

The decision of the Board shall be final unless the parent decides to appeal to the court's or to utilize any other duly recognized procedure as established by law.

STUDENT MISCONDUCT

This section describes a broad range of acts of misconduct which are prohibited in school. Because the Board has jurisdiction over all types of misconduct, the student who commits an act of misconduct not listed here will be subject to the discretionary authority of the classroom teacher or principal.

The seriousness of the offense, the age of student, as well as the pattern of misconduct, and the degree of cooperation of the student, will be considered in determining what action should be taken. The process is intended to be instructional and corrective, not punitive.

Punishment shall be adapted to the needs and the background of a student as much as possible and shall be reasonable and fair with regard to the seriousness of the offense. Punishment that is not based on a student's best interests or a reasonable effort to achieve desirable internal controls by good teaching and effective counseling.

Students are provided the right of due process in handling individual problems. This right includes the opportunity for the student to inform (present) of the provisions of the school policies governing discipline. It also includes the right to be informed of any violation, present evidence on their behalf, have legal counsel at the hearing, and be notified of their right to appeal.

Discipline provisions are made and order to our social environment. It requires cooperation and fairness on the part of all people. All students must take responsibility for the actions of the school system and the consequences of their actions. Several factors such as the importance of the human element, discipline, self-control, and respect in preserving the school (and individual) behavior must be taken into account. It is imperative that parents, students, and teachers fully understand the system, and assume their responsibility in making the system work.

All students are expected to conduct themselves as citizens in a manner that will contribute to the best interests of the school system. No student's conduct shall infringe on the rights of others. For purposes of this Code, school authorities shall have jurisdiction over any student misconduct which takes place on school property, on field trips, at school activities, off-site on school bus, if the misconduct is deemed to have a detrimental effect on the general atmosphere of the school. When a student violation is noted, the infraction will be identified and resolution will be expected as defined in the code. The administration will expect the following:

STUDENTS shall know and understand what acceptable behavior is and are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times. When students fail to live up to what is deemed acceptable behavior, disciplinary measures may be taken to correct the problem.

PARENTS have a right to expect an atmosphere that is conducive to learning. When disciplinary action is taken, full parental support is needed.

TEACHERS are expected to complete the appropriate forms and send them to the school's office each day to order that the student records can be updated. Even if a teacher has a full day of absence, a report must be filed with the office daily.

ADJUDICATORS are expected to complete or cause to be completed all paper work in the office each day and insure that this system is applied uniformly for all infractions.

TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOLS

It is the intention of the Coosa County School System to become tobacco-free. Smoking has been identified as the number one health problem in the United States. It is the leading cause of premature

death, disease, and chronic disability in our country, with 240,000 deaths from smoking related diseases annually.

There is increasing evidence that nonusers who are exposed to the smoking of others are also at risk due to the inhaled and toxic effects of tobacco smoke. In recent years, one and one-quarter million young Americans between the ages of twelve and eighteen have started smoking cigarettes per year.

The Coosa County Board of Education believes that education has a central role in establishing patterns of behavior related to good health. Further, the Board is concerned about the health of all system employees and also recognizes the importance of school role modeling for students during formative years. Therefore, the Board shall promote a tobacco-free school environment.

The use and/or possession of tobacco products shall be prohibited within all school buildings, on school grounds, and in vehicles owned and/or operated by the system. This policy shall apply to all students, employees, parents, area persons, and visitors.

The success of this policy will depend on the thoughtfulness, consideration, and cooperation of students and nonusers. All students on school premises shall be responsible for adhering to this policy. All violators of this policy by students shall be a "Class I" violation and subject to discipline policies and procedures for Coosa County Schools.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL-FREE SCHOOLS

The Board, recognizing the varied physical, mental, and emotional dangers associated with drug/alcohol use to the individual and society does hereby express its increasing concern about Coosa County's student's association with drugs and alcohol.

The schools shall be every opportunity to improve the educational program so that students are made aware of the physical and psychological dangers incurred through the improper use of drugs/alcohol.

The use and/or possession of alcohol, marijuana, hallucinogenic drugs, narcotics of any kind, or any legal and/or unapproved substances which may alter behavior, shall be prohibited within all school buildings, on school grounds, during all school activities and activities, and in vehicles owned and/or operated by the system. This policy shall apply to all students, employees, parents, area persons, and visitors. All violations of this policy by students shall be a "Class IV" violation and subject to the appropriate discipline policies and procedures.

The school administration will cooperate with the local, state, and federal law enforcement officials in the detection, prevention, and prosecution of any and all possible violations of drug/alcohol laws. All school personnel are instructed to cooperate fully with law enforcement agencies and are to report to them any and all information that would be checked beneficial in their efforts to control illegal drug/alcohol use.

Law enforcement agencies may make periodic, unannounced visits to the schools for the purpose of detecting the presence of illegal drugs. Alabama Act 84-703 states in part, "A person who unlawfully sells, furnishes, or gives a controlled substance as defined in Code of Alabama, Section 20-2-2 to a minor may be liable for injury or damage or both suffered by a third person caused by or resulting from the use of the controlled substance by the minor if the sale, furnishing, or giving of the controlled substance is the proximate injury or damage."

Questioned prescription medications are to be verified by the prescribing doctor. School personnel shall administer medication only as authorized under CCSS Policy FHS. 43

FIGHTING

Students are prohibited from engaging in any physical contact with another student through physical contact. If a student is charged with fighting, the other student shall be charged with fighting. If a student is charged with fighting, the student is a victim of the incident, unless the student reports the incident to the principal or other school official. Fighting may be defined as any physical contact between two or more students that is intended to cause injury or damage to another student or to a school official.