resulting profits. The fundraising activity supervisor shall be held personally responsible for any money missing from the activity, whether missing by theft or missing through a lack of accountability.
3. The board prohibits any fundraising activity by school district employees that promotes a game of chance.
4. No outside group, organization, social club, or person shall solicit on school premises at any time without the written permission of the superintendent.
5. The instructional integrity of each school day must be protected. Fundraising activities shall not interfere with the regular instructional periods of any student. Students shall not be asked to use instructional periods in order to participate in fundraising activities. No door-to-door classroom sales of fundraising products may occur when the sales cause an interruption in the regular instructional period however brief the interruption may be. No class time shall be used to collect money for fundraising activities.
6. No activity in the nature of or equivalent to a raffle shall be conducted as part of student activities.
7. Fundraising activities of any type are expressly prohibited during school or office hours except those approved by the board.
8. Students in elementary Grades K-8 shall not be permitted to solicit sales in door-to-door solicitations under any circumstances.
9. No students in Grades K-12 shall be required to participate in any fundraising activity under any penalty for failure to participate.
10. No solicitations for any outside group or organization shall be made during school or office hours by any student or school district employee without the express, written approval of the superintendent.

11. A post-activity profit reconciliation form shall be prepared and signed by the individual accepting responsibility for the fundraising activity at the activity conclusion date. This post- activity profit reconciliation form shall be in the form prescribed by central office administration and shall be signed by the classroom teacher/sponsor, director responsible for the related activity and the school location principal/director. The form shall include:
 - a. Fundraising activity
 - b. Actual length of activity (inclusive dates)
 - c. Students/sponsors who participated in the activity
 - d. Reconciliation of actual profits to projected profits
 - e. Specific times (hours of day) money was collected for fundraising project from students

The post-activity profit reconciliation form shall be completed within five working days from the conclusion of the fundraising activity. The form shall be approved by the school location principal/director and forwarded to the business department of the central office.

This policy has no relationship to the school newspaper and yearbook. Neither does it have any relationship to such organizations as Booster Clubs or parent organizations. Fundraising activities, as governed by the policy, do not include routine teaching assignments such as collecting lunch money, fees, book fines, etc.

Any solicitations on school campus must have prior approval from the building principal. The Board of Education of the School District directs the superintendent to develop administrative regulations governing student participation in and the number of fundraising activities. All fundraising activities shall be approved in advance by the building principal following district-wide administrative regulations governing such activities.

The school activities fund of each school will include student organization funds and any other funds belonging to any student or class group or activity.

Whether such funds are collected from student contributions, club dues, special activities, or result from admission to special events or from other fundraising activities, all such funds will be under the jurisdiction of the building principal. The funds will be properly accounted for and used only for authorized purposes. Solicitation (fundraising) by students to finance trips for which district funds are not available is prohibited unless the trip is for educational purposes.

All such accounts shall be audited by the Mississippi Department of Audit or be a certified public accountant selected by the board to make an audit of all district funds as provided by state law. See also Policy JJD, Policy DFFA, Policy DFFB, and Policy DFFC

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JJE-R	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Student Fundraising Activities-Regulations	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

Procedures for conducting student-sponsored fundraising activities are as follows:

1. Obtain approval from board.
2. Prior to purchasing goods or services from vendor, complete requisitions and obtain purchase order.
3. Funds will be deposited and accounted for in the school's agency fund.
4. The principal will establish procedures to ensure the district is not liable for the purchase of good and services.
5. Reports of the activity will be submitted to the central office on a timely basis.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JJG	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Contests for Students	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The George County School District Board of Education encourages student participation in various contests that have instructional merit. The building principal must grant approval to all contests in which students participate.

The primary educational aims of the schools and the needs and interests of their pupils must be the first consideration at all times.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF EDUCATIONALLY DESIRABLE CONTESTS

1. On a national basis, the schools should confine their participation to those national contests that are currently placed on the approved list published annually by the Committee on National Contests and Activities of the National Association of Secondary School Principals.
2. On a state and local basis, the contest or activity should be as follows:
 - a. One that supplements and does not interfere with the regular school program;
 - b. One that is beneficial to youth in educational, civic, social or ethical development;
 - c. One that makes it possible for individual students to work out contributions by their own efforts and does not invite dishonest collaboration;
 - d. One whose subject is not commercial, controversial, sectarian or concerned with propaganda. It must emphasize high moral standards, good citizenship, and intellectual competence;
 - e. One from which no contestant should be excluded because of race, color, creed or payment of entry fee;
 - f. One which does not place an undue burden on pupils, teachers, or the school, nor require frequent or lengthy absence of participants from the school;
 - g. One sponsored by an organization engaged in a creditable or acceptable enterprise regardless of kind or amount of prizes offered and must not use the contest or activity as a "front" for advertising a company name or product.

See also Policy DFFA and Policy IA

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JJH/JJH-R	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Student Travel/Student Travel Regulations	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

All off-campus student educational activities require the approval of the principal and the superintendent or designee. Accompanying the request for approval must be information specifying those students who are to participate in the activity and the basis for their participation. In addition, the request must include the following:

1. Specific reference to the curriculum;
2. Source of payment for the off-campus educational activity;
3. Method of transportation;
4. Beginning and ending times and dates;
5. Names of school personnel to attend;
6. Names of additional chaperones;
7. Method of financing adult/parent participation; and
8. Other pertinent information.

Such requests must be submitted two weeks prior to the off-campus educational activity. Parents and guardians must sign the "Parental Consent to Student Educational Activity and Release From Liability" form in advance of the off-campus educational activity. See also Policy EEAFA, Policy IJOA, and Policy IJOA-R.

**GEORGE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
PARENTAL CONSENT TO STUDENT EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY
AND RELEASE FROM LIABILITY**

We, (I), _____ and _____, the undersigned custodial parent(s) of _____, a student of George County School District, am/are apprised of the fact that said student desires to participate in an activity designed to enhance and enrich his/her educational objectives in the form of:

(Write or type in above the description of the activity, the location and the duration of that activity and its relation to the educational program; i.e., foreign language, scientific, cultural.)

By the signature(s) hereto I/we request the permission for the student to participate in said activity and covenant and agree as follows:

- A. By affixing my/our signature(s) hereto, it is agreed that _____ will obey and follow the instruction of the faculty or staff member of the George County School District relative to arrival and departure times of all segments incident to the planned activity; and, those instructions and directions related to lodging, meals, transportation and personal conduct during the time period of this activity.

The undersigned consent and agree that the district personnel in charge of the conduct of this activity shall have the exclusive determination of the appropriateness of the student's conformity to discipline and shall have sole discretion to cause the student to leave the activity and return home. The exercise of this discretion shall be made with care and reasonable prudence.

By our signature(s) hereto, as parent(s) of said student, I/we guarantee and promise that the expense of the return of the student for disciplinary reasons shall be paid by me (us); and shall not be the obligation of the staff member of the school district. In such event, however, that the student should be directed to return to his/her home and the undersigned have not been available to be apprised of the circumstance; and, should the situation be such that the departure of the student is necessary and/or required for the maintenance of good order, discipline or safety of others; then and in that event, the undersigned promise(s) and agree(s) to pay and reimburse the staff or faculty member or the school district for the reasonable expense of transportation, lodging and meals incurred in so returning said student to his/her home.

- B. In the event of the necessity of the rendition of hospital and/or medical care, treatment and/or confinement in the restoration and/or preservation of the good health of the student, the undersigned empower, authorize and request the staff or faculty member in charge of the activity to seek out and secure the same; and, do hereby promise to pay the actual, reasonable and necessary cost of medical care, treatment and for hospitalization as performed, and to indemnify and hold the staff or faculty member and school district harmless from the expenses incurred in said care and treatment of said student.

By the signature(s) affixed hereto and the designation of the name of the issuing company and number of the policy of medical and hospitalization insurance written below, the staff or faculty member is empowered and authorized to execute in our place and stead such medical authorization and/or hospital insurance forms as required to seek and obtain admission of the student to medical care and/or hospitalization.

- C. The undersigned acknowledge and agree that by their signature(s), they understand and concur that neither the staff or faculty member in charge of this activity nor the George County School District are guarantors or insurers of the physical or emotional safety of the student in and during participation in this activity and the undersigned acknowledge that the said staff or faculty member and the school district are required only to act in the production of things for the needs of the student and the protection of said student from injury and loss in a careful, prudent and reasonable manner; and, they do hereby acquit, discharge and release those persons and the school district from liability from loss or injury suffered by said student, if any, occasioned by the acts of others and covenant and agree to indemnify said staff or faculty member and school district from said student's loss or injury occasioned by others in the event of later claim against said staff or faculty member or the school district by said student predicated upon such incident.

PERSON (S) TO NOTIFY IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Father _____ Employer _____

Home Phone _____ Office Phone _____

Mother _____ Employer _____

Home Phone _____ Office Phone _____

Alternate person to notify _____

Day Phone _____ Night Phone _____

Medical/Hospitalization Insurance Company _____

Policy Number _____

Additional Information _____

The information listed herein relative to said student and any addresses, telephone numbers, insurance policies, and/or alternative persons to notify in the event of emergency is true and correct.

Witness our signatures this _____ of _____, 20 _____.

Student signature _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JJI/JJIB	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Student Athletics/Interscholastic Sports	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

School sports constitute a part of the total program. Interscholastic athletics can only be justified as they provide a profitable educational experience for the participants and are available to all students who can benefit from them. The George County School District Board of Education has the power, authority, and duty to provide athletic programs and other school activities and to regulate activities. MS Code §37-7-301 (q) (1996)

It is the policy of the George County School District Board of Education to provide students at the secondary level, Grades 7-12, with interscholastic athletic competition in a variety of sports. The district does not permit any student in Grades K-6 to participate in any inter-school competitive sports program of a varsity pattern with scheduled games and a championship. Furthermore, the district shall not allow school names to be used by others in designating the identity of a team. Students in Grades 7-12 will be allowed to participate in individual sports on the basis of their physical condition, and desire. Qualified personnel will be provided for coaching and supervision each sport.

In establishing an interscholastic sports program, the board directs the administration to:

1. Open all sports to all students enrolled in the district.
2. Establish eligibility requirements, in addition to those required by the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc., for students that include approval of the school physician, satisfactory academic and school citizenship records, and parental approval.
3. Adhere to the "no pass, no play" doctrine.
4. Give every eligible student an equal opportunity to be a member of a squad; however, membership does not guarantee participation in games/contests.
5. Outfit all teams with safe equipment.
6. Require athletes to participate in an insurance program that provides for sport participation coverage.
7. Provide conditioning activities that will prepare the student athlete for competition.
8. Provide for medical treatment and services.

The purpose of school athletics is both educational and recreational. The athletic program should encourage participation by as many students as possible and should be carried on with the best interest of the participants as the first consideration.

POLICY CONDITIONS

1. District participation in interscholastic athletics will be subject to approval by the George County School District Board of Education. This will include approval of membership in leagues, associations, or conferences; of rules for student participation; and, of any and all sports schedules.
2. Participation in interscholastic athletics is limited to students in Grades 9-12, with participation of properly supervised teams from Grades 7 and 8 also permitted in a limited program within their own division and with other schools.
3. The athletic program of a school is an integral part of the school curriculum and comes under the authority of the principal to the same degree as do all other phases of the instructional program.
4. Those teachers having direct responsibility for the conduct of the athletic program of a school are required to conform in all ways to the general education programs established by the board and district administration, including such matters as schedules, financial expenditures, relations with other schools, and health and safety regulations.
5. All athletic matters will adhere firmly to the rules and regulations of the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc.
6. If an athlete shows a lack of self-discipline, demonstrates a poor attitude, boycotts practice or inter-school events, or does not fulfill his/her commitment to the athletic program, he/she may be suspended from

- athletic participation in that sport.
7. No student may start practice for any athletic team until he/she has been examined and approved by a medical doctor, provides proof of insurance coverage as a student-athlete, and until written consent has been obtained from the parents.
 8. Expenditure of funds for the athletic program is to be incorporated as part of the general budget of the board. The building principal at each school will submit budgetary needs to the athletic director for the next school year, and the latter will present the total athletic budget request to the superintendent for approval and inclusion in the general budget. No expenditure for athletic purposes may be made in excess of those listed in the budget without board approval.

CHEERLEADER TRYOUTS AND ELIGIBILITY

District policies governing cheerleader tryouts and eligibility for continuation as a cheerleader are adopted by the school board and published annually in student handbooks as official policy statements of the George County School District.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JJIC	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Eligibility/Minimum Standards for Participation	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The minimum standards for participation in the interscholastic activities are established by the Mississippi High School Activities Association and are contained in the MHSAA handbook. A copy of the handbook is on file in the offices of the superintendent and athletic director. See also Policy JJI/JJIB.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JK	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Student Discipline	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The George County School District School District has the authority to establish reasonable and necessary rules governing the conduct of students. The school district complies with state law and local board policy on student discipline. MS Code §37-7-301(e)(g), §37-9-14(w)(x), and §37-11-18 through 23, 29-35, 53-57

The board recognizes that discipline is a primary responsibility of the teachers and that teacher should employ disciplinary methods that are appropriate and effective. Teachers and principals will administer discipline within the guidelines established by the board and other specific procedures related to student behavior as may be adopted from time to time. Students will be under the jurisdiction of these policies and rules while going to, remaining at, and returning from school.

The board also recognizes the need for an organized disciplinary system that supports efforts of teachers to teach and that addresses the growth of positive student activities and behaviors. The administration of the school district is charged with the development of a defined, systematic approach to school discipline to be recommended to the board.

AUTHORITY TO DISCIPLINE

The George County School Board recognizes the teacher as the authority in classroom matters, and supports

that teacher in any decision in compliance with the written discipline code of conduct; including the right of the teacher to remove from the classroom any student who, in the professional judgment of the teacher, is disrupting the learning environment, to the office of the principal or assistant principal. The teacher in removing the student from the classroom must assure that the student is adequately supervised while in route and that the administrator is properly and promptly notified as to the students' removal and the reasons for removal.

The principal or assistant principal shall determine the proper placement for the student, who may not be returned to the classroom until a conference of some kind (personal or by telephone) has been held with the parent, guardian or custodian during which the disrupting behavior is discussed and agreements are reached that no further disruption will be tolerated. If the principal does not approve of the determination of the teacher to remove the student from the classroom, the student may not be removed from the classroom. The principal, upon request from the teacher, must provide justification for his disapproval of the student's removal from class. See also Policy JIC.

In order for rules infractions by students to be treated equitably and consistently, the board has approved a disciplinary action procedure and schedule. The implementation of student discipline policy rests with all levels of the management/instruction/staff team and should be considered in the individual's performance evaluation.

ASSERTIVE DISCIPLINE

The George County School District uses the Assertive Discipline plan for student/classroom management. Each teacher will adopt class rules that will be approved by the principal, sent to the parents, and placed on display in each classroom. Each violation of these rules will result in the punishments/consequences adopted by the teacher and approved by the principal.

District policies governing the assertive discipline program for Grades K-12 are adopted by the school board and published annually in student handbooks as official policy statements of the George County School District. The basic objectives of discipline within the school may be described threefold:

1. To establish conditions under which no student will be permitted to prevent any teacher from teaching or any student from learning.
2. To establish and maintain study conditions that are conducive to learning.
3. To develop, on the part of each student, the habits and skills that make him/her self-directive and to help him/her realize that he/she is responsible for his/her own conduct.

Teachers and administrators are authorized to take just and reasonable measures to establish effective school discipline and to develop in students self-disciplined, emotionally mature behavior. The authority to control student conduct shall extend to all activities of the school, including all games and performances of athletic teams and other school groups.

Discipline should have the qualities of understanding, fairness, firmness, and consistency. Consideration should be given to the cause, nature, condition, and frequency of misconduct. Consideration should be given to the cause, nature, condition, and frequency of misconduct. Teachers should manage their own discipline problems if at all possible. Discipline should be used by each teacher as a means of improving the fundamentals of self-control, good work habits, and sound citizenship in the student and the group. Each infraction serious enough to be recognized one time should be recognized each time it occurs on the part of the student.

PRESCRIBING DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

When a teacher sends a student the principal's office for disciplinary reasons, the decision regarding punishment shall rest solely with the administration. Teachers will not prescribe to the administration what is to be done concerning disciplinary measures after they have attempted to solve the problem. This does not mean that a teacher cannot make suggestions, but in no case shall the teacher tell the student that he/she is going to be paddled, suspended or disciplined in other ways. It shall be the administration's responsibility to determine appropriate disciplinary measures as outlined in the assertive discipline plan of the school district and in accordance with policies and procedures established by the George County School District board.

PARENT CARE

In order to establish effective school discipline, principals shall have the authority to place students in the care of their parents for the remainder of the school day. Such placement shall not be construed as suspension.

PARENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Parents of students who are having serious disciplinary problems may be asked to come to the school and to attend classes with their children during an entire day in order to monitor conduct and establish new behavioral patterns.

BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION PLAN

Procedures for the development of behavior modification plans (BMP) by the school principal, reporting teacher and student's parent for a student who causes a disruption in the classroom, on school property or vehicles, or at school-related activities for a second time during the school year shall include referral to the school level Teacher/Student Support Team TST/SST. The team in conjunction with the principal, teacher, and parent will develop the BMP and suggest appropriate teacher/parent/principal interventions.

Any student who is 13 years of age or older for whom a behavior modification plan is developed and who does not comply with the plan shall be deemed habitually disruptive and subject to automatic expulsion on the occurrence of the third act of disruptive behavior during a school year.

Any student who is younger than 13 years of age after the second act of disruptive behavior during a school year shall be referred for a psychological evaluation in accordance with the district's procedures for such referrals.

DISTRIBUTION OF DISCIPLINE PLAN

Principals are responsible for informing both parents and students of requisite policy and/or rules and regulations. This should be done at the opening of each school year, upon entrance of a new student, or when the board adopts changes. A copy of the George County School District's discipline plan shall be distributed to each student enrolled in the district and the parents, guardian or custodian of such student shall sign a statement verifying that they have been given notice of the discipline policies of the district. The school board shall have its official discipline plan legally audited on an annual basis to insure that its policies and procedures are currently in compliance with applicable statutes, case law and state and federal constitutional provisions.

INCLUSIONS

All discipline plans of this school district shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school-age child enrolled in a public school district shall be responsible financially for his or her minor child's destructive acts against school property or persons;
2. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school-age child enrolled in a public school district may be requested to appear at school by an appropriate school official for a conference regarding acts of the child specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection, or for any other discipline conference regarding the acts of the child;
3. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school-age child enrolled in a school district who refuses or willfully fails to attend such discipline conference specified in paragraph (b) of this section may be summoned by proper notification by the superintendent of schools and be required to attend such discipline conference; and
4. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school-age child enrolled in a public school district shall be responsible for any criminal fines brought against such student for unlawful activity as defined in MS §37-11-29 occurring on school grounds.

DISCIPLINE CONFERENCE WITH PARENT

Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school-age child who (a) fails to attend a discipline conference to which such parent, guardian or custodian has been summoned under the provisions of this section, or (b) refuses or willfully fails to perform any of the duties imposed upon him or her under the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not to exceed \$250.

DISTRICT RIGHT TO RECOVER DAMAGES

The school district shall be entitled to recover damages in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 plus necessary court costs from the parents of any minor under the age of 18 years and over the age of six, who maliciously and willfully damages or destroys property belonging to such school district. However, this section shall not apply to parents whose parental control has been removed by court order or decree. The action authorized in this section shall be in addition to all other actions that the school district is entitled to maintain and nothing in this section shall preclude recovery in a greater amount from the minor or from a person, including the parents, for damages to which such minor or other person would otherwise be liable.

School districts that meet Level 4 or 5 accreditation standards, the State Board of Education may, in its discretion, exempt such school district from the provisions of subsections (1) and (2) of this section. MS Code §37-11-53 (1995)

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

The George County School District Board of Education shall adopt and make available to all teachers, school personnel, students and parents or guardians, at the beginning of each school year, a code of student conduct developed in consultation with teachers, school personnel, students and parents or guardians. The code shall be based on the rules governing student conduct and discipline adopted by the board and may be made available at the school level in the student handbook or similar publication. The code shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Specific grounds for disciplinary action
2. Procedures to be followed for acts requiring discipline
3. An explanation of the responsibilities and rights of students with regard to attendance, respect for persons and property, knowledge and observation of rules of conduct, the right to learn, free speech and student publications, assembly, privacy and participation in school programs and activities. MS Code §37-11-55 (1991)

EXEMPTION FROM LIABILITY

Except in the case of excessive force or cruel and unusual punishment, a teacher, principal or assistant principal shall not be civilly or criminally liable for any action carries out in conformity with state or federal law or rules or regulations of the State Board of Education or the local school board regarding the control, discipline, suspension and expulsion of students. The local school board shall provide any necessary legal defense to a teacher, principal or assistant principal in any action that may be filed against such school personnel.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Corporal punishment is an option in the disciplinary program of the George County School District and will be administered in accordance with the policy of the George County School District. See Policy JKA

STUDENT CONDUCT AND GRADES

Criteria used in the evaluation process to determine a student's grade must be supported by rationale. The criteria must be in writing and must include the following:

1. Course content (goals, objectives, materials, etc.) as outlined in the curriculum guides
2. Methods of evaluation — grades will reflect some combination of the areas listed below:
 - a. Class work
 - b. Homework
 - c. Test scores
 - d. Class participation
 - e. Skill application
 - f. Preparation for class
3. The effect of absence on grades
4. Procedures for making up assigned work and tests
5. Other criteria as may be approved by the superintendent and school board

See also Policy JKA.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JKA	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Corporal Punishment	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

Corporal punishment is an option in the disciplinary program of the George County School District and will be administered in accordance with the policy of the George County School District.

1. Corporal punishment will be administered with wooden paddles of normal size (solid with no holes on surface). At all times, a child is to be told exactly why the punishment is being administered.
2. Licks must be administered to the buttocks only. Teachers are not to put their hands on the students in a forcible manner except to defend themselves in case of attack.
3. Corporal punishment will be administered by the principal or other persons designated by the principals.
4. In the event a student refuses to take punishment, the principal is not to attempt to force the issue and will pursue the following two options:
 - a. Send the student home for three days (when school is dismissed). These three days will be considered unexcused.
 - b. Send the student home until such time that he returns with at least one parent or guardian. The necessary disposition of the case will then be determined by the principal and the parent. Days lost in attendance due to this procedure will be considered unexcused.

In either of the above events, a letter is to be sent to the parent or guardian stating that the child refused punishment and explaining the violation. A copy of this letter will be sent to the office of the superintendent and one copy kept for the principal's files.

5. A record of each time corporal punishment is administered shall be kept in the principal's office.

The administration and the board of the George County School District regards corporal punishment as an option of last resort. See also Policy JICC, Policy JICDA, and Policy JK.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JKB	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Detention of Students	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

Detention of students for disciplinary purposes is allowed in the George County School District under guidelines established under the direction of the superintendent and principals. District personnel shall supervise all detention. The planning and scheduling of students to be kept after school in detention should reflect this district's philosophy of student-centered instruction and his/her individual worth.

When a student in Grades K-12 is required to report to detention before or after school for disciplinary reasons, in accordance with the assertive discipline plan, he/she must do so unless arrangements are made with the teacher or principal. Students will be given a minimum of one day's notice prior to detention. Failure to report for detention as scheduled will result in additional disciplinary action.

Students in the elementary grades may be kept from participating in physical education, music, or library activities for either disciplinary reasons or make-up work, so long as the teacher keeps the student during the entire period of the activity and so long as the student is under constant teacher supervision. The student may not be kept from participation in these activities for more than three consecutive days because of discipline or make-up. See also Policy JICDA and Policy JK.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JKD	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Suspension of Students	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

When unacceptable behavior cannot be corrected by the resources of the teacher or school administration, the George County School District Board of Education hereby authorizes the school principal or his/her designee to suspend any student for violation of any published rule or regulation or for any other act of misconduct or insubordination as a final effort to influence the student's future behavior.

DEFINITIONS

"Suspension" is the denial of the privilege of attending school in the district imposed after due process upon any student of the district at the direction of the principal of the school in which the student is enrolled. A suspended student may return to school following the expiration of the suspension period without application for readmission but may be required to be accompanied on return to school by a parent, legal guardian or custodian.

A "suspension" includes the denial of the privilege of participating in or attending any school related activity for the period of the suspension. Further, suspended students shall not trespass upon any other school campus or enter into any other school building except for a pre-arranged conference with a principal.

AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND

As provide by statute, the superintendent has the power, authority and duty to delegate student disciplinary matters to appropriate school personnel. MS Code §37-9-14 (r)

1. The superintendent, principal or his/her designee may immediately suspend a student for misconduct for no longer than 10 consecutive school days, subject to an informal hearing.
2. The superintendent, principal or his/her designee may recommend suspensions for eleven days or more or expulsion for more serious disciplinary offenses. In such cases, the superintendent, principal or his/her designee may immediately suspend the student for no longer than 10 consecutive school days and recommend a long-term suspension or expulsion, subject to an informal hearing and pending the conclusion of formal due process proceedings.

BOARD AUTHORITY

As provide by statute, the George County school board has the power, authority and duty:

1. To suspend or to expel a pupil or to change the placement of a pupil to the school district's alternative school or homebound program for misconduct in the school or on school property, as defined in MS Code §37-11-29, on the road to and from school, or at any school related activity or event, or for conduct occurring on property other than school property or other than at a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders that pupil's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole, and to delegate such authority to the appropriate officials of the school district. MS Code §37-7-301 (e) (2000)
2. To support, within reasonable limits, the superintendent, principal and teachers where necessary for the proper discipline of the school. MS Code §37-7-301 (g) (2000)

DISRUPTION TO THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS

The superintendent and principal of a school shall have the power to suspend a pupil for good cause, including misconduct in the school or on school property, as defined in MS Code §37-11-29, on the road to and from school, or at any school-related activity or event, or for conduct occurring on property other than school property or other than at a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil, in the determination of the superintendent or principal, renders that pupil's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational

environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole, or for any reason for which such pupil might be suspended, dismissed, or expelled by the school board under state or federal law or any rule, regulation or school district policy. However, such action of the superintendent or principal shall be subject to review by and approval or disapproval of the school board. If the parent, guardian or other person having custody of any child shall feel aggrieved by the suspension or dismissal of that child, then such parent, guardian or other person shall have the right to a due process hearing. The appropriate superintendent or principal shall advise the parent or guardian of the child of this right to a hearing and the proper form shall be provided for requesting such a hearing. MS Code §37-9-71 (2000)

The board may, upon request of the parent, legal guardian or custodian of a suspended student, review a student's suspension. Requests for review must be made in accordance with board procedure.

NOTICE

The student handbooks shall include specific grounds for disciplinary action and procedures to be followed for acts requiring discipline. Students and legal guardians shall be required to provide the school with a written statement verifying that they have received notice of the discipline plan. In all cases of suspension the parent, legal guardian, or custodian shall be notified in writing within 24 hours of such suspension giving the reason therefore. If a student is to be sent home during normal school hours, a parent or guardian shall be notified before the student is dismissed. No student shall be sent home during normal school hours unless a parent, guardian, or custodian has first been notified.

DUE PROCESS

All suspensions shall be handled in accordance with the procedures in Policy JIA.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

As provided under Section 2 of Senate Bill 2506 (1999 Legislative Session), "Educational services for children with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled from school shall be provided based on the requirements of IDEA, applicable federal regulations and state regulations."

REPORTS

The superintendent, or his/her designee, shall report any student suspensions or student expulsions to the school attendance officer when they occur. MS Code §37-13-91 (6)

Principals shall make a written report of each suspension to the superintendent each grading period to include:

1. Name of student, address; name of parent or guardian.
2. Statement of the reasons for the suspension including the date, time and place.

RETURN TO SCHOOL

A student on suspension for three or more days must have a conference upon return to school and shall be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or custodian before being readmitted to school.

Note: According to a 1998 Attorney General Opinion, automatic fail provision of an absences policy may not apply against legal, excused absences. Such absences policies may not be applied against absences resulting from disciplinary suspensions if absences policies are applied to truant children who are otherwise passing, the district must afford the child procedural due process. (Attorney General Opinion, *Carter*, 1-9-98) (#183) (97-0817)

MS Code §37-7-301 (e) and (g) (1994); §37-13-91 (6) (1995); Senate Bill 2506 (1999); *Goss v. Lopez*, 419 U.S. 565 (1975) See also Policy IHBH, Policy JCAC, Policy JIA, Policy JK, and Policy JKE.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JKE	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Expulsion of Students	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

A student may be expelled for committing any offense identified as expellable in the discipline plan.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Expulsion" is the denial of school attendance for a specified minimum period of time or for an unspecified period of time, but in no event less than one calendar year, after which time a student may be re-admitted only upon application and with approval by the board in accordance with Policy JKF.
2. "Limited expulsion" is the denial of school attendance for the remainder of the school year. A principal may recommend a limited expulsion when a student who has been suspended three times during the same school year commits a fourth offense or in circumstances otherwise proper for such action. The student may be re-admitted the following school year only upon application and with approval by the board in accordance with Policy JKF.

AUTHORITY TO EXPEL

As provide by statute, the superintendent has the power, authority and duty to delegate student disciplinary matters to appropriate school personnel. MS Code §37-9-14 (r) When a principal determines that a student has violated one or more of the specific standards of conduct described in the discipline plan, he may recommend expulsion of the student to the superintendent. Should the superintendent elect to expel the student, he shall arrange for a board meeting to hear the matter.

BOARD AUTHORITY

As provided by statute, the George County school board has the power, authority and duty:

1. To suspend or to expel a pupil or to change the placement of a pupil to the school district's alternative school or home-bound program for misconduct in the school or on school property, as defined in MS Code §37-11-29, on the road to and from school, or at any school related activity or event, or for conduct occurring on property other than school property or other than at a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders that pupil's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole, and to delegate such authority to the appropriate officials of the school district. MS Code §37-7-301 (e) (2000)
2. To support, within reasonable limits, the superintendent, principal and teachers where necessary for the proper discipline of the school. MS Code § 37-7-301 (g) (2000)

The board shall review and make a final decision on all recommendations of expulsion made by the superintendent or a principal.

NOTICE

The student handbooks shall include specific grounds for disciplinary action and procedures to be followed for acts requiring discipline. Students and legal guardians shall be required to provide the school with a written statement verifying that they have received notice of the discipline plan in accordance with Policy JK.

DUE PROCESS

All expulsions shall be handled in accordance with the procedures in Policy JIA.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

As provided under Section 2 of Senate Bill 2506 (1999 Legislative Session), "Educational services for children with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled from school shall be provided based on the requirements of IDEA, applicable federal regulations and state regulations."

REPORTS

When a student is expelled, the parent, legal guardians or custodians must be notified immediately on a form provided by the superintendent for such purpose. When a student is expelled for the commission of a crime or other unlawful activity or violent act, the reporting requirements of Policies JICK and JICKA are applicable. The superintendent or his/her designee shall report all expulsions to the school attendance officer when they occur.

RE-ADMISSION

Any student who has been expelled, for whatever reason, must apply to the board for readmission to the regular school program in accordance with Policy JKF.

Note: According to a 1998 Attorney General Opinion, automatic fail provision of an absences policy may not apply against legal, excused absences. Such absences policies may not be applied against absences resulting from disciplinary suspensions if absences policies are applied to truant children who are otherwise passing, the district must afford the child procedural due process. (Attorney General Opinion, *Carter*, 1-9-98) (#183) (97-0817)

MS Code §37-11-18; §37-11-29 §37-9-71; §37-13-91 (6), Senate Bill 2506 (1999); *Goss v. Lopez*, 419 U.S. 565 (1975) See also Policy JIA, Policy JKF.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JKF	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Re-admission and Denial of Admission	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

A student who has been expelled from the George County School District or who is returning from a correctional institution must apply and be approved for readmission to the regular school program. The application for readmission shall be in a form provided by the superintendent for such purpose. A student who has been denied admission based on a pending or current expulsion may be approved for readmission to the district by the board according to the procedures in this policy.

TIME FOR RE-ADMISSION APPLICATION

(Applicable to expulsions from George County School District only)

1. If the expulsion was for a specified period of time, application for readmission should be made at least two weeks before the conclusion of the expulsion period.
2. If the expulsion was for an unspecified period of time, application for readmission may be made at any time after one year from the date of expulsion.
3. When the student is enrolled in another regular school program or participating in an alternative school or similar program during the expulsion period and at the time of application, application may be made any time after the conclusion of specified expulsion period or after one year from the date of expulsion.

PROCEDURES

The procedures set forth in Policy JIA shall apply to requests for re-admission.

STANDARD FOR RE-ADMISSION/ADMISSION

The board may grant re-admission or admission upon a document showing that the student has participated in successful rehabilitative efforts including but not limited to progress in an alternative school or similar program. All students seeking re-admission shall first present their request to the Discipline Appeals Committee that will determine whether there has been sufficient rehabilitation to warrant re-admission. The committee will recommend continued denial of admission, probationary admission with specified terms of probation, or admission. See also Policy JIA, Policy IHBH, Policy JKC, and Policy JKD.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JLA	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Student Insurance Programs	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

Low-rate group accident insurance may be made available to all students. Parents will be informed of this insurance annually and urged to purchase it for their children.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JLC	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Student Health Services and Requirements	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

Protection of health and safety is necessary for the fostering of teaching and learning. All students enrolled in the George County School District shall comply with immunization requirements. MS Code §37-7-301(i), §37-15-1, and §41-23-37

Principals shall notify the county health department of any student who has had head lice on three consecutive occasions during one school year. The student shall not be allowed to attend school until proof of treatment is obtained. MS Code §41-79-21

Sanitary conditions in the schools shall meet State Board of Health requirements.

MEDICINE

School personnel may not exceed the practice of first aid in dealing with pupil injuries and sickness, and only qualified personnel shall administer first aid to pupils.

Medication shall be provided or administered to a student by school personnel ONLY with the written request of the medical doctor and consent of the student's parent/custodian/legal guardian, and by following Policy JCCD/JCCD-R. See also Policy JLCC, Policy JLCE, Policy JLCD, and Policy JLCD-R.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JLCB	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Immunization of Students	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The George County School District Board of Education has the power, authority and duty to require those vaccinations specified by the state health officer as provided in MS Code §41-23-37. MS Code §37-7-301 (i) Whenever indicated, the state health officer shall specify such immunization practices as may be considered best for the control of vaccine preventable diseases. A listing shall be promulgated annually or more often, if necessary.

Except as provided hereinafter, it shall be unlawful for any child to attend any school, kindergarten or similar type facility intended for the instruction of children, either public or private, with the exception of any legitimate home instruction program as defined in MS Code §37-13-9, for 10 or less children who are related

within the third degree computed according to the civil law to the operator, unless they shall first have been vaccinated against those diseases specified by the state health officer.

A certificate of exemption from vaccination for medical reasons may be offered on behalf of a child by a duly licensed physician and may be accepted by the local health officer who, in his/her opinion, such exemption will not cause undue risk to the community.

Certificates of vaccination shall be issued by local health officers or physicians on forms specified by the Mississippi State Board of Health. These forms shall be the only acceptable means for showing compliance with these immunization requirements, and the responsible school officials shall file the form with the child's record.

If a child shall offer to enroll at a school without having completed the required vaccinations, the local health officer may grant a period of time up to 90 days for such completion when, in the opinion of the health officer, such delay will not cause undue risk to the child, the school or the community. No child shall be enrolled without having had at least one dose of each specified vaccine.

Within 30 days after the opening of the fall term of school (on or before October 1 of each year) the person in charge of each school shall report to the county or local health officer, on forms provided by the Mississippi State Board of Health, the number of children enrolled by age or grade or both, the number fully vaccinated, the number in process of completing vaccination requirements, and the number exempt from vaccination by reason for such exemption.

Within 120 days after the opening of the fall term (on or before December 31), the person in charge of each school shall certify to the local or county health officer that all children enrolled are in compliance with immunization requirements.

For the purpose of assisting in supervising the immunization status of the children the local health officer, or his/her designee, may inspect the children's records or be furnished certificates of immunization compliance by the school.

It shall be the responsibility of the person in charge of each school to enforce the requirements for immunization. Any child not in compliance at the end of 90 days from the opening of the fall term must be suspended until in compliance, unless the health officer shall attribute the delay to lack of supply of vaccine or some other such factor clearly making compliance impossible. Failure to enforce provisions of this section shall constitute a misdemeanor and upon conviction be punishable by fine or imprisonment or both. MS Code §41-23-37 (1983) See also Policy JLCC.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JLCC	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Communicable/Infectious Diseases	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The George County School District has the power, authority and duty to exclude from the schools students with what appears to be infectious or contagious diseases; provided, however, such student may be allowed to return to school upon presenting a certificate from a public health officer, duly licensed physician or nurse practitioner that the student is free from such disease. MS Code §37-7-301 (h)

EDUCATING STUDENTS WITH CHRONIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES POLICY

The following shall be the policy of the George County School for educating students known to have a chronic infectious disease (persistent illness in the carrier state as compared to an acute short-term self-limiting illness) such as, but not limited to hepatitis B, herpes simplex, AIDS/ARC or cytomegalovirus.

1. A student with a chronic infectious disease shall be removed from the classroom temporarily and until the district's medical advisor in consultation with the student's physician determines whether the student's presence in the school poses a risk of transmission of such chronic infectious disease to others.
2. Should it be determined by the school's medical advisor that attendance poses no threat, the student shall be allowed to resume attendance at school subject to whatever restrictions or limitations, if any, that the school's medical advisor shall recommend. The student's school attendance shall be reviewed by the school's medical advisor in consultation with the student's physician at least once every month to determine if continued school attendance poses any risk of transmission of such chronic infectious disease to others.
3. Should it be determined by the school's medical adviser that attendance at school poses a risk of transmission of such chronic infectious disease to others, an appropriate alternative education program shall be established for that student which shall continue until the district's medical adviser determines that the risk of transmission to others has abated and normal school attendance can resume.
4. The decision of the district's medical adviser shall be final.

EXCLUSIONS FROM SCHOOL

The law provides the George County School District with the power to exclude from school any student suffering from contagious or infectious diseases. Each staff member has the responsibility to observe students and notify the principal of any student suspected of having an infectious or contagious disease. Exclusion criteria are as follows:

DISEASE	EXCLUSION
1. Chicken Pox	Eight days after eruption appears (until rash is dry)
2. German Measles	Four days after onset of rash; clearance by physician
3. Red Measles	Seven to 10 days after onset of rash; clearance by physician
4. Mumps	Nine days after glands swell (until swelling has subsided)
5. Scarlet Fever	One day with antibiotic treatment. Four days without treatment
6. Pediculosis (lice)	Until nits are gone
7. Hepatitis	Clearance by physician
8. Conjunctivitis (pink eye)	Until under proper treatment
9. Impetigo	Until under proper treatment
10. Ringworm	Until under proper treatment
11. Scabies	Until under proper treatment

A principal shall require a written note from the student's family doctor or public health department for a student to return to school after having a communicable or infectious disease.

HEAD LICE

For any student who has had head lice on 3 consecutive occasions during one school year, the principal shall notify the county health department of the recurring problem of head lice with that student. The student shall not be allowed to attend school until proof of treatment is obtained. MS Code §41-79-21

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JLCCA	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Students with HIV/AIDS	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

In order to solicit necessary information for the welfare of the child, the George County School District establishes the following policy for HIV-Positive-AIDS students:

1. Students infected with HIV-AIDS should be allowed to attend school under the following conditions: A team consisting of the student's personal physician, school administrator, principal, teacher, student's parents, and the school nurse will work together to determine if the student's behavior, neurological development and physical condition are such that the student can in general perform like other students of the same grade/age level. This team will also be charged with determining whether or not the student poses a threat to other students and/or faculty by virtue of a secondary infection that causes a medically recognized risk of transmission in a school setting.
2. A school nurse or administrative appointee will be designated as the student's advocate to assist in problems that may arise, to serve as a liaison with the student's physician and parents, to provide educational materials, to function as the focal point for questions and to act as an impartial party with whom all sides can consult regarding issues related to the student. The parent or legal guardian will be asked to sign a release of information form for the communication between the physician and school district. The student's physician shall make the final decision as to whether the student should be permitted to attend a regular school program and shall make his/her recommendation in writing to the superintendent.
3. The team will be responsible for determining what staff is to be notified of student's infectious status. Note: In order to protect the confidentiality rights of the student those informed will be kept to a minimum: principal, teacher, nurse, and other person designated for personal care. The records and the information regarding the student shall be considered confidential and so maintained and filed. Any employee who breaches the confidentiality of an HIV infected child shall be subject to reprimand.
4. In instances where the student's physical and/or mental health regresses and there is evidence of a secondary infection that causes a risk of transmission in the school setting, the team will convene to discuss the student's attendance status. In the case of an official removal by the team, the student's physician will be responsible for notifying the student's advocate of improvement of his/her condition. The student's parent/legal guardian and the student's physician will be responsible for making recommendation to the team regarding re-entry to normal school attendance.
5. Instances that may also necessitate recommendation to the physician that he/she approve removal of the student from regular school attendance are as follows:
 - a. Lack of control of body fluids
 - b. Violent behavior such as biting, fighting, (persistent) kicking
 - c. Open sores and/or oozing lesions that cannot be covered
 - d. Persistent diarrhea, vomiting, nosebleeds
 - e. Other indicators as noted by the child's physician and/or school personnel
6. The team will be responsible for reviewing any request by the student to participate in extra-curricular activities such as contact sports.
7. A student who is immunodeficient may need to be removed from the classroom for his/her own protection when cases of measles, chicken pox, or other communicable diseases are occurring in the school population. This decision will/be made by the student's physician.
8. Immune suppressed children may have immunizations waived by written permission from their doctor.
9. Blood and body fluid precautions:
 - a. Routine and standard procedures will be used to clean up after a child has an accident or injury at school.
 - b. Blood or other body fluids emanating from any student will be treated cautiously.

- c. Gloves will be worn when cleaning up blood spills. These spills will be disinfected and persons coming in contact with the student will wash their hands afterwards.
 - d. Blood soaked items will be placed in leak-proof bags for washing or further disposition. The same procedures shall be followed in dealing with vomit, other body fluids, and fecal matter or urinary incontinence in any student.
 - e. Materials such as gloves and leak-proof bags will be readily available.
 - f. Staff who may have contact with body fluids will be knowledgeable about what to do if spills occur.
 - g. Hand washing after contact with a school child is routinely recommended and mandatory if physical contact has been made with the child's blood or body fluids, including saliva.
10. The district shall use a limited medical release form.

CLEANING STANDARDS

All staff shall use the following routine and standard procedure to clean up after a student has an accident or injury at school. The district shall provide gloves and other appropriate materials for use by the staff for compliance with this policy.

1. Blood or body fluids emanating from ANY student including ones known to have a chronic infectious disease shall be treated cautiously.
2. Rubber gloves shall be worn when cleaning up blood spills. These spills shall be disinfected with a solution of bleach and water (1 part bleach to 7 parts water) and persons coming in contact with them shall wash their hands immediately.
3. Blood soaked items shall be placed in leak-proof bags for washing or further disposition.
4. The same procedures shall be used for dealing with the vomit and bodily waste of ANY student.
4. Hand washing immediately after contact with a student is routinely recommended if physical contact has been made with the student's blood or bodily fluids, including saliva. See also Policy JLC.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JLCD/JLC D-R	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Administering Medicines to Students/ Regulations	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i> September 2, 2003

George County School District personnel will not administer prescription medicine to a student without the authorization of a physician and the signature of the parents/guardians on the indemnity agreement/permission form associated with this policy. The parents/guardians are responsible for obtaining a statement from the physician authorizing school personnel to administer the medicine. The statement should include:

Student's name	Diagnosis
Name of medicine	Method of administration
Time/s to administer the medicine	Amount of medicine
Date to discontinue or review administration of medicine	Physician's signature
	Date

The parents/guardians are responsible for getting the medicine to the school. All medicine must be in a proper container with a label from the pharmacy that states the following:

Student's name	Name of medicine
Method of administration	Time/s to administer the medicine
Prescription number	Name of pharmacy
Date filled	

Personnel will not administer non-prescription medication unless the parent/guardian signs an indemnity/permission form and the Administering Medicine to Students form. Medication must be provided in the original package. Other procedures for administering medications are as follows:

1. All medication that a student receives in the school setting will be recorded on the student's medication record.
2. Medications will not be accepted in household containers, envelopes, or baggies.
3. Medication will not be given from a teacher's own personal supply.
4. A new form must be signed for each medication or change of medication order. A new form with the physician's orders must be signed at the beginning of each school year if the medication is continued from one year to the next.
5. Medication, both prescription and over-the-counter, must be brought to school by an adult.
6. The proper disposal of unused medications is important, and it is the responsibility of the parent to obtain all unused medication from the school when the medication is discontinued, the school year ends, or the family transfers to another district. All medication left in the school under these conditions will be disposed of by the school nurse or designee.
7. Student may keep asthma inhalers and diabetic medication with them at all times if given permission from the parent/guardian, physician, and school nurse.
8. The parent or legal guardian must notify the school immediately if the medication is no longer required.
9. A maximum of one month's dosage of any medicine should be brought to school at a time.
10. The school shall designate a specific, locked, and limited access storage space within the school to store the medication.
11. The school will ensure that there are copies of medication forms in the student's cumulative folder as well as available for immediate reference by the staff member responsible for administering the medication.
12. The staff member administering the medication must ascertain the identity of the student, see that the medication is taken in his/her presence, and should note the time on the student's file.
13. If a student refuses to take the prescribed medication, the staff member administering the medicine will notify the principal. The parent/legal guardian will be contacted immediately and, if they are not available, the assistance of a qualified person, i.e., school nurse or student's physician, should be sought.
14. Only prescribed medication that can be taken orally, e.g., pill, or that can be applied externally can be administered by a non-medically trained staff member. A medically trained staff member must administer any form of medication that requires an injection.
15. The building principal shall be responsible for the administration of these regulations.

Students are permitted to self-administer asthma medications if the student's parent or guardian:

- (a) Provides written authorization for self-administration to the school: and
- (b) Provides a written statement from the student's health care practitioner that the student has asthma and has been instructed in self-administration of asthma medications. The statement shall also contain the following information:
 - (i) The name and purpose of the medications:
 - (ii) The prescribed dosage:
 - (iii) The time or times the medications are to be regularly administered and under what additional special circumstances the medications are to be administered: and
 - (iv) The length of time for which the medications are prescribed.

These required statements shall be kept on file in the office of the school nurse or school administrator.

The permission for self-administration of medications shall be effective for the school year in which it is granted and shall be renewed each following school year.

See also Policy JLCE and Policy JLC.

GEORGE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
PARENT AUTHORIZATION AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT/MEDICATIONS RELEASE

The undersigned parent/s or guardian/s of _____, a minor child, has requested personnel of the George County School District to administer prescription medicine to this student. This request has been made for my/our convenience as a substitute for parental administration of this medicine. It is understood that school personnel administering the medicine will not have to have medical or nursing training.

I /We forever release, discharge and covenant to hold harmless the school district, its personnel and board of trustees from any all claims, demands, damages, expenses, loss of services and causes of action belonging to the minor child or to the undersigned arising out of or on account of any injury, sickness, disability, loss or damages of any kind resulting from the administration of the prescription medicine.

The undersigned agree to repay the school district, its personnel or trustees any sum of money, expenses, or attorney's fees that any of them may be compelled to pay in defense of any action or on account of any such injury to the minor child as a result of the administration of medicine.

I have read the foregoing release and indemnity agreement and fully understand it.

Executed this the _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Parent or Guardian

Witness

ADMINISTERING MEDICINE TO STUDENTS

Name of Student	Social Security #	Race	Gender	Grade	School

Log			
Date	Time	Administrator	Comments

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN
<p>I request my child named and identified above to receive:</p> <p>___ Medication as prescribed by our physician on the form below or as listed on the container issued by the pharmacy.</p> <p>___ Non-prescription/over-the-counter medication provided by me.</p> <p>I understand that the school district is rendering a service and does not assume any responsibility for this matter. I further understand that the school will designate a staff ;member who either will administer or observe my child taking the medicine.</p> <p>Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Phone _____ Date _____</p>
TO BE COMPLETED BY PHYSICIAN
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>I request that my patient named and identified above receive the following medication during regular school hours.</i></p> <p>Diagnosis _____ Name of Medication _____</p> <p>Prescribed Dosage _____ Means of Administration _____</p> <p>Time to be Taken During School Hours _____ Expected Duration of Treatment _____</p> <p>Possible Side Effects and Adverse Reactions _____</p> <p>Other Recommendations _____</p> <p>Physician's Name _____ Signature _____</p> <p>Phone Number _____ Date _____</p>

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JLCE	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
First Aid and Emergency Medical Care	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

Each principal in the George County School District shall have a planned written program for handling emergencies resulting from accident or sudden sickness of students that shall be approved by the designee of the superintendent. The program of first aid for emergencies shall provide direction for giving immediate care, notifying parent, guardian, or custodian, getting the student home, and directing the parent, where necessary, to the source of treatment.

The program of first aid shall incorporate the following requirements:

1. The principal or another trained person shall be for administering first aid.
2. In all cases where the nature of an illness or an injury appears in any way serious, every effort shall be made to contact the parent and/or family physician immediately.
3. No student who is ill or injured shall be sent home alone. A student who is ill or injured shall not be taken home unless it is known that someone is there to receive him/her.
4. In extreme emergencies, the principal may make arrangements for immediate hospitalization of injured or ill students, contacting the parent or guardian in advance if at all possible.
5. The teacher or other staff member to whom a student is responsible at the time an accident occurs shall make out a report providing details about the accident.
6. Serious accidents to students shall be reported as soon possible to the designee of the superintendent.

ACCIDENT REPORTING

The principal of each school shall report injuries to students and employees that require medical attention or that keep the student or employee from school or from work one-half day or more on the accident report form provided by the district.

FIRST AID SUPPLIES

Principals shall maintain an adequate supply of standard first aid materials that shall be made available by the board, as are other school supplies.

MEDICATION

School personnel shall not exceed the usual practice of competent first aid where required. They shall not diagnose and provide medications under any circumstance. Medication shall be administered to a student by school personnel ONLY with the written request and consent of the student's parent/custodian/legal guardian and by following Policy JCCD-R.

FIRST AID TRAINING

Principals shall see that one-third of the instructional staff of the school is currently certified by the American Red Cross to administer first aid. Effective not later than August 1, 2003, all physical education teachers and coaches shall be certified to give first aid. See also Policy EB.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i>	<i>Approved</i>
Student Health Services	JLD	March 2, 2004
	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The board directs its district health staff to coordinate with health personnel from other public agencies in matters pertaining to health instruction or the general health of students and employees.

The board may establish a local school health/physical education advisory council to assist the district in ensuring that local community values are reflected in the district's health and physical education instruction. 37-13-134 (2003), 37-13-134(8) and 37-13-134(9), (2007).

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i>	<i>Approved</i>
Reporting Child Abuse/Child Protection	JLF	November 2002
	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The George County School District Board of Education recognizes its legal and ethical obligation in the reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect. Where there is "reasonable cause" to suspect a child has been abused and/or neglected or threatened with abuse as defined in MS Code §43-23-3(h)(i) and §93-21-3(a)(i)(ii)(iii) school personnel, as mandated reporters, shall act in accordance with the state laws and report incidents to the Mississippi State Department of Human Services (1-800-222-8000) or its successors, or other such duly constituted authorities. Reports of child abuse or neglect—including the name and address of the child, family, mandated reporter, or any other identifying information in the report—shall remain confidential and shall not be public information.

As provided in MS Code §43-21-355 and §93-21-23, any mandated reporter making a report of participating in judicial proceedings shall be presumed to be acting in good faith, and if found to have acted in good faith shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, that might be incurred or imposed. The reporting of an abused person shall not constitute a breach of confidentiality.

The board also believes in a positive and preventative approach toward child abuse and neglect. Therefore, the board endorses periodic in-service programs for all staff in an effort toward making staff members more sensitive to the issues involved in child abuse and neglect. The superintendent, or designee, is directed to develop administrative guidelines necessary to implement this policy. MS Code §43-21-353 through §43-21-355, §43-23-3, §43-23-25, §93-21-1 through §93-21-29, §97-5-23 (1972)

CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT DEFINITIONS

MS CODE §93-21-3

1. "Abuse" means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between family or household members who reside together or who formerly resided together:
 - a. Attempting to cause or intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causing bodily injury or serious bodily injury with or without a deadly weapon;
 - b. Placing, by physical menace or threat, another in fear of imminent serious bodily injury; or
 - c. Criminal sexual conduct committed against a minor within the meaning of MS Code §97-5-23.
2. "Adult" means any person 18 years of age or older, or any person under 18 years of age who has been emancipated by marriage.
3. "Court" shall mean the chancery court, or the justice court or county court when the chancery court is unavailable.

4. "Family or household member" means spouses, former spouses, persons living as spouses, parents and children, or other persons related by consanguinity or affinity.

MS CODE §43-23-3(H) NEGLECTED CHILD

"Neglected child" means a child whose parent, guardian, or custodian, or any person legally responsible for his/her care or support, neglects or refuses when able so to do, to provide for him/her proper or necessary care or support, or education as required by law, or medical, surgical, or other care necessary for his/her well-being; or who is otherwise without proper care, custody, supervision, or support; or who, for any reason and as the result of the faults or habits of anyone, lacks the special care made necessary for him/her by reason of his/her mental condition, whether said condition be mentally defective or mentally disordered; or who, for any reason, and as the result of the faults or habits of anyone, lacks the care necessary for his/her health, morals, or well-being; or who is found in a disreputable place, or who associates with vagrant, vicious, or immoral persons.

MS CODE §43-23-3(I) BATTERED/ABUSED CHILD

"Battered and abused child" means a child whose parent, guardian or custodian, or any person responsible for his/her care or support, whether legally obligated to do so or not, has inflicted physical injury, including sexual abuse, or injuries other than by accidental means upon him/her as a result of abuse or neglect. In addition to physical injury, abuse encompasses a situation in which a child's mental health has been adversely affected in some substantial way as determined by examination by competent mental health professionals.

MS CODE §93-21-3 TOUCHING, HANDLING, ETC., CHILD FOR LUSTFUL PURPOSES

See Policy GBEBB.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i>	<i>Approved</i>
Student Safety	JLI	November 2002
	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

It shall be the duty of the principals and teachers in all school buildings in the George County School District to instruct the pupils in the methods of fire drills and to practice fire drills until all the pupils in the school are familiar with the methods of escape. Such fire drills shall be conducted often enough to keep such pupils well drilled. It shall be the further duty of such principals and teachers to instruct the pupils in all programs of emergency management as may be designated by the Mississippi Department of Education. MS Code §37-11-5 (1980)

Each school shall have a current safety disaster plan and shall conduct regular safety drills, to include but not limited to bomb threat, earthquake, fire, and tornado.

The school district is in compliance with state and/or federal requirements for Driver Education. MS Code §37-25-1 et seq.

The school district provides operational facilities that are clean, safe, and equipped to meet the instructional needs of students and staff. The school district provides air conditioning in all classrooms in each school. Sanitary conditions in the schools shall meet State Board of Health Requirements.

It shall be unlawful for any person to intimidate, threaten or coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten or coerce, whether by illegal force, threats of force or by the distribution of intimidating, threatening or coercive material, any person enrolled in any school for the purpose of interfering with the right of that person to attend school classes or of causing him/her not to attend such classes.

Upon conviction of violation of any provision of this section, such individual shall be guilty of a misdemeanor

and shall be subject to a fine of not to exceed \$500, imprisonment in jail for a period not to exceed six months, or both. Any person under the age of 17 years who violates any provision of this section shall be treated as a delinquent within the jurisdiction of the youth court. MS Code §37-11-20 (1972)

Student-to-student sexual harassment will not be tolerated. Complaints of student-to-student sexual harassment will be handled in accordance with Policy JBAB.

Each student and teacher is required to wear an appropriate industrial quality eye protective device at all times while participating in or observing any of the following courses of instruction:

1. Vocational, technical, industrial arts, chemical, or chemical-physical, involving exposure to:
 - a. Hot molten metals, or other molten materials;
 - b. Milling, sawing, turning, shaping, cutting, grinding, or stamping of any solid materials;
 - c. Heat treatment, tempering, or kiln firing of any metal or other materials;
 - d. Gas or electric arc welding, or other forms of welding processes;
 - e. Caustic or explosive materials; or
2. Chemical, physical, or combined chemical-physical laboratories involving caustic or explosive materials, hot liquids or solids, injurious radiations, or other hazards not enumerated.

For purposes of this section unless the context indicates otherwise "Industrial quality eye protective device" shall mean a device meeting the standards of the American National Standard Practice for Occupational and Educational Eye and Face Protection, Z 87.1-1968, and subsequent revisions thereof, approved by the American National Standards Institute, Inc. Such devices may, at the discretion of the individual school, be

1. Furnished for all students and teachers
2. Purchased and sold at cost to students and teachers
3. Made available for a moderate rental fee.

Such devices shall be furnished to all visitors to such shops and laboratories. MS Code §37-11-49 (1974) Upon application from the school board, the superintendent of schools may close any school because of an epidemic prevailing in the school district or because of the death, resignation, sickness, or dismissal of a teacher or teachers or because of any other emergency necessitating the closing of the school. However, all such schools so closed shall operate for the required full time after being reopened during the scholastic year. MS Code §37-13-63 (1992)

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

The district complies with the applicable rules and regulations of the State Board of Education in the operation of its transportation program. MS Code §37-41-53

Maximum regard for pupil safety and adequate protection of health shall be primary requirements that shall be observed by the school board in purchasing used school buses. MS Code §37-41-103 (1982) See also Policy EBCA and Policy EEAE.

1. All buses are inspected on a quarterly basis and are well maintained and clean.
2. Each bus driver has a valid bus driver certificate and a commercial driver's license and operates the bus according to all specified safety procedures.
3. The school district has on file a yearly motor vehicle report on each driver and evidence that each driver has received two hours of in-service training per semester.
4. Bus schedules ensure arrival of all buses at their designated school sites prior to the start of the instructional day.
5. Emergency bus evacuation drills are conducted at least twice each year.

BUS ACCIDENTS

A number of actions shall be taken following a school bus accident; the order and number of such actions will vary based on the severity of the accident and the extent or nature of the injuries, if any, following a school bus accident, the procedures listed below shall be implemented:

1. The school bus driver must immediately check all student passengers for injury and ask whether anyone is hurt or injured. If so, first aid shall be administered, if appropriate. The school bus driver must notify authorities and/or Transportation Department. The students should be evacuated from the school bus in accordance with standard procedures only if the condition or position of the school bus creates a further hazard to the student passengers. If there are no injuries or very minor injuries, the school bus driver must immediately take control of the student passengers, calm the students, and maintain discipline. While waiting for the proper authorities to arrive, the school bus driver will complete the necessary accounting data as required by the school district and the public safety department.
2. The Transportation Department, upon notification of an accident, will immediately dispatch a representative to the accident location and assist the school bus driver and the authorities as appropriate. The superintendent's office must be notified of all accidents, and in the case of severe accidents, the superintendent must be notified immediately.
3. The school will be notified of the accident if students were on board. Upon receiving notification of an accident, the principal will notify school nurse and take action as appropriate. The principal or his/her designee will be responsible for being sure that all parents of students on a bus involved in an accident are notified.
4. The school nurse will be provided a list of passengers on board the school bus involved in an accident. If possible, the nurse will screen each passenger for visible injuries or complaints after his/her arrival at school and will provide information to be given to parents.

IMMUNIZATIONS

All students enrolled in the school district comply with immunization requirements. MS Code §37-7-301(i), §37-15-1, and §41-23-37 See Policy JLCB.

MS Code §37-7-301(c) (d)(j); §37-11-5, 49; §45-11-101; §37-17-6(2) See also Policy EB, Policy EBC, Policy EBCA, Policy EBCB, Policy EBCD, Policy EBCD, Policy EE, and Policy EEAE.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i>	<i>Approved</i>
Supervision of Students	JLIA	November 2002
	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The school principal shall provide for adequate supervision of students while in the school building or on the school grounds, before, during and after school by developing and enforcing a written student supervision plan that includes duty posts and other necessary information. Students shall not be permitted to arrive more than 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the school day and are expected to leave school promptly at the end of the school day unless staying in or participating in a school-sponsored and supervised activity.

Classroom teachers, club sponsors and sponsors/directors of extracurricular activities, including sports, shall never leave those in their charge unsupervised and unattended whether at school, away from school, during school hours or after school hours. This includes field trips, club trips, and sports events.

All supervision of school students shall be conducted by a competent adult regular staff member except where competent adult chaperons have been selected and assigned by the school principal. The school principal shall determine the fitness of a chaperon to supervise. A chaperon shall not be allowed to supervise any school-sponsored activity wherein there lies a reasonable risk of injury to the students.

The director of transportation shall provide for adequate supervision of students using the pupil transportation system in compliance with all laws, rules, and regulations of the State Board of Education that govern pupil transportation.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JLIB	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Student Dismissal Precautions	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

No student in the George County School District shall leave school without permission from the principal or his/her designee. Students shall be allowed to be dismissed from school for personal illness or bona fide emergency. Students must secure a dismissal permit from the school principal's/attendance office and authorization by a parent or guardian appointed by the Chancery Court before they will be allowed to leave school.

Students having an appointment with a doctor or dentist or for other valid reasons may be dismissed from school as follows:

1. A parent or guardian appointed by the Chancery Court may personally come to the school and pick up a student through the principal's/school attendance office.
2. The student may present a doctor or dentist appointment card to the attendance office and receive a permit.
3. The student may present a note from a parent or guardian appointed by the Chancery Court to the attendance office that contains the reason for dismissal, time of dismissal, and phone number where the parent or guardian appointed by the Chancery Court can be contacted in order to receive a dismissal permit.
4. All dismissal permits must be obtained from the attendance office before school opens on the day of dismissal.
5. The dismissal permit is to be used as the written excuse but must be signed by a parent, guardian appointed by the Chancery Court, doctor or dentist in order to be valid.
6. Dismissal permits shall be issued for the last period of the day for doctors or dentist appointments or other valid reasons, provided the above procedure is followed.
7. If a note or appointment card cannot be verified, school officials reserve the right to refuse the issuance of a dismissal permit.
8. Work must be made up if a dismissal is for any of the reasons shown above. Work must be made up if a dismissal to meet a doctor or dental appointment causes a student to miss class work.

Any student leaving school on school-related business must first obtain written permission from his/her teacher and then personally sign out at the principal's/school attendance office. Upon return to school, the student must personally sign in.

No student shall leave school without a dismissal permit or without signing out at the attendance office. Dismissal requests during the last period of the day shall receive strict scrutiny by the attendance office due to abuse of the dismissal privilege. Each school shall maintain a file listing the individual(s) to whom a child can be released. See also Policy JJ.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JLIE	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Student Automobile Use and Parking	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

Driving on school roads and parking on school property is a courtesy offered to students and others by George County School District Board of Education.

The parking facilities located at the various school district buildings are not public parking areas and are to be used for school purposes only. School purposes include attendance at school activities or other school authorized activities that occur before or after the regular school day. Violators may be charged with trespassing and/or vehicles towed at owners' expense.

The administration, obtaining suggestions from local law enforcement agencies, shall establish rules and regulations to assure traffic safety. The district shall not assume any responsibility for damage to vehicles. Students shall be responsible for locking their vehicles upon arrival since the school district shall assume no responsibility for any loss.

Students shall not sit in or upon vehicles parked on the school campus.

Failure to abide by vehicle regulations may result in the loss of the right to bring a vehicle to school or other disciplinary action.

Student automobiles are subject to administrative searches.

See also Policy JIH and Policy EB.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JQ	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Student Fees, Fines, and Charges	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

See Policy JJD.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JR	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Student Information	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The George County School District shall maintain a cumulative and permanent record on each student who has enrolled in the school district. Maintenance of said records shall be in accordance with state law as codified in MS Code §37-15-1 through §37-15-3 (1974).

Access to any student's cumulative folder or permanent record shall be in accordance with PL93 380, the "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974."

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS & PRIVACY ACT OF 1974

The George County School District complies with provisions granted under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. Under this law, the parents of students enrolled in any educational institution receiving federal funds are given certain rights concerning the school records of their children. The following rights are accorded to parents/guardians under this act:

1. They are entitled to have access to their child's school records upon request. This request should be directed to the school principal.
2. They are entitled to inspect and review the contents of their child's school records and to challenge the contents if they feel they are inaccurate, misleading, in violation of the privacy or other rights of the student, or if they contain inappropriate data.
3. Before any school records will be released to third parties (colleges, potential employers, etc.) who have requested copies of their child's records, the school must obtain their written consent.
4. Upon receipt of a subpoena or judicial order requiring the principal to relinquish control of their child's record, they will be notified of the subpoena or judicial order before the principal will relinquish control of the records.
5. Whenever their child seeks to enroll in another elementary or secondary school outside this district, they must approve transfer of the records.
6. The law allows "directory information" about students to be made public without specific permission from parents. They are entitled, however, to request the deletion of certain information about your child from school directories.
7. The school will maintain a list containing the signature, the date and reason of all persons receiving access to their child's records. The law, however, allows school officials, including a child's teachers, to have access to school records without signature. Parents/guardians are entitled to have access to this list.
8. When their child becomes 18 years of age, the rights formerly accorded to parents/guardians with respect to school records will become the sole rights of the student.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i>	<i>Approved</i>
Student Records	JRA	November 2002
	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

Permanent records and cumulative folders for individual students contain all required data and are collected, maintained, and disseminated in compliance with state law, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, and the Confidentiality Section of P. L. 94-142. (See Appendix F and A Manual of Directions for Using Mississippi Cumulative Folders and Permanent Records, Revised Edition, 1997.) MS Code §37-15-1 through 3

The Family Rights and Privacy Act (20 USC 1232) forbids disclosure or inspection of a student's educational and disciplinary records. All references to students' disciplinary actions in the minutes of the George County School District Board of Education shall be by reference number to the student disciplinary file maintained in the superintendent's office.

1. The State Board of Education shall prepare and provide necessary forms for keeping permanent records and cumulative folders for each pupil in the schools of the district. In the permanent record and cumulative folders, the teachers and principals shall keep information concerning the pupil's date of birth, as verified by certified birth certificate, record of attendance, grades, and withdrawal from the school, including the date of any expulsion from the school system and a description of the student's act or behavior resulting in the expulsion. The records shall also contain information pertaining to immunization and such other information as the State Board of Education may prescribe. The cumulative folder, in addition to that information maintained in the permanent records, shall also contain such other information as the State Board of Education shall prescribe. It shall be the responsibility of the person in charge of each school to enforce the requirement for a certified birth certificate for each pupil before enrollment. Any child

enrolling in Kindergarten or Grade 1 shall present a certified birth certificate upon enrollment. Any child in Grades 2 through 12 not in compliance at the end of 60 days from the opening of the fall term shall be suspended until in compliance. MS Code §37-15-1

2. The permanent record provided for above shall be kept, while it is active, in the attendance center office in a fire resistant container. The permanent record shall be considered active: (a) if the student is enrolled in the school; or (b) if he/she has withdrawn or has been expelled and the students of the class of which he/she was a member shall not have reached the time of graduation.

At the point of the student's graduation or at the time when the student would normally have graduated had he not withdrawn or been expelled from school, the student's permanent record shall become a part of the permanent binder in the central fire resistant depository as designated and provided by the school board of the school district, or as an alternative method, the records may be maintained in fire resistant storage at the school last attended by the student. The permanent binding and preservation of the inactive records shall be the duty of the superintendent of the George County School District who shall maintain a central depository of the records. MS Code §37-15-2

3. The cumulative folders provided for above shall be kept in the school wherein the pupils are in attendance. Both the permanent records and the cumulative folders shall be available for inspection by public and private school officials, including public school teachers within the school district who have been determined by the school district to have legitimate educational interests. In no case, however, shall such records be available to the general public. Transcripts of courses and grades may be furnished when requested by the parent or guardian or eligible pupil as prescribed in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, 20 USC Section 1232. The records shall be kept for each pupil throughout his/her entire public school enrollment period. In the event a pupil transfers to a public school, then the cumulative folder shall be furnished to the head of the school to which the pupil transfers; if a pupil transfers to a private school, then a copy of the cumulative folder shall be furnished to the head of the school to which the pupil transfers. The permanent record shall be kept permanently by the school district from which the pupil transferred.

At no time may a permanent record of a student be destroyed, but cumulative folders may be destroyed by order of the school board of this school district in not less than five years after the permanent record of the pupil has become inactive and has been transferred to the central depository of the district. However, where a school district makes complete copies of inactive permanent records on photographic film or microfilm that may be reproduced as needed, the permanent records may be destroyed after the photographic film or microfilm copy has been stored in the central depository of the district. MS Code §37-15-3

4. For the purpose of providing notice to public and private school officials, both within and outside the boundaries of the state, of the expulsion of any public school student, the Mississippi Department of Education may develop a central reporting system for maintaining information concerning each expulsion from a public school. In establishing and maintaining the reporting system, the department may require each school district to report, within a certain period of time after an expulsion, as established by the department, information such as the following:
 - a. The name of the student expelled;
 - b. The date the student was expelled;
 - c. The age of the student at the time of expulsion;
 - d. The school from which the student was expelled;
 - e. The reason for the expulsion, including a detailed description of the student's act or acts;
 - f. The duration of the period of expulsion, if not indefinite; and
 - g. Any other information that the department deems necessary for school officials in a public or private school, where a student is seeking enrollment, to determine whether or not a student should be denied enrollment based upon a previous expulsion.

Any information maintained under the authority of this section shall be strictly confidential. The information shall be available to school officials at a public or private school only upon request and only when a student seeks enrollment or admission to that school. In no case shall the information be made available to the general public. MS Code §37-15-3

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JRB	<i>Approved</i> March 2, 2004
Student Records (Access)	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i> February 2, 2010

It is the policy of the George County Board of Education that the principal of each school will be the legal custodian of all student records for that school.

Students and parents will have access to their school records. The school will notify parents and adult students annually of the following:

The type of records kept;

The procedure for inspecting and copying these records;

The right for interpretation;

The right to challenge data thought to be erroneous, the procedures for correcting or expunging erroneous data or inserting a rebuttal statement;

The right to lodge a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education if mandates are not adequately implemented.

Additionally, the district will notify parents annually of the district's policy on the collection or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or selling that information or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose, including arrangements to protect student privacy that are provided by the agency in the event of such collection, disclosure or use.

The educational records or school records include all materials directly related to a student that a school maintains. Records and notes maintained by a teacher, administrator, school physician, or school psychologist for his or her own use, and which are not available to others are exempted from this definition.

The school will require a prior written consent before information other than directory information may be divulged to third parties. An exception to this rule exists for school district employees who have legitimate interests in viewing the records, as well as officials in other schools in which the student seeks to enroll.

TRANSFER OF ENROLLMENT

A school district in which a student is enrolled or is in the process of enrolling in may request the student's education records from the district in which the student was formerly enrolled to ascertain safety issues with incoming students and ensure full disclosure. The records, including the student's disciplinary records, will be forwarded to the requesting district with three (3) business days. Disciplinary records shall include but not be limited to all information that relates to a student assaulting, carrying weapons, possessing illegal drugs, including alcohol, and any incident that poses a potential dangerous threat to the students or school personnel.

When schools transfer records to new educational institutions, the schools must notify parents of the transfer, and of their right to review and contest the material. An exemption exists for material under court order. Parents must be notified of such order prior to release.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

The district may disclose, without the consent or knowledge of the eligible student or parent, personally identifiable information in the educational records of a student to the Attorney General of the United States or his or her designee in response to an ex parte order in connection with the investigation or prosecution of terrorism crimes. The district is not required to record such disclosure of information and is protected from liability for disclosing such information in good faith.

The superintendent is directed to establish procedures to ensure compliance with the Family Educational and Privacy Act (FERPA) and other applicable acts and regulations.

EVIDENCE OF AGE AT TIME OF ENROLLMENT

It shall be the responsibility of the principal of each school to enforce the requirement for evidence of the age of each pupil before enrollment. If the first prescribed evidence is not available, the next evidence obtainable in the order set forth below shall be accepted:

A certified birth certificate;

A duly attested transcript of a certificate of baptism showing the date of birth and place of baptism of the child, accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by a parent, grandparent or custodian;

An insurance policy on the child's life which has been in force for at least two (2) years;

A bona fide contemporary Bible record of the child's birth accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the parent, grandparent or custodian;

A passport or certificate of arrival in the United States showing the age of the child;

A transcript of record of age shown in the child's school record of at least four (4) years prior to application, stating date of birth; or

If none of these evidences can be produced, an affidavit of age sworn to by a parent, grandparent or custodian.

Any child enrolling in Kindergarten or Grade 1 shall present the required evidence of age upon enrollment .

Any child in Grades 2 through 12 not in compliance at the end of sixty (60) days from enrollment shall be suspended until in compliance. 37-15-1 (2002)

PERMANENT RECORDS

The permanent record shall be kept, while it is active, in the school office in a fire resistant container. The permanent record shall be considered active: (a) if the student is enrolled in the school; or (b) if he has withdrawn or has been expelled and the students of the class of which he was a member shall not have reached the time of graduation. At the point of the student's graduation or at the time when the student would normally have graduated had he not withdrawn or been expelled from school, the student's permanent record shall become a part of the permanent binder in the central fire resistant depository as designated and provided by the school board of the school district, or as an alternative method, the records may be maintained by fire resistant storage at the school last attended by the student. The permanent binding and preservation of the inactive records shall be the duty of the superintendent of this school district who shall maintain a central depository of the records. 37-15-2

CUMULATIVE FOLDERS

The cumulative folders shall be kept in the school wherein the pupils are in attendance. Both the permanent records and the cumulative folders shall be available for inspection by public and private school officials, including public school teachers within the school district who have been determined by the school district to have legitimate educational interests. In no case, however, shall such records be available to the general public. Transcripts of courses and grades may be furnished when requested by the parent or guardian or eligible pupil as prescribed in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, 20 USC Section 1232. The records shall be kept for each pupil throughout his entire public school enrollment period.

In the event a pupil transfers to a public school, then the cumulative folder shall be furnished to the head of the school to which the pupil transfers; if a pupil transfers to a private school, then a copy of the cumulative folder shall be furnished to the head of the school to which the pupil transfers. The permanent record shall be kept permanently by the school district from which the pupil transferred. At no time may a permanent record of a student be destroyed, but cumulative folders may be destroyed by order of the school board of the school district in not less than five (5) years after the permanent record of the pupil has become inactive. However, where a school district makes complete copies of inactive permanent records on photographic film, microfilm, or any other acceptable form of medium for storage which may be reproduced as needed, the permanent records may be destroyed after the photographic film or microfilm copy has been stored in the central depository of the district. (37-15-3).

EXPULSION RECORDS

For the purpose of providing notice to public and private school officials, both within and outside the boundaries of the state, of the expulsion of any public school student, the State Department of Education has developed a central reporting system for maintaining information concerning each expulsion from a public school. In establishing and maintaining the reporting system, the department may require each school district to report, within a certain period of time after an expulsion, as established by the department, information such as the following:

- the name of the student expelled;
- the date the student was expelled;
- the age of the student at the time of expulsion;
- the school from which the student was expelled;
- the reason for the expulsion, including a detailed description of the student's act or acts;
- the duration of the period of expulsion, if not indefinite; and
- any other information that the department deems necessary for school officials in the public or private school, where a student is seeking enrollment, to determine whether or not a student should be denied enrollment based upon a previous expulsion.

Any information maintained by the department under the authority of this section shall be strictly confidential. The information shall be available to school officials at a public or private school only upon their request and only when a student seeks enrollment or admission to that school. In no case shall the information be made available to the general public. 37-15-3

DISTRICTWIDE REPORTS

The school board shall keep and preserve permanently a copy of all district-wide reports required by the State Board of Education to be filed on an annual basis. Copies of district-wide reports required by the State Board of Education on less than an annual basis may be destroyed after five (5) years upon approval of this school board. All supporting documents necessary to compile such district-wide reports, except as delineated below may be destroyed after three (3) years following the academic year for which the report was made upon approval of the school board of this school district. 37-15-46.

DISPOSAL OF RECORDS

The superintendent of this school district shall have the authority, with the approval of the school board of this school district spread upon its minutes, to dispose of the following records;

After five (5) years:

Bank statements

Canceled warrants and pay certificates

School board paid bills

Bids received, either accepted or rejected, for supplies, materials, equipment and construction

Depository receipt warrants

School board claims dockets, where claims are recorded on the minutes of the board

Original of school board's orders after such orders have been recorded in the minute book

Canceled bonds and coupons

Tax collector's reports of tax collection to superintendent of education

Transportation records.

After three (3) years:

Teacher contracts, computed from the expiration date thereof

Bus purchase documents

Teachers' registers, principals' reports and other evidence necessary to prepare the reports to the State Board of Education.

Notwithstanding any of the above provisions, no records which are in the process of being audited by the State

Department of Audit, or which are the basis of litigation, shall be destroyed until at least twelve (12) months after final completion of said audits and litigation. 37-15-8

LEGAL REF.: P.L. 107-110 (no Child Left Behind Act of 2001)
Family Educational and Privacy Act (FERPA)

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i>	<i>Approved</i>
Student Directory Information	JRBA	March 2, 2004
	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

Within the first month of each school year, the school district will give public notice of the categories of information which it considers directory information regarding students in the district. This notice will include a statement notifying parents whether or not the categories set forth as directory information may be used on a school-authorized internet web page. If the district chooses to use student directory information on its internet web page this will be specified in the annual notice. This notice will also include a disclaimer to the effect that the school district shall not be responsible for the posting of any student information on the internet web page not authorized by the George County Board of Education.

The school will allow ten (10) days from the date of such public notice for parents to inform the superintendent in writing of specific directory information pertaining to such student that should not be released without prior written consent of the parents. If the school has notified the parents that it intends to use the directory information on a school-sponsored internet web page, the parents shall be allowed to object to the use of their child's information on the internet web page, yet still consent to the school's use of their child's information in other formats. If the parents provide no such objection within ten (10) days of the official notification, the information will be classified as directory information until the beginning of the next school year.

The school district will maintain and release directory information without the parent's prior written consent, unless the parent, or student if over 18, informs the district that any or all of the following information should not be released without prior written consent.

Directory information includes the student's name, date of birth, and grade.

As authorized under the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001, public schools are required to provide the military with the same access to secondary school students and directory information about such students as it provided to post-secondary school students and directory information about such students as it provided to post-secondary institutions and prospective employers, unless the school board formally adopts a policy that restricts or denies access to such information by military recruiters. This school board adopts the following to address this issue:

The George County School District may disclose any of the items listed as directory information without prior written consent, unless notified in writing to the contrary. Subject to the provisions of state and federal laws, this district shall provide the same directory information and on-campus recruiting opportunities to representatives of the United States armed forces and state armed services as are offered to nonmilitary recruiters, recruiters for commercial concerns, and recruiters representing institutions of higher education.

Directory information or class lists of student names and /or addresses shall not be distributed without the consent of the parent or legal guardian of the student or the consent of the student if 18 years of age or older.

The superintendent or designee shall determine when recruitment meetings are to take place and shall take appropriate steps to ensure that such meetings do not interfere with the proper and orderly operation of the

schools in the district.

Organizations wishing to recruit at the high school must make arrangements with the principal or designee who will determine the schedule for the recruitment meeting. Scheduled visits by recruiters will be made known to the student body. On-campus follow-up meetings with individual students will be permitted only upon the request of the students and with the approval of the building principal or designee.

Any person or organization denied the rights accorded under this policy shall have the right to request a review of the decision by the school board by filing a written request with the superintendent.

LEGAL REF.: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
P.L. 107-110 (No child Left Behind Act of 2001)
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (P.L. 106-0108,
2000. H.R. 4205)
Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools
Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT) Act of
2001, P.L. 107-56, Section 507.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JRBB	<i>Approved</i> March 2, 2004
Student Recruitment and Student Directory Information	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

The George County School District allows recruiting access to any of the items listed as directory information in policy JRBA, unless notified in writing to the contrary. The parent, legal guardian of the student, or the student age 18 or older may also provide written notification to the school administration requesting directory information not to be released to military service recruiters.

Subject to the provisions of state and federal laws, this district shall provide the same directory information and on-campus recruiting opportunities to representatives of the armed forces of the United States of America and state armed services as are offered to nonmilitary recruiters, recruiters for commercial concerns, and recruiters representing institutions of higher education. The board shall also provide full access for the recruitment of students by regional career-technology centers, regional vocational agricultural centers, and trade schools.

The school administrator may make the determination of when the recruitment meetings are to take place and reserves the right to deny meeting where the holding of such meeting will materially and substantially interfere with the proper and orderly operation of the school. Organizations wishing to recruit at the high school must make arrangements with the principal or designee who will determine the schedule for the recruitment meeting. Scheduled visits by recruiters will be made known to the student body. On-campus follow-up meetings with individual students will be permitted only upon the request of the student (s) and with the approval of the building principal or designee.

LEGAL REF.: 10 U.S.C. 503 as amended by the National Defense Authorization Act for
Fiscal Year 2002 (P.L. 107-107)

* New page

NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS
RELEASE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION
"NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT"

Date:

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Pursuant to the federal "No Child Left Behind Act," P.L. 107-110 (Title IX, Sec. 9528), the George County School District must disclose to military recruiters and institutions of higher learning, upon request, the names of high school students.

The district must also notify parents/guardians of their right and the right of their child to request that the district not release such information if the parent objects.

Parents/guardians wishing to exercise their option to withhold the name of their child to military recruiters and institutions of higher learning must sign the form below and return it to the building principal by_____.

Date

WITHHOLD CERTAIN STUDENT INFORMATION
UNDER THE "NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT"

Please do not release the name of my child _____ to military recruiters
Name of student

and institutions of higher learning.

Print Name of Student

School

Grade

Parent's/Guardian's Signature

Date

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code</i> JRC	<i>Approved</i> November 2002
Release of Information on Students	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	<i>Revised</i>

NON-CUSTODIAL AND CO-CUSTODIAL PARENTS

The Board of Education of the George County School District recognizes the value of providing information, whenever it is possible and legal, to non-custodial parents regarding school progress and activities pertaining to their child. The school district also recognizes that many separated/divorced parents continue to share care-giving and custody and that each parent, under legal and practical circumstances, should have access to information regarding the child's academic progress and school activities.

In some situations, by court order, non-custodial parents are not entitled to access to school information regarding their child. Challenges to a parent's access to information will be referred to the superintendent of Schools or designee. Any information regarding the student will be withheld from a parent pending resolution of the superintendent's (or designee's) investigation. The principal will advise anyone challenging a parent's right to information that this right can only be frustrated by court action. Those launching challenges are advised to provide documentation regarding court orders providing or prohibiting access to information. The superintendent is directed to develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.

George County School District • Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code:</i> JRD	<i>Approved</i> September 2, 2003
UNSAFE SCHOOL CHOICE OPTION	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	Revised

The George County School Board adopts a policy addressing the Certification of Compliance with Unsafe School Choice Option Requirements as required in the Consolidated Plan for No Child Left Behind. The following definitions apply to this policy:

- a. A “persistently dangerous school” is a public school other than a charter school in which the conditions during the past two school years continually exposed its students to injury from violent criminal offenses and it is:
 - (i) an elementary, middle or secondary public school in which a total of 20 or more violent criminal offenses were committed per 1000 students (2.0 or more per 100 students) in two consecutive school years; or
 - (ii) an elementary, middle or secondary public alternative school in which a total of 75 or more violent criminal offenses were committed per 1000 (7.5 or more per 100 students) in two consecutive school years; and
- b. “Violent criminal offenses” are the following crimes reported in the Mississippi Student Information System:

Simple or Aggravated Assault as defined in Section 97-3-7 of the MS Code Annotated 1972, as amended,

Homicide as defined in Sections 97-3-19, 97-3-27, 97-3-29, 97-3-31, 97-3-35, 97-3-37, and 97-3-47 of the MS Code, Annotated 1972 as amended,

Kidnapping as defined in Section 97-3-53 of the Mississippi Code Annotated 1972, as amended,

Rape as defined in Sections 97-3-65 and 97-3-71 of the MS Code Annotated 1972,as amended,

Robbery as defined in Sections 97-3-73, 97-3-77 and 97-3-79 of the MS Code Annotated 1972, as amended,

Sexual Battery as defined in Section 97-3-95 of the MS Code Annotated 1972, as amended.

Mayhem as defined in Section 97-3-59 of the MS Code Annotated 1972, as amended,

Poisoning as defined in Section 97-3-61 of the MS Code Annotated 1972, as amended,

Extortion as defined in Section 97-3-82 of the MS Code Annotated 1972, as amended.

Stalking as defined in Section 97-3-107 of the MS Code Annotated 1972, as amended.

Seizure and Forfeiture of Firearms as defined in Section 97-3-110 of the MS Code Annotated 1972, as amended.

2. Whenever the State Board of Education has information that a school meets the criteria described in 1.a (i). or 1.a (ii)., they shall provide the local school board the opportunity to report on conditions in the school. After consideration of that report and consultation with a representative sample of local educational agencies, the State Board of Education shall determine whether the school is a persistently dangerous school, it retains that designation for at least one year.
3. Students assigned to a school which the State Board of Education has determined to be persistently dangerous shall be allowed to attend another school in the district which is not designated a persistently dangerous school, provided there is such a school in the district which offers instruction at the student's grade level.
4. Any student who is the victim of a violent criminal offense committed against him/her while he/she was in or on the grounds of the public school that he/she attends shall be allowed to choose to attend another school in the district which is not designated a persistently dangerous school, provided there is such a school in the district which offers instruction at the student's grade level and provided the student requests transfer within 30 days of the violent criminal offense.
5. The district shall establish a process for assuring any student who has the right to transfer from a school under this policy is allowed to transfer to a school in the district, which is not persistently dangerous. The process must be included in the district's Safe School Plan.
6. The district shall report each student transfer effected pursuant to this policy to the State Board of Education in the Mississippi Student Information System.

George County School District ▪ Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code:</i> JRE	<i>Approved</i> September 2, 2003
DROP-OUT PREVENTION	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	Revised

The school board directs the superintendent to provide regular reports on efforts made to increase student retention.

The school district shall maintain accurate records documenting enrollment and attendance, including dropout rates, and shall provide an annual statistical report to the State Department of Education.

Technical assistance and coordination services may be obtained from the State Department of Education to districts seeking to reduce dropout rates.

Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards (2004), Standards 16 and 17 are as follows:

16. The school district implements procedures for monitoring and reporting student absences as specified in the Mississippi Compulsory Attendance Law. (MS Code 37-13-91)
17. The school district develops a dropout prevention plan and implements programs designed to keep students in school and to lower student dropout rates. (MS Code 37-3-46 (c) and 37-21-9)

DROPOUT PREVENTION PROGRAM

The George County School District shall implement a dropout prevention program approved by the Office of Dropout Prevention of the State Department of Education by the 2008-2009 school year.

It is the intent of the Legislature that, through the statewide dropout prevention program and the dropout prevention programs implemented by each school district, the graduation rate for cohort classes will be increased to not less than eighty-five percent (85%) by the 2018-2019 school year. The Office of Dropout Prevention shall establish graduation rate benchmarks for each two-year period from the 2008-2009 school year through the 2018-2019 school year, which shall serve a guidelines for increasing the graduation rate for cohort classes on a systematic basis to eighty-five percent (85%) by the 2018-2019 school year. S.B. 2602 (2006 Legislative Session)

George County School District ▪ Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code:</i> JRF	<i>Approved</i> June, 2006
Wellness Plan	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	Revised July 10, 2006 February 2, 2010

Rationale:

The link between health of students and learning is well documented. If children are to be successful in school they cannot be tired, hungry, sick, suffering from drug abuse, or worried that school is an unsafe environment in which they could become a victim of a violent act. It has become apparent that problems such as poor nutrition, lack of physical activity, substance abuse, depression, teen pregnancy, obesity, bullying, and more – can adversely affect not only a child's health, but also his or her ability to learn! George County Schools is committed to providing a school environment that enhances learning and development of lifelong wellness practices.

Goal:

All students in George County Schools shall possess the knowledge and skills necessary to make healthy choices that promote healthy lifestyles. All staff members in George County Schools are encouraged to model healthful eating and physical activity as a valuable part of daily life.

Commitment to Nutrition

George County Schools will

- Offer a school lunch program with menus that meet the meal patterns and nutrition standards established by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition Programs.
- Offer school breakfast with menus that meet the meal patterns and nutrition standards established by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition Programs.
- Promote participation in school meal programs to families and staff.
- Operate all Child Nutrition Programs with school foodservice staff who are properly qualified according to current professional standards (MDE Policy, Code EE-2E).
- Follow State Board of Education policies on competitive foods and extra food sales (MDE Policy, Code EEH).
- Implement Nutrition Standards as adopted by the State Board of Education in accordance with the Mississippi Healthy Students Act (State Board of Education Policy 4011).
- Establish guidelines in accordance with the Mississippi Beverage and Snack Regulation for all foods available on the school campus during the school day with the objective of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity.

Commitment to Food Safe Schools

George County Schools will

- Implement a food safety program based on HACCP principles for all school meals, as required by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition Programs and ensure that the food service permit is current for each school site.

- Develop a food safety education plan for all staff and students, consistent with FightBac and other national standards for safe food handling at home and in school.
- Ensure that all staff members have viewed the video developed by the Office of Healthy Schools to support food safety on the school campus. For compliance with the Nutrition Standards all staff must complete and sign pre and post test developed by the Office of Healthy schools and maintain documentation of completion.
- All school personnel will receive copies of the Local School Wellness Policy to include food safety policies and procedures and relevant professional development.
- Adequate access to hand washing facilities and supplies will be available whenever and wherever students, staff, and families prepare, handle, or consume food.
- The food safety assurance plan will address strategies that minimize risks for students and staff who have food allergies and intolerances.

Commitment to Physical Activity/Physical Education

George County Schools will

- Provide 150 minutes per week of activity-based instruction for all students in grades K-8
- Kindergarten students will participate in physical activity for a minimum of 40 minutes per school day. The 40 minutes does not have to take place continuously. This time will be used to help the child increase the skills involved in physical coordination.
- Provide Physical Education/Activity in accordance with the Physical Education Rules and Regulation as approved by the State Board of education in compliance with the Mississippi Healthy Students Act (State Board of Education Policy 4012)
- Require fitness testing for all 5th grade students.
- Require fitness testing for high school students; during the year they acquire the ½ Carnegie unit in physical education as required for graduation by the Mississippi Healthy Students Act (State Board of Education Policy 4012).
- Offer a planned sequential program of physical education instruction incorporating individual and group activities, which are student centered and taught in a positive environment.
- Instruction will be based on the 2006 Mississippi Physical Education Framework.
- Implement the requirements of the Mississippi Healthy Students Act of 2007 (Senate Bill 2369)
- Graduation requirements for 9th and 12th grade students shall include ½ Carnegie units in physical education.

Commitment to Comprehensive Health Education

George County Schools will

- Provide ½ Carnegie unit of comprehensive health education for graduation (2004 Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard 20, Appendix A).
- Instruction will be based on the 2006 Mississippi Comprehensive Health Framework for grades 9-12 (2004 Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard 20, Appendix A).
- Implement the requirements of the Mississippi Healthy Students Act of 2007, which requires 45 minutes per week of health education instruction as defined by the State Board of Education for grades K through 8.

Commitment to a Healthy School Environment

George County Schools will

- Ensure that there are no pad locks or chains on exit doors. (Mississippi State Fire Code)
- Ensure that all exit signs are illuminated and clearly visible.
- Ensure that all chemicals are stored properly.

- Ensure playground safety (US Consumer Product Safety Commission's Handbook for Public Playground Safety)
- Ensure that fire extinguishers are inspected each year and properly tagged.
- Complete yearly maintenance of the heating and cooling systems.
- Conduct at least one emergency evacuation drill per month.
- Ensure that two means of egress are available in each classroom in case of an emergency; if there is only one door, designate a window as a means of egress.
- Never use extension cords as a permanent source of electricity anywhere on a school campus.

George County Schools will comply with the applicable rules and regulations of the State Board of Education in the operation of its transportation program (in accordance with the MS Code 37-41-53; State Board of Education Policies 7903, 7904, and 7909; and Accreditation Standard #35)

- Inspect all buses on a quarterly basis and ensure that they are well maintained and clean.
- Require that all bus drivers have a valid bus driver certificate and a commercial driver's license and operates the bus according to all specified safety procedures. Maintain a record of yearly motor vehicle reports on each bus driver and evidence that each driver has received two hours of in-service training per semester. (SB Policy 7903).
- Ensure arrival of all buses at their designated school sites prior to the start of the instructional day.
- Conduct bus evacuation drills at least two times each year (SB Policy 7904).

George County Schools will provide facilities that meet the criteria of: (MS Code 37-7-301 (c) (d) (j); 37-11-5, 49 and 45-11-101; and Accreditation Standard #36).

- Provide facilities that are clean.
- Provide facilities that are safe.
- Provide proper signage that explains tobacco, weapons, and drugs are prohibited on the school campus and at school functions.
- Provide operation facilities that are equipped and functional to meet the instructional needs of students and staff (in accordance with the Mississippi School Design Guidelines)
- Provide air conditioning in all classrooms, Code 37-17-6(2) (2000).

George County Schools will comply with the requirements for Safe and Healthy Schools.

- Maintain a comprehensive School Safety Plan on file that has been approved annually by the local school board. (MS Code 37-3-81 and 37-3-82 (2); and Accreditation Standard #37.1).
- State Board Policy EBB (1990) prohibits the possession of pistols, firearms and weapons by any person on school premises or at school functions. Code 37-11-18 (1996) requires any student who possesses a knife, a handgun, other firearm or any other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm or who commit a violent act on educational property be subject to automatic expulsion for one calendar year. The superintendent of the school is authorized to modify the period of time for expulsion on a case-by-case basis.
- Prohibits students from possession tobacco on any educational property, Criminal Code 97-32-9 (2000). Code 97-32-29 (2000) further prohibits the use of tobacco on any educational property for adults who, if in violation, would be subject to a fine and issued a citation by a law enforcement officer. Educational property is defined as any public school building or bus, campus, grounds, athletic field, or other property used or operated during a school-related activity.

Commitment to Quality Health Services

George County Schools will

- Ensure all school nurses are working under the guidelines of the Mississippi School Nurse Procedures and Standards of Care.

Commitment to Providing Counseling, Psychological and Social Services

George County Schools will

- Adhere to the details outlined in the Licensure Guidelines (451) when hiring guidance counselors and psychologists.
- Provide at a minimum, a ½ time licensed guidance counselor for high school and ensure that all elementary school students have access to qualified student support personnel such as: guidance counselors, social workers, nurses, psychologists, psychometrists, and others (as required by the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, Process Standards 6.1 and 6.2).
- Hire school guidance counselors with a minimum of a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling, or in an emergency situation, an appropriate certification as determined by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development.
- Hire school counselors who agree to abide by the American School Counselor Association Code of Ethics.
- Ensure that all school guidance counselors provide comprehensive counseling services such as academic and personal/social counseling; student assessment and assessment counseling; career and educational counseling; individual and groups counseling; crisis intervention and preventive counseling; referrals to community agencies; educational consultations and collaborations with teachers, administrators, parents and community leaders; education and career placement services; follow-up counseling services; conflict resolution; other counseling duties or other duties as assigned by the school principal.

Commitment to Family and Community Involvement

George County Schools will

- Give parents and community the opportunity to serve on the School Health Council.

Commitment to Implementing a Quality Staff Wellness Program

George County Schools will

- Ensure that all staff are aware of the Mississippi State and School Employees' Health Insurance Plan that has been enhanced to include ***Motivating Mississippi: Keys to Living Healthy***, a new wellness and health promotion program designed to help individuals live a healthy lifestyle and increase their overall wellness benefit amount.
- Remove carbonated drinks from vending machines located in teacher's lounges, and offer water, low-fat milk, and 100 percent juice to staff members.

Commitment to Implementation

George County Schools will

- Establish a plan for implementation of the school wellness policy.
- Designate one or more persons to insure that the school wellness policy is implemented as written.
- Establish and support a School Health Council that addresses all aspects of a coordinated school health program, including a school wellness policy (Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated, Section 37-13-134).
- Conduct a review of the progress towards school wellness policy goals each year to identify areas of improvement.

- Prepare and submit a yearly report to the school board regarding the progress toward implementation of the school wellness policy and recommendation for any revision to the policy as necessary.

ADDENDUM

The George County Schools will remove all carbonated drinks and fruit juices from vending machines except the athletic field houses at George County Middle School and George County High School. Water only will be offered to students. These students may take the water in the classrooms unless there is equipment, materials, etc., that would prohibit the drinking of water. Additionally, no carbonated drinks may be brought from home by the students.

There will be no fundraisers sponsored by the schools that are from the “non-healthy food group.” Rocky Creek will pilot additional healthy practices during the 2006-07 school as a component of the Bowers Healthy School Grant

George County School District ▪ Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code:</i> JRG	<i>Approved</i> November 7, 2006
Video Surveillance	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	Revised

The George County School Board authorizes the use of video surveillance cameras on district property, on school buses and in classrooms, on district campuses, as may be deemed appropriate by school administration officials.

Because of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and confidentiality, only School Board authorized personnel shall be permitted to view surveillance records.

George County School District ▪ Lucedale, MS	<i>Descriptor Code:</i> JRH	<i>Approved</i> October 2, 2007
Substance Abuse Testing	<i>Rescinds Policy</i>	Revised April 2, 2009

Substance Abuse Testing Policy

The George County School Board of Education hereby adopts this Substance Abuse Testing Policy for application to any extra-curricular activity at the George County High School. The purpose of the Substance Abuse Testing Policy is to aid and assist the student/athlete who may be engaged in extra-curricular activities, including but not limited to football, cross-country, softball, basketball, baseball, cheerleading, band, track, tennis, golf and dance. It is not intended to unduly interfere with the student/athlete's private life or bring hardship, but rather to protect each student/athlete's well-being and that of others who are associated with extra-curricular activities in the George County School System.

Goals:

1. To educate students/athletes concerning the dangers and problems associated with drug abuse.
2. To prevent drug use by students/athletes of our school district.
3. To provide treatment and counseling opportunities for students/athletes who are using drugs.
4. To assure students/athletes, parents, and the community that good physical and emotional health and academic progress of each student/athlete is the primary goal of the George County School District.

Drug Screening Program:

All students/athletes will be subject to random drug screening.

Participation forms will be signed by the parent/guardian of the student/athlete acknowledging being informed of the program and permission to participate.

The student/athlete will not be allowed to represent George County High School in any competition or activity, until he/she has returned the completed and signed consent form.

Prohibited Drugs:

The George County School District reserves the right to test for the illegal use of drugs, including any combination of the following:

Alcohol	Amphetamines	Barbiturates	Oxycontin
Cocaine	Marijuana	Opiates	Phencyclidine
LSD	Methaqualone	Propoxyphene	Methadone

Drug Screening:

Ten percent of the students participating in extracurricular activities shall be randomly selected **at least** monthly by an independent company, who shall conduct urine drug analysis tests (or such other tests as may be deemed appropriate by said testing company) in such manner as may be considered and acceptable in legal proceedings. The selection of the independent testing company shall be approved by the Board of Education. No advance warning or notification shall be provided to any member of the school district of the date or time of the anticipated draw. Any student who refuses to submit to the requirements of this policy of providing urine or other requested sample shall be deemed to have a positive test result. Any student having a positive test result shall automatically be retested at the following test and shall not be included in the ten percent draw. Student confidentiality shall be maintained at all times. Consequences of positive test results are:

First positive test result:

1. Parents are notified by school officials in writing and by phone if possible;
2. The student is excluded from all extracurricular activities for twenty-five (25) school days and shall receive a three (3) game or event suspension for the activity in which he/she is involved; during the period of suspension, the student shall not participate in any practice session or function with the team or organization whatsoever; nor shall said student have any contact with the sport or activity in which they were previously involved;
3. The student shall immediately enroll in and complete a drug or alcohol counseling course as may be determined by a counselor acceptable to the School district; proof of enrollment in and completion of said program shall be provided to the school district person in charge of the activity as well as the principal of said school;
4. The student shall be subject to such future drug-testing as may be deemed appropriate by the school district;

Second positive test result:

1. Parents are notified by school officials in writing and by phone if possible;
2. The student is suspended from all extracurricular activities for one calendar year;
3. The student shall immediately enroll in and complete a drug or alcohol counseling course as may be determined by a counselor acceptable to the School District; proof of enrollment in and completion of said program shall be provided to the school district person in charge of the activity as well as the principal of said school;
4. The student shall be subject to such future drug-testing as may be deemed appropriate by the school district;

Third positive test result:

1. Parents are notified by school officials in writing and by phone if possible;

2. The student shall be permanently removed from all extracurricular activities within the school district.
- 3.

During the period of suspension, the student shall have no contact, association or involvement with the extra-curricular activity from which he/she is suspended. The School District Employee in direct supervision of the offending student found in violation of this policy shall insure that the offending student shall have no contact, association or involvement with the extra-curricular activity during the term of suspension. This no-contact provision shall include but not be limited to any practice, team meeting, official banquet or recognition program, or any other association with the team or extra-curricular activity whatsoever. This non-association during the term of suspension shall include but not be limited to the offending student not being present when the extra-curricular activity is being practiced or during which games or official events are being performed. Proof of compliance with the above requirements shall be provided to the Superintendent of Education on a monthly basis to insure compliance with the requirements of said policy.

Reasonable Suspicion Testing

If there is reasonable suspicion to believe that a student engaged in extracurricular activities has abused alcohol, tobacco or drugs; or is under the influence of alcohol or any prohibited substance during the time period that the student is under and subject to the jurisdiction of the George County Public School District in violation of George County Public School District Policy "Alcohol Use/Drug Abuse by Students, Substance Abuse Testing", the student is subject to immediate disciplinary action and the consequences outlined in applicable school policy, and may be recommended for expulsion. The school district reserves the right to administer a breath alcohol test on any student where there is reasonable suspicion that he/she is under the influence of alcohol. The student, with the permission of his or her parent or guardian, may, at student/parent expense, voluntarily submit to an appropriate drug test (if applicable) to attempt to establish that he or she is not under the influence of any prohibited drug in violation of policy. The school administration shall record in writing the factors which led to the school's conclusion, shall stipulate the specific consequence to be administered, and shall attempt to inform the student's parents or guardian of the option of submitting to a drug test. The results or any such testing shall be confidential, but shall be communicated to the student, his or her parents or guardians and appropriate school and law enforcement authorities.

The following circumstances shall constitute grounds for reasonable suspicion:

- a. Direct observation by a school district employee of drug, tobacco, or alcohol use or possession;
- b. Abnormal or erratic behavior indicating intoxication in class, at school or at a school event, function or activity, or at any time while under the jurisdiction of the George County Public School District as stated in policy;
- c. Physical symptoms indicating intoxication including but not limited to glassy or bloodshot eyes, slurred speech, loss of balance, poor coordination or reflexes;
- d. First-hand information provided by reliable and credible sources of use, possession or intoxication while at school or at a school sponsored or school approved function,

- activity or event, or at any time while under the jurisdiction of the George County Public School District as stated in policy;
- e. The presence of the drug on the student, detectable by the senses, such as the smell of activated marijuana or alcohol;
 - f. Possession of illegal drugs, prescription drugs for which the student does not have a prescription, or alcohol containers or drug paraphernalia.

Any one of the above listed circumstances shall be sufficient to constitute grounds for reasonable suspicion. If one of the above listed circumstances is found, George County Public School District employees and administrators may, but are not required to, consider the following factors in corroboration of the finding of reasonable suspicion:

- a. Excessive tardiness;
- b. Excessive absenteeism;
- c. Decrease in academic performance;
- d. Recent violation of school rules and regulations;
- e. Any efforts to evade detection of the use or possession of drugs or alcohol or misrepresentations or untruths regarding the circumstances constituting grounds of reasonable suspicion;
- f. Information provided by reliable and credible sources of use, possession, or intoxication while at school or a school sponsored or school approved function, event or activity;
- g. Prior confirmed discipline/or violations of this policy or violations of drug and alcohol laws.

Appeals from Drug Testing Procedure

The George County School District will rely solely on the opinion of the independent testing laboratory to determine whether a positive test result was produced by something other than consumption of an illegal or performance-enhancing drug. There shall be no appeal of the test results of the professional testing laboratory to a principal, the superintendent, or the Board of Education. The District will, if necessary, utilize the services of a Medical Review Officer (MRO) as may be designated by the District on recommendation of the professional testing laboratory. The MRO will interpret, monitor, and evaluate all positive test results so as to determine whether any alternative medical explanation could account for the positive results. The MRO must be a licensed physician, or group of licensed physicians, knowledgeable in drug abuse disorders. The District will bear the cost of all drug and alcohol testing required by the District for extracurricular activity students. The activity student or his/her parent will pay the cost of any retest requested by that student.

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

The George County School District does not condone and will not tolerate bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived differentiating characteristic that (a) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, or (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits. A "hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior will not be condoned or tolerated when it takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus, or when it takes place off school property when such conduct, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders the offending person's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole.

The George County School District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no student or school employee is subjected to bullying or harassing behavior by other school employees or students. Likewise, the District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no person engages in any act of reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness or a person with reliable information about an act of bullying or harassing behavior. The District encourages anyone who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or school employee has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior to report the incident to the appropriate school official. The School Board directs the superintendent or designee to design and implement procedures for reporting, investigating, and addressing bullying and harassing behaviors. The procedures should be appropriately placed in District personnel policy handbooks, school handbooks that include discipline policies and procedures must recognize the fundamental right of every student to take "reasonable actions" as may be necessary to defend himself or herself from an attack by another student who has evidenced menacing or threatening behavior through bullying or harassing. Furthermore, the George County School District defines "reasonable action" as promptly reporting the behavior to a teacher, principal, counselor, or other school employee when subjected to bullying or harassing behavior. Ref: SB 2015: Miss. Code Ann. 37-7-301(e).

Student Complaints of Bullying or Harassing Behavior

Students and employees in the George County School District are protected from bullying or harassing behavior by other students or employees. It is the intent of the Board and the administration to maintain an environment free from bullying and harassing behavior. This

complaint procedure provides a process for filing, processing and resolving complaints of such conduct. Adherence to these procedures is mandatory. The failure of any person to follow these procedures will constitute a waiver of the right to pursue a complaint at any level, including review by the Board.

I. Definitions

Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonable perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that (a) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, or (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits. A "hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior will not be condoned or tolerated when it takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus, or when it takes place off school property when such conduct, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders the offending person's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole.

II. Procedures for Processing a Complaint

Any student, school employee or volunteer who feels he/she has been a victim of bullying or harassing behavior, or has witnessed or who has reliable information that a student, school employee or volunteer has been subject to bullying or harassing behavior shall report such conduct to a teacher, principal, counselor or other school official. The report shall be made promptly but no later than five (5) calendar days after the alleged act or acts occurred. The school official shall complete a "Bullying/Harassing Behavior" complaint form which shall include the name of the reporting person, the specific nature and date of the misconduct, the names of the victim of the misconduct, the names of any witnesses and any other information that would assist in the investigation of the complaint. The report shall be given promptly to the principal or superintendent who shall institute an immediate investigation. Complaints against the principal shall be made to the superintendent and complaints against the superintendent shall be made to the Board chairman. The complaint shall be investigated promptly. Parents will be notified of the nature of any complaint involving their student. The District official will arrange such meetings as may be necessary with all concerned parties within five (5) working days after initial receipt of the complaint by the District. The parties will have an opportunity to submit evidence and a list of witnesses. All findings related to the complaint will be reduced to writing.

The District official conducting the investigation shall notify the victim and parents as appropriate when the investigation is completed and a decision regarding disciplinary action, as warranted, is determined. If the victim is not satisfied with the decision of the District

official, he/she may submit a written appeal to the superintendent. Such appeal shall be filed within ten (10) working days after receipt of the results of the initial decision. The superintendent will arrange such meetings with the victim and other affected parties as deemed necessary to discuss the appeal. The superintendent shall provide a written decision to the victim's appeal with ten (10) working days. If the victim is not satisfied with the decision of the superintendent, a written appeal may be filed with the Board. Such appeal shall be filed within ten (10) working days after receipt of the decision of the superintendent. The Board shall, within twenty (20) working days, allow the victim and parents as appropriate to appear before the Board to present reasons for dissatisfaction with the decision of the superintendent. The Board shall provide a written decision within ten (10) working days following the victim's appearance before the Board.