

SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS

The Tarrant City Board of Education is committed to providing a learning environment free from alcohol, drugs, controlled substances and weapons. The Student Code of Conduct includes serious consequences for those who violate its provisions relating to drugs, alcohol, controlled substances and weapons. The Board is sympathetic to assisting parents with the dispensing of both prescription and non-prescription/over-the-counter medications. Specific instructions concerning the dispensing of medications are available at the local schools. Failure to follow the local school directives can result in the student being disciplined under the Class III section of the Code of Student Conduct. The possession, use, sale, attempted sale, attempted possession or any other involvement with tobacco, drugs, alcohol controlled substances or dangerous instruments is not permitted and will subject the violating individual to immediate disciplinary action up to and including expulsion for students, termination for employees, and other lawful sanctions for the general public. Violation of Board and State policies, rules and regulations involving tobacco drugs, alcohol, controlled substances, weapons, dangerous instruments or physical harm to individuals may subject the student, parent or other individual to criminal charges and a restriction from entering the public schools of the State of Alabama.

In accordance with state law, the Board also strictly prohibits its employees, parents, visitors, agents or any other person other than appropriate law enforcement personnel, from possessing guns or firearms of any sort, deadly weapons or other dangerous instruments on Board owned or controlled premises or at any Board of school-related activity. Such prohibition applies not only to firearms, guns, deadly weapons or dangerous instruments carried by a person, but extends also to said prohibited items in automobiles, in personal items such as purses or backpacks or otherwise in the actual or constructive possession by any person. Any violation regarding firearms will result in involvement by appropriate law enforcement authorities and may also result in expulsion from the school system. Rodney Kennamer is the Title IV Safe and Drug Free school district coordinator. If you have questions, please call 849-3700.

CONDUCT POLICY GUIDELINE

See Board Policy (General Administration 4.02 *Safe Schools Policy*)

All students must adhere to the Tarrant City Schools Dress Code Guidelines.

If the principal determines that the student's dress or grooming is unacceptable, adequate time shall be allowed the student to make proper adjustments. However, when a student continues to ignore the required changes, he shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Smoking/Use of Tobacco

Students shall not be permitted to possess, smoke, or use tobacco in any form on the school grounds or in school buildings during the school day, or when riding school buses to and from school or on a school-sponsored trip. Parental permission to smoke or otherwise use tobacco does not exempt a student from this policy.

Alcohol/Drug Use

It shall be the policy of the Board that the school principal or authorized official of the school shall suspend any student found in possession of, or in the act of using:

- Alcohol, marijuana; or
- Drugs (stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens or opiates) for which the student has no prescription from a duly recognized physician.

Also, the school principal or authorized official of the school shall suspend any student who is caught selling alcohol and/or harmful drugs to others and shall notify the appropriate law enforcement authority which may include Tarrant City Police, county sheriff, and/or the local district attorney.

The above policies apply when the act(s) take place at school, on school grounds, on school buses and/or at any school-sponsored event, during or after regular school hours. Recommendation of expulsion may be made if the situation seems to be sufficiently serious.

The principal shall immediately notify the parents or guardians of the student by telephone. If the parents or guardians cannot be reached by phone, a home visit will be attempted or the principal shall then notify them of the action within 24 hours by sending a letter by certified mail. Care shall be given to afford due process to all students.

Dangerous Weapons

It shall be the policy of the Board that the school principal or authorized official of the school shall suspend any student found in possession of a dangerous weapon. A dangerous weapon may be defined as a knife, club, gun, chain, or any other object deemed dangerous by the school official. Such weapons are not to be carried by students on school grounds, on school buses and/or at any school-sponsored event, during or after regular school hours. When the student is found to be in possession of a weapon, the Superintendent shall be immediately notified and the following procedures shall be followed:

1. The principal or authorized official shall conduct a brief but adequate hearing, and if the student is found to have a weapon in his possession, the student shall be suspended.
2. When there are violations of the prohibition on firearms being brought to school or the possession of firearms by a student, the school principal, or his designee, shall notify the appropriate law enforcement authority which may include Tarrant City Police, county sheriff, and/or the local district attorney.
3. The school principal shall notify the parents of students who violate the firearm policy.
4. If a student is determined to have brought to school or have in their possession a firearm in the school building or school grounds, on school buses or at other school sponsored functions she/he shall be brought to the Board where they will be determined on a case by case basis for the expulsion requirements set forth by the Alabama Code (see pages 68-70, It's the Law).

Bus Conduct

The Board requires parents of students to accept responsibility for supervision until such time as the child boards the bus in the morning and after the child leaves the bus at the end of the school day.

Once a child boards the bus – and only at that time – they become the responsibility of the Tarrant School System and/or their duly authorized contractor. Such responsibility shall end when the child is discharged at the regular bus stop at the close of the school day.

CLASS II

- 2.01 ANY VIOLATION OF THE STUDENT NETWORK ACCESS AND ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT** (This agreement will be provided for each student and parent to sign at the beginning of the school year.) See also: 1.05, 2.07, 2.28, 3.01 and 3.28.
- 2.02 CHEATING / PLAGIARISM** - Cheating or plagiarism may result in a grade of zero. Students will be expected to reproduce the paper/test/project in question in order to demonstrate proficiency of standard.
- 2.03 CRIMINAL MISCHIEF (vandalism)** – Intentional and deliberate action resulting in injury or damages of less than \$200.00 to public property or the real estate or personal property of another. This includes graffiti. Law enforcement officials may be notified. This may result in an automatic out of school suspension for up to three (3) days and restitution will be required. (SIR 58)
- 2.04 DEFIANCE / NON-COMPLIANCE** – The refusal to follow a directive made by a School Board employee. (SIR 09)
- 2.05 DISOBEDIENCE, WILLFUL, PERSISTENT** – Reoccurring, intentional violation of the student code of conduct as determined by the school administrator which substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of a school function, behavior which substantially disrupts the orderly learning environment or poses a threat to the health, safety, and/or welfare of students, staff, or others. (SIR 10)
- 2.06 DISRESPECT TO A SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYEE** – Any verbal or nonverbal conduct and/or behavior directed toward a School Board employee that is rude or discourteous.
- 2.07 ENGAGING IN INTERACTIVE GAMES, SIMULATIONS, IRC (CHAT ROOMS), OR E-MAIL PROGRAMS UNLESS UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF A TEACHER, AIDE, STAFF MEMBER, OR ADMINISTRATOR.**
- 2.08 FALSE INFORMATION** – Making false accusations or intentionally providing false information to a School Board employee including, but not limited to, giving false student information or concealment of information directly relating to school business. This includes, but is not limited to, forgery of school notes, re-admittance slips, tardy slips, excuse slips (parent/guardian or physician), report cards/progress reports, hall passes, field trip forms, notes from parents or guardians, or any other material required by the school, including all written or electronic communication provided by the Board or a school.
- 2.09 FIGHTING / BATTERY** – Mutual participation in a fight involving physical violence where there are at least two participants, but no one main offender and no major injury. Fighting does not include verbal confrontations, tussles, or other minor confrontations. This may result in an automatic out of school suspension of up to three (3) school days. (SIR 17).
- 2.10 HARASSMENT/BULLYING** - A *continuous pattern* of intentional behavior that takes place on school property, on a school bus, or at a school sponsored function. This includes, but is not limited to, written, electronic, verbal, or physical acts. To constitute harassment, a pattern of behavior may do any of the following:
- a) Place a student in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property.
 - b) Have the effect of substantially interfering with the educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of a student.
 - c) Have the effect of substantially disrupting or interfering with the orderly operation of the school.
 - d) Have the effect of creating a hostile environment in the school, on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function.
 - e) Have the effect of being sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student. (SIR 20)
- 2.11 HITTING / SHOVING ANOTHER STUDENT** – Actual and intentional hitting or shoving another student against the will of the other student.

- 2.12 **ILLEGAL ORGANIZATION** – Participation in any illegal organization, secret societies, or any group characterized by territorial concerns, symbols, special dress and/or colors, or where group members and others recognize or perceive themselves as a gang; the wearing of clothing, possession of writings or drawings or the use of gestures which indicate gang affiliation or participation in any illegal organization.
- 2.13 **INAPPROPRIATE OFFENSIVE TOUCHING WITH SEXUAL CONNOTATIONS**
- 2.14 **LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS WITHOUT PERMISSION OR BEING TRUANT FROM CLASS OR SCHOOL (SIR 36)**
 2.14.1 Skipping Class
 2.14.2 Leaving School Grounds
- 2.15 **POSSESSION AND/OR USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS, INCLUDING LIGHTERS AND MATCHES**
 2.15.1 Tobacco Possession (SIR 32)
 2.15.2 Tobacco Sale (SIR 33)
 2.15.3 Tobacco Use (SIR 34)
- 2.16 **POSSESSION OF FIREARM FACSIMILES** – Discharge, possession, transfer, or sale of any facsimile or toy-type replica of a firearm or any other item resembling a firearm.
- 2.17 **POSSESSION OF FIREWORKS, FIRECRACKERS, OR SIMILAR DEVICES**
- 2.18 **POSSESSION OF A POCKETKNIFE (SMALL OR KEY CHAIN VARIETY), OR SIMILAR INSTRUMENTS THAT WOULD NOT NORMALLY BE CONSIDERED A WEAPON.** (Grades K-5; Also see Offense 3.19)
- 2.19 **POSSESSION OF OBSCENE, PORNOGRAPHIC, OR SEXUALLY EXPLICIT MATERIAL**
- 2.20 **POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT IT IS STOLEN (SIR 58)**
- 2.21 **THEFT** – The intentional unlawful taking and/or carrying away of property valued at less than \$100.00 belonging to or in the lawful possession or custody of another. Restitution will be required. (SIR 59)
- 2.22 **THREATS TO EXTORT, EXTORTION** – Threats, bullying, intimidation and/or extortion of a student. Any communication maliciously threatening an injury to the person, property or reputation of another with the intent to extort money or any monetary advantage whatsoever; or with the intent to compel the person so threatened, or any other person, to do any act or refrain from doing any act against his/her will.
- 2.23 **THREAT OR INTIMIDATION OF A STUDENT OR SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYEE**– Threatening to injure or do harm of any kind to another student or to a school board employee, either by word or by act. (See also 3.03 Aggravated Threat, Harassment, or Intimidation of a Student/Employee.)
- 2.24 **UNAUTHORIZED POSSESSION OR USE OF WIRELESS ELECTRONIC DEVICES (i.e., cell phones, iPods, etc.) DURING SCHOOL HOURS.** (2nd, 3rd or repeated offenses) (SIR 16)
- 2.25 **UNINTENTIONAL PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH A SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYEE, WHICH COULD RESULT IN MINOR INJURY.**
- 2.26 **USE OF OBSCENE LANGUAGE / PROFANITY (VERBAL, WRITTEN, GESTURE – INCLUDING PRINTED MATERIALS OR DIGITAL) TOWARD ANOTHER PERSON OR SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYEE.** (SIR 26)
- 2.27 **VERBAL ABUSE** – speech or other expression intended to insult or stigmatize others on the basis of their sex, race, color, disability, religion, sexual orientation or national and ethnic origin. Bullying may also be reported under this category.
- 2.28 **VIEWING, ACCESSING, DOWNLOADING OR DISSEMINATION OF OFFENSIVE/OBSCENE MATERIAL THROUGH THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES**

- Influenza (Flu): Student must remain at home for at least 5 days and fever is below 100 degrees without medication for 24 hours or a medical release stating that the student may return.
- Measles: Student must remain at home until 5th day after rash disappears or Jefferson County Health Department states child is noninfectious.
- Mumps: Student must remain at home until 9 days after onset of parotid gland swelling.
- Varicella zoster (chicken pox): Student must remain at home until all lesions have dried and formed scabs, usually within 6 days of onset of rash.
- Pertussis (whooping cough): Student must remain at home until 5 days of antibiotic has been completed or Jefferson County Health Department states child is noninfectious.
- Surgical procedures: Any student that undergoes a surgical procedure should remain at home for the recommended amount of time by his/her doctor. This is for their safety from other students and infection prevention.

Conditions that do not require absence

- Common colds, runny noses, and coughs
- Watery eye discharge without fever, eye pain, or eyelid redness
- Fifth disease in a child without immune problems
- Rash without fever or behavioral changes, such as eczema
- Seasonal allergies
- Bumps from bug bites or grass allergies

Approved by Tarrant Board of Education: July 26, 2011. Revised September 13, 2016.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

Responsibilities of Transported Students

The Tarrant Board of Education, Administrators, Faculty, Staff and duly authorized Contractor continue to emphasize the safe transportation of students from one location to another during any event related to a school activity. Those students who live beyond two miles are extended the privilege of riding the school bus both to and from school. All Tarrant High School students will be transported as well. Students are required to load and unload at their designated bus stop. The bus driver is required to pick students up, or let students off, only at the designated bus stop. The student's legal home address, as recorded in the office of the school they attend, will be used to determine their designated stop. This privilege is contingent upon students abiding by the rules*, established by the Tarrant City Board of Education Transportation Department, listed below:

- The bus has to maintain a regular schedule and cannot wait for pupils.
- The driver has disciplinary responsibilities which pupils must respect. **HE/SHE IS REQUIRED TO REPORT ANY BREACH OF BUS RULES TO THE PRINCIPAL/BUS SUPERVISOR.**
- A regular seating arrangement may be implemented if deemed appropriate by the bus driver/principal.
- No profane or inappropriate language or inappropriate conduct will be permitted.
- Pupils shall be respectful to persons whom they meet or pass on the roads/streets.
- No pupil is allowed to leave his/her seat before the bus comes to a complete stop.
- No one may leave the bus without the driver's consent.
- Changing seats during a trip is not allowed.
- The use of tobacco in any form, spitting on the floor or other parts of the bus is prohibited.
- Throwing objects at, on, against, into or out of bus is strictly prohibited at all times.
- Parents should not confront a bus driver at the bus stop.
- The rear door will be opened only in case of emergency.
- Students will be picked up/dropped off only at their assigned bus stop.
- The bus is equipped with video equipment resulting in activity related to the bus being video taped.
- Parents are expected to abide by any discipline action deemed appropriate by school administrators until an investigation into the matter has been completed.