

ALCOHOL, DRUGS, WEAPONS, BOMB/DEATH THREAT AND ASSAULT POLICY

The Cherokee County Board of Education is obligated to provide a safe and orderly environment and abide by the State Laws of Alabama (Act 94-783, and Act 94-817). Therefore it is the policy of this school system that possession, use, or distribution of alcohol, drugs, weapons; the making of a bomb, bomb/death threat, or assault (State Code 13A-6-20 & 13A-6-21) in Cherokee County schools, on schools grounds, at any school-sponsored event, or on a school-owned/maintained vehicle will not be tolerated.

The superintendent, working cooperatively with the local police and/or sheriff, the district attorney, and the juvenile court, shall enforce the alcohol, drugs, weapons, bomb/death threat, and assault policy.

These procedures will be followed:

Possession, use, or distribution of alcohol, drugs, weapons, bomb/death threat, and the criminal act of assault in a school building, on schools grounds, at any school-sponsored event, or on a school owned/maintained vehicle shall be classified as a Class IV Violation and treated most severely.

1. The principal or principal's designee will investigate and notify appropriate law enforcement officials.
2. The principal or principal's designee is authorized to sign the appropriate warrant.
3. A reasonable attempt will be made to notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) prior to a student's removal from the school by law enforcement officials.
4. The principal or principal's designee will suspend the student from attending regular classes and schedule a due process hearing at the earliest possible date, which shall not be later than five school days.
5. The board of education will determine requirements imposed as a condition for readmission to school.
6. The student will not be readmitted to the public schools until criminal charges if any, have been disposed of by appropriate authorities, and the student has satisfied all other requirements imposed by the local board of education.

NO FIGHT POLICY

The Cherokee County Board of Education is obligated to provide a safe and orderly environment that is conducive to teaching and learning. Therefore, it is the policy of this school system that fighting in school buildings, on school grounds, at any school-sponsored event, or on a school owned/maintained vehicle will not be tolerated. A fight is defined as any conduct falling within the Alabama statutes defining assault, menacing and reckless endangerment, or criminal coercion. Refer to Title 13A of the Code of Alabama 1975.

The superintendent, working cooperatively with local law enforcement, the district attorney, and the juvenile court, shall enforce this "No-Fight" policy at all middle and senior high schools within Cherokee County School System. The following procedures will be adhered to:

1. Fighting in school buildings, on school grounds, at any school-sponsored event, or on a school-owned/maintained vehicle shall be classified as a major violation of the code of student conduct.
2. The principal or principal's designee shall investigate the fight and take the appropriate action as identified in the code of student conduct.
3. The principal or principal's designee shall secure the cooperation of witnesses to the fight and secure written statements from all witnesses.
4. The principal or principal's designee shall secure reliable witnesses for court appearances.
5. The principal or principal's designee may call the police and file a complaint/petition with the juvenile court.
6. A reasonable attempt shall be made to notify a parent/guardian if the student is to be removed from the school by police officers.

DRUG EDUCATION

The Board authorizes the establishment of a drug education program, to be taught at all grade levels, which is comprehensive in scope and directed toward the acquisition of factual information to promote the development of positive attitudes and values. The program shall concentrate on the physical and psychological causes of drug abuses as well as its consequential effects and symptoms in order to establish an effective program of prevention.

The program shall include the following:

1. Age-appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention programs that provide information about effective techniques for resisting peer pressure to use illicit drugs or alcohol for students in all grades of the public schools from early childhood level through grade 12.
2. Information conveying to students that the use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful and is punishable by fines and imprisonment.
3. Standards of conduct that are applicable to students and employees in all public schools and that clearly prohibit, at a minimum, the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and employees on school premises, or as a part of any activities of the school.
4. A clear statement that sanctions, consistent with local, state, and federal law, up to and including expulsion or termination of employment and referral for prosecution, will be imposed on students and employees who violate the standards of conduct required by subdivision (3). A description of those sanctions shall be included.

Ref: Ala. Code 16-40A-1 to -4, 16-41-1 to -4(b), 16-41-7, 16-2-2, 16-2-4; Act 92-590.

Restrictions on the Use of Tobacco

The use of tobacco products presents a health hazard that can have serious consequences for both the smoker and the non-smoker. To protect those who choose not to use tobacco products potentially damaging to their health, smoking shall not be allowed on school grounds and/or facilities during regular school hours.

No employee will use tobacco in the presence of students at any school function (on or away from the school site) when the employee is in a supervisory role. No employee will provide tobacco or tobacco products for student use.