

2023-2024



CHATHAM
COUNTY SCHOOLS

STUDENT CODE OF CIVILITY



Final version approved by CCS Board of Education on August 14, 2023

A Message From The Superintendent

Dear Chatham County Schools Families,

I am Superintendent Dr. Anthony D. Jackson, and I want to welcome you to Chatham County Schools for the 2023-2024 school year. We are delighted to have you be a part of our school district.

The district has been working to develop very clear guidelines around expectations for civility. Civility has eroded in recent years across the country, and we aim to recapture some of that grace we extend to each other. We have changed our Student Code of Conduct to the Student Code of Civility to emphasize that aspect. We want to ensure that our schools are welcoming, safe learning environments for all of our students and that we assist our students in developing strong relationships built on respect and trust throughout their education.

This handbook is designed to clearly outline behavior expectations, and the consequences for when those expectations are not met. We want to make sure there is consistency with consequences for when behavioral standards are not met. This guide provides you with information about how the district will handle a variety of behaviors, ranging from minor infractions to the most serious.

A variety of factors affect the consequences besides the severity of the behavior, including grade level and number of times a student committed the same behavior.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your child's school.

We want to focus on our students' successes and all the good things they do. These protocols will help ensure we have learning environments that allow them to achieve optimal learning and build strong relationships. We look forward to celebrating them this year.

We are grateful that you chose Chatham County Schools. Your children are our number one priority. We take great pride in providing them with high-quality and school-related experiences. We are One Chatham, and we are excited about the promise the coming year holds.

Sincerely,



Dr. Anthony D. Jackson
Superintendent



Focusing on dignity, respect

Dear Chatham County Schools Staff and Families,

I am Tracy Fowler, Senior Executive Director of Student Services. We are so excited about the 2023-2024 school year. The past few years have been challenging for us all. The stress and isolation experienced from the pandemic have exacerbated the mental health needs of our students and staff.

As a district, we want to first and foremost have support and learning opportunities in place that help all students gain the social and emotional skills they need to be successful. We believe that each classroom should be structured in a way that every child understands what is expected of them and receives the support needed to ensure they are able to meet those expectations.

It is important to us that all students are treated with dignity and respect and that means that every student should be able to attend school without fear of bullying or harassment.



One of our primary roles as a school district is to ensure that all children have a safe learning environment. It is important for students to have a clear understanding of the consequences for breaking rules that are intended to keep all of our students safe both physically and emotionally. It is our responsibility to make sure that disruptions are dealt with in a manner that returns our classrooms to safe learning environments as quickly as possible.

One of our core beliefs is that education is shared responsibility among educators, parents, students and the community. We are asking you to partner with us as we teach our students the rules and expectations in our schools. We want to work together to help our students make good choices and be present for learning each day. We truly believe that if we work together to support our students by providing them with structure, needed support and clear expectations that each student will be able to focus on learning and receive the skills and knowledge they need to be successful.

We look forward to working with you to make the 2023-2024 school year the best it can be.

In partnership,
Tracy Fowler,
Senior Executive Director
Student Services

School Safety is Everyone's Responsibility

Chatham County Schools prioritizes student safety through our policies, practices and beliefs. We believe that in order to create a safe learning environment for all students, we must all contribute and take responsibility.

Any student, staff member or parent who receives information that could be considered a threat to any student, staff or school (even if you suspect it is a hoax) has a responsibility to inform the school, district office or law enforcement.

If you would like to make an anonymous report, there are **two different** ways to do so on the Chatham County Schools website or through the **Say Something Anonymous Reporting System**. All schools have an **Anonymous Tip Form** on the student and parent drop down links. The information in this form will go to school and district administrators.

Each middle and high school website has a link to the **Say Something Anonymous Reporting System**. Reports made using this system are available 24/7 for 365 days of the year. Reports are received from a call center where information is gathered to determine if a report needs to be made to the school and/or law enforcement.



Chatham County Schools Student Code of Civility

Below are suggested ranges of consequences. Depending on aggravating factors, repeated violations of Level I and Level II infractions may result in consequences reflected in the next Level. Principals have discretion to implement or recommend consequences above or below those suggested.

Level I – Level I rule violations are less serious and generally result in in-school interventions or out-of-school violations of no more than five (5) days for first violations. Short-term suspensions are available for subsequent infractions, but are not required. Long-term suspensions are not an option. Any short term suspension for truancy or tardiness shall not exceed two (2) school days.

Grade Span	First Offense	Second Offense	Third Offense
K-5	Warning	1 to 3 Days ISS	1 to 3 Days OSS
6-8	Warning to 1 Day ISS	3 Days ISS / 1 Day OSS	3 to 5 Days OSS
9-12	Warning to 3 Days ISS	1 to 3 Days OSS	5 Days OSS

- As noted below, consequences vary for I-8, I-9, I-10 and I-11

Level II – Level II rule violations involve more serious misconduct that generally warrant a short-term suspension for students in middle of high school, and may warrant short-term suspension with elementary school students. **Principals may recommend a long-term suspension based upon the presence of aggravating factors regarding the severity of the violation and/or safety concerns.**

Grade Span	First Offense	Second Offense	Third Offense
K-5	1 Day ISS	1 Day OSS	3 Days OSS
6-8	3 days OSS	5 Days OSS	7 Days OSS
9-12	3 Days OSS	5 Days OSS	10 Days OSS

- As noted below, consequences vary for II-22 and II-23

Level III – Level III rule violations are those infractions that either threaten the safety of students, staff, or school visitors or threaten to substantially disrupt the educational environment, and support long-term suspension. The principal may enact a short-term suspension based on the presence of mitigating factors.

Level IV – Level IV is limited to the possession of a firearm or destructive device on educational property, an infraction under both federal and state law that mandates a 365-day suspension.

Level V – Level V allows for expulsion of a student, as provided by state statute, for a violation of the Code of Civility, if the student is fourteen (14) years of age or older and the student's behavior indicates that his/her continued presence in school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or employees and the Board determines there is no appropriate alternative education program. Additionally, any student who is a registered sex offender under N.C. General Statutes 14-208.6B may be expelled.

Infraction	Level 4 I	Level 2 II	Level 3 III	Level 4 IV	Level 5 V
Abusive, Harassing, or Seriously Disrespectful Language		X			
Acts of Terror			X		
Aiding and Abetting		X			
Arson			X		
Assault on a Student			X		
Assault and Serious Injuries on a School Employee			X		
Assault Involving Weapon/Dangerous Instrument/Substances			X		
Attempted Assault on a School Employee			X		
Bomb Threat			X		
Bomb Threat: Aiding/Abetting / Conspiracy			X		
Class/Activity Disturbance		X			
Discrimination/Harassment/Bullying		X			
Disrespect / Non-Compliance	X				
Disruptive Protest		X			
Extortion		X			

Failure to Report Firearm		X			
False Fire Alarm		X			
Fire Setting/Incendiary Material		X			
Firearm/Destructive Device			X	X	
Gambling	X				
Gang and Gang-Related Activity			X		
Hazing		X			
Inappropriate Dress	X				
Inappropriate Language	X				
Inappropriate Literature, Illustrations, or Images		X			
Indecent Exposure/Sexual Behavior		X			
Integrity	X				
Misconduct on School Vehicle	X				
Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages, Controlled Substances, Chemicals, and Drug Paraphernalia			X		
Physical Aggression/Fighting		X			
Property Damage		X			
School/Class Attendance	X				
School Disturbance		X			
School Transportation Disturbance		X			
Search and Seizure		X			
Sexual Harassment		X			
Theft		X			
Threat/False Threat		X			
Tobacco		X			

Trespassing	X				
Unauthorized commercial activity	X				
Violation of Technology Responsible Use Policy		X			
Weapons and Dangerous Instruments/Substances			X		
Wireless communication devices	X				

LEVEL I – Restorative Practices, In-School Discipline, Possible Short-Term Suspension Only

Grade Span	First Offense	Second Offense	Third Offense
K-5	Warning / Restorative Practices	1 to 3 Days ISS	1 to 3 Days OSS
6-8	Warning to 1 Day ISS	3 Days ISS / 1 Day OSS	3 to 5 Days OSS
9-12	Warning to 3 Days ISS	1 to 3 Days OSS	5 Days OSS

- Consequences vary for I-8, I-9, I-10 and I-11

I-1 Disrespect/Noncompliance – Students shall comply with all directions and exhibit appropriate respect toward school personnel and volunteers. Inappropriate conduct includes, but is not limited to, verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct showing disrespect and horseplay.

I-2 Inappropriate Language – Use of vulgar, profane, or obscene language or gestures.

I-3 Inappropriate Dress – Principals shall exercise appropriate discretion in implementing this policy, including making reasonable accommodations on the basis of students' religious beliefs or medical conditions. Students are expected to adhere to standards of dress and appearance that are compatible with an effective learning environment. Presenting a bodily appearance or wearing clothing which is disruptive, provocative, revealing, profane, vulgar, offensive or obscene, or which endangers the health or safety of the student or others is prohibited.

According to Policy 4316, before receiving disciplinary consequences, a student who is not in compliance with the school dress code will be given a reasonable period of time to make adjustments so that he or she will be in compliance.

Examples of prohibited dress or appearance include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Clothing and/or jewelry that promotes illegal substances or alcohol.
- b. Clothing, jewelry, and/or headwear that is decorated with profane words, vulgar language, gang related signs or colors, obscene pictures, images, or drawings, suggestive slogans, racial slogans, and/or other material reasonably likely to cause a substantial disruption in the school setting, including the Confederate battle flag.
- c. No clothing that exposes the stomach, back or undergarments should be worn.
- d. No pajama and/bedtime attire is permitted unless approved by administration.
- e. Shoes must be worn at all times. Bedroom slippers are not permitted unless approved by the administration.
- f. Students are not permitted to wear any adornment such as chains or spikes that reasonably could be perceived as or used as a weapon.
- g. Students are not permitted to wear any attire that is prohibited by Policy 4303-R, III-3 Gang and Gang-Related Activity. Individual schools are free to specify additional examples of dress or appearance that are prohibited at that school under the terms of this policy. If a student's dress or appearance is such that it constitutes a threat to the health or safety of others, distracts the attention of other students or staff from their work, or otherwise violates this dress code, the principal or principal's designee may require the student to change his or her dress or appearance.

I-4 Cell Phone Use – The Board of Education recognizes that cell phones have become an important tool through which parents communicate with their children. Therefore, students are permitted to possess cell phones on school property so long as they are not, used, displayed, or visible during the instructional day or as otherwise directed by school rules or school personnel.

Administrators may authorize individual students to use cell phones for personal purposes when deemed appropriate. Teachers and administrators may authorize individual students to use the devices for instructional purposes, provided that they supervise the students during such use.

Although use generally is permitted before or after school, use of cell phones may be prohibited on school buses when noise from such devices interferes with the safe operation of the buses. In addition, elementary and middle school students who participate in after-school programs are prohibited from using the wireless communication devices during such programs.

Any device possessed or used in violation of this policy shall be confiscated and returned to students at the end of the day. Repeat violations of the cell phone use policy could require a parent to come to the school to pick up the phone.

I-5 Trespassing – No student shall be on the campus of any school except the one to which the student is assigned without the knowledge and consent of the officials of that school. Students who loiter at any school after the close of the school day will be considered trespassers. A student under suspension from school is trespassing if he/she appears on the

property of any school or at any school sponsored activity during the suspension period without the express permission of the principal.

I-6 Gambling – Students shall not participate in any unauthorized games of chance in which money or items of value may be won or lost.

I-7 Unauthorized Commercial Activity – Students may not engage in commercial activity (i.e. buying or selling items) unless pursuant to an authorized fundraiser or with written permission from an administrator.

I-8 School/Class Attendance – Being tardy to class, failure to follow proper sign in/sign out procedures, skipping class/school, leaving campus without permission, or being in an unauthorized area is prohibited. Individual schools must create a plan for addressing incidents of being tardy and leaving school early. **At no time may a student receive more than two (2) days of OSS for this infraction. OSS should be used as a last resort as a consequence for violation of this rule.**

I-9 Misconduct on School Vehicle – School transportation service is a privilege, not a right. Students at all times while riding a school bus or other school vehicle shall observe the directives of the school bus driver and shall comply with all provisions of the Code of Civility. The following conduct or violation of any other rule of the Code of Civility while on the school bus or other school vehicle is specifically prohibited and may result in temporary or permanent suspension from school transportation services and/or from school (and, certain aggravating factors may result in school-level consequences in addition to a bus suspension):

- a. Delaying the bus schedule.
- b. Getting off at an unauthorized stop.
- c. Failing to observe established safety rules and regulations.
- d. Willfully trespassing upon a school bus.

Grades K-12

- First offense: Up to three (3) days suspension from riding the bus
- Second offense: Up to five (5) days suspension from riding the bus
- Third offense: Up to ten (10) days suspension from riding the bus
- Fourth offense: Up to the remainder of the school year suspension from riding the bus

In addition, any conduct on a school bus or other school vehicle, or a school bus stop, that is a violation of any other rule of the Code of Civility may subject the student to other disciplinary consequences, as outlined in this Code of Civility .

I-10 1-to-1 Student Laptop Program – Students must adhere to the guidelines found in the 1-to-1 Parent-Student Laptop Handbook.

Intentional Laptop or other Computer Damage

- First offense: Up to one (1) day OSS and loss of access to laptop at home for semester
- Second offense: Up to three (3) days OSS and loss of access to laptop at home for remainder of year
- Third offense: Up to five (5) days OSS and loss of access to laptop at home for remainder of year

Software or Hardware Modification

- First offense: Loss of access to laptop at home for semester
- Second offense: one (1) day ISS and loss of access to laptop at home for remainder of year
- Third offense: Up to five (5) days OSS and loss of access to laptop at home for remainder of year

I-11 Integrity – All students are expected to demonstrate integrity, civility, responsibility, and self-control, which are critical for establishing and maintaining a safe, orderly, and inviting school environment. Any student who engages in or attempts to engage in cheating, plagiarism, falsification, violation of software copyright laws, or violation of computer access shall be subject to disciplinary action. The following actions are specifically prohibited:

1. Cheating: giving or receiving of any unauthorized assistance on academic work.
2. Plagiarism: copying the language, structure, or idea of another and representing it as one's own work.
3. Falsification: verbal or written statement of any untruth.
4. Violation of software copyright laws: unauthorized duplication of computer software (computer piracy), printed material related to computer software, and/or the use of pirated computer Software.

Grades K-5

To be determined at the school level.

Grades 6 – 12

- First offense: Up to one (1) day ISS and re-do assignment or complete alternate assignment
- Second offense: Two days ISS and re-do assignment or complete alternate assignment
- Third offense: Three days OSS and re-do assignment or complete alternate assignment

Additionally, whenever a student engages in cheating, plagiarism, or falsification, the student shall receive a zero on the assignment and shall be referred to a counselor.

I-12 - Aiding and Abetting - No student shall aid, abet, and/or conspire to commit any of the acts described in Level I infractions. Aiding is assisting and abetting is encouraging someone to break a rule or commit a crime.

Level II –More serious misconduct that generally warrants short-term suspension for students in middle or high school, and may warrant short-term suspension with elementary school students. The misconduct could also be managed through Restorative Practices. **Principals may recommend a long-term suspension based upon the presence of aggravating factors regarding the severity of the violation and/or safety concerns.**

Grade Span	First Offense	Second Offense	Third Offense
K-5	1 Day ISS	1 Day OSS	3 Days OSS
6-8	3 days OSS	5 Days OSS	7 Days OSS
9-12	3 Days OSS	5 Days OSS	10 Days OSS

- Consequences vary for II-22 and II-23

II-1 Inappropriate Literature, Illustrations, or Images – The possession of literature, illustrations, or images which significantly disrupts the educational process or which are obscene is prohibited.

II-2 Abusive, Harassing, or Seriously Disrespectful Language – The use of any language, whether written, oral, or electronic, which is abusive, harassing, or seriously disrespectful and which disrupts the classroom or school environment is specifically prohibited.

II-3 Racial, Homophobic or Xenophobic Slurs - The use of any racial, homophobic or xenophobic language, whether written, oral or electronic is prohibited.

II-4 Class/Activity Disturbance – Any physical or verbal disturbance which occurs within the school environment and which interrupts or interferes with teaching or orderly conduct of class/school activities is prohibited. Horseplay is considered a disturbance to the school environment.

II-5 School Disturbance – No student shall, by use of passive resistance, noise, threat, fear, intimidation, coercion, force, violence, or any other form of conduct, cause the disruption of any lawful function, mission, or process of the school.

II-6 School Transportation Disturbance – Any physical or verbal disturbance which occurs on school transportation and which interrupts or interferes with the safe and orderly operation of the vehicle is prohibited.

II-7 Disruptive Protest – No student on school property or on property adjacent thereto shall engage in any protest, march, picket, sit-in, boycott, walkout, or other activity which has as its purpose the disruption of any lawful function, mission, or process of the school, or in fact creates such a disruption.

II-8 False Fire Alarm – No student shall set off, attempt to set off, or aid and abet anyone in giving a false fire alarm. No student shall interfere with or damage any part of a fire alarm, fire detection, smoke detection, fire extinguishing system, or emergency escape system.

II-9 Attempted Fire Setting / Possession of Incendiary Material – The possession of any incendiary material (including but not limited to matches, lighters, or lighter fluid) or the use of any material reasonably likely to result in a fire on school property is prohibited.

II-10 Property Damage – No student shall intentionally damage or attempt to damage or deface school property, another's personal property, or private property.

II-11 Theft – No student shall steal, attempt to steal, or knowingly be in possession of stolen property, including cafeteria food.

II-12 Extortion – No student shall attempt to extort money, personal property, or personal services.

II-13 Indecent Exposure/Sexual Behavior – No student shall engage in behavior which is indecent, overly affectionate, or of a sexual nature.

Note: A student who is convicted of cyber-bullying a school employee shall be transferred to another school within the district. If there is no other appropriate school within the district, the student shall be transferred to a different class or assigned to a teacher who was not involved as the victim of the cyber-bullying. The superintendent may modify, in writing, the required transfer of an individual student on a case-by-case basis. (Moved to Level III-1)

II-14 Sexual Harassment – No student shall engage in conduct prohibited by Policy 1710/4020/7230: Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law (please refer to the entire policy).

II-15 Threat/False Threat – No student shall make any threat through written or verbal language, sign, or act which conveys a serious expression of intent to cause harm or violence. Furthermore, no student shall make a false threat of harm or violence, even in jest, which causes or is reasonably likely to cause fear or a disruption to school activities.

II-16 Physical Aggression/Fighting – Physical aggression or fighting toward students and other people is prohibited. A student who is attacked may use reasonable force in self-defense, but only to the extent necessary to get free from the attack and notify proper school authorities.

A student who exceeds reasonable force may be disciplined even though someone else provoked the fight.

No student shall engage in fighting or physical aggression towards others, including but not limited to:

a. Choking, hitting, slapping, shoving, scratching, spitting, biting, blocking the passage of, or throwing objects at another person in an aggressive, confrontational or dangerous manner;

b. Taking any action, instigating, or making comments or writing messages that might reasonably be expected to result in a fight or physical aggression.

II-17 Inciting to Fight/Contributing to a Disruptive Situation - The intentional encouragement of misconduct for the purpose of substantially disrupting any school function or classroom. Any student who utilizes social media to promote or incite a fight or other events that could cause a school disturbance (i.e., videotaping fights or other incidents at school and posting the videos on the internet), will be considered a violation.

II-18 Failure to Report a Firearm, Destructive Device, Threat of Mass Violence or Act of Terror – Any student who has knowledge that another student possesses or intends to bring a firearm or destructive device on any school campus or to any school activity shall report this information to school or law enforcement authorities immediately. Any student who has knowledge of a threat of mass violence or an act of terror (even if they think it is or could be a hoax) shall report this information to school or law enforcement authorities immediately.

No student shall aid, abet, and/or conspire to commit any of the acts described in this section.

II-19 Hazing – Hazing is prohibited. No group or individual shall require a student to wear abnormal dress, play abusive or ridiculous tricks on him/her, frighten, scold, beat, harass, or subject him/her to personal indignity.

II-20 Refusal of Search and Seizure – A student's failure to permit searches and seizures as provided in Policy 4342 (Student Searches) is prohibited. (Please refer to entire policy)

II-21 Aiding, Abetting or Conspiring – No student shall aid or abet another student in violating any rule in the Code of Student Civility. This includes recording incidents for the purpose of posting on social media or participating in social media threats against a student, staff member, school or school district.

II-22 - Falsification or Deceit: Intentional acts of falsification or serious deceitful misconduct that threaten the health, safety, or welfare of others, or that cause a substantial detrimental impact on school operations or other individuals, are prohibited.

II-23 Hacking and Unauthorized Computer Access: Students will comply with all state and federal laws and regulations governing access to computers, computer networks, stored data, passwords, and other technology systems and resources and will refrain from all forms of computer or network “hacking,” whether criminal or not. Any willful or knowing effort to obtain unauthorized access; to steal; to maliciously alter, modify, or destroy; to introduce viruses; or otherwise to cause harm to any such computer, computer network, stored data, or other technology resource is a violation of this rule.

II-24 Violation of Technology Responsible Use Policy – No student shall engage in conduct prohibited by Policy 3225/4312/7320 (Technology Responsible Use) (Please refer to the entire policy).

Possible consequences include, but are not limited to:

- Student added to limited-Internet restriction group
- After school detention
- ISS
- OSS

II-25 Tobacco – No student shall use, possess, or display any tobacco or tobacco-derived or nicotine-containing vape product. This restriction applies when the student is anywhere on school system property or at any school-sponsored activity as a visitor or spectator. The following definitions apply for purposes of this regulation:

- a. Tobacco Product: cigarettes, vape products clearly labeled as derived from tobacco and/or containing nicotine, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff, and any other items containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products.
- b. Tobacco Use: smoking, chewing, dipping, or any other use of tobacco or vape products.
- c. Display: having any tobacco, or tobacco-derived or nicotine containing vape products, in a location or position that is visible to students or school personnel

The exceptions to this policy are as follows:

- a. The display of tobacco or vape products does not extend to display that has a legitimate instructional or pedagogical purpose and is approved by a teacher or school administrator; and
- b. A principal may permit tobacco or vape products to be included in instructional or research activities in the school building if the activity is conducted or supervised by the faculty member overseeing the instruction or research and the activity does not involve smoking, chewing, or otherwise ingesting the tobacco product.

Suggested Consequences:

- First offense: 1 day OSS and a conference with the student's parents/guardians. Unless mitigating factors support a reduced suspension length, a 1 day suspension can be reduced to a 1 day ISS if the student and parent/guardian agree and successfully complete an approved tobacco and vaping cessation education course.
- Second offense: 5 days OSS
- Third offense: 10 days OSS

II-26 - Aiding and Abetting - No student shall aid, abet, and/or conspire to commit any of the acts described in Level II infractions. Aiding is assisting and abetting is encouraging someone to break a rule or commit a crime.

LEVEL III

Level III Infractions typically threaten the safety of students, staff, or school visitors or threaten to substantially disrupt the educational environment, and support long-term suspension. The principal may recommend a short-term suspension or decline to impose any suspension based on the presence of mitigating factors.

Grade Span	First Offense	Second Offense	Third Offense
K-5	3 Day OSS	5 Days OSS	10 Days OSS Recommendation for long term
6-8	5 - 10 days OSS	10 Days OSS	10 Days OSS Recommendation for long term
9-12	5 - 10 Days OSS	10 Days OSS	10 Days OSS Recommendation for long term

III-1 Violation of Policy 1710/4020/7230: Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law (please refer to the entire policy.)

K-5

- First offense: 3-days suspension/required participation in restorative circles upon return
- Second offense: 5-days suspension/required participation in restorative circles upon

return

- Third offense: 10-days suspension/recommendation for long-term suspension/required participation in restorative circles upon return

Grades 6 – 12

- First offense: 10-days suspension/required participation in restorative circles upon return
- Second offense: 10-days suspension/administrative school reassignment/required participation in restorative circles upon return
- Third offense: 10-days suspension/recommendation for long-term suspension/required participation in restorative circles upon return

Note: A student who is convicted of cyber-bullying a school employee shall be transferred to another school within the district. If there is no other appropriate school within the district, the student shall be transferred to a different class or assigned to a teacher who was not involved as the victim of the cyber-bullying. The superintendent may modify, in writing, the required transfer of an individual student on a case-by-case basis. (Moved from Level II-14)

III-2 Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages, Controlled Substances, Chemicals, and Drug

Paraphernalia – No student shall possess, use, distribute, sell, possess with intent to distribute or sell, or conspire or attempt to distribute or sell, or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, anabolic steroid, other controlled substance, any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, fortified wine, other intoxicating liquor, drug paraphernalia, counterfeit substance, any unauthorized prescription drug, or any other chemicals or products with the intention of bringing about a state of exhilaration, euphoria, or of otherwise altering the student's mood or behavior. Except as otherwise defined in II-23 Tobacco, the possession, use, distribution, sale, possession with intent to distribute or sell, or being under the influence of vape products that are not clearly labeled as derived from tobacco or containing nicotine products shall be considered a violation of this regulation. The proper use of a drug authorized by valid medical prescription from a legally authorized health care provider shall not be considered a violation of this rule when the drug is taken by the person for whom the drug was prescribed, in accordance with Policy 6125 (Administering Medicines to Students).

For the purpose of the Code of Civility the following definitions apply:

Conspiracy: an agreement by two (2) or more persons to commit an unlawful act in violation of this policy.

Counterfeit Substance: any substance that is described or presented with the intention of deceiving another into believing that it is a substance prohibited under this policy.

Distribute: to transmit a prohibited substance to one or more other persons. For purposes of this definition, a student has not “distributed” a prohibited substance (but may be guilty of

“possession” or “use”) if the student’s only involvement is to share or pass a prohibited substance with other students in the course of using it. A student may be guilty of “distributing” a prohibited substance even if the substance is given freely rather than exchanged for something of value.

Drug Paraphernalia: objects used for ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing controlled substances into the body, e.g., pipes, rolling papers, “roach” clips. Relevant evidence may be considered in determining whether an object is drug paraphernalia.

Possession: having the prohibited substance on the student’s person or in another place where the student, either alone or jointly with others, has control over it. This may include, but is not limited to, possession of a prohibited substance in an automobile, locker, book bag, or desk.

Possess with Intent to Distribute/Sell: Intent to distribute or sell may be determined from the amount of the prohibited substance found, the manner in which it was packaged, the presence of packaging materials such as scales, baggies or other containers, or from statements or actions of the student that demonstrate an intent to distribute or sell.

Sell: the exchange of a prohibited substance for money, property, or any other benefit or item of value.

Unauthorized Prescription Drug: any drug or medication that has not been prescribed for the student.

Under the influence: the use of any prohibited substance at any time or place when the prohibited substance would influence a student’s mood, behavior, or learning to any degree.

Use: the consumption, injection, inhalation or absorption of a prohibited substance into a student’s body by any means.

For offenses involving only possession, conspiracy to possess, use, and/or being under the influence of a substance prohibited by this policy, the following shall apply:

First offense: Unless mitigating factors support a reduced suspension length, a 10-day suspension can be reduced to a 5-day suspension if the student and parent/guardian agree and successfully complete a substance abuse assessment from a substance abuse professional, a school social worker or behavior specialist and an approved 8 hour Drug and Alcohol Education Program.

Second offense: A 10-day suspension with a recommendation for long term suspension, unless mitigating factors support a reduced suspension length.

Note: Habitual offenses in subsequent years will be considered an aggravating factor that may support a 10-day suspension with a recommendation for long-term suspension.

III-3 Gang and Gang-Related Activity – The Board of Education believes that gangs and gang-related activities pose a serious safety threat to students and staff members of the Chatham County Schools and can significantly disrupt the educational environment.

a. No student shall participate in any gang-related activities. For purposes of this regulation :

1. A “gang” is any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of criminal acts, and having a common name or common identifying sign, colors or symbols.
2. “Gang-related activities” are any activities engaged in by a student on behalf of an identified gang; to perpetuate the existence of an identified gang; to effect the common purpose and design of an identified gang; or to represent gang affiliation, loyalty, or solidarity.

b. Conduct prohibited by this regulation includes:

1. Wearing, possessing, using, distributing, displaying, or selling any clothing, jewelry, emblems, badges, symbols, signs, visible tattoos and body markings, or other items, with the intent to convey or promote membership or affiliation in any gang;
2. Communicating either verbally or non-verbally (e.g., gestures, handshakes, slogans, drawings), with the intent to convey or promote membership or affiliation in any gang;
3. Tagging, or otherwise defacing school or personal property with symbols or slogans intended to convey or promote membership or affiliation in any gang;
4. Requiring payment of protection, money or insurance, or otherwise intimidating or threatening any person in connection with gang-related activity;
5. Inciting other students to intimidate or to act with physical violence upon any other person in connection with gang-related activity;
6. Soliciting others for gang membership;
7. Conspiring to commit/committing any violation of this regulation or committing or conspiring to commit any other illegal act or other violation of school district policies and regulations that relates to gang activity.

c. When a first infraction involves only the wearing gang-related attire, a student may receive a warning and be allowed to immediately change or remove the attire as an alternative to disciplinary action.

d. The superintendent or designee shall regularly consult with law enforcement officials to identify examples of gang-related items, symbols and behaviors and shall provide each principal with this information. Parents and students shall be notified that such information is maintained in the principal's office, that it is subject to change, and that the principal's office may be consulted for updates. In providing this information for parents and students, the school system acknowledges that not all potential gang indicators connote actual membership in a gang.

III-4 Weapons and Dangerous Instruments/Substances – No student shall possess, handle, or transmit any weapon, facsimile of a weapon, dangerous instruments, substances or other objects that can reasonably be considered or used as a weapon or dangerous instrument/substances. This does not apply to any student who finds a weapon or dangerous instrument/substances on school property or receives it from another person on school property and who immediately reports the weapon or dangerous instrument/substances to school or law enforcement authorities.

The following definitions apply to this regulation:

a. Weapon: Any firearm, BB gun, stun gun, air rifle, air pistol, ammunition, powder loads, fireworks, knife, slingshot, leaded cane, blackjack, metallic knuckles, razors, razor blades (except cartridge used solely for personal shaving), box cutter, mace, pepper spray or other personal defense sprays, any sharp-pointed or edged instrument except instructional supplies, unaltered nail files and clippers and tools used solely for preparation of food, instruction, and maintenance.

b. Dangerous Instrument/Substance: Any object or substance that is possessed, handled, transmitted, used for the purpose of causing or attempting to cause physical injury.

c. Facsimile of a weapon: Any copy of a weapon that could reasonably be perceived to be a real weapon.

Note: Refer to Level IV: Rule IV–2 for violations involving firearms or destructive devices.

III-5 Assault on a Student – No student shall cause or attempt to cause serious physical injury to another person. For the purposes of this policy “serious physical injury” shall refer to any significant or aggravated bodily injury, including but not limited to broken bone(s), loss or chipping of teeth, loss or impairment of vision, loss of consciousness, internal injuries, scarring or other disfigurement, significant bleeding, lacerations resulting in sutures, significant bruising, severe or prolonged pain, any injury requiring hospitalization for any period of time, and/or any injury resulting in medical treatment beyond simple first aid procedures.

Note: If a teacher is assaulted or injured by a student and as a result the student is reassigned to alternative education services, long-term suspended, or expelled, the student shall not be returned to that teacher's classroom unless the teacher consents.

III-6 Attempted Assault on a School Employee - No student shall cause or attempt to cause physical injury to a school employee or volunteer, or behave in such a manner that could reasonably cause physical injury to any school employee or volunteer

III-7 Assault on a School Employee – No student shall assault a school employee, volunteer, or other adult who is not a student.

Note: If a teacher is assaulted or injured by a student and as a result the student is reassigned to alternative education services, long-term suspended, or expelled, the student shall not be returned to that teacher's classroom unless the teacher consents.

III-8 Assault Involving Weapon/Dangerous Instrument/Substances – No student shall assault another using a weapon, dangerous instrument, or dangerous substances.

Note: Refer to Level IV for violations involving firearms or destructive devices.

III-9 Arson – No student shall burn or attempt to burn any school building or property. Possessing incendiary material (ie. gasoline, kerosene, or other flammable liquid), for the purpose of burning or the attempted burning of school property.

III-10 Bomb Threat – No student shall make a bomb threat or hoax by making a false report that a device designed to cause damage or destruction by explosion, blasting, or burning is located on the school premises or at the site of school activities. No student shall with the intent to perpetrate a hoax, conceal, place or display on school property or the site of school activities any device or artifact so as to cause any person reasonably to believe the same to be a bomb or other destructive device

III-11 Threats of Mass Violence: No student shall, by means of communication to any person or group, threaten to commit an act of mass violence on educational property or at a curricular or extracurricular activity sponsored by a school. For purposes of this rule, “mass violence” is physical injury that a reasonable person would conclude could lead to permanent injury (including mental or emotional health) or death to two or more people.

No student shall aid, abet, and/or conspire to commit any of the acts described in this section.

III-12 Acts of Terror

- a. No student shall make a report that he or she knows or should know is false, that any device, substance or material designed to cause harmful or life threatening illness or injury to another person, is located on school property or at the site of a school activity.
- b. No student shall, with intent to perpetrate a hoax, conceal, place, disseminate or display on school property or at the site of a school activity any device, machine, instrument, artifact, letter, package, material, or substance, so as to cause a reasonable person to believe the same to be a substance or material capable of causing harmful or life-threatening illness or injury to another person.
- c. No student shall threaten to commit an act of terror on school property or at the site of a school activity that is designed to cause, or is likely to cause, serious injury or death to another person, when the threat is intended to cause, or actually causes, a significant disruption to the instructional day or a school-sponsored activity.
- d. No student shall make a report that he or she knows is false, that an act of terror designed to cause, or likely to cause, serious injury or death to another person on school property or at the site of a school-sponsored activity is imminent, when that report is intended to cause, or actually causes, a significant disruption to the instructional day or a school-sponsored activity.

III-13 - Aiding and Abetting - No student shall aid, abet, and/or conspire to commit any of the acts described in Level III infractions. Aiding is assisting and abetting is encouraging someone to commit a crime.

LEVEL IV – Possession of a firearm or destructive device on educational property mandates a 365-day suspension under both federal and state law.

IV-1 Firearm/Destructive Device K-12 – Any student in grades K-12 shall be recommended by the principal for a suspension of 365 calendar days for bringing a firearm or explosive device onto school property or to a school-sponsored event off school property, or for possessing a firearm or explosive or explosive device on school property or at a school-sponsored event off school property. School property includes any property owned, used or leased by the Board of Education, including school buses, other vehicles and school bus stops. Principals are required to refer to the law enforcement system any student who brings a firearm or weapon to school.

- a. **Firearm:** A 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; or any firearm muffler or firearm silencer. The term shall not include an inoperable antique firearm, a BB gun, stun gun, air rifle, or air pistol.

b. **Destructive Device:** An 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 listed in this definition.

Violation of this section shall result in suspension from school for 365 days unless modified by the superintendent or Board of Education on a case-by-case basis.

The 365-day suspension does not apply to any student who finds the firearm on school property or receives it from another person on school property and who delivers the weapon, immediately, to school or law enforcement authorities.

LEVEL V – Expulsion

A student fourteen (14) years of age or older may be expelled for a violation of this Code of Civility if the student's behavior indicates that the student's continued presence in the school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or employees, and the Board determines there is no appropriate alternative educational program. Additionally, any student who is a registered sex offender under N.C. General Statute