



St. John the Baptist Parish School Board

118 West 10th Street • P.O. Drawer AL • Reserve, Louisiana 70084 • PHONE: 985-536-1106 • 1-800-296-1106 • FAX: 985-536-1109

Nia Mitchell-Williams
Board President

Dr. Lynett Hookfin
Superintendent

Shawn Wallace
Board Vice-President

REVISED
08-09-2021

August 6, 2021

HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
Parish of St. John the Baptist

Dear Board Member:

Upon call of the President, the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board will meet in regular session at **Emily C. Watkins Elementary School, 938 Highway 628, LaPlace, LA 70068**, on Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

The agenda for the meeting is attached.

Sincerely,

Nia Mitchell-Williams
Board President

NM:sww

xc: News Media
Legal Counsel
SJAE
Agenda Participants

MEMBERS OF THE ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Charo Holden, District 1
Albert Burl, District 2

Gerald J. Keller, Ph.D., District 3
Patrick H. Sanders, District 4

Sherry DeFrancesch, District 5
Keith Jones, District 6

Phillip Johnson, District 7
Debbie Schum, District 8

Shawn Wallace, District 9
Nia Mitchell, District 10

Clarence Triche, District 11

AGENDA - ST. JOHN PARISH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
August 12, 2021– 6:00 p.m. ~ Revised 08-09-2021
Emily C. Watkins Elementary School - LaPlace, Louisiana

1. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
2. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - a. Public Comment. Meeting of: July 8, 2021 (Requires action)
4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Dr. Lynett Hookfin
 - a. Public Comment. Celebration of New Additions to SJBP Team – Ms. Patricia Triche
 - b. Public Comment. Beginning of School Updates – Ms. Patricia Triche
 - c. Public Comment. COVID Guidelines & Update – Dr. Stacey Spies
 - d. Public Comment. I've Walked These Halls Campaign – Ms. Bonnie Dinvaut
 - e. Public Comment. Human Resources Updates – Dr. Juanita Hill
 - f. Public Comment. Technology Distribution Updates – Ms. Tanya Fauchaux
 - g. Public Comment. Update on Discipline Handbook – Mr. Robert Schaff
 - h. Public Comment. Curriculum Updates – Ms. Michelle Seymour
 - i. Public Comment. Financial Update – Mr. Brian Coogan/Mr. David Andras
5. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS BY THE BOARD OR STAFF
 - a. Public Comment. Shannon Magee/Juanita Hill – Report on 2020-2021 Testing Scores
6. PERSONNEL MATTERS
7. BUSINESS AND FINANCE
 - a. Public Comment. Josh Cockfield, LOCA- Executive Session: Discussion of the potential settlement of Docket #: 20-06110, District 6, Nichelle Parquet vs. St. John the Baptist Parish School (Requires action)
 - b. Public Comment. Mr. Patrick Sanders/Ms. Debra Schum/Mr. Clarence Triche - Request approval to enter into a contractual agreement with ACI St. John, LLC for the services necessary for the collection of sales and use taxes by the School Board, for a period of 4 years, duplicating the terms as the previous contract dated December 18, 2017 (Requires action)
 - c. Public Comment. Mr. Brian Coogan/David Andras – Request Board approval to extend 2019-2020 Salary Schedule until salary negotiations are complete with SJAE (Requires approval)
8. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Public Comment. Mr. Brian Coogan/Cindy Janecke – Request approval to award Grass Maintenance Contract (Requires action)
 - b. Public Comment. Mr. Brian Coogan/Cindy Janecke – Request approval to award Fleet Mechanic Contract (Requires action)
9. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Public Comment. Mr. Robert Schaff - Request Approval of the Student Code of Conduct and Attendance Handbook for SY 2021-2022 (Requires action)
 - b. Public Comment. Mrs. Nia Mitchell-Williams – Request Board approval to issue an RFP/RFQ for Board Member Redistricting Services (Requires action)
 - c. Public Comment. Ms. Carolyn Batiste – Redistricting of School Board

- d. Public Comment. Mrs. Nia Mitchell-William/Mr. Clarence Triche/Mrs. Debra Schum – To authorize legal counsel to draft an ordinance intended to consolidate all school board sales and use tax ordinances currently in force and effect, in order to adopt all provisions of the Uniform Local Sales Tax Code, and the statutorily authorized exemptions and exclusions found in Title 47, together with all sales and use tax provisions of Title 61 and 72 of the Louisiana Administrative Code, for purposes of administration, collection and enforcement of said ordinances. (Requires action)
- e. Public Comment. Mr. Clarence Triche/Mrs. Debra Schum – To authorize legal counsel to preliminarily investigate the legality of the Lease/Pilot Agreement between Pin Oaks and the Port Commission as applies to ad valorem taxes authorized by the School Board related to the improvements made by Pin Oaks on Port Commission property under the Agreement. (Requires action)
- f. Public Comment. Ms. Carolyn Batiste – Civics Education/Understanding civic knowledge, civic skills, civic duty
- g. Public Comment. Mrs. Nia Mitchell-Williams - Executive Session: Discussion of Character and Professional Competency as part of the Board Evaluation of Superintendent Lynett Hookfin (Requires action)

10. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- a. Public Comment. To adopt a new evaluative tool for the Superintendent (Requires action)

11. BOARD ITEMS OF INTEREST

12. ADJOURNMENT

**ST. JOHN PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
AGENDA ITEM**

ITEM #: 8a

DATE: 08/12/2021

TOPIC: Request approval to award Grass Maintenance Contract

BACKGROUND:

ALTERNATIVES:

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
RECOMMENDATION:**

COST: -0-

INFORMATION

SOURCES: Brian Coogan
Cindy Janecke, All South Engineers

August 6, 2021

Dr. Lynett Hookfin
Superintendent
St. John the Baptist Parish School Board
P.O. Drawer AL, 118 West 10th Street
Reserve, LA 70084

RE: Grounds Maintenance Request for Proposals 22.28

Dear Dr. Hookfin,

All South Consulting Engineers, LLC has completed the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for Grounds Maintenance, as requested by the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board.

Attached is a summary of the RFP proposer interest and All South's review of the three submitted proposals for conformance with the RFP requirements. The original proposals are with Dawn Brown in the School Board Purchasing Office.

Proposals were due on August 3, 2021, at 11:00AM. St. John received three proposals. A brief explanation of each proposal is detailed below.

Firmin Trucking LLC

- Firmin Trucking LLC submitted all required documents. Please see the attached Proposal Analysis.
- Firmin Trucking LLC did not submit a price for the Active Athletic sites. The RFP advertised by the School Board does not state a proposer must submit pricing for all sites. The RFP states on Page 19, *"The grounds maintenance may be awarded on a per site basis, group of sites, or all or none for "active regular" and "inactive" sites, and "active athletic" sites. No more than one contractor will be awarded the cuts at each site."*
- If the School Board selects Firmin Trucking, Firmin Trucking will need to modify their insurance coverage, as listed on Page 19 of the RFP. Per the School Board's Insurance Agent John Faucheux, they will need to have an additional insured endorsement for Commercial General Liability and include a waiver of Subrogation for Commercial General Liability, Business Automobile, and Workers Compensation.

All South Consulting Engineers, L.L.C.

The Luster Group

- The Luster Group did not submit all of the required documents. Please see the attached Proposal Analysis.
- The Luster Group did not submit evidence of the Grounds Owner Operator License or that they employ a Commercial Pesticide Applicator with Category 3 certification. The RFP states on Page 19, *"The proposer shall possess at the time the proposal is submitted a current Horticulture License, Grounds Owner Operator License and employ at least one Commercial Pesticide Applicator with certification in Category 3 (Ornamental and Turf Pest Control.) Evidence of all current licensure(s) must be provided with the proposal."*
- The Luster Group did not submit a list of chemicals and Material Safety Data sheets. The RFP states on Page 19. *"The proposer shall provide a list of chemicals to be used with Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)."*
- The Luster Group submitted less than the required number of reference letters. The RFP states on Page 18, *"The proposer shall submit a minimum of two (2) reference letter from School Districts, governmental municipalities and/or industrial customers on which Grounds Maintenance were performed in the past five (5) years. Also, the proposer shall submit a minimum of two (2) reference letters from current Louisiana high school athletic directors on which Grounds Maintenance were performed in the past five (5) years to be considered for the athletic site maintenance. Failure to submit the reference letters and proposed information shall cause the proposals to be rejected."*
- The Luster Group did not document that they have all the adequate equipment and supplies necessary to perform grounds maintenance. The RFP states on Page 20, *"Proposers shall include with their proposal a list of all of the equipment and related supplies they own and plan to use at the time of the submission of their proposal. Proposers are required to have adequate equipment and supplies necessary to perform the grounds maintenance awarded them throughout the term of the contract. Proposers shall document the following equipment or its equivalent: a.) tractor with bush hog, b.) two (2) front end type commercial cutting machines (finish cut mowers), c.) two (2) push or walk-behind type lawn mowers, d.) two (2) string type weed eaters/trimmers, e.) one (1) herbicide sprayer unit registered with the LDAF, and one (1) fertilizer spreader unit, f.) blowers, g) reel type grass cutter for athletic fields, and h.) truck and trailer."* It appears The Luster Group's equipment list is missing the following equipment or its equivalent: a) tractor, b) two (2) push or walk-behind type lawn mowers, e) one (1) fertilizer spreader unit, g) reel type grass cutter for athletic fields, and h) truck and trailer.
- If the Board selects The Luster Group, The Luster Group will need to modify their insurance coverage, as listed on Page 17 of the RFP. Per the School Board's Insurance Agent John Fauchaux, they will need to include a waiver of Subrogation for Commercial General Liability, Business Automobile, and Workers Compensation.

All South Consulting Engineers, L.L.C.

Priority Land Management & Maintenance

- Priority Land Management & Maintenance did not attend the Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference held on July 22, 2021. The RFP advertised by the School Board states on Pg. 1, "*Proposals will only be accepted from proposers which attend the mandatory pre-proposal conference.*" Page 24 of the RFP states, "*A Mandatory Pre-Proposal Meeting will be held on July 22, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. at the School Board office at 118 West Tenth Street, Reserve. Proposals shall not be accepted from anyone that does not attend.*" Please see attached Mandatory Pre-proposal Meeting Sign in Sheet. As a result, Priority Land Management & Maintenance is a nonresponsive proposer.

We are submitting these documents to the Administration to aid in the School Board's review and award of the Ground's Maintenance RFP.

Sincerely,



Cindy Janecke
Vice President

St. John Parish School Board

Proposal Analysis Summary

Date Submitted to Administration: August 6, 2021
 Proposal Name: Grounds Maintenance
 Proposal Number: 22.28
 Proposal Term: Three Years

RELEASE/RECEIPT INFORMATION

Number of Proposal Packages Released: 49

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 st Class Landscaping Firm Enterprises | Cox Lawn Care | Dan's Landscaping |
| Green Seasons | GCA Services | GIS |
| Ground Force | Green Up Lawncare | Griffin Lawn Care |
| Infiniscapes | Hymel's Turf & Landscape | Incredible Mowers |
| Metro Service Group | L.D.M.S. | LA Industrial Lawn Maintenance |
| Turf Scape | Rotolo Consultants | Quality Cuts Lawn Maintenance |
| Green Point | U.S. Lawns | Brite Shine Cleaning and Floor Care |
| Adams Lawn Service llc | Parish Line Lawn Service llc | Priority Land Management and Maintenance |
| Kelvins Handyman llc | The Best Man Company llc | Airware llc |
| Foret Contracting Group llc | Pm Lawn Care llc | Integrated Management Solutions llc |
| Del-Con llc | Wholesale Wireless | Ramj Constructions llc |
| NaturChem, Inc | Global Management Enterprise | Quality Commercial Cleaning Service llc |
| Chem Spray South Inc | ChemPro | MCC Landscape & Lawn |
| Mullin Landscape | The Luster Group | C's Cleaning Service llc |
| BLBC Enterprise llc | Grassmasters Lawn Service llc | Pure Elegance Cleaning Service llc |
| AGC Shreveport | Cutting Edge Lawn Service Inc | Boh Bros. Construction Co. llc |

Attendance of Mandatory Pre-Proposal Meeting: 8

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| ABM | BLBC Enterprise LLC | Xcellent 1 Lawn Care |
| Luster Group LLC | B&P Enterprises | GIS |
| Parish Line Lawn Services | Firmin Enterprises | |

| Number of Proposals submitted: | 3 | Active Regular Sites | Inactive Sites | Active Athletic |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Firmin Enterprises | | \$318,500.00 | \$9,000.00 | (No Proposed Price) |
| The Luster Group | | \$302,820.00 | 18,045.00 | \$216,000.00 |
| Priority Land | | \$241,804.00 | \$3,420.00 | \$9,360.00 |

Number of nonresponsive proposals: 1

PROPOSAL AWARD RECOMMENDATION

All South provided the proposal analysis to Dr. Lynett Hookfin for the Administration and School Board's review and award.

Proposal Analysis for St. John the Baptist School Board

8/5/2021

Proposal Name: Grounds Maintenance
 Proposal Number: 22.28
 Proposal Due: August 3, 2021 11:00AM

Proposer Name:
 Attended Mandatory Pre-proposal Meeting

Firmin Trucking LLC
 Yes

The Luster Group
 Yes

Priority Land Management & Maintenance
 No

Required Items:

- Date/Time Received
- Sealed Envelope
- Proposal Form
- Proposal Security
- Owner Disclosure Form:
- Corporate Resolusion
- Ethics Compliance Form
- Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension Convictions, Pleas and Other Responsibility Matters Form
- Certification Regarding Verification of Employees Form
- 2 Reference Letters From School Districts, governmental municipalities and/or industrial customers
- 2 Reference Letters From Current Louisiana High School Athletic Directors
- Insurance Coverage:
- Workmen's Comp Ins. \$1,000,000
- Commerical General Liability \$2,000,000
- Business Automobile \$1,000,000
- Adequate Workforce
- Equipment and Supply Listing
- Evidence of Licenses and Certifications

| | 8/3/2021 10:20AM |
|----------------|------------------|
| Submitted | Submitted |
| Submitted | Submitted |
| Submitted | Submitted |
| Not Applicable | Not Applicable |
| Submitted | Submitted |
| Submitted | Submitted |
| Submitted | Submitted |
| 2 Submitted | 2 Submitted |
| 2 Submitted | 2 Submitted |
| Submitted | Submitted |
| Submitted | Submitted |
| Submitted | Submitted |
| Submitted | Submitted |
| Submitted | Submitted |

| | 8/3/2021 9:50AM |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Submitted | Submitted |
| Submitted | Submitted |
| Submitted | Submitted |
| Submitted (Power of Attorney) | Submitted |
| Submitted | Submitted |
| Submitted | Submitted |
| Submitted | Submitted |
| 1 Submitted | 1 Submitted |
| 1 Submitted | 1 Submitted |
| Submitted | Submitted |
| Submitted | Submitted |
| Submitted | Submitted |
| Submitted | Submitted |
| Submitted | Submitted |

| | 8/3/2021 10:29AM |
|----------------|------------------|
| Submitted | Submitted |
| Submitted | Submitted |
| Not Submitted | Not Submitted |
| Submitted | Submitted |
| Not Applicable | Not Applicable |
| Submitted | Submitted |
| Submitted | Submitted |
| Not Submitted | Not Submitted |
| Not Submitted | Not Submitted |
| Not Submitted | Not Submitted |
| Not Submitted | Not Submitted |
| Not Submitted | Not Submitted |
| Not Submitted | Not Submitted |

ST. JOHN PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
 QUOTE NAME: GROUNDS MAINTENANCE
 QUOTE NUMBER: 22.28

TALLY SHEET

8/6/2021

| ACTIVE REGULAR SITES | CUTS PER YEAR | Firmin Trucking LLC dba Firmin Enterprises Unlimited | | The Luster Group | | Mathematical error: WRITTEN IN PROPOSAL | Priority Land Management & Maintenance | |
|---|---------------|--|--------------|------------------|--------------|--|--|--------------|
| | | PRICE PER CUT | TOTAL AMOUNT | PRICE PER CUT | TOTAL AMOUNT | | PRICE PER CUT | TOTAL AMOUNT |
| WEST ST. JOHN HIGH | 36 | \$625.00 | \$22,500.00 | \$630.00 | \$22,680.00 | | \$515.00 | \$18,540.00 |
| WEST ST. JOHN ELEMENTARY INCLUDES ATHLETIC FIELDS | 36 | \$625.00 | \$22,500.00 | \$575.00 | \$20,700.00 | | \$465.00 | \$16,740.00 |
| GARVILLE/MT AIRY MAGNET INCLUDES ATHLETIC FIELDS | 36 | \$650.00 | \$23,400.00 | \$550.00 | \$19,800.00 | | \$465.00 | \$16,740.00 |
| ST. JOHN ADULT ED CENTER | 36 | \$350.00 | \$12,600.00 | \$350.00 | \$12,600.00 | | \$315.00 | \$11,340.00 |
| ST. JOHN CHILD DEVELOPMENT INCLUDES SPRAY FOR ANTS | 36 | \$350.00 | \$12,600.00 | \$350.00 | \$12,600.00 | | \$330.00 | \$11,880.00 |
| LEON GODCHAUX ACCEL PROG INCLUDES OLD FOOTBALL FIELD | 36 | \$625.00 | \$22,500.00 | \$575.00 | \$20,700.00 | | \$465.00 | \$16,740.00 |
| FIFTH WARD ELEMENTARY | 36 | \$600.00 | \$21,600.00 | \$575.00 | \$20,700.00 | | \$495.00 | \$17,820.00 |
| JOHN L ORY ELEMENTARY | 36 | \$300.00 | \$10,800.00 | \$175.00 | \$6,300.00 | | \$265.00 | \$9,540.00 |
| JLO NEW PARCEL 290' X 450' | 20 | \$300.00 | \$6,000.00 | \$250.00 | \$5,000.00 | \$9,000.00 | \$140.00 | \$2,800.00 |
| CENTRAL OFFICE | 36 | \$275.00 | \$9,900.00 | \$250.00 | \$9,000.00 | | \$149.00 | \$5,364.00 |
| MILESVILLE CENTER | 36 | \$175.00 | \$6,300.00 | \$250.00 | \$9,000.00 | | \$190.00 | \$6,840.00 |
| EAST ST. JOHN HIGH SCHOOL | 36 | \$800.00 | \$28,800.00 | \$700.00 | \$25,200.00 | | \$540.00 | \$19,440.00 |

**ST. JOHN PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
AGENDA ITEM**

ITEM #: 8b

DATE: 08/12/2021

TOPIC: Request approval to award Fleet Mechanic Contract

BACKGROUND:

ALTERNATIVES:

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
RECOMMENDATION:**

COST: -0-

INFORMATION

SOURCES: Brian Coogan
Cindy Janecke, All South Engineers



www.ascellc.com

August 3, 2021

Dr. Lynett Hookfin
Superintendent
St. John the Baptist Parish School Board
P.O. Drawer AL, 118 West 10th Street
Reserve, LA 70084

RE: Transportation Fleet Mechanic Request for Proposal 22.26


Dear Dr. Hookfin,

All South Consulting Engineers, LLC has completed the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the Transportation Fleet Mechanic, as requested by the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board.

Attached is a summary of the RFP proposer interest and All South's review of the two submitted proposals for conformance with the RFP requirements. The original proposals are with Dawn Brown in the School Board Purchasing Office.

We are submitting these documents to the Administration to aid in the School Board's review and award of the Fleet Mechanic RFP.

Sincerely,



Cindy Janecke
Vice President

Metairie

652 Papworth Avenue
Metairie, LA 70005
Tel 504-322-2783

Belle Chasse

305A Main Street
Belle Chasse, LA 70037
Tel 504-394-4424

Houma

302 School Street
Houma, LA 70360
Tel 985-537-8893

Raceland

3744 Highway 1
Raceland, LA 70394
Tel 985-537-8893

Ascension

1056 E. Worthey Street,
Gonzales, LA 70737
Tel 225-532-1406

St. John Parish School Board

Proposal Analysis Summary

Date Submitted to Administration: August 2, 2021
 Proposal Name: Transportation Fleet Mechanic
 Proposal Number: 22.26
 Proposal Term: Three Years

RELEASE/RECEIPT INFORMATION

Number of Proposal Packages Released: 21

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| B&L Transportation | Kent Mitchell Bus Sales and Service | S&H Automotive Repair |
| Ross Buss | Kenworth of Louisiana | Ronny's Truck and Trailer Repair |
| First Student | Timmons Truck Center & Ideal Lease | Tony's Diesel Repair |
| Brock's Automotive | Crockett's Auto Repair | Pete's Body Shop and Towing |
| Hymel's Auto Repairs | Pete's Body Shop and Towing | Hymel's Auto Repairs |
| Fred's Bus Service | iTA Truck Sales & Services | Tyrone's Detailing, Auto Repair & Wrecker Service |
| Miguez Fuel LLC | Lb Boudreaux's Trucking LLC | Global Management Enterprise |

Attendance of Mandatory Pre-Proposal Meeting: 4

Tony's Diesel Repair
 Tyrone's Detailing, Auto Repair, & Wrecker Service
 First Student
 Kenworth of Louisiana

| | | | |
|--|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Number of Proposals submitted: | 2 | Without Bond: | With Bond: |
| Tyrone's Detailing, Auto Repair, & Wrecker Service | \$255,000.00 | | \$257,500.00 |
| Tony's Diesel Repair | \$396,716.00 | | \$428,453.28 |

Number of nonresponsive proposals: 0

PROPOSAL AWARD RECOMMENDATION

All South provided the proposal analysis to Dr. Lynett Hookfin for the Administration and School Board's review and award.

Proposal Analysis for St. John the Baptist School Board

Proposal Name: Transportation Fleet Mechanic
 Proposal Number: 22.26
 Proposal Due: July 29, 2021 11:00AM

Proposer Name: Tony's Diesel Repair Tyrone's Detailing, Wrecker Service & Auto Repair

Required Items:

| | July 29, 2021 10:03 AM | July 29, 2021 9:20 AM |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Date/Time Received | submitted | submitted |
| Proposal Form | submitted | submitted |
| Sealed Envelope | submitted | submitted |
| Proposal Security | submitted | submitted |
| Owner Disclosure Form | submitted | submitted |
| Ethics Compliance Form | submitted | submitted |
| Insurance Coverage: | submitted | submitted |
| Workmen's Comp Ins. (\$500,000) | submitted | submitted |
| Public Liability Ins.(\$2,000,000) | submitted | submitted |
| Comp Auto Liability Ins. (\$100,000 -\$300,000-\$50,000) | submitted | submitted |
| Employee Listing | submitted | submitted |
| Copies of Certifications | submitted | not submitted |
| Location of Repair Shop | Gramercy | LaPlace |
| Proposers should have a min of 2 mechanics | submitted | submitted |
| Addendum No.2 Acknowledgement | not submitted | submitted |
| Proposal Reply Form (Revised) | submitted | submitted |
| Proposed Price with Performance Bond | \$ 428,453.28 | \$ 257,500.00 |
| Proposed Price without Performance Bond | \$ 396,716.00 | \$ 255,000.00 |

Not Required Items:

| | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Letters of Recommendation | submitted | not submitted |
| Estimated Preventative Maintenance Plan | submitted | not submitted |
| Louisianan Preference Claim Form | not submitted | submitted |
| No Proposal Reply Form | not submitted | submitted |

Proposals reviewed for conformance with RFP 22.26 Transportation Fleet Mechanic by:



Cindy Janecke



Dominick Monstere

**ST. JOHN PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
AGENDA ITEM**

ITEM #: 9a

DATE: 08/12/2021

TOPIC: Request Approval Student Code of Conduct and Attendance Handbook
for SY 2021-2022

BACKGROUND: Required review and approval of the discipline and attendance policies and procedures of the district in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 17:416.8 as recommended by the Discipline Policy Review Committee

ALTERNATIVES: Not applicable.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend approval

INFORMATION SOURCES: (1) Copy of original and revised versions of Louisiana Revised Statute 17:416. (2) Copy of Student Code of Conduct and Attendance Handbook for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. (3) Summary of changes as a result of legislative changes and recommendations from the Discipline Policy Review Committee

Changes to be reflected in the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board's
Student Code of Conduct and Attendance Handbook
as a result of revisions to Louisiana Revised Statute 17:416:

- Districts' schools must each have a current model master discipline plan in accordance with the provisions of Louisiana Revised State 17:252.
- A school is no longer required to allow a disruptive student to make up work when removed from a class and the teacher may not be required to provide make up work nor stop instruction to provide it. It does require the student the right if recommended for expulsion.
- Students in grades K-5 (previously K-4) removed from a class must remain out of class for at least 30 minutes before being returned to class. Students removed in 6th through 12th grade removed from class may not be returned during the same class period without the expressed approval of the teacher.

Note: Students removed must have experienced at least one enumerated disciplinary measure. An administrator may require a parent to attend a conference. It may be by phone or virtually.

- Students disruptive in the ISSP may (previously "shall") be suspended out of school.
- Parents may receive notice of discipline by "electronic means" with the exception for notifying the parent of expulsion (certified letter).
- Upon the recommendation by a principal for the expulsion of any student as authorized by Subsection B hereof, of this Section or a school board's code of conduct, a hearing shall be conducted by the superintendent or his designee within fifteen school days or by any other person designated so to do by the superintendent to determine the facts of the case and make a finding of whether or not the student is guilty of conduct warranting a recommendation of expulsion. The school board must provide written notice of the hearing to the student and his parent or legal guardian, and such notice shall advise the student and his parent or legal guardian of their rights. ... Until such hearing takes place the student shall remain suspended from the school with access to classwork and the opportunity to earn academic credit. At such hearing the student may be represented by any person of his choice. A student who is expelled or suspended for longer than ten days shall be provided with academic instruction at an alternative setting in accordance with R.S. 17:416.2
- The conviction of any student of a felony or the incarceration of any student in a juvenile institution for an act which had it been committed by

an adult would have constituted a felony may be cause for expulsion of the student for a period of time as determined by the board. The expulsion shall require the vote of two-thirds of the elected members of the school board, shall not be for a period of time longer than the student's period of adjudication as determined by the applicable court presiding over the student's criminal matter, and shall run concurrent to the student's period of disposition. If the student was serving an expulsion period when the student was incarcerated for a separate offense and the student completes the period of incarceration with time left in the expulsion period, the superintendent or his designee may require the student to serve the time left in the expulsion period.



St. John the Baptist Parish Schools

2021 - 2022

Student Code of Conduct
and Attendance Handbook



Dr. Lynett Hookfin
Superintendent of Schools

Making A+
Difference

www.stjohn.k12.la.us

St. John the Baptist Parish Public Schools School Calendar 2021-2022
Approved:

Dear Parents and Scholars:

Welcome to the start of a fantastic school year in St. John the Baptist Parish Schools. The 2021-22 school year will give our scholars new opportunities to achieve success; however, in order to achieve success, it is imperative that scholars and parents familiarize themselves with guidelines that govern conduct and attendance in schools and events.

The 2021-2022 Student Code of Conduct and Attendance Handbook provides goals and mission of our District, as well as updated policies and procedures. The policies and guidelines listed in this handbook are intended to create a positive and productive educational environment. These policies and guidelines give you and your child the assurance that learning and safety taking precedence overall in St. John the Baptist Parish Schools. We look forward to your cooperation and support this school year. Together we can establish and maintain a positive learning environment for all scholars.

Sincerely,
Dr. Lynett Hookfin

Superintendent



August

- 4 Teacher Classroom Work Day
- 5 - 6 Professional Development Days
- 9 First Day of School for Students
- 16 First Day for Kindergarten / Universal PreK / LA4 / Model Early Students
- 23 First Day for Head Start Students

September

- 6 Labor Day Holiday
- 8 High School- End of 1st Marking Period
- 29 Early Release

October

- 8 End First Nine Week/High School- End of 2nd Marking Period
- 11-12 Fall Break Holiday
- 13 Begin Second Nine Weeks
- 27 Early Release

November

- 1 Professional Development Day – No School for Students
- 11 High School- End of 3rd Marking Period
- 22 – 26 Thanksgiving Holidays
- 29 Students Return

December

- 17 ½ Day for Students / End of Second Nine Weeks/ High School- End of 4th Marking Period
- 20 - 31 Winter Break

January

- 3 Professional Development Day – No School for Students
- 4 Students Return- Begin Third Nine Weeks
- 17 Martin Luther King Holiday
- 25 100th Day of School/Early Release

February

- 4 High School- End of 5th Marking Period
- 23 Early Release
- 28 Mardi Gras Holidays

March

- 1-4 Mardi Gras Holidays
- 7 Students Return
- 15 End of Third Nine Weeks/High School- End of 6th Marking Period
- 16 Begin Fourth Nine Weeks

April

- 15 - 22 Easter Holiday
- 25 Students Return/ High School- End of 7th Marking Period

May

- 13 Last Day for Seniors (ESJH/WSJH)
- 25 Last Day for Students / ½ Day for Students/ End of Fourth Nine Weeks/ High School- End of 8th Marking Period
Records' Day

St. John the Baptist Parish Public Schools

Vision:

- **The SJPB School District strives to be an exemplary district working "As One" to fulfill the educational needs of our students and community.**

Mission:

- **“Top Ten School District in Five Years”**

Core Beliefs:

- 1) All stakeholders will become actively involved in the teaching and learning process to promote student achievement and a culture of lifelong learners**
- 2) All stakeholders will become active participants in creating an environment which ensures all students acquire the necessary skills, knowledge, and behaviors for success.**
- 3) All students will be equipped with the necessary skills to become productive citizens and compete in the global economy.**

At the recommendation of the 40th Judicial District Court, St. John the Baptist Parish School System is holding parents accountable for notifying their child’s school of any telephone number changes, emergency contact information changes and/or any changes to their mailing and/or physical address.

Parents who neglect to notify their child’s school **within 24 hours** of any change may be subject to legal action being taken by the school system, including but not limited to a Family-In-Need of Services (FINS) referral with the 40th Judicial District Court.

The St. John the Baptist Parish School Board and its employees assume no responsibility for the control and maintenance of confiscated items. Students bringing banned items, including, but not limited to cell phones, cameras, and iPod, do so at their own risk of loss.

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**STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM**

POLICY NOTIFICATION

It is the policy of St. John the Baptist Parish School Board to provide equal opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, handicapping condition, or veteran status in its educational programs and activities. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, educational services, financial aid, and employment. Inquiries concerning application of this policy may be referred to Serina Duke, Director of Title IX and Human Rights Coordinator.

EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

It is the policy of the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board that each student, regardless of his or her race, color, national origin or disability shall receive an equal educational opportunity and an equal opportunity to seek participation in education programs and student and extracurricular activities.

Pursuant to Board policy, incidents of sexual harassment and/or intimidation and harassment and/or intimidation because of a student's race, color, national origin, or disability are prohibited and procedures are provided for reporting and investigating such incidents and for the disposition thereof.

Inquiries concerning application of this policy may be referred to Serina Duke, Director of Title IX and Human Rights Coordinator.

NOTIFICACION DE POLIZA

En esta poliza de St. John the Baptist Parish School Board es proveer igual oportunidades sin rechazo de raza color, nacionalidad, sexo, edad, condicones de incapacitado o veterano en este programa educacional y de actividades. Esto incluye, pero no son limitadas, las admisiones, servicios educacionales, ayuda financiera y empleos. Si tiene alguna pregunta acerca de esta poliza de aplicacion puede referirse a: Serina Duke, Directora Del Titulo IX y la coordinadora de los deredos humanos.

DRUG FREE WORKPLACE

All policies, regulations and procedures pertaining to substance abuse shall be in compliance with the Drug Free Workplace Act (DFWA) of 1988.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS and PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

STUDENT RECORDS PRIVACY

An Open letter to Parent/Guardian(s) or Eligible Student for pupil enrollment in the St. John the Baptist Parish School System.

Dear Parent/Guardian(s) or Eligible Student, *Notification of Rights under Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) for Elementary and Secondary Schools. FERPA affords parent/guardian(s) and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records.*

They are:

1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Educational records are those records, documents, and other materials that contain information directly related to a student and are maintained by an educational agency or institution.

2) You should submit to the school principal [for appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify you of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

3) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate or misleading. You may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by you the school will notify you of the decision and advised you of the student's right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to you when notified of the right to a hearing.

4) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests.

A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel), a person serving on the School Board, a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist), or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

5) The right to have any or all student Directory Information withheld. To request Directory Information be withheld by you shall have thirty days in which to notify the school as to which specific types of information about the student shall not be included as directory information.

Directory Information has been designated by the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board to include the student's name, address, date of birth, grade level, official activities, height and weight for sports, schools presently enrolled, honors received and student photograph. Information classified as directory information may be disclosed to media sources, school web sites, nonprofit organizations, or private companies, etc.

Please note that the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2002 requires the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board System to: a) give military recruiter the same access to secondary students as provided to postsecondary institutions or to prospective employers and b) provides students' names, addresses, and telephone listings to military recruiters, when requested unless you have opted out of providing such information.

6) The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) 20 U.S.C. 1232h requires the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board to notify you and obtain consent or allow you to opt out of participating in certain school activities. These activities include a student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight areas ("protected information survey"): a) Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent; b) Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family; c) Sex behavior or attitudes; d) Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior; e) Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships; f) Legally recognized privilege or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, or ministers; g) Religious practices, affiliations or beliefs of the student or parents; or h) Income (other than as required by law to determine program eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program). This requirement also applies to the collection disclosure or use of student information for marketing purposes ("marketing surveys"), and certain physical exams and screenings.

7) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the St. John the Baptist Parish School System to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

**Family Policy
Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605**

RIGHTS OF NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS IN THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT OF 1974

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) sets out requirements designed to protect the privacy of parents and students. In brief, the law requires a school district to: 1) provide a parent access to the records that are directly related to the student; 2) provide a parent an opportunity to seek correction of the record he or she believes to be inaccurate or misleading; and 3) with some exceptions, obtain the written permission of a parent before disclosing information contained in the student's education record. The definition of parent is found in the FERPA implementing regulation under 34 CFR 99.3. "Parent" means a parent of a student and includes a natural parent, a guardian, or an individual acting as a parent in the absence of a parent or a guardian. Section 99.4 gives an example of the rights of parents.

An educational agency or institution shall give full rights under the act to either parent, unless the agency or institution has been provided with evidence that there is a court order, state statute, or legally binding document relating to such matters as divorce, separation, or custody, that specifically revokes these rights.

This means that, in the case of divorce or separation, a school district must provide access to both natural parents, custodial and non-custodial, unless there is a legally binding document that specifically removes that parent's FERPA rights. In this context, a legally binding document is a court order or other legal paper that prohibits access to education record or removes that parent's right to have knowledge about his or her child's education. Custody or other residential arrangements for a child do not, by themselves, affect the FERPA rights of the child's parents. One can best understand the FERPA position on parents' rights by separating the concept of custody from the concept of rights that FERPA gives parents. Custody, as a legal concept, establishes where a child will live, and often, the duties of the person(s) with whom the child lives. The FERPA, on the other hand, simply establishes the parents' right of access to and control of education record related to the child. The Family Policy Compliance Office of the U.S. Department of Education developed the pamphlet.

Here are the answers to questions frequently asked about the rights of non-custodial parents.

1. Does the FERPA require a school to keep a parent informed of the child's progress even though the parent is divorced and living some distance from the child?

No. The FERPA does not require schools to inform parents of student progress whether the parents are divorced or not.

2. Does the FERPA require a school to provide a parent copy of the record?

Generally, a school is not required to provide parents copies of the record. However, if the distance is great enough to make it impractical for the parent to visit the school to review the record, the school must make copies of the record and send them to the parent when that parent requests access to the record.

3. May a school charge for copies of records?

Yes. A school may charge a reasonable fee for copying.

4. Does the non-custodial parent have the right to be informed of and to attend teacher conferences?

The FERPA does not address conferences for the purpose of discussing student performance. Thus, a school has no obligation under this law to arrange a conference to accommodate the non-custodial parent. However, if records of conferences are maintained, the non-custodial parent has the right to see those records.

5. Must the school notify the non-custodial parent of his/her FERPA rights?

No. The school would be considered in compliance with the law if it notifies only the parent who has custody of the child.

6. Must the school provide the non-custodial parent the same general notices it provides the custodial parent?

No. General notices, lunch menus, PTA information, announcement of teacher conferences, school pictures, and other similar information, are not "education records" as defined by the FERPA. Therefore, schools are not legally required to provide them.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The Board believes regular attendance in the school accompanied by the responsibility to study and participate in school activities is essential to the learning process. Once a pupil arrives at school, he/she is expected to remain and attend each class through the day. Exceptions can be made only in the event of extended personal illness as verified by a physician and/or other extenuating circumstances as approved by the parish Director of Child Welfare and Attendance, after consultation with the Principal and Superintendent.

Compulsory attendance laws and Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) regulations require high school students to be in attendance a minimum of 30,060 minutes (equivalent to 83.5 six-hour school days), per semester or 60,120 minutes (equivalent to 167 six-hour school days) a school year for schools not operating on a semester basis in order to be eligible to receive credit for courses taken. Elementary students shall be in attendance a minimum of 60,120 minutes (equivalent to 167 six-hour days) a school year in order to be eligible to receive credit for courses taken.

Students in danger of failing due to excessive absences may be allowed to make up missed time in class sessions held outside the regular class time. The make-up sessions must be completed before the end of the current semester and all other applicable policies must be met.

Elementary Students

Elementary pupils must be present a minimum of one hundred sixty-six (166) days per year to be eligible to receive credit for the course taken.

***Elementary students (K-8) student can miss no more than (11) days per year and still be eligible to receive credit for courses taken.**

High School Students

To receive Carnegie credit for a course, students must be present ninety-four (94) percent of the required time. High school students (because of 4x4 block design) must be present a minimum of eighty-five (85) days per semester to be eligible to receive 1 credit in each course for one semester or forty-two days (420 for a ½ semester course).

***High School students can miss no more than five (5) days per semester, three (3) days per ½ semesters and still be eligible to receive credit for courses taken.**

PERFECT ATTENDANCE AWARD ELIGIBILITY

For a student to be considered for a perfect attendance certificate or award, the student must be in attendance every day, all day. The student may not sign in late or leave school early.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW (LA R.S. 17:221/)

Students who have attained the age of seven years shall attend a public or private day school or participate in an approved home study program until they reach the age of 18 years. Any child below the age of seven who legally enrolls in school shall also be subject to compulsory attendance.

Present law requires every parent (or certain other persons) having control or charge of any child from that child's seventh birthday until his 18th birthday to send the child to a public or private day school unless the child graduates from high school prior to his 18th birthday. (HB 648-ACT 927 of the 2010 Regular Session).

Whoever violates the provisions of this policy is subject to be fined not more than two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) or imprisoned not more than thirty (30) days, or both as provided by law. The Director of Child Welfare and Attendance, with the approval of the parish Superintendent of schools, shall file proceedings in court to enforce the provisions of this policy.

AGE REQUIREMENTS

The age which a child may enter kindergarten of any public school at the beginning of the public-school session shall be five years on or before September 30 of the calendar year in which the school year begins. Students entering the first grade for the first time at the beginning of the school session shall be six (6) years of age on or before September 30th of the calendar year in which the school year begins. In addition, parents are to present to school officials as a prerequisite to enrolling in the first grade, having attended at least a full-day public or private kindergarten for a full school year; or satisfactory passed academic readiness screening administered by the school system prior to enrollment in first grade.

Note: Students must attend the school where the parent/guardian reside.

Registration Requirements

A. Immunization

- * Parents are reminded that Louisiana law requires all children entering schools in the St. John Parish School System are to present copies of their immunization records at the time of registration (baby shot record).
- * R.S. 17:170 states that “all person entering any school within the state for the first time shall present evidence of an immunization program in progress”.
- * **Note:** No child seeking to enter any school in the school district shall be required to comply with the provisions of this mandate, if the child has medical reasons, or a written dissent from the parent’s is presented.

B. Birth Certificate

- * All new registrants to the St. John the Baptist Public Schools are required to present a copy of their official birth certificate upon registration. **Note:** When a birth certificate and/or verification form cannot be obtained at the time of registration, the child will be enrolled. However, after a period of **fifteen** school days, if the parent has not submitted the required document, the child’s name will be submitted to the Director of Child Welfare and Attendance.

C. Social Security Card

- * The student shall be assigned a state identification number to protect the confidentiality of the Social Security Number. (**Privacy Act**)

D. Proof of Residence – e.g. utility bill, copy of utility, lease, purchase agreement, rent receipt, etc.

Note: Parent(s) shall immediately notify the school of any change of address and/or phone numbers.

Students reentering from a state approved Home-Study Program.

- * Students who have filed for permission from the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to participate in the Home Study Program and have been granted permission and wish to reenter the St. John the Baptist Publics schools must meet fulfill certain requirements, contact the school, St. John Parish Office of Child Welfare and Attendance, and/or St. John Parish Office of Federal Program.

ATTENDANCE/TARDY

The Board recognizes the student’s fundamental right to attend the public schools and places upon students the accompanying responsibility to be faithful in attendance. Regular attendance can be assumed to be essential for a student’s successful progress in the instructional program.

Any student who is a juvenile and who is habitually absent from school or is habitually tardy shall be reported by the Child Welfare and Attendance office to the family or juvenile court of the parish or city as a truant child.

Attendance

All schools shall keep daily records of attendance, verified by the teacher keeping such records, which shall be open to inspection by the Director of Child Welfare and Attendance or a duly authorized representative. All schools shall immediately report to the Director of Child Welfare and Attendance, any unexplained, unexcused or illegal absence, or habitual tardiness.

WHOLE DAY ATTENDANCE – A student is considered to be in attendance for a whole day when he/she is physically

present at a school site or is participating in an authorized school activity and is under the supervision of authorized personnel for more than 50% (51%-100%) of student's instructional day. All absences whether excused or unexcused shall be counted as an absence for attendance reporting purposes.

HALF-DAY ATTENDANCE – A student is considered to be in attendance for one-half day when he/she is physically present at a school site or is participating in an authorized school activity and is under the supervision of authorized personnel for more than 25% but not more than half (26%-50%) of the student's instructional day.

Tardy

Tardy shall include, but not be limited to, leaving or checking out of school unexcused prior to the regularly scheduled dismissal time at the end of the school day or arriving late to school after the school officially begins, but shall not include reporting late to class when transferring from one class to another during the school day.

(Late to school or early check out)

St. John Parish School Board, in an attempt to reduce the number of tardies to school, will implement a tardy policy. This policy is in line with the truancy intervention policy. Parents are required to cooperate with the teachers, counselors, and truancy officers throughout the school year. Truancy Panel may be held at the school site, the Child Welfare Office, and the 40th Judicial District Court. Truancy Court will be under the 40th Judicial District Court jurisdiction.

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 st tardy – acknowledgement | Thereafter: referral to Truant Officer |
| 2 nd tardy – acknowledgement | referral to Truancy Panel |
| 3 rd tardy – parent conference (teacher) | referral to Truancy Court |
| 4 th tardy – parent conference (counselor) | |
| 5 th tardy – parent conference (principal) | |

TYPES OF ABSENCES

The days absent for elementary and secondary school students shall include non-exempted excused absences, exempted excused absences, unexcused absences, and suspensions.

A. Non-exempted excused absences - are absences incurred due to personal illness or serious illness in the family (documented by acceptable excuses, including a parental note) which are not considered for purposes of truancy, but which are considered when determining whether or not a student is eligible to make up work and tests, receive credit for work completed, and receive credit for a course and/or school year completed.

Parental/Guardian notes will be limited to (5) per semester. All parental/guardian notes turned in after five (5) school days of the student's return shall continue to be unexcused with no makeup work allowed. For any other extenuating circumstances, the student's parents or legal guardian must make a formal appeal to the Director of Child Welfare and Attendance.

B. Exempted excused absences - are absences which are not considered for purposes of truancy and which are not considered when whether or not a student is eligible to make up work and test receive credit for work completed, and receive credit for a course and/pre-school year completed.

C. Unexcused absences - are any absences not meeting the requirements set forth in the excused absences and extenuating circumstances definitions, including but not limited to absences due to any job (including agriculture and domestic services, even in the student's own home or for their own parents or tutors) unless it is a part of an approved instructional program. Students shall be given failing grades for those days missed and shall not be given an opportunity to make up work.

D. Suspensions - are non-exempted absences for which a student is allowed to make up his/her work and is eligible for consideration for credit provided it is completed satisfactorily and in a timely manner. The absence shall be considered when determining whether or not a student may or may not be promoted, but shall not be considered for purposes of

truancy. Students absent from school as a result of any suspension shall be counted as absent.

A student under suspension or expulsion is not allowed on any school campus without permission of the principal nor can he/she attend or participate in any school sponsored activity/function, including graduation, or extracurricular activity on or off the school campus.

Extenuating Circumstances

The only exception to the attendance regulation shall be enumerated extenuating circumstances that are verified by the school and the Director of Child Welfare and Attendance. These exempted absences do not apply in determining whether a student meets the minimum minutes of instruction required to receive credit.

1. Extended personal physical or emotional illness as verified by a physician or nurse practitioner licensed in the state
2. Extended hospital stays in which a student is absent as verified by a physician or dentist
3. Extended recuperation from an accident in which a student as verified by a physician, dentist, or nurse practitioner licensed in the state
4. Extended contagious disease within a family in which a student is absent as verified by a physician or dentist licensed in the state
5. Observance of special and recognized holidays of the student's own faith
6. Visitation with a parent who is a member of the United Military States Armed Forces or the National Guard and such parent has been called to duty for or is on leave from over-sea deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting. Excused absences in this situation shall not exceed five (5) school days per year.
7. Absences verified and approved by school principal or designee as stated below:
 - a) prior school system approved travel for education
 - b) death in the family (not to exceed one week)
 - c) natural catastrophe and or disaster
8. Minor engaged in artistic or creative services

For any other extenuating circumstances, the student's parents or legal guardian must make a formal appeal in accordance with the due process procedure established by the school system. Students who are verified as meeting extenuating circumstances, and therefore eligible to receive grades shall not receive those grades if they are unable to complete makeup work or pass the course.

School Approved Activities - students participating in approved field trips or other instructional activities that necessitate their being away from school and are under the supervision of authorized personnel shall be considered to be present and shall be given the opportunity to make up work.

Child Performers - Minors employed to perform or render artistic or creative services under a contract or employment arrangement for two (2) or more days within a 30-day period must receive instruction pursuant to statutory provisions.

Written Excuses - For a student to be eligible to receive credit and make up work following an absence, the student shall be required in each instance to submit parental confirmation of the reasons for the absence. If a student is tardy or absent, the parent or guardian must submit a written excuse, (signed and dated) upon the student's return to classes stating the reason for the student's absence from school. Except for written excuses that are extenuating circumstances exempted from the compulsory attendance law, all other written excuses turned in after **five (5) school days** of the student's return shall continue to be unexcused with no makeup work allowed.

Appeal of Absences - When a student exceeds the maximum number of absences allowed, the parents or student may make a formal appeal to the principal for absences that he /she believes are due to extenuating circumstances. If the principal denies the appeal, the parents may appeal to Director of Child Welfare and Attendance by presenting required written documentation for any of the absences he/she feels are because of extenuating circumstances. The appeal decision of the Director of Child Welfare and Attendance is final and no further appeals shall be allowed. No appeals and/or documentation shall be accepted for any absences in excess of the minimum attendance requirements after ten (10) school

days at the end of the first semester for a semester course or after ten (10) working days at the end of the school year for a two semester course.

Tardiness - A student shall be considered tardy to school if the student is not in his/her homeroom/first period class when the bell to begin n homeroom/first class period. Tardy shall also mean leaving or clocking out of school unexcused prior to the regular scheduled dismissal time at the end of the school day.

A student shall be considered habitual absent or habitually tardy (truant) when either condition continues to exist after all efforts of any school personnel, truancy officer or other law enforcement personnel have failed to correct the condition after the fifth (5th) unexcused absence or fifth (5th) unexcused occurrence of being tardy within any school semester. The principal or his/her designee shall notify the parent in writing before or upon a student's third (3rd) unexcused absence or third (3rd) unexcused occurrence of being tardy, and shall a conference with such student's parent/guardian. The student's parent/guardian shall sign the letter as receipt of notification and shall return it to the school within five (5) school days of receipt.

In addition, the parent/guardian may be subject to court fines or community service, and attendance parenting classes and family counseling and/or other consequences, such as the loss of recreational licenses for violating the Louisiana Compulsory Attendance Law. A student shall be considered tardy to class if the student is not in the classroom when the bell rings to being classes. Students shall not be considered to be in violation of the attendance law when reporting to class late when transferring from one class to another during the school day. Students who exhibit excessive tardiness shall be subject to disciplinary actions according to the district's code of conduct.

A student shall have his/her driver license or driver's permit denied or suspended by the Louisiana Motor Vehicle Department until his/her eighteen birthday, who fails or refuses to present appropriate documentations that he/she has complied with the mandatory school attendance or if the Motor Vehicle Department receives written notification from his school that he/she is a dropout or is habitual tardy (TRUANT).

Reporting Absences The attendance of all school pupils shall be checked each day and at the beginning of each class period and shall be verified by the teacher keeping such record, which shall be open to inspection by an official of Child Welfare and Attendance or authorized representative at all reasonable times. All schools shall immediately report to an official of Child Welfare and Attendance any unexplained, unexcused, or illegal absence, or habitual tardiness.

An official of Child Welfare and Attendance shall, after written notice to the parent or legal guardian of a child who is habitually absent or who is habitually tardy to the family or juvenile court of the parish as truant child to be dealt with in such manner as the court may determine.

High School Students in danger of failing due to excessive absences may be allowed to make up missed time in class session held outside the regular class time session. High school students in danger of failing due to excessive absence may be allowed to make up missed time in class sessions held outside the regular class time in an attendance recovery program. **The make-up sessions must be completed before the end of the current semester and all other applicable policies must be met.**

No extenuating circumstances will be granted after 10 days from the semester grading period or from the last day of school. An extenuating circumstance form may be obtained by the principal or from the Child Welfare Office.

DROPOUT RECOVERY ACT 742 (Repealed by HB 648)

Policy Revision (Section 1103)

- A child must remain in school until his/her eighteenth birthday.
- LA R.S. 221 (E) eliminates parental consent to allow a child to exit school at 17.
- LA R.S. 221 (E), though amended, still allows a child who is under 18 and older than 16 to attend adult education or vocational education program.

HOMEWORK ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Homework Louisiana (HomeworkLa.org), a service of the State Library of Louisiana, offers **FREE** online tutoring and academic resources from Tutor.com for Louisiana residents from kindergarten students through adult learners. Get help in math, science, social studies or English from a **live tutor**. The services can be accessed from a Louisiana public library, from your home computer or from your mobile device.

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

A student who is enrolled in regular or special education and who, as a result of health care treatment, physical illness, accident, or the treatment thereof, is temporarily unable to attend school (10 consecutive days), shall be provided instruction services in the home or hospital environment. (Approval required through St. John's Special Education Department)

STUDENT TRANSFER POLICY

No student who has been expelled from any public or non-public school within or outside the state of Louisiana for possession of a firearm, knife, or dangerous weapon or instrumentality customarily used or intended for probable use as a dangerous weapon, or for possession or possession with the intent to distribute, sell, give, or loan any controlled dangerous substance governed by the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substance Law shall be admitted to the St. John the Baptist Parish Public Schools until the student produces written documentation that he/she has enrolled and participated in an appropriate rehabilitation or counseling program related to the reason(s) for the expulsion. The counseling or rehabilitation required in this section must comply with requirements set forth in Louisiana Revised Statutes 17:416. B at no additional cost to the school system.

NOTE: No student who has been expelled shall be admitted to any public school in any other parish or city system in the state except upon the review and approval of the school board of the school system to which he seeks admittance.

POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS (PBIS)

In keeping with the provisions of the Education/Juvenile Justice Partnership Act (Subpart C-1 of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act), St. John the Baptist Parish Public Schools are committed to the utilization of positive behavioral supports to address student discipline. Good behavior and discipline of students are essential prerequisites to academic learning, development of student character, and general and educational socialization of children. A PBIS process utilizes an assessment-based approach that emphasizes proactive, educative, and reinforcement-based strategies to build meaningful and lasting behavior.

The goal of PBIS is academic and social success. This goal is accomplished through the development of universal expectations for all students, support plans for at risk students, and individualized programs for students with significant behavior challenges. The principle practices include, but are not limited to:

- Defining expectations
- Teaching expectations and social skills necessary for students to meet the expectations
- Implementing contextual changes to support meeting expectations
- Implementing strategies to increase performance

STUDENT OFFENSES AND DISCIPLINE

Students shall be required to assume their share of responsibility in maintaining an atmosphere conducive to effective teaching/learning situations in all classes and activities in which they participate under the sponsorship of the school.

Every student is strictly held to orderly conduct in school, on the playground, and on the school bus, going to or returning from school. Additionally, every student shall adhere to this Student Code of Conduct & Attendance Handbook during any school-sponsored activity whether conducted on or off of the school campus except when specifically excused by the principal or designee. The range of consequences shall be determined by the principal depending on the severity of the offense. School principals may suspend any pupil for violation of school board policy in accordance with the following

guidelines. In order to ensure fair and consistent discipline practices, the following discipline guidelines shall be used in St. John the Baptist Parish Public Schools:

* Consequences adhere to discipline standards as prescribed by Louisiana State Law Revised Statute: 17:416 (Discipline of pupils; suspension, expulsion). **Only suspensions and expulsions can be appealed.**

SPECIAL NOTE: School Operations during a Pandemic or Other Health Emergency

The St. John the Baptist Parish School Board remains committed to keeping the health, safety, and well-being of our students and staff as its highest priority in coping with the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic for the 2021-2022 school year.

All decisions regarding changes to the school environment and schedule, including a possible interruption of in-person learning, will be made by the superintendent in consultation with and, if necessary, at the direction of the Governor, Louisiana Department of Public Health, local health department, emergency management agencies, and/or the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

All **school disciplinary rules** remain in effect even during the interruption of in-person learning. Students are subject to discipline for disrupting the remote learning environment to the same extent that discipline would be imposed for disruption of the traditional classroom. Students are also expected to follow all student safety protocols.

Violations of school disciplinary rules are subject to disciplinary action as provided by the district's Student Code of Conduct Attendance Handbook.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Arson – intentional damaging by any explosive substance or setting fire to any property of another without the consent of the owner.

Assault – an attempt to commit on a teacher or an individual a battery or the intentional placing of a school teacher in reasonable apprehension of receiving a battery or making statement threatening physical harm to a school teacher.

Battery – any willful and unlawful use of violence on the person of another. No student found guilty of committing a battery on a school board employee shall be assigned to attend or shall attend the school to which the employee battered by the pupil is assigned. A school shall not be required to provide transportation.

BIP (Behavior Intervention Plan) – an individualized plan that identifies strategies to teach positive alternative behaviors and includes positive strategies, programs or curricular modifications, and supplementary aids and supports required to address behaviors of concern.

Body Armor – shall mean bullet-resistant metal or other material intended to provide protection from weapons or bodily injury.

Bullying – a pattern of any of the following (see Bullying section).

Bunk – substance reported to be an illegal drug or other prohibited substance sold, traded, represented, or give to

another person (s).

Contraband – items which are prohibited at school.

Criminal damage to property – intentional damaging of any property of another, without the consent of the owner, and except as provided in R.S. 14, 5: by any means other than fire or explosion.

Cyberbullying – means harassment, intimidations, or bullying of a student on school property by another student using a computer, mobile phone, or other interactive, or digital technology, or harassment, intimidation, or bullying of a student using any such means when the action or actions are intended to have an effect on the student when the student is on school property.

Dating Violence – a pattern of behavior where one person threatens to use, or actually uses, physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner.

D.P. (Diversionary Program) – a program to help curb violent incidents on school campuses. Students who choose to participate will attend conflict resolution classes with a parent, and be assigned a minimum of ten (10) hours of community service. The parent will be charged a probation fee.

Detention – shall mean activities, assignments, or work held before the normal school day, after the normal school day, or on a weekend. Failure or refusal by a pupil to participate in the assigned detention may subject the pupil to immediate suspension or assignment to P.A.S.S. Assignments, activities, or work which may be assigned during detention include, but shall not limited to, counseling, homework assignments, behavior modification programs, or other activities aimed at improving the self-esteem of the pupil.

Exclusion – A disciplinary change in educational placement for more than 10 days either consecutively or cumulatively of a student receiving special education services. This change in placement must be done in accordance with The Individual with Disabilities Educational Improvement Act (IDEA).

Extortion – to obtain something by pressure or intimidation.

Fighting – a physical altercation between students.

Firearms – any handgun, rifle, shotgun or any other device that can expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant.

Gang – Three or more students of any gender or mixed genders united by a generic name and having a formal or informal induction ceremony or activity and possessing an agreed upon signal; a tattoo or other similar non-verbal symbolic communicative factor (s) shall be considered a gang in the St John the Baptist Parish School System if this group participated in or attempts to participate in substantial disruptive activity(s) in a school environment.

Group – Three or more people involved in an incident.

Hazing – any knowing behavior, whether by commission or omission, of any student to encourage, direct, order or participate in any activity which subjects another student to potential physical, mental or psychological harm for the purpose of initiation or admission into, affiliation with continued membership in, or acceptance by existing members of any organization or extracurricular activity at a public, elementary or secondary school, whether such behavior is planned or occurs on or off school property, including any school bus and school bus stop.

Homicide (killed on campus) – murder and non-negligent manslaughter, killing of one human being by another, killing a person through negligence.

Hooky – unauthorized absence from a scheduled educational activity.

Immoral – not in conformity with accepted principles of right and wrong behavior; contrary to the moral code of the community.

In-school suspension – shall mean temporarily removing a pupil from his/her normal classroom setting but maintaining him/her under supervision within the school for a minimum of one COMPLETE school day with no interruption of instructional services. Any pupils participating in an in-school suspension may receive credit for work performed during the in-school suspension. However, any pupil who fails to comply fully with the rules for in-school suspension may be subject to immediate suspension.

Intentional – evidence of pre-mediation and/or deliberation – on purpose.

Kidnapping – Intentional, forcible, seizing and carrying of any person from one place to another without his/her consent.

Misappropriation with violence to the person – the taking of anything of value belonging to another from the person of another or that is in the immediate control of another, by use of force or intimidation, or while armed with a dangerous weapon.

Molestation – to annoy, disturb, or persecute especially with hostile intent or injurious effect and/or to make annoying sexual advances to; specially to force physical and usually sexual contact on.

S.J.A.P. – (St. John Alternative Program) - shall mean an alternative educational program for suspended/expelled/excluded students designed to continue the educational process in the general education curriculum at an alternative school site or setting

Prank – A mischievous trick or practical joke.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) – A school wide, classroom, or individual process of behavior supports that emphasizes the use of proactive, educative, and reinforcement-based strategies to achieve meaningful and durable behavior and lifestyle outcomes.

Possession – physical control of prohibitive items as listed in the St. John Parish School Board Student Code of Conduct. Possession may be **actual** or **constructive**.

Actual Possession – is when the student has immediate access to the prohibitive item;

Constructive Possession – is when the student has control over the locations in which the prohibitive items are found (i.e., car, locker, book bag, etc.). School officials shall have discretion in imposing any disciplinary actions for constructive possession of a firearm or knife when stored in a motor vehicle and there is no evidence of intent to use it in a criminal manner.

Possessing a Weapon Prohibited by Federal Law – any firearm explosive device, incendiary, or poison gas such as a bomb, grenade; rocket or other object that can place a person in reasonable fear or apprehension of serious harm that is on the student's belongings, locker, and/or other personal storage space.

Restitution – restoring or paying for damaged or stolen property.

School functions – anything sponsored/controlled by school officials. Even if the event is held somewhere other than school property. This would include graduation ceremonies, sporting events, dances, plays, pep rallies, fundraisers, field trips, etc.

School grounds – areas defined as part of the campus. This includes the main campus, auditoriums, sporting arenas, football and baseball fields, tracks, vocational facilities, the cafeteria, school bus, etc.

Self-Defense – a reasonable and apparently necessary use of force to protect oneself from injury if physically assaulted.

Serious Bodily Injury – bodily injury which involves unconsciousness; extreme physical pain; protracted and obvious disfigurement; protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty; or a substantial risk of death. Further provides that for purpose of the crime of abuse of children (R.S. 14:403) “serious bodily injury” shall also include injury resulting from starvation or malnutrition.

Sexual Battery (Includes attempted) – any sexual act directed against another person, forcible and/or against the person’s will or not forcible or against the person’s will, where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her youth or because of temporary or permanent mental incapacity.

Sexual Harassment – Intimidation, bullying, or coercion of a sexual nature.

Sex Offense/Sexual Misconduct – inappropriate bodily contact of a sexual nature.

Significant Value – money or property with a value at or exceeding \$300.

In School Suspension (ISS) – a severe disciplinary sanction that is administered as a consequence for a student’s inappropriate behavior and requires that a student absent himself/herself from the classroom **but is assigned to an ISS room within the school for at least one full day but not to exceed ten days.**

Out of School Suspension (OSS) – a severe disciplinary sanction that is administered as a consequence for a student’s inappropriate behavior and requires that a student absent himself/herself from the classroom or school **at home under the supervision of his/her parent/guardian(s)** for at least one full day but not to exceed ten days. **Note: A student who is suspended in school (SIS) and/or out of school (SOS) for ten days or fewer shall be assigned school work missed while he/she is suspended and shall receive either partial credit or full credit for such work if it is completed satisfactorily and timely as determined by the principal, upon recommendation from the teacher.**

Terrorizing – the intentional communication of information that the commission of a crime is imminent or in progress or that a circumstance dangerous to human life exists or is about to exist, thereby causing any person to be sustained fear of his or another person’s safety.

Threat – an expression of intend to do harm or act out violently against someone or something – can be spoken, written or symbolic.

Vandalism – intentional cutting, defacing or otherwise damaging property owned by or contracted to the school board and/or others.

Weapon – any instrument or substance (animate or inanimate, including gases), which may inflict bodily injury.

Willful Disobedience – the refusal to follow a reasonable request of a teacher, administrator, or other school authority figure on campus.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY/GUIDELINES

A. Goals:

The goals of this policy are to be followed in the administration of disciplinary action. They are designed to:

1. provide the student with a program that includes ample opportunity for modification of behavior utilizing principles of effective teaching and strategies consistent with the school wide PBIS process;
2. provide consistency in the administration of disciplinary actions, i.e., a fair program in that all students charged with the same level of misconduct will receive the same action;

3. provide students, parents, and school personnel, clearly stated, advance knowledge of the courses of action to be followed in handling disciplinary matters;
4. provide a discipline program that is sequential (moderate to most severe action) using the disciplinary options/corrective strategies listed in Section B.

B. DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES/CORRECTIVE STRATEGIES:

The principal or his designees shall provide oral or written notification to the parent or legal guardian of any student removed from the classroom for violating the school's Code of Conduct and/or exhibiting disruptive or inappropriate behavior. Such notification shall include a description of any disciplinary action taken. The student shall not be readmitted to the class until the principal has implemented one of the following corrective strategies or disciplinary consequences after the student is assured of his/her due process:

1. Administrative conference
2. One or more of the following options:

Disciplinary Consequences/Corrective Strategies

- A. Recess Detention = **DC**
- B. In-School Suspension = **DC**
- C. Refer to related service provided, if student receives related services through an IEP = **CS**
- D. School Detention (Morning/Lunch, Saturday) = **DC**
- E. Require completion of assigned regular and/or remedial school and homework = **DC**
- F. Refer to Guidance Counselor = **CS**
- G. Require an administrative conference with the parent or guardian. Include the teacher in the conference = **DC/CS**
- H. Exclude from extracurricular activities including, but not limited to, sports and field trips = **DC**
- I. Schedule adjustment = **CS**
- J. Behavior contract = **CS**
- K. Refer to the School Building Level Committee/Discipline Committee = **DC/CS**
- L. Refer to the Office of Child Welfare and Attendance for action (Truancy/FINS) = **DC/CS**
- M. Any other disciplinary measure pursuant to law or board policy. **DC**
- N. Deferral Program (D. P.) = **CS/DC**
- O. Refer to SWPBIS Committee = **CS**
- P. Denial of driving privileges on school property = **DC**
- Q. Denial of device privileges electronic = **DC**

3. One-day suspension
4. Two-day suspension
5. Three-day suspension

NOTE: School Administration shall conduct and document the Second Suspension and Third Suspension Conference. A FINS Referral shall be submitted on the third suspension. In addition, students may be referred to Director of Child Welfare and Attendance.

6. Greater than three but not more than ten days of suspension. **Only with the approval of the Superintendent/Office Child Welfare and Attendance. Contact Special Education Office involving Special Education Student.**

Additionally, one or more of the following interventions may be used:

- a. Contact School Discipline Committee Team (SDCT) or School Building Level Committee (SBLC)
- b. Require the parent/guardian(s) and student to meet with the guidance counselor, school psychologist, or school social worker, and/or SJAP Administrator and/or Director of Child Welfare and Attendance
7. Suspension and recommendation for expulsion/exclusion

C. SUSPENDABLE ACTS:

Listed below are acts of student misconduct, definitions, and disciplinary options. **Repeated offenses** may require the next step in the discipline option sequence. This includes instances for any disorderly conduct in school, on the playgrounds of the school, on the street or road while going to or returning from school, or any school bus during intermission or recess, or at any school sponsored activity or function.

INFRACTION/DEFINITION/DISCIPLINE OPTIONS:

Willful Disobedience – Deliberate choice to break a rule or disobey a directive given by a person in authority. **1, 2, 3, 4, 5**

Treats an authority with disrespect – Talking back, mocking, gesturing. Any act which demonstrates a disregard for or interference with authority or supervising personnel. **1, 2, 3, 4, 5**

Makes an unfounded charge against authority – Accusing a member of school staff of an act that is unlawful and/or a violation of policy not supported by evidence. False statements or representations about individuals or identifiable groups of individuals that harm the reputation of the individuals or the group by demeaning them or deterring others from associating or dealing with them. **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6**

Uses profane and/or obscene language – Vulgar verbal messages, words or gestures that include swearing, or name calling. **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6**

Is guilty of immoral or vicious practice – Isolated incident that is unwelcome act or comment that is hurtful, degrading, humiliating, or offensive to another person with a sexual, physical, or racial component. Act that is dangerous, aggressive, or would be perceived as disturbing and not conforming to approved standard of social behavior and/or local community norms. **2, 3, 4, 5, 6**

Conduct or habits injurious to others – Any intentional but not malicious act that causes injury, damage, or pain to another. **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6/7**

Use/possesses controlled dangerous substances – The possession, use, cultivation, manufacturing, distribution, intent to distribute, concealment, sale, or purchase of any drug, narcotic, controlled substance, or any paraphernalia linked to above on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, or on school transportation vehicles. **7** Refer student for drug testing/screening. Notify local law enforcement. Notify Dept. of Motor Vehicles (between ages 14-18)

Uses/possesses tobacco and/or lighter – The possession, use, purchase, intent to distribute, concealment, distribution or sale of tobacco products or any paraphernalia, e-cigarettes, etc. linked to the above on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, or on school transportation vehicles. **1, 2, 3, 4, 5** Notify local law enforcement for tobacco possession, use, etc.

Uses/possesses/alcoholic beverages – The possession, use, purchase, intent to distribute, concealment, distribution or sale of alcohol products on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, or on school transportation vehicles. **3, 4, 5, 6/7** Notify local law enforcement. Any or all of the following stipulations may also be employed by the principal appropriate to the infraction: 1. The student seeks assistance from a certified Community Agency. 2. The student and at least one parent participate for at least 3 hours in an appropriate educational program outside the school setting. 3. The student participates in a structured support group upon returning to school. NOTE: Students under 10 yrs. of age may be suspended a maximum of 3 days.

Disturbs the school/habitually violates rules – Behavior causing **major** disruption of instruction or any school activity and/or repeatedly violating any school rules in any area, includes but is not limited to **sustained loud talking, yelling or screaming, noise with materials; and/or sustained out-of-seat behavior.** **2, 3, 4, 5, 6**

Cuts, defaces, and injures school/vandalism – Damage, destruction, or defacement of property belonging to the school or others. **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6/7** Acceptable provisions for restitution, repair or replacement of damaged property by the

student's parent/adult student (18 yrs. or older). May notify local law enforcement.

Writes or draws obscene/profane language/pictures – Writes or draws pictures, words, or images considered indecent or offensive (e.g., graffiti, letters, notes, posters, etc.) **1, 2, 3, 4, 5** Acceptable provisions for restitution, repair or replacement of damaged property by the student's parents/adult student (18 yrs. or older).

Possesses weapons prohibited under federal law – (Possessing weapon designed to expel a projectile by action of an explosive.)

*Use of this code requires – Firearms and Explosives Weapon Code per SIS Code User Manual. **7** Notify local law enforcement. Notify Dept. of Motor Vehicles (between ages 14-18).

Possesses weapons not federally prohibited – Possesses firearms, knives or blades 2 ½" or greater which may be used to inflict bodily injury or damage to property (i.e., instrument, look-alike weapon or object not prohibited by federal law that can place a person in reasonable fear or apprehension of serious harm that is on a student's person or contained in the student's belongings, locker and/or storage space). *Use of this code requires *SIS Weapon Code per SIS Coder User Manual. **3, 4, 5, 6/7** Notify local law enforcement

NOTE: PK – 5 less than 11 years of age principals **may** recommend Option **6**. 11 yrs. of age or older Option **6 shall** be utilized

Throws missiles liable to injure others – Throws any object toward a person that is either heavy, sharp and/or otherwise perceived to be harmful or with such velocity and force that it would cause physical harm or precipitate a fight or campus disturbance. *Use of this code requires SIS Weapon Code per SIS Code User Manual. **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6/7** May notify local law enforcement.

Participates in fights – A hostile confrontation with physical contact involving two or more individuals. **2, 3, 4, 5, 6** Notify local law enforcement, DP referral 10 yrs. or older NOTE: If his/her actions are consistent with the definition of self/defense the student provoked shall not be disciplined.

Instigates fights – Promotes a hostile confrontation with physical contact involving two or more individuals. **2, 3, 4, 5, 6** Notify local law enforcement, DP referral 10 yrs. or older NOTE: If his/her actions are consistent with the definition of self/defense the student provoked shall not be disciplined.

Violates traffic and safety regulations – To break any law that pertains to the obstruction and flow of traffic and/or safety regulations. **1, 2, 3, 4**

Leaves school or classroom without permission – Leaving the school campus and/or assigned classroom including ISS or location without permission and/or failure to return to school/class. **1, 2, 3, 4**

Is habitually tardy and/or absent – Reporting late to school or class or checking out before dismissal time when the day/period begins/ends without permission. **1, 2**
Parents shall be notified. FINS Referrals. CWA notification (Truancy Intervention Program).

Is guilty of stealing – Taking or obtaining the property of another without permission or knowledge of the owner without violence **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6/7** Counseling to include parent conference, acceptable provisions for restitution of stolen property by the student's parents/adult student (18 yrs. or older). May notify local law enforcement-theft of \$300.00 or more shall notify local law enforcement.

Commits any other serious offense – Any other serious offense not covered by any other codes. **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6** Disciplinary action determined by the principal appropriate to the infraction. May notify local law enforcement.

Gambling – Wagering money or property. **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6**

Improper dress – Out of dress code or ID violation. **1, 2**

Failure to Serve Assigned Consequence

Failure to Serve Detention, Time Out Room, Saturday School, ISS or other assigned consequences. **2, 3, 4, 5, 6**

Sexual Harassment – Intimidation, bullying, or coercion of a sexual nature. **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6/7** Complete Sexual Harassment Form Notify local law enforcement.

Dishonesty – Cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, deception, and/or forging signature or grades. **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6** May notify local law enforcement.

Bullying/Harassment – any pattern of obscene gestures, written electronic or verbal communications that threatens harm, taunting, malicious, teasing, physical acts, but not limited to hitting, kicking, pushing or damaging personal property and repeatedly shunning or excluding student from activities **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6/7** Complete **Bullying form may notify local law enforcement.**

Unauthorized use of Technology – use of pager/cellular telephone (texting, talking), camera or video device or other **communication** devices during the school day. **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6**

ELEMENTARY USE may result in:

- . Confiscations of the device
- . Parent(s) called
- . Option to use ISS for repeat offenders

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL USE may result in:

First offense: 1 day In-School Suspension-Confiscate device

Second offense: 2 days In -School Suspension-Confiscate device

Third offense: 1 day Out of School Suspension-Confiscate device

Fourth offense and Subsequent offenses: Disciplinary action determined by the principal appropriate to the infraction.

Turned On/Visible may result in:

First offense: Confiscate device

Second offense: 1 day In-School Suspension-Confiscate device

Third offense: 2 days In-School Suspension-Confiscate device

Fourth offense and Subsequent offenses: Disciplinary action determined by the principal appropriate to the infraction.

Rape/Sexual Assault/Battery – Forced attempted or actual anal, oral, or vaginal penetration by using a sexual organ or an object simulating a sexual organ, or the anal or vaginal penetration of another by any body part or object. **7** Notify local law enforcement.

Arson – Intentional damaging by an explosive substance or setting fire to any property of another without the consent of the owner. **6/7** Acceptable provisions for restitution, repair replacement of damaged property by the student's parent/adult student (18 yrs. or older). Notify Fire Marshal and local law enforcement.

Causing a False Fire Alarm or Making Bomb Threats – Initiating a warning of fire or other catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911, bomb threats, or discharging a fire extinguisher. **5, 6** If school is Evacuated-Option **7** Notify local law enforcement.

Burglary – The unauthorized entering of any school structure, vehicle property, movable or immovable, with the intent to commit a felony or any theft therein. **3, 4, 5, 6/7** Acceptable provisions for restitution of stolen property by the student's parents/adult student (18 yrs. or older). Notify local law enforcement.

Possession of over the counter or prescription drugs – The possession and/or distribution of any over-the-counter medicine whether prescribed or not without permission from school officials. **2, 3, 4, 5, 6/7** May notify local law enforcement.

Possession of Body Armor – Possession, including the wearing of any type of gear that protects the person from attack by another. **5, 6/7** Notify local law enforcement.

Murder – Unlawful killing of another human being. **7** Notify local law enforcement.

Assault and/or Battery – Aggressive action directed at school staff or students, which may involve threats and/or unwanted physical contact, while on school grounds or at a school related activity, including a situation where a staff member is intervening in a fight or other disruptive activity. **3, 4, 5, 6/7** Notify local law enforcement. SDCT Referral for 10 years or older.

Kidnapping – Intentional, forcible seizing and carrying of any person from one place to another without his/her consent. **7** Notify local law enforcement.

Criminal Damage to Property – Intentional damage by any means other than fire or explosion to any property that required a report to law enforcement (R.S. 14:5 may co-occur with other violations). **3, 4, 5, 6/7** Acceptable provisions for restitution, repair or replacement of damaged property by the student's parent/adult student (18 yrs. or older) and counseling. Notify local law enforcement.

Misappropriation with violence to the person – Taking something of value using force, intimidation or weapons. **3, 4, 5, 6/7** Acceptable provisions for restitution, repair or replacement of damaged property by the student's parent/adult student (18 yrs. or older) and counseling. Complete bullying form and SDCT (10 yrs. or older) if warranted. May notify local law enforcement.

Illegal carrying or discharge of weapons prohibited by federal law – Discharge or use of weapon described in SIS Firearms and Explosives Weapon Code per SIS Code Value. **7** Notify local law enforcement

Serious Bodily Injury – An injury that involves a substantial risk of death; extreme physical pain; protracted and obvious disfigurement; or protracted loss of impairment of the function of bodily member, organ, or faculty. **7** Notify local law enforcement. SDCT Referral (10 yrs. or older).

Cyberbullying/Cyber Harassment – Unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by an adult or student, through any use of technology. Cyber bullying can occur on or off school property. **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6/7** Complete Bullying Form. May notify local law enforcement.

Possesses pocket knife with a blade length $2 \frac{1}{2}$” - Possesses pocket knife or blade cutter with a **blade length $2 \frac{1}{2}$”**
*Use of this code requires *SIS weapon code per SIS code user Manual. **2, 3, 4, 5, 7**

NOTE: PK – 5 under 11 years of age-principal may recommend Option 7 -. May notify local law enforcement

Public Indecency – Exposure of body parts such as genital/buttocks areas and female breasts in view of public. **2, 3, 4, 5, 7** May notify local enforcement

Obscene behavior or Possession of obscene/Pornographic Material – Engaging in behavior of a sexual nature including consensual sexual activity; Possession of sexual images in any form (e.g., computer, book, magazine, phone, drawing, etc.) **2, 3, 4, 5, 6/7** May notify local enforcement.

Trespassing – Unauthorized entering onto school property by an individual who has been given prior legal notice that entry onto our use of the property has been denied, or who remains on the property once notified of the request to leave. This includes unauthorized presence of a student on school property while on a restrictive access, suspension, or expulsion. FORM A. **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7** May notify local law enforcements.

Misusing Internet – Violating the district Internet Use Policy. **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7** May include loss of use privileges. (See Internet Agreement)

Dating Violence – A pattern of behavior where one person threatens to use, or actually uses, physical sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7**

ELEMENT NAME: SIS Weapons Code

Code Values:

- 02 – Single Bladed Knife with blade 2.5 inches or greater – includes box cutters if max length is 2.5 inches or more
- 03 – Large or dual bladed implement (Sword, machete, saber, bowie knife, dagger)
- 10 – Makeshift Sharp Object (i.e., sharp stick, pencil, comb with pointed end, fork, etc.)
- 20 – Makeshift Blunt Object (i.e., rocks, stick or board used a club, book, etc.)
- 30 – Substance used as a weapon (i.e., mace, tear gas, acid, etc.)
- 40 – Gun not described under Firearms and Explosives Weapons Code (i.e., air gun, BB gun, pellet gun, etc.)
- 50 – Manufactured Device normally or easily used as bow, shiv throwing star, dart, axe, hammer, bow and arrow, stun gun, brass knuckle, etc.)
- 99 – Other Weapon

NOTES: Weapon code required if Primary Reason Code 14, 15 or 31 used

ELEMENT NAME: SIS Firearms and Explosives Weapons Code

Code Values:

- 01 – No longer used as of school year 1997-1998
- 02 – the frame or receiver of any 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
- 03 – Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer
- 04 – Any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, such as a bomb; grenade; rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces; mine; or similar device
- 05 – any weapon which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter
- 06 – Any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described in 04 and 05, above, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled
- 07 – Handguns
- 08 – Rifles/shotguns

NOTE: Weapon code: 13, 30

D. SEQUENCE OF SUSPENSIONS:

The sequence below will be followed whenever Middle/High School student is suspended:

- 1st suspension – Administrator’s options: In-School Suspension or Suspension Out of School (1 day)
- 2nd suspension – ISS (2 days) or OSS (2 days)
- 3rd suspension - ISS (3 days) or OSS (3 days)
- Suspension out of school (greater than 3 but not more than 10 days with approval from Superintendent/Director of Child Welfare and Attendance
- Multiple suspensions – Principal’s option which may include recommendation for expulsion.

Any student (elementary or secondary) assigned to S.J.A.P. who commits an act resulting in his/her arrest may receive additional disciplinary sanctions as prescribed in the Student Code of Conduct.

NOTE: S.J.A.P. Placement of all suspended students shall be contingent upon the availability of space at the S.J.A.P. Site

E. REMOVAL OF STUDENTS FROM THE CLASSROOM BY THE TEACHER

When a student violates the school's code of conduct, or when a student exhibits other disruptive, dangerous, or unruly behavior, including inappropriate physical contact, inappropriate verbal conduct, sexual or other harassment, throwing objects, inciting other students to misbehave, or destroying property, the teacher may have the student immediately removed from his/her classroom and placed in the custody of the principal or his designee. A student removed from the classroom pursuant to his Subparagraph shall be assigned school work missed and shall receive either partial or full credit for such work if it is completed satisfactory and timely as determined by the principal or his designee, upon the recommendation of the student's teacher; however, the teacher shall not be required to interrupt class instruction time to prepare any such assignment. Students participating in in-school suspension may receive credit for work performed during in-school suspension. The teacher may require that the parent/guardian of the student have a conference with the teacher in the presence of the principal or his designee before the student is readmitted. Upon the third removal from the same classroom for the above cited reasons, the teacher and the principal shall discuss the disruptive behavior patterns of the student and the potentially appropriate disciplinary measure before the principal implements a disciplinary measure. If appropriate, a referral of the matter may be made to an appropriate building level committee. In addition, upon the third removal a conference between the teacher or other appropriate school employee and the student's parent/guardian(s) shall be required prior to the student being remitted. Parent/Guardian(s) of students repeatedly removed from a teacher's classroom (3 or more exclusions) may be required to attend after school intervention sessions (P.A.R.C. Program) with the student. Parent/Guardian(s) who fail to attend such a session may be referred to the District Courts. **Please NOTE: For Special Education/504 students, removal of this kind will be counted as part of the 10 days maximum allowed under federal guidelines. Any such removal must be reported to Special Education Department.**

F. RETURN OF STUDENT TO THE CLASSROOM AFTER REMOVAL

A student in kindergarten through grade 5 removed from a class shall not be permitted to return to the class for at least thirty minutes unless agreed to by the teacher initiating the disciplinary action. A student in grades 6–12 removed from the class will not be permitted to return to the class during the same class period unless agreed to by the teacher initiating the disciplinary action. Additionally, the student shall not be readmitted to the class until the principal has implemented one or more of the following disciplinary measures:

Conferencing with the principal or his designee.

(bb) Referral to counseling.

(cc) Peer mediation.

(dd) Referral to the school building level committee.

(ee) Restorative justice practices.

(ff) Loss of privileges.

(gg) Detention.

(hh) In-school suspension.

(ii) Out-of-school suspension.

(jj) Initiation of expulsion hearings.

(kk) Assignment Referral for assignment to an alternative school setting.

(ll) Requiring the completion of all assigned school and homework which that would have been assigned and completed by the student during the period of out-of-school suspension.

(mm) Any other disciplinary measure authorized by the principal with the concurrence of the teacher or the school building level committee pursuant to law and board policy.

If disruptive behavior persists, the teacher may request that the principal transfer the student into another setting.

Whenever a student has been found guilty at a school suspension expulsion hearing of committing an assault or battery on any school employee that student shall not be assigned to attend or shall attend the school in which the school employee battered by the student is assigned. The St. John the Baptist Parish School Board shall not be required to provide transportation to any student reassigned. The only exception shall be if the St. John the Baptist Parish School system has no other school of suitable grade level for the student to attend or in the case of an exceptional student has no other school

with suitable services to implement the IEP.

G. LOSS OF ACTIVITY PRIVILEGES AND NOTIFICATION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

Students may be suspended from participation in or being present at school related activities. Only the principal or person designated by the principal may suspend a student from participation in school-related activities. When under suspension or expulsion from school or assigned to S.J.A.P., a student shall not participate in or be present at any school activity(s) or *school functions sponsored by any school in the parish until the term of punishment is completed. The student is **not** allowed on any St. John the Baptist Parish *school grounds without the permission of the school administrator. Nothing in this policy is intended to limit a teacher's and any other school employee's authority to require a student to leave a particular extracurricular activity when the teacher has evidence that the student's behavior has been in violation of Board policies or school rules regarding student conduct. A report of misconduct of such a pupil and the action taken by the teacher, or other school administrator at the earliest possible opportunity, preferably not later than the beginning of the next school day. Parent/Guardian(s) shall be advised when notification is made to local law enforcements.

H. FELONIES

The conviction of any student of a felony or the incarceration of any student in a juvenile institution for an act which had it been committed by an adult would have constituted a felony may be cause for expulsion of the student for a period of time as determined by the board. The expulsion shall require the vote of two-thirds of the elected members of the school board, shall not be for a period of time longer than the student's period of adjudication as determined by the applicable court presiding over the student's criminal matter, and shall run concurrent to the student's period of disposition. If the student was serving an expulsion period when the student was incarcerated for a separate offense and the student completes the period of incarceration with time left in the expulsion period, the superintendent or his designee may require the student to serve the time left in the expulsion period.

I. DISCIPLINARY INFRACTIONS DURING SUMMER/AFTER SCHOOL HOURS (R.S. 17:416.1)

Considering the obligation of the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board to the education of all children, the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board's disciplinary rules will apply to criminal, quasi-criminal and civil disturbances performed by students during the summer months, or times during when students are not under the direct supervision of the school authority (ex. After school hours, weekends, holidays, emergency days) as follows:

1. any act where there is a connection to the learning environment as determined by the hearing officer;
2. any act that in the opinion of the hearing office would constitute a health and safety factor;
3. any act whether criminal, quasi criminal or a civil violation that would cause the hearing officer, after listening to all of the facts, to deem it a threat or a heinous repudiation of the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board System.

**J. ASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFER TO UNADJUSTABLE OF INCORRIGIBLE CHILDREN
(Act 1034 of 1992/R.S. 17:224)**

Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 17:416 to the contrary, any student who exhibits disruptive behavior, an incorrigible attitude, or any other discipline problems in general, may be recommended by the principal for expulsion, assignment to an appropriate alternative educational program, or transfer to adult education if such student is:

1. seventeen years of age or older with less than five (5) units of credit toward graduation;
2. eighteen years of age or older with less than ten (10) units of credit toward graduation;
3. nineteen years of age or older with less than fifteen (15) units of credit toward graduation.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION PROGRAMS AT SCHOOLS

As an alternative to suspension, students in grades K-12 may be assigned to the schools In-School Suspension Program (ISSP). **NOTE:** If a student is recommended for expulsion, the principal may assign the student to the ISSP depending on the severity of the offense. Infractions, including but not limited to, fighting resulting in an arrest, assault and battery, threatening an employee, profanity toward an employee, possession of a weapon or dangerous instrumentality, or possession and/or intent to distribute alcohol, or drugs will not be assigned to ISSP; these offenses will result in an out-of-school suspension and/or a recommendation for expulsion.

Each school will designate the time of the ISSP. Students assigned to the ISSP will be required to complete behavior packets which address the behavior(s) that led to the student's placement, in addition to class assignments and counseling sessions. An individual tracking sheet will be kept each time the student is assigned to the ISSP program. **Upon notification of assignment of an In-School Suspension, a student shall not be allowed to participate in any school-sponsored activity (during or after school hours, including athletics).**

Students must attend every day assigned to the ISSP unless they have been granted extenuating circumstances, which must be approved by the Child Welfare and Attendance Supervisor. The days that the child did not report will be considered as an Out of School suspension, the child will be marked absent, and he/she will not be eligible to make up any work or test(s) missed.

If a parent/guardian refuses ISSP assignment, the suspension shall be recorded as an Out-of- School Suspension.

Any student serving an In-School Suspension (ISS) found anywhere on campus other than within the ISS Center is subject to further disciplinary action and possible arrest.

In-School Suspension - An administratively (principal or designee) imposed assignment of a student to the school's In-School Suspension Program for a period of time not to exceed nine (9) consecutive days unless authorized by Superintendent or his/her designee. **Upon notification of assignment of an In-School Suspension, a student shall not be allowed to participate in any school-sponsored activity (during or after school hours, including athletics).**

Out-of-School Suspension - An administratively (principal or designee) imposed assignment of a student to a non-school (home) location for a period of time not to exceed nine (9) days. **Upon notification of assignment of an Out-School Suspension, a student shall not be allowed to participate in any school-sponsored activity (during or after school hours, including athletics).**

NOTE: A student suspended (OSS/Expelled) found on campus is considered to be trespassing and subject to arrest.

Alternate Site/Setting Suspension - An administratively imposed assignment of a student to the Redirection Center Campus "Alternate Site Suspension Room" or alternate, virtual setting for a period not to exceed 15 days while awaiting an expulsion hearing and/or placement at the Redirection Center. Upon notification of an assignment of an alternate site suspension, a student is not allowed to participate in any school-sponsored activity or event (during or after school hours, including athletic events).

Note: A student suspended out of his regular home-based school found on a regular campus is considered to be trespassing and subject to arrest.

Note: To be considered for re-staffing, an individual assigned to an Alternate Site Suspension and/or an Alternative Site Expulsion (St. John Alternative Program) shall successfully complete terms of assignment.

Alternatives to Suspension - In an effort to implement Positive Behavior Support and reduce the loss of instructional time due to out-of-school suspensions and expulsions, the following alternatives to suspension may be utilized by principals.

NOTE: As listed under Disciplinary Option

DUE PROCESS

No student otherwise eligible for attendance at the schools of this parish shall be suspended or expelled/excluded from school without due process.

Each student suspended by a school official shall be afforded an informal hearing as soon as possible after the event causing the suspension with one exception. A pupil whose presence in or about a school poses a continued danger to any person or property or an ongoing threat of disruption to the academic process shall be “immediately” removed from the school premises without the benefit of an informal hearing, however, this necessary procedure shall follow as soon as is practicable. Any parent of a student suspended shall have the right to appeal to the superintendent of schools. The decision of the superintendent shall be final.

In each case of suspension or expulsion the school shall notify the parent/guardian by mail and telephone or home visit. However, in any case involving the expulsion recommendation of a student, the contact with the parent shall include a certified letter.

In case of a suspension if the parent, tutor, or legal guardian of a student not emancipated by law willfully refused to respond to the request for a conference with the principal, the principal may reinstate the suspended student on not more than one occasion each year. Thereafter, if the parent/guardian fails to attend the required conference within five (5) days of mailing a letter or other contact with the parent, the principal may send a Request for Assistance form to the Child Welfare and Attendance requesting referral to court through Families in Need of Services (FINS). Pending a conference with the parent, the student may not be out of school more than three (3) days past the suspension period imposed by the principal. Special Education students may not be denied F. A. P. E. based upon the failure of the parent to comply with the request for a conference.

On a student's second suspension (out of school or suspension, it is mandatory that the Administrator or his designee hold a conference with the student's parent/legal guardian (s) and document that conference on a form supplied by the Office of Child Welfare and Attendance. Parent/legal guardian(s) are to sign this form acknowledging participation in the conference. Copies of this form are to be given to the parent/legal guardian(s) and a copy kept in the student's folder. A signed copy is to be included in the student's expulsion packet, if warranted.

Upon the recommendation by a principal for the expulsion of any student, a formal hearing shall be conducted by an Expulsion Hearing Committee designated by the superintendent. Until such hearing takes place, the regular education student and the special education student will be assigned to the S.J.A.P. (St. John Alternative Program). At such hearing, the student may be represented by any person of his choice.

NOTE: S.J.A.P. Placement of all suspended students shall be contingent upon the availability of space at the S.J.A.P. Site

SUSPENSION

The school principal, or his/her designee, has the right to enforce this disciplinary policy and to apply disciplinary action, including suspension for the commission of any discipline offense. The principal shall investigate all allegations of misconduct.

Prior to any suspension, the school principal/designee shall advise the student of the particular misconduct of which the student is accused and the specific reasons for such accusation. The student shall be given an opportunity at that time to explain the student's version of the incident or facts the school principal/designee.

If the principal/designee suspends the student, a reasonable effort must be made to contact the student's parent or guardian by telephone to notify them of the suspension, that the student will be or has been removed from class, and that the student will be kept under supervision until the close of the school day or the arrival of the parent or guardian. This responsibility shall not be delegated to a student. The principal shall send a written notice of the suspension to the parent/guardian providing notice of the offense and the term of the suspension.

In the event the student disrupts the orderly operations of the school, the student may be immediately removed from the school premises and placed in the custody of the parents, next of kin, or law enforcement.

If the parent/guardian of the suspended student wishes to appeal the suspension decision, the parent/guardian shall within (3) three school days after the receipt of written notification of the suspension, submit a written request to the Superintendent to review the matter.

A student under suspension or expulsion is not allowed on any school campus without permission of the principal nor can he/she attend or participate in any school sponsored activity/ function, including graduation, or extracurricular activity on or off the school campus.

EXPULSION

The removal of a student from all regular school settings/activities for a determined period up to 24 calendar months (depending on the offense committed) after a due process hearing. As per Revised Statute 17:416 (Act 556), if the expellable infraction is at the end of the school year, the term of the expulsion may carry over to the next school year. A principal may recommend a student, at any time, for expulsion if the offense is of such a serious nature as to deny other students their safety and/or the school's ability to conduct business in an orderly fashion.

Note: To be considered for re-staffing, an individual assigned to an Alternate Site Suspension and/or an Alternative Site Expulsion (St. John Alternative Program) shall successfully complete terms of assignment.

DUE PROCESS FOR EXPULSION

1. A recommendation for expulsion is made by the principal. The expulsion documents are forwarded to the Child Welfare and Attendance Department. "For IDEA eligible students, a manifestation determination must be conducted by relevant IEP team members prior to an expulsion hearing. For 504 eligible students, a relatedness determination must be conducted by relevant IAP team members prior to an expulsion hearing."
2. A hearing date, time and place will be set.
3. Notification of student's right to counsel will be given.
4. Notification to parent/guardian by mail will occur.
5. A hearing is conducted by the superintendent/designee.
6. A determination of whether to expel the student is made by the superintendent/designee.
7. The principal/designee shall be in attendance at the expulsion hearing to present the case.
8. Until the hearing takes place, the student shall remain suspended out of school or placed in ISSP program.
9. The parent or guardian of the student may request in writing to the Superintendent that the school board review the findings of the Superintendent or his designee within five (5) working days after the decision to expel and the consequence determination has been made. Day 1 will start the next work day after the parent has been notified of the decision. Otherwise, the decision of the Superintendent's designee shall be final.
10. The board, in reviewing the case, may affirm, modify, or reverse the action previously taken.
11. If the board upholds the decision of the Superintendent, the parent or guardian of the student may within 10 days, appeal to the district court for the parish in which the student's school is located.

A student under suspension or expulsion is not allowed on any school campus without permission of the principal nor can he/she attend or participate in any school sponsored activity/ function, including graduation, or extracurricular activity on or off the school campus.

SUSPENSION WITH RECOMMENDATION FOR EXPULSION

The following will be cause for a nine (9) day suspension with a recommendation to the Superintendent for expulsion. Unless contrary to the State Statutes, or otherwise directed by the Superintendent, the period of expulsion shall not be less than 90 school days and may carry over into the next school year. The following include, but are not limited to, actions which warrant a nine (9) day suspension with recommendation for expulsion.

Intentionally causing or attempting to cause damage to school property or stealing or attempting to steal school property of any value. In accordance with LA R.S. 17:416, "A student suspended for damages to any property belonging to the school system or to property contracted to the school system or any property on school grounds owned by a school employee or student shall not be readmitted until payment in full has been made for such damage, an alternative restitution arrangement has been executed, an alternative payment plan has been arranged, or until directed by the superintendent of schools." If the property damaged is a school bus, a pupil suspended for such damage shall not be permitted to enter or ride any school bus until payment in full has been made for such damage or until directed by the Superintendent of schools).

- a. Intentionally causing or attempting to cause damage to private property or any fence pole, sidewalk, or building on the way to or from school, or stealing or attempting to steal private property on any public school premises.
- b. Intentionally causing or attempting to cause physical injury to another person except in self-defense.
- c. Carrying or possessing a firearm, a knife (the blade of which equals or exceeds two one-half inches in length) or any other dangerous instrumentality; or possessing, distributing, selling, giving or loaning any controlled dangerous substance governed by the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law, in any form. The Principal shall immediately recommend the student for expulsion in accordance with Subsection C of RS 17:416.

Criteria for determination

- Any student, **sixteen years (16) of age or older**, found guilty of being in possession of a firearm on school property, on a school bus, or in actual possession at a school-sponsored event shall be expelled from school for a minimum period of **four (4) complete school semesters** and shall be referred to the District Attorney for appropriate action.
- Any student who is **under sixteen years (16) of age and in grades six through twelve (6-12)** found guilty of being in possession of a firearm on school property, on a bus, or in actual possession at a school-sponsored event, shall be expelled from school for a minimum period of **four (4) complete school semesters** and shall be referred to the District Attorney for appropriate action.
- Any student in **kindergarten through grade five (K-5)** found guilty of possession of a firearm on school property, on a bus, or in actual possession at a school-sponsored event, shall be expelled from school for a minimum period of **two (2) complete school semesters** and shall be referred to the District Attorney for appropriate action.
- Any student **sixteen years (16) of age or older**, found guilty of possession of, or knowledge of and intentional distribution of or possession with intent to distribute any illegal narcotic drug, or other controlled substance on school property, on a school bus, or at a school event, shall be expelled from school for a minimum of **four (4) complete school semesters**.
- Any student who is **under sixteen years (16) of age and in grades six through twelve (6-12)** found guilty of possession of, or knowledge of and intentional distribution of or possession with intent to distribute any illegal narcotic drug, or other substance on school property, on a school bus, or at a school event, shall be expelled from school for a minimum period of **two complete school semesters**.
- Any case involving a student in **kindergarten through grade five (5)** found guilty of being in possession of a firearm on school property, on a school bus, or in actual possession at a school sponsored event, shall be expelled from school for a minimum period of **twelve calendar months** and shall be referred to the District Attorney for appropriate action.
- Any case involving a student in **kindergarten through grade five (5)** found guilty of possession of or knowledge of an intentional distribution of or possession with intent to distribute any illegal narcotic, drug, or other controlled substance on school property, on a school bus, or at a school event, shall be recommended for action from the Superintendent.
- When a student in **kindergarten through grade five (5)** is found carrying or possessing a knife as described in this section, the principal may, **but shall not be required** to recommend the student for expulsion.
- If a student handles or transmits controlled substances, or any object that can be **reasonably considered to be used as a weapon**, that student shall be disciplined in the same manner as if they owned the item.

- If a student allows another student to put drugs/alcohol/firearms/knife/dangerous instruments in his/her locker and/or personal effects, that student shall be disciplined in the same manner as the student who owns the items.
- Within **nine (9) days** after a student is arrested for possession of, or intentional distribution of, or possession with intent to distribute any illegal narcotic, drug, or other controlled substances on school property, he/she shall be referred by the school principal or designee, for testing or screening by a qualified medical professional for evidence of abuse of alcohol, illegal narcotics drugs, or other controlled dangerous substances.

Driving Privileges Act 732/House Bill 1686 of the 2003 Legislative Session provides for the suspension of driving privileges of a student who is expelled or suspended from school for ten or more consecutive school days for committing certain infractions or who withdraws from school in violation of state law. The infractions are as follows: the sale or possession of drugs, alcohol, or any other illegal substance, the possession of a firearm, or an infraction involving assault or battery on a member of the school faculty or staff.

The principal must notify the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and the Office of Motor Vehicles of any student between the ages of 15 and 18 who has been subjected to a disciplinary infraction described above, so that the process of suspension of driving privileges of a student may occur. The suspension will not exceed the student's 18th birthday. A hardship license may be requested by the student to drive to and from school, work, a drug or alcohol treatment counseling program or a mental health treatment program when no other transportation is available. If after six (6) months of suspension the student displays exemplary behavior, the principal may send a signed letter on official school letterhead stating this and the suspension of the student's license will end.

SEARCHES – STUDENTS AND SCHOOL PROPERTY

The parish school systems of the state are the exclusive owners of all public school buildings, desks, lockers and other areas of public school buildings or grounds set aside specifically for the personal use of the students. The principal and/or his/her designees may search any building, desk, locker, area, or grounds for any items which violate school board policy or other school regulations either randomly or specifically when he/she has a reasonable belief that the items sought will be found. School principals and/or designees may use metal detectors (JCABA) to search the person, handbag, briefcase, purse, school bag, or other object in the possession of any person on school property either randomly or specifically when he/she has reasonable grounds to suspect that the search will reveal evidence that the student has violated the law, a school rule, or a school board policy. Such a search shall be conducted in a manner that is reasonably related to the purpose of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age or sex of the student and the nature of the suspected offense.

Note: Any vehicle parked on School Board Property by a student may be searched at any time by a school board administrator/designee when he/she has reasonable belief that weapons, dangerous substances, or elements, illegal drugs, alcohol, stolen goods, or other materials or objects the possession of which is a violation of law, School Board policy or school regulations will be found.

SEARCH OF PERSONS OTHER THAN STUDENTS

Any school principal, administrator, teacher, or school security guards may search the person, book bag, briefcase, purse or other object in the possession of any person who is not a student enrolled in the school, or any school employee, while in or on school grounds. This search may be done randomly with a metal detector, or physically when there is reasonable suspicion that such person has any weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol, stolen goods, or objects in violation of School Board policy.

The Board, in accordance with state law and board policy (KM, EBC), shall authorize principals, school administrators, or school security guards to search the person, and any item in the possession of a person who is not a student enrolled in school, or any school employee, while in or on any school property. The search may be conducted at random with a metal detector, or physically when there is reasonable suspicion that such person has any weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol, stolen goods, or other materials which violate Board policy.

QUESTIONING BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL

In order to provide a safe and secure environment for its students, faculty, and staff - while at the same time affording the administration the freedom necessary to effectively operate the school - the faculty, staff, and administration reserve the right to question students regarding activities on campus that they may have knowledge of and/or involvement. Students found to be involved shall be afforded all due process rights, including the right to explain both verbally and in writing, if practicable, before any disciplinary action is taken.

INTERROGATIONS (POLICE INVOLVEMENT)

Any time questioning of a student by law enforcement authority occurs, the parent or guardian of the student must be present. If drugs are possessed, transferred, or sold on school property, immediate action will be taken to cooperate with law officials in the apprehension of the individual(s) responsible and in confiscation of the drugs. The student's school activities shall not be interrupted for police interrogation when the issue concerns activities unrelated to school time, school property, or official school-sponsored functions.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

St. John the Baptist Parish School Board prohibits corporal punishment to students. St. John the Baptist Parish School Board prohibits any non-employee (including parents/guardian, relative) to engage in corporal punishment while on school property. Appropriate officials will be notified immediately.

CHILD ABUSE

Any school employee having reasonable cause to believe that a student has been mentally, physically, or sexually abused shall report these facts to the appropriate authorities.

MEDICATION AND IMMUNIZATION

Medication

Medication shall not be administered to any student without a written order from a Louisiana, or adjacent state, licensed physician or dentist, and it shall include the following information:

- a. student's name
- b. name and signature of the physician or dentist
- c. physician/dentist's business address, office phone number, and emergency phone numbers
- d. frequency and time of the medication
- e. route and dosage of the medication
- f. written statement of the desired effects and the child specific potential of adverse effects

Containers must meet acceptable pharmaceutical standards and have original labels and information of the medication to be administered.

Immunization

Each person entering any school within the state for the first time, at the time of registration or entry, shall present satisfactory evidence of immunity to or immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases according to a schedule approved by the office of public health, or shall present evidence of an immunization program in progress. School nurses may exclude any student that fails to comply with the state's immunization policies.

DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS – Disciplinary sanctions consistent with local, state, and federal law shall be imposed on students who violate these standards of conduct. A disciplinary sanction may include the completion of an appropriate rehabilitation program.

- Possession of prescribed or over-the-counter medication: Parental conference to Suspension with a Recommendation of Expulsion.
- Possession of unauthorized, prescribed substance: Suspension to Suspension with a Recommendation of Expulsion
- Possession of someone else's prescribed medication: Suspension with Recommendation of Expulsion
- Possession with intent to distribute over-the-counter, or prescribed, or controlled substances: with Recommendation of Expulsion

DRUGS

If a student allows another student to put drugs/alcohol in his/her locker and/or personal effects, that student shall be disciplined in the same manner as the student who owns the items.

When a principal/designee has probable cause to suspect a student of being in possession of alcohol, controlled dangerous substances, or any mood-altering chemicals, or is under the influence of alcohol, the principal shall make an immediate attempt (with documentation) to contact the parents or guardian, the Director of Child Welfare and Attendance, law enforcement agency, and the Director of Safe and Drug Free Schools. Upon such violation, the student shall be recommended for expulsion.

Manufacture, distribution, and possession with intent to distribute alcoholic beverages, controlled dangerous substances, and/or any mood-altering chemicals:

When a principal/designee has probable cause to suspect that a student has manufactured, distributed, or possessed with intent to distribute alcoholic beverages or controlled dangerous substances, or any mood-altering chemicals, the principal/designee shall immediately contact the parents or guardian, the Director of Child Welfare and Attendance, law enforcement agency, and the Director of Safe and Drug Free Schools. The student shall be recommended to the Superintendent for expulsion from school.

Possession of drug paraphernalia (e.g., rolling papers, roach clips, tones, bongs, etc.):

When a student is found to be in possession of materials used as drug paraphernalia, the principal/ designee shall confiscate all paraphernalia. The student is to be referred for counseling and further evaluation by a certified Drug Counseling Agency.

DRUG AND/OR ALCOHOL RELATED PROBLEM

When a principal/designee has probable cause to suspect a student of having a drug and/or alcohol-related problem, the principal shall contact the Director of Child Welfare and Attendance, the Director of Safe and Drug Free Schools/Hearing Officer, and parents or guardian. The parent/guardian shall be presented with the information giving rise to the suspicion and encouraged to seek an alcohol/drug abuse assessment and/or counseling for the student (at no cost to the school system). The Director of Child Welfare and Attendance or Hearing Officer shall be responsible for notifying the parents of the location of a qualifying program. In order to be considered for early re-admittance, the student must successfully complete the state approved 12-week program.

If the student is found by the professional to be in need of treatment, and if the student agrees to cooperate in the recommended treatment as certified in writing by the medical professional, such documentation may be used to initiate reopening the student's case. The school board shall take into consideration the student's agreement to have successfully completed treatment as a positive factor in the final decision relative to any request for early re-entry. The rehabilitation or

counseling required shall be provided by existing or new programs approved by the juvenile or family court having jurisdiction, if applicable, or by the school system, and shall be at no additional cost to the school system. As stated earlier, the Director of Child Welfare and Attendance or the Director of Safe and Drug Free Schools will assist with the enrollment of the student in the approved program.

STUDENT COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

Students have both the right and the responsibility to express school related concerns and grievances to the administration. Student government forums are appropriate methods by which students may voice group concerns. Individual grievances shall be conducted in accordance with policy. For the discussion and consideration of a grievance, any student or group of students, after working through the student government forum, may request a meeting time and place with the school principal. One faculty member of the student's choice may be present at such meetings. Such time and place will be designated as soon as possible after the request.

Elementary/Middle School DRESS CODE POLICY (LOGO Optional – A parent may choose to not purchase logos for his/her child's uniform)

Student Dress Code

Any apparel should be worn as designed. All students must conform to the official dress code guidelines below:

- Shirt - collared white or designated school color shirt or school spirit shirt.
- Pants/Shorts – navy or khaki. Shorts - no shorter than two inches above the top of the kneecap. (Girls may also wear skirts, skorts, and jumpers). As a guide, pants/shorts cannot be worn lower than 2" below the navel.

All schools have Mandatory School Uniforms. The principal will be the final word in interpreting the dress code. Students shall adhere to the dress code as stipulated by the individual schools.

Absolutely no alterations intended to change school uniforms from their original design is allowed.

All students are required to wear uniforms. The administration may set rules and regulations concerning dress code for any and all special events during and after school hours.

GUIDELINES TO DRESS FOR SUCCESS

- If pants have belt loops, a belt must be worn.
- Shirts must remain appropriately buttoned as determined by the administrator. Middle/high school students must wear shirts tucked in pants.
- Reasonably sized logos/labels which are not distracting are permitted.
- Pants, skirts, shorts, jumpers and skorts must be hemmed. Side slits above the knee are not permitted.
- Outerwear that does not open the length of the front by snapping, buttoning or zipping is not allowed. No head coverings are allowed inside the school building. Caps, bandannas, scarves, wave caps, sweat bands, etc. are prohibited. No curlers, combs, or picks will be worn in the hair. No glasses, other than prescription glasses, shall be worn. Items will be confiscated and returned only to a parent/guardian on request.
- White or school designated colored turtlenecks may be worn under a uniform shirt or jumper.
- Any prohibitive item, including clothing not meeting dress code, will be taken by school of Officials.
- Transfer students will be given a reasonable time, not to exceed 1 week, to conform to dress code guidelines.
- Further rules and regulations concerning dress may be specified for special events, activities or field trips.
- Footwear must have soles and restraints for the entire foot. Backless shoes are not allowed.
- Special requirements will be placed on students in specific situations or classes for health and safety.
- Clothing and conduct that distract from and/or disrupt school operations and decorum are prohibited on the person and/or his/her belongings. This includes, but is not limited to:

- | | |
|---|---|
| X Visible underwear, tank tops, halter tops | X Bandannas, caps, hat, gloves waist |
| X See-through shorts/blouses | X Slogans or advertising of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs |
| X Bare shoulders, midriffs, sides and backs | X Satanic cult or gang-related symbols paraphernalia |
| X Clothing with holes in them and frayed clothing | X Profane, obscene, or sexually- oriented language |
| X Jeans, wind pants, parachute pants sweat pants, cargo pants/shorts and overalls | X Ornate or cumbersome jewelry |
| X Baggy, sagging or oversized clothes | X Graffiti on school apparel, including, but limited to school bags, purses, etc. |
| X Garments that are immodestly too small | X Trench coats |
| X Clothing that is shorter than two inches above the top of the kneecap | |
| X Sunglasses | |
| X Legging/biker shorts | |

1. Oversize pants are **not** allowed. Pants must be worn at the waist (No sagging). Underwear shall not be visible. If a student's underwear is visible, the student will be placed in the in-school suspension center. The parent will be called for a parental conference.
2. No cell phone pockets are allowed on pants, shorts or skorts. (Including pockets that are sewn)
3. Personal hygiene and cleanliness of dress are required of all students.
4. Hair shall be neat, clean, well-groomed and not a distraction.
5. Proper undergarments should be worn at all times and may not be visible.
6. Oversize/undersize shirts are **not** allowed. Shirts and blouses are to be buttoned except for the top button and must be tucked in pants.
7. Skirts, skorts and dresses should be of reasonable length. The length must be past the finger tips. During non-uniform activity times, articles of clothing and/or accessories depicting alcoholic beverages, tobacco, drugs, weapons, or discrimination of any type (race, sex, age, etc.) shall not be worn. No articles of clothing and/or accessories shall be worn that contain obscene, profane, sex-related or gang-related words or pictures that are determined to be offensive. The administrator will make the determination of words or pictures. Clothing should be so constructed and worn in such a manner that it is not unduly revealing. Sleeveless shirts, halter-tops, tank tops, see-through garments, cut-off tops, midriff tops, slit skirts; pants with slits, sundresses, and other garments of this nature are not acceptable.
8. ID cards may be required at certain schools.
9. Visible tattoos which are lewd, gang-related, or cause a disruption or safety concern are prohibited. Tattoos are discouraged and can result in serious, life-long health problems and or limit future career options.

Belt Buckles

Belt buckles must be plain: no name, design, symbol, jeweled, blinking, spinners, or large in size is not allowed.

Footwear

Shoes that provide sanitary protection and safety for the feet must be worn at all times.

- Preferably Black, White or Combination Black/White shoes to be worn.
- No sandals, slip on shoes, or slippers of any form will be accepted; feet must be totally closed/shoes with backs. Boots and ballerina slippers are not allowed.
- Preferably Solid Black or Solid White socks are to be worn.
- Shoes must be fastened and/or tied at all times.

All regulations in the dress code listed will be enforced:

1. On the school grounds during, before, or after school hours, including school busses and designated bus stops.
2. On the school grounds at any other time when any school group is using school, on busses, and at designated bus stops.
3. Off the school grounds at any school sanctioned activity, function, or event, including busses and designated bus stops.

The principal or his/her designee may authorize exceptions to the above when warranted for special activities.

Headgear

Head coverings are not allowed in school buildings. Caps, bandannas, scarves, wave caps, sweat bands, etc. are prohibited. No curlers, combs, picks will be worn in the hair. No glasses, other than prescription glasses, shall be worn. Items will be confiscated and returned only to a parent/guardian on request.

Jewelry

Students are cautioned against wearing large excessive or expensive jewelry. If jewelry causes a distraction, disruption, or a safety concern, it may be confiscated. Jewelry requiring body piercing, such as nose rings, eyebrows rings, lip rings, cheek rings, tongue rings, etc. is not permitted.

Money

Carrying large sums of money is discouraged and the school system will not assume responsibility for loss.

Purse

Oversize purses (as large as a school bag) are not allowed on campus and will be confiscated by an administrator and returned at the end of the day. The final determination on any purse will be made by the school principal.

1st offense – may be confiscated

2nd offense – may be confiscated

3rd offense – alternative to suspension

High School DRESS CODE POLICY

(LOGO Optional – A parent may choose to not purchase logos for his/her child's uniform)

WEST ST. JOHN HIGH SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

2021-2022

STUDENT ID CARDS

- Student IDs must be worn on upper body at all times.

PANTS

- Khaki long pants with belt. Capri pants will be allowed for girls.
- No cargo pants, flare-legged pants, jean-style pants, oversized pants, frayed hems or holes, no elastic waist and no large outside pockets will be allowed.
- The length of the pants must be hemmed at least to the top of the shoe.
- Pants should fit properly and be worn at the waist with a belt at all times
- **Any student with sagging pants and underwear showing will result in an immediate ISS.**
- No student shall wear tight-fitting outer garments, **leotard-type pants**, biker pants, spandex pants, **skinny pants or leggings** for school wear. Biker pants/spandex pants will be permissible during the student's physical education class only. These may be worn only under physical education shorts.
- No student shall wear leotards/stockings/tights under their school shorts.

SHORTS

- Khaki shorts with belt knee length.
- No cargo shorts, jean style shorts, oversized shorts, frayed hems or holes and no large outside pocket will be allowed.
- Pants should fit properly and be worn at the waist with a belt at all times.

SKIRT

- Khaki must be at least knee length and must fit properly

BELTS

- Belt must not have adornments. No added, oversized buckles allowed. Belts are preferably black, white, or khaki.

SHIRTS

- Royal Blue or White with the WSJH SCHOOL LOGO or NO LOGO. Shirts cannot be oversized or too tight. NO NAME BRAND LOGO or graffiti.
- The only button-down shirts allowed will be oxford shirts. If shirt has logo, it must be embroidered or ironed on the shirt. No airbrushing.
- Shirts must be buttoned and tucked in with a belt visible at all times.
- Students are allowed to wear RAM ADVISORY shirts on RAM ADVISORY days.
- Students are allowed to wear to school CLUB SHIRTS on Fridays and Athletic Shirts/Jogging suits the day of the athletic event.

UNDERSHIRTS

- Must be black, white, gray, or navy.
- Undershirts must be tucked in and should not extend outside the uniform shirt.

SHOES

- Preferably black/white or a combination of both.
- No sandals, slip on shoes, or slippers of any form will be accepted; feet must be totally enclosed/shoes with backs. Boots and ballerina slippers are not allowed.

SCHOOL BAGS/ PURSES

- School bags must be see-through or mesh.
- Purses that fit a planner are OK

SWEATSHIRTS

- ONLY WEST ST. JOHN HIGH approved royal blue sweatshirts are allowed. Classification sweatshirts approved by the school are also allowed.
- Jostens sweatshirts are allowed for Juniors and Seniors depicting the graduation year. **NO OTHER SWEATSHIRTS WILL BE ALLOWED.**
- Students can order a WSJH Sweatshirt at the beginning of the school year. **SENIORS ONLY:** College sweatshirts may be worn provided an acceptance letter is on file in the office.

OUTTER JACKETS

- Jackets MUST be SOLID COLORED royal blue, navy blue or black.
- SCHOOL LOGO OR NO LOGO IS ALLOWED ON OUTTER JACKETS. NO OTHER LOGO IS ALLOWED

P.E. UNIFORMS

- All students taking Physical Education must have approved P.E. uniforms purchased from the school.
- Students must be fully dressed in official school uniform before leaving the gym.

JEWELRY

- Excessive and/or large jewelry are not allowed. (Not larger than a quarter.)
- Visible body piercing is not accepted (except for the ears and small nose stud).

HEAD COVERINGS

- No type of cap/hat/bandanna or any other head covering is acceptable in the buildings.
- Pointy objects/elastic bands are not allowed in hair.

CELL PHONES / HEAD PHONES

- No usage during instructional times. Cell phone clips are not allowed to be worn at school. Cell phones are allowed

only during lunch and afterschool

EAST ST. JOHN HIGH SCHOOL EAST ST. JOHN HIGH SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY 2021-2022

Student ID Cards –Must be visibly worn on the upper body at all times. No stickers, extra photos or changes to ID. Any damages to ID will result in confiscation and your requirement to purchase a new one.

No cargo, flare-legged, jean style, oversized, frayed or holes, and no large outside pocket pants, shorts or capris. No over seized pants or shorts.

Athletes may wear team jersey or team shirt on game day but MUST wear school uniform pants.

Pants – khaki long pants hemmed to top of shoe, fitted properly (**Belt required**). Plaid clothing is not part of the dress code. (Capri pants for girls are allowed), worn at waist with a belt. **No Jeggings or leggings pants. Sweat pants are not allowed. Joggers are not allowed.**

Shorts/Skirts – Khaki hemmed to the knee, fitted properly, worn at waist (**Belt required**). Plaid clothing is not part of the dress code.

Belts – Regular belt (*preferably black, white or khaki*) with regular size buckle without adornments.

Shirts – Collared (**White or Black**) with buttons and sleeves. Oxford or pull over are accepted. School logo optional (embroidered or ironed on, *no airbrushing*). **Shirts must be buttoned and tucked in with belt visible at all times. Cannot be oversized or too tight.** *Freshmen can only wear approved Khaki, Freshmen T-shirts or polo shirt. No T-Shirts are allowed as an outer garment. No “Dickey” Shirts. Students will be allowed to wear “Spirit Shirts” only on Friday with uniform pants and shorts.*

Shoes – Totally enclosed shoes with backs. (**No sandals, slippers, strapless, or backless shoes**) **Preferably black/white/or a combination of both.**

School Bags/Purses –Anything larger than the ESJH school planner must be mesh or see through. *Any enclosed bag is subject to search.*

Jackets/Sweatshirts –**Pullover sweatshirts with hoods and no zippers are not allowed unless endorsed by the school. Sweaters and jackets of solid colors will be allowed.**

Head Coverings – **No head coverings** of any type in buildings. Hats are not part of the dress code for males or females. No pointy objects in hair. Hair color should be of natural coloration (i.e. black, brown, blonde, or red).

Jewelry – Excessive and /or large jewelry is not allowed. (Not larger than a quarter.) **Visible body piercing is not accepted (except for the ears and small nose stud).**

P.E. Uniforms – All students taking Physical Education must have approved P.E. Uniform and be fully dressed in official school uniform before leaving gym.

Cell phones must be turned off and stowed away prior to entering the building.

Headphones are not allowed.

Any student with sagging pants and underwear showing will result in an immediate ISS.

ESJH is not responsible for any items brought to school of value. It is recommended that students maintain valuable items at all time with proper care.

Failure to abide by the school policy will be a referral for disciplinary actions according to the “STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM”.

TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICE AND/OR ELECTRONIC DEVICE GUIDELINES

K-8

Cell phones or any other electronic communication devices **are not** allowed on campus.

1st Offense – Devices will be confiscated and turned over to the principal to be returned only to parent/guardian no earlier than the end of the school day.

Repeated Offense – Same as above with Alternative to Suspension.

High School

No student, unless authorized by the school principal or his/her designee, shall use or operate any electronic telecommunication device, including any facsimile system, radio paging system, mobile telephone system, intercom, or electronic mechanical paging device in any elementary, middle, or secondary school building or on the grounds during the instructional day or in any school bus used to transport public school students. A violation of these provisions shall be grounds for disciplinary action.

Cell phones and all other electronic telecommunication devices must be turned off, completely stowed away out of sight and not used during the instructional day or while riding a school bus, regardless whether authorized early releases from school, GEE remediation, tutoring, twilight school, etc. For the purpose of this policy, **the instructional day is defined as the time students arrive on campus in the morning until the time they are officially dismissed in the afternoon.** On field trips, electronic telecommunication devices may be possessed/used at the discretion of the principal or his/her designee.

Stowing of Phones is defined as being placed in the student’s locker, in his/her school bag, in a purse, or in a pants pocket. It is not allowed for phones to be left hanging on the outside of a pocket on a clip or cell phone holster.

- Refusal to relinquish the phone/device will be viewed as a blatant disrespect for authority and may result in a recommendation for expulsion. The phone/device must be relinquished according to district procedure prior to student’s reinstatement to school.
- All confiscated electronic telecommunication devices shall be returned to the student/parent/guardian following a conference with a school administrator. The parent/guardian must sign a release form provided by the school.
- Students are not to use and operate cell phones during scheduled school events (fire drills, assemblies, or other school evacuations) or during times of testing and other student evaluations.
- The school and its employees are in no way responsible for any theft or damage of electronic telecommunication devices while on school grounds. The school is not obligated to investigate the loss or damage of any cellular phone.

St. John Alternative Program

Cell phones or any other electronic communication devices are not allowed on campus.

- *1st Offense – Devices will be confiscated and turned over to the principal to be returned only to parent/guardian no earlier than the end of the school day. **Parental conference required***
- *2nd Offense – Devices will be confiscated and turned over to the principal. (30 days) **Parental conference required.***

Administration is not responsible for confiscated devices

SCHOOL BAG POLICY

Clear school bags shall be required for all students in all grades who attend public schools or ride public school busses in St. John the Baptist Parish. All school bags must be clear plastic or “see through” mesh. The final determination on any mesh bags will be made by the school principal. Illegal bags are to be confiscated and parents will be notified.

1st Offense – Confiscated/Parental Conference

2nd Offense – Detentions (Confiscated)

3rd Offense – Alternative to Suspension or Suspension

Purses, school bags, lunch boxes, pencil cases, enclosed binders, etc. are subject to search during random searches and during searches with probable cause. Purses are not to be used as book bags. No gang-related graffiti/words or pictures are allowed on purses, school bags, lunch boxes, pencil cases, and enclosed binders.

ACT 523 SB 178: Provides an exception for students to carry, wear, or possess bullet-resistant backpacks on school property or bus.

SCHOOL BUS REGULATIONS

Behavior while riding the school bus is part of the overall learning process and student’s and drivers’ safety is of utmost importance. All East St. John High and West St. John High students must wear school IDs when riding the school bus.

A bus is considered an extension of the school; all disciplinary codes will apply.

Students must:

1. Enter and leave the bus in an orderly fashion and in accordance with instructions.
2. Remain quiet enough not to distract the driver.
3. Be seated and remain seated while the bus is in motion.
4. Obey and respect the orders of the regular or substitute bus driver.
5. Be on time; the bus cannot wait for those who are not on time.
6. Depart the bus and pass in front of the bus while the bus remains parked and not behind it. The driver shall see that the way is clear before the student is permitted to cross the road.
7. Not throw objects in the bus or out of windows.
8. Not extend arms or other parts of the body out of the windows.
9. Not be permitted to eat or drink while aboard a bus, unless permission is given.
10. Be required to have written permission from their parents to get off at a different stop. The written permission must be given to the principal for approval.

STUDENTS SHALL OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Be at their assigned loading zone on time.
2. Exercise extreme caution in getting to and from their assigned bus stop.
3. Look in both directions before stepping from their assigned bus stop.
4. Look in both directions before crossing any highway or street.
5. Do not play on or near the street while waiting for the bus to arrive.
6. Stay well off the roadway until the bus comes to a complete stop and the bus driver indicates that it is safe to board the bus.
7. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before trying to load or unload.
8. Use the handrail while getting on or off the bus.
9. Do not bring unauthorized articles on the bus.
10. No spitting on the floor of the bus.
11. Do not throw waste paper or other rubbish on the floor of the bus.
12. Do not mark or otherwise deface the bus.

13. Avoid unnecessary conversation with the driver.
14. Refrain from the use of profane language and/or obscene gestures.
15. Talk in normal tone. Do not shout.
16. Keep arms, head and legs inside the bus at all times.
17. Do not horseplay or fight on the bus.
18. Do not leave the bus without the driver's consent, except at home or at school and through the front door, except in an emergency.
19. Report any damages to the bus driver at once.
20. Be courteous to and follow the instructions of the bus driver.

Should any student violate any of these regulations, it shall be the duty of the bus driver to notify the principal. Violation of bus regulations may also result in in-school suspension or regular suspension from school. Written notice of the action of the principal shall be furnished to the parent and the transportation supervisor.

Violations of bus policy shall result in any of the following depending on the severity of the offense:

1. Parental Conference with loss of bus privileges.
2. Parental Conference with In-School-Suspension or Suspension and loss of bus privileges.
3. Regular suspension from school and loss of bus privileges.
4. In-School-Suspension with a recommendation of expulsion and loss of bus privileges.
5. Out-of-School Suspension with a recommendation of expulsion.

Should someone other than the bus driver, such as school employees or other appointed persons, be responsible for students on the bus, the above rules will still be enforced and must be obeyed.

Any students fighting while the school bus is in route, who when refusing to stop upon the bus driver's directive, causes the driver to pull off the road and make a 911 call, will be arrested at the scene. The bus driver will provide the students with a written due process opportunity. This should be done only in extreme cases and as a last resort to protect the safety of other students.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF AND BY STUDENTS

The St. John Parish School Board prohibits sexual harassment of or by any student. This policy applies to conduct during and relating to school and school sponsored activities. Sexual harassment is inappropriate and offensive. Harassment on the basis of sex is defined as any unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, as a term or condition of any student's academic status or progress.
2. Submission to or rejection of the conduct by a student is used as the basis for academic decisions affecting the student.
3. The conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact on the student's academic or work performance or of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational or work environment for a student or school district employee.
4. Submission to or rejection of the conduct by the student is used as the basis for any decision affecting the student regarding benefits, services, honors, programs or activities available at or through the school.

It is recognized that instances occur within the school system involving students and personalities and these matters are handled informally. However, if a student believes such instance requires a remedy or that there is a basis for a complaint, the student shall immediately report this information to the principal or file a report with the assistant principal in charge of school discipline. Procedures would then be followed and appropriate action taken (JCEA, Student Sexual Harassment), if necessary.

BULLYING AND HAZING

The St. John the Baptist Parish School Board is committed to maintaining a safe, orderly, civil and positive learning environment so that no student feels bullied, threatened, or harassed while in school or participating in school-related activities. Students and their parents/guardians shall be notified that the school, school bus, and all other school environments are to be safe and secure for all. Therefore, all statements or actions of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior such as threatening or harassment, made on campus, at school-sponsored activities or events, on school buses, at school bus stops, and on the way to and from school shall not be tolerated. Even if made in a joking manner, these statements or actions of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior towards other students, school personnel, or school property shall be unacceptable. It is the policy of the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board to prohibit bullying, by any means, including but not limited to electronic, written, oral or physical acts, either direct or indirect, when such intentional acts substantially interfere with a student's education and or substantially disrupt the operation of school. This prohibition shall apply to all St. John the Baptist Parish School Board employees, volunteers, parent/guardian(s), and students, including conduct between students, between adults, and between adults and students.

The effect of bullying on students are numerous and may result in low self-esteem, health problems, poor grades, suicidal thoughts, etc. There may also be consequences for children who are bystanders to bullying such as fear, low self-esteem, a sense of guilt for not acting and even a temptation to participate. School sanctions for bullying vary from conferences to recommendation for expulsion/exclusion, while criminal sanctions may result in charges of assault, harassment, etc.

Any student, school employee, or school volunteer who in good faith reports an incident of bullying shall be immune from a right of action for damages arising from any failure to remedy the reported incident.

All students, teachers, and other school employees shall take responsible measures within the scope of their individual authority to prevent violations of this policy.

Bullying shall mean:

Louisiana Law (La. R.S. 17:416.13) defines Bullying as a pattern of any one or more of the following:

- **Gestures**, including but not limited to obscene gestures and making faces.
- Written, electronic, or verbal communications, including but not limited to calling names, threatening harm, taunting, malicious teasing, or spreading untrue rumors. *Electronic communication* includes but is not limited to a communication or image transmitted by email, instant message, text message, blog, or social networking website through the use of a telephone, mobile phone, pager, computer, or other electronic device.
- **Physical acts**, including but not limited to hitting, kicking, pushing, tripping, choking, damaging personal property, or unauthorized use of personal property; and/or
- Repeatedly and purposefully shunning or excluding from activities.

Where the pattern of behavior:

- Is exhibited toward a student, more than once, by another student or group of students; and
- Occurs, or is received by, a student:
 - ✓ while on school property,
 - ✓ at a school-sponsored or school-related function or activity,
 - ✓ in any school bus or van,
 - ✓ at any designated school bus stop, or
 - ✓ in any other school or private vehicle used to transport students to and from schools, or any school-sponsored activity or event.

The pattern of behavior as provided above must have the effect of

Physically harming a student, placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm, or

Damaging a student's property, placing the student in reasonable fear of damage to the student's property, or

Be sufficiently severe, persistent, and pervasive enough to:

- Create an intimidating or threatening educational environment,
- Have the effect of substantially interfering with a student's performance in school, or
- Have the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school

Hazing shall mean any knowing behavior, whether by commission or omission, of any student to encourage, direct, order, or participate in any activity which subjects another student to potential physical, mental, or psychological harm for the purpose of initiation or admission into, affiliation with, continued membership in, or acceptance by existing members of any organization or extracurricular activity at a public elementary or secondary school, whether such behavior is planned or occurs on or off school property, including any school bus and school bus stop. Hazing does not mean any adult-directed and school-sanctioned athletic program practice or event or military training program.

Any solicitation to engage in hazing, and the aiding and abetting another person who engages in hazing shall be prohibited. The consent, stated or implied, of the hazing victim shall not be a defense in determining disciplinary action.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS

The School Board shall inform each student, orally and in writing, at the required orientation conducted at the beginning of each school year, of the prohibition against bullying, hazing, or similar behavior of a student by another student; the nature and consequences of such actions; including the potential criminal consequences and loss of driver's license, and the proper process and procedure for reporting any incidents involving such prohibited actions. A copy of the written notice shall also be delivered to each student's parent or legal guardian.

REPORTING

The principal or his/her designee shall be authorized to receive complaints alleging violation of this policy. All employees, parents, volunteers, or any other school personnel shall report alleged violations to the principal or his/her designee. Any written or oral report of an act of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior shall be considered an official means of reporting such act(s). Complaints, reports, and investigative reports of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior shall remain *confidential*, with limited exception of state or federal law.

The reporting of incidents of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior shall be made on the *Bullying Report* form, which shall include an *affirmation of truth*. Any bullying, hazing, or similar behavior report submitted, regardless of recipient, shall use this form, but additional information may be provided.

Students and Parents

Any student who believes that he/she has been, or is currently, the victim of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior, or any student, parent, or guardian, who witnesses bullying, hazing, or similar behavior or has good reason to believe bullying, hazing, or similar behavior is taking place, may report the situation to a school official, who in turn shall report the situation to the principal or his/her designee. A student, or parent or guardian, may also report concerns regarding bullying, hazing, or similar behavior to a teacher, counselor, other school employee, or to any parent chaperoning or supervising a school function or activity. Any such report shall remain *confidential*.

School Personnel

Any school employee, whether full- or part-time, and any parent/volunteer chaperoning or supervising a school function or activity, who witnesses or learns of bullying, hazing or similar behavior from a student or parent, shall report the incident to the principal or his/her designee. Verbal reports shall be submitted by the employee or parent/volunteer on the same day as the employee or parent/volunteer witnessed or otherwise learned of the incident, and a written report shall be filed no later than two (2) days thereafter.

All other members of the school community, including students, parents/legal guardians, volunteers, and visitors shall be encouraged to report any act that may be a violation of this policy to the principal or his/her designee.

False Reports

Intentionally making false reports about bullying, hazing, or similar behavior to school officials shall be prohibited conduct and shall result in appropriate disciplinary measures as determined by the School Board.

INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE

Investigations of any reports of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior of a student by another student shall be in accordance with the following:

1. Timing

The school shall begin an investigation of any complaint that is properly reported and that alleges the prohibited conduct the next business or school day after the report is received by the principal or his/her designee. The investigation shall be completed no later than ten (10) school days after the date the written report of the incident is submitted to the principal or his/her designee. If additional information is received after the end of the ten-day period, the school principal or his/her designee shall amend all documents and reports required to reflect such information.

2. Scope of Investigation

An investigation shall include documented interviews of the reporter, the alleged victim, the alleged bully or offender, and any witnesses, and shall include obtaining copies or photographs of any audio-visual evidence. Interviews must be conducted privately, separately, and confidentially. At no time shall the alleged offender and alleged victim be interviewed together.

The principal or his/her designee shall collect and evaluate all facts using the *Bullying Investigation* form.

3. Parental Notification

Upon receiving a report of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior, the school shall notify the parents or legal guardians of the alleged offender and the alleged victim no later than the following business or school day. Delivery of notice to the parents or legal guardians by an involved student shall **not** constitute the required parental notice.

Before any student under the age of eighteen (18) is interviewed, his/her parent or legal guardian shall be notified by the principal or his/her designee of the allegations made and shall have the opportunity to attend any interviews with their child conducted as part of the investigation.

All meetings with the parents or legal guardians of the alleged victim and the parents or legal guardians of the alleged offender shall be in compliance with the following:

- A. Separate meetings shall be held with the parents or legal guardians of the alleged victim and the parents or legal guardians of the alleged offender.
- B. Parents or legal guardians of the alleged victim and of the alleged offender shall be informed of the potential consequences, penalties, and counseling options.

In any case where a teacher, principal, or other school employee is authorized to require the parent or legal guardian of a student who is under the age of eighteen (18) and not judicially emancipated or emancipated by marriage to attend a conference or meeting regarding the student's behavior and, after notice, the parent, tutor, or legal guardian willfully refuses to attend, the principal or his/her designee shall file a complaint, pursuant to Louisiana Children's Code, Article 730 or 731, with a court exercising juvenile jurisdiction. The principal may also file a complaint on the grounds the student is a truant or has willfully and repeatedly violated school rules, or any other applicable ground when, in his/her judgment, doing so is in the best interests of the student.

5. Documentation

At the conclusion of an investigation of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior, and after meeting with the parents or legal guardians, the principal or his/her designee or School Board shall:

- A. Prepare a written report containing the findings of the investigation, including input from students' parents or legal guardians, and the decision by the principal or his/her designee or school system official. The document shall be placed in the school records of both students.
- B. Promptly notify the reporter/complainant of the findings of the investigation and whether remedial action has been taken, if such release of information does not violate the law.
- C. Keep reports/complaints and investigative reports confidential, except where disclosure is required to be made by applicable federal laws, rules, or regulations or by state law.
- D. Maintain reports/complaints and investigative reports for three (3) years.
- E. As applicable, provide a copy of any reports and investigative documents to the School Board for disciplinary measures, or to the Louisiana Department of Education, as necessary.

During the pendency of an investigation, the school district may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the alleged victim, students, teachers, administrators or other school personnel pending completion of the investigation.

APPEAL

If the school principal or his/her designee does not take timely and effective action, the student, parent, or school employee may report, in writing, the incident to the School Board. The School Board shall begin an investigation of any properly reported complaint that alleges prohibited conduct the next business day during which school is in session after the report is received by the School Board.

If the School Board does not take timely and effective action, the student, parent, or other school employee may report any bullying incident to the Louisiana Department of Education.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Once a report has been received at a school, and a school principal or his/her designee has determined that an act of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior has occurred, and after having met with the parent or legal guardian of the student involved, the principal or his/her designee, or applicable school official shall take prompt and appropriate disciplinary action against the student, and report criminal conduct to law enforcement. Counseling and/or other interventions may also be recommended.

Students may be disciplined for off-campus bullying, hazing, or similar behavior the same as if the improper conduct occurred on campus, if the actions of the offender substantially interferes with the education opportunities or educational programs of the student victim and/or adversely affects the ability of the student victim to participate in or benefit from the school's education programs or activities.

PARENTAL RELIEF

If a parent, legal guardian, teacher, or other school official has made four (4) or more reports of separate instances of bullying, and no investigation pursuant to state law or this policy has occurred, the parent or legal guardian of the alleged victim may request that the student be transferred to another school operated by the School Board.

Such request shall be filed with the Superintendent. Upon receipt of the request to transfer the student to another school, the School Board shall make a seat available at another school under its jurisdiction within ten (10) school days of the parent or legal guardian's request for a transfer. If the School Board has no other school under its jurisdiction serving the grade level of the victim, within fifteen (15) school days of receiving the request, the Superintendent shall:

1. Inform the student and his/her parent or legal guardian and facilitate the student's enrollment in a statewide virtual school.
2. Offer the student a placement in a full-time virtual program or virtual school under the School Board's jurisdiction.
3. Enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Superintendent or director of another governing authority to secure a placement and provide for the transfer of the student to a school serving the grade level of the student, in accordance with statutory provisions.

If no seat or other placement is made available within thirty (30) calendar days of the receipt of the request by the Superintendent, the parent or legal guardian may request a hearing with the School Board, which shall be public or private at the option of the parent or legal guardian. The Board shall grant the hearing at the next scheduled meeting or within sixty (60) calendar days, whichever is sooner.

At the end of any school year, the parent or legal guardian may make a request to the School Board to transfer the student back to the original school. The School Board shall make a seat available at the original school that the student attended. No other schools shall qualify for transfer under this provision.

RETALIATION

Retaliation against any person who reports bullying, hazing, or similar behavior in good faith, who is thought to have reported such behavior, who files a complaint, or who otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of bullying, hazing, or similar behavior is prohibited conduct and subject to disciplinary action.

CHILD ABUSE

The provisions of this policy shall not be interpreted to conflict with or supersede the provisions requiring mandatory reporting pursuant to Louisiana Children's Code, Art. 609 and as enforced through La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §14:403.

Ref: 20 USC 1232(g-i) (*Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act*); La. Rev. Stat. Ann. ' ' 14:40.3, 14:40.7, 14:403, 17:105, 17:105.1, 17:183, 17:416, 17:416.1, 17:416.13; La. Children's Code, Art. 609, 730, 731; Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education, 119 S.Ct. 1661 (1991); Board minutes, 9-23-04, 12-2-10.

DATING VIOLENCE

ACT 506: DATING VIOLENCE

Dating violence is a pattern of assaultive and controlling behaviors that one person uses against another in order to gain or maintain power in the relationship. The abuser intentionally behaves in ways that cause fear, degradation and humiliation to control the other person. Forms of abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional and psychological. Teen dating violence can occur in person or electronically. The perpetrator may be a current or past partner.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY UNDER THE NEW SCHOOL DISCIPLINE LAW

A law (R.S. 17:416 – Senate Bill No. 76 of the Third Extraordinary Session, 1994) relating to School Discipline was passed during the 1994 special session of the Louisiana Legislature. Parents have specific responsibilities in accordance with this new law:

In the following circumstances, parents/guardians are **required** to attend a conference with the teacher and/or other school employee.

- ✓ If the student is removed from a teacher's classroom because of being extremely disruptive, or disrespectful
- ✓ towards the teacher, or disrupts the same classroom on three occasions.
- ✓ A student who has been suspended or expelled from school. (At a time called by the Principal)

Any parent or legal guardian who **willfully refuses** to attend a conference which is scheduled because of his or her child's misbehavior must be reported to the appropriate court exercising juvenile jurisdiction. The courts may then decide what action is appropriate for the student and the parent or guardian.

When a student is placed on parental conference or suspended from school, he/she can receive credit for school work missed. Parents or guardians must make every effort to correct student behavior before it becomes serious enough to require a parent conference or suspension.

School principals may give parents/guardians the option of alternatives to suspension in some cases. Such alternatives include school detentions and the In-School Suspension Program. Parents should consider these alternatives because if suspensions are avoided, the student can continue to receive credit for his/her work and is not recorded as absent.

Parents are to review the Code of Student Discipline with their child and be sure that they are aware of what is expected of them. A parent who loses, misplaces or does not receive a Code of Student Discipline Handbook should contact the child's teacher or the principal and request a copy of this most important booklet.

Parents and teachers are encouraged to work together as a team to solve problems and to ensure that each child gets the most out of school. Everyone concerned will benefit from a productive, safe, school environment.

Parental Complaint Procedures

Constructive criticism of the schools is welcomed by the St. John the Baptist School Board (SJBP) whenever it is motivated by a sincere desire to improve the quality of the educational program or to equip the schools to do their tasks more effectively.

The SJBP has, however, confidence in its professional staff and desires to support their actions in order that they are free from unnecessary, spiteful, or negative criticism and complaint. Therefore, whenever a complaint is made directly to the Board as a whole or to a Board member as an individual, it will be referred to the school administration for study and possible solution and the following procedures shall be followed.

The St. John the Baptist School Board advises that the proper channeling and form of complaints involving a) instruction, b) discipline, or c) learning materials is as follows:

Any complaint shall be in writing, shall state the specific factual basis of the complaint, and shall be specific in terms of the action desired by the complainant. A parental complaint form can be obtained at your child's school or the Child Welfare and Attendance Office. Complaints shall not be discourteous, personal, vile, or unnecessarily or purposefully hurtful.

Informal Level - Any student, or parent, with a complaint must first request redress orally with his/her teacher and principal. In the event the complainant is not satisfied with the deposition of his/her complaint at the informal level, or if no decision is rendered within 5 days after presentation, the complaint may elevate the complaint to the Formal Level.

- Teacher
- Principal

Formal Level – The complaint must be in writing and specify:

- a. the nature of the complaint
- b. the results of the previous discussions and/or decisions
- c. the dissatisfaction with decisions previously rendered

- Principal
- Director
- Superintendent or designee
- SJSB - School Board

1. In the event the complainant is not satisfied with the deposition of his/her complaint at the informal level, or if no decision is rendered within 5 days after presentation, the complaint may elevate the complaint to the Formal Level by submitting a writing complaint to his/her principal.
2. In the event the complainant is not satisfied with the deposition of his/her complaint at the principal's formal level, or if no decision is rendered within 5 days after presentation, the complaint may elevate the complaint to the central office supervisor/Director of CWA exercising control over the school.
3. In the event the complainant is not satisfied with the deposition of his/her complaint at the central office level, or if no decision is rendered within a reasonable period of time after presentation, the complaint may elevate the complaint to the Superintendent.
4. In the event the complainant is not satisfied with the deposition of his/her complaint at the Superintendent level, or if no decision is rendered within a reasonable period of time, the complaint may request, in writing, that the Superintendent place the complaint on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting for the school board. The request must be made no later than five (5) days after receipt of the Superintendent's decision.

Any complaint shall be in writing, shall state the specific factual basis of the complaint, and shall be specific in terms of the action desired by the complainant.

➤ The same type of information, in writing, will be required in each stages of the formal level. No additional information can be introducing. Complaints shall not be discourteous, personal, vile, or unnecessarily or purposefully hurtful.

Any complaint not meeting these standards may be rejected by the staff of the SJSB.

The SJSB will consider complaints **only** when the complaint cannot be resolved by the administration through the above stages.

Appeals of Complaints taken to the SJSB shall be in writing, shall state the specific factual basis of the complaint, and shall be specific in terms of the action desired. They shall be hand-delivered or mailed (by certified mail) to the Central Office within 5 days of the written response to the complaint by the Superintendent or designee.

The SJSB will not consider or act on any complaint that has not been explored at all of the appropriate administrative levels or through the proper channels.

This procedure is not for appeals relative to the discipline of students (suspension or expulsion). Those types of appeals must meet the requirements and procedures provided in the Handbook.

FIGHTING and ARREST POLICY

Part A. Fighting According to School Board policy, principals/designees have the discretion on a case-by-case basis to contact the St. John Sheriff's office and press charges for disturbing the peace by fighting in public whenever students are involved in a fight causing battery or attempting to cause a battery with a dangerous instrument as a weapon. In all cases, students twelve and older who fight and cause bodily injury, participate in a group/gang fight, or refuse to stop, and all students 18 years and older may be arrested. **Moreover, all students 12 years and older who fight a second time shall be arrested, provided the procedures set forth below apply.**

Procedures for arrest under the "Arrest Policy" for fighting on campus:

1. A teacher, administrator, or other school board employee must witness the fight.
2. The teacher, administrator, or other school board employee must give a written statement to the principal of the school that he/she witnessed the fight and identifies the student or students.
3. The principal shall afford students their due process.
4. The principal shall call the Sheriff's Office to have the student(s) detained and transported to the Sheriff's Office.
5. The principal, teacher or other school board employee shall file charges against the Student for disturbing the peace and inform the Sheriff's Office that they intend to file charges.
6. The principal shall contact the parent to inform them that their son/daughter has been involved in a fight and that he/she is in the custody of the Sheriff's Office.
7. Students arrested will be released to their parents after being charged with disturbing the peace by fighting in public. This is in addition to any other disciplinary action imposed by the school administration.

Part B. Fighting in general - If in the judgment of the school administration, a formal arrest is not necessary, **a Summons is to be issued.** The parents of students who fight are required to pick up their child **within one hour** of the altercation. This is a legal requirement that must be met. Otherwise, the child shall be arrested, removed from the campus, and the parent shall be required to pick up the child at the Sheriff's Office, provided steps 1-7, Part A are followed. Additionally, parents that fail to comply may be subject to arrest, if found negligent, with criminal charges being filed pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 92.1, 17:416, and the Children's Code 730. A Family-In-Need of Services (FINS) referral will be filed with the 40th Judicial District Court as well.

Note: A Summon may be issued to first time offenders providing the fight did not violate any provision of Part A.

Part C. Fighting on the school bus - Any students fighting while the school bus is in route, who when refusing to stop upon the bus driver's directive, causes the driver to pull off the road and make a 911 call, will be arrested at the scene. The bus driver will provide the students with a written due process opportunity.

Note: School administrators shall make every effort to determine cases of self-defense before any student is **issued a summons and/or arrested.** When a student causes a battery against another person who does not retaliate, the student causing the battery will be arrested under this policy provided that the seven procedures are followed. Instances of no retaliation/self defense will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. **Students concluded to be reasonably acting in self-defense may not be disciplined.** The parents of students involved in a fight will be notified in all cases.

DEFERRAL PROGRAM

Under School Board policy, every student who is arrested for fighting the **first time only** may be eligible for the Diversionary Program. In a cooperative spirit, the school administration, the District Attorney's Office, and the Juvenile Judges have developed this program for some first time offenders. A student arrested for a fight will be required to attend a Conflict Resolution class/Anger Management with at least one parent, and the student must pay either \$50.00 for the class, or perform at least ten (10) hours of community service at his/her school within 30 days from the date of the fight. Failure

to comply with these requirements shall result in the student and/or his/her parent being referred to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution. Students who successfully complete the Diversionary Program will **AVOID PROSECUTION**.

Bodily harm is defined as any injury in which medical attention was necessary (school nurse, EMT, etc.). All battery arrests will also result in mandated conflict resolution/Anger Management, but the Deferral Program will not be offered. All students who fight, whether arrested or not, must complete a conflict resolution session. Students who fight shall participate in a formal, documented mediation session with a school counselor to have their conflict resolved prior to return to class. The parent shall bring the child to school after the suspension for fighting is completed. If arrested, students must also attend a Conflict Resolution/Anger Management class with their parents, as well as complete the (10) ten hours of community service.

Violence and fighting are disruptive to a school climate and may cause students and staff to feel physically and psychologically vulnerable. The St. John the Baptist Parish School Board in cooperation with representatives of the St. John Parish Sheriff's Office, St. John Parish District Attorney's Office, and Judges with the 40th Judicial District Court developed the pre-trial prevention program designed to educate students in dealing with future conflicts. The D.P. program is to be utilized when students are charged with an act of assault, battery, excessive use of force, fighting, and serious or bodily injury on a public school campus or designated location (e.g., bus, bus stop, field trip, etc.). The school administrator shall contact the Sheriff's Office to charge the student with an assault, battery, and/or fighting. The school administrator shall also complete the Incident Form and forward a copy to the District Attorney office and the Child Welfare and Attendance Office. The District's Attorney Office will determine if a student is eligible to participate in the program. The District Attorney and Child Welfare and Attendance will make the arrangements to have the student complete the program in a timely manner. Students assigned to the deferral program agree to attend the two-hour after school training, complete the ten hours of community service in their respective school, and to pay a fee (\$50.00) to defray the cost of the program. If a student chooses not to participate in the deferral program, or is unsuccessful in completing the program, the student will be referred by the District Attorney's Office to Juvenile Court.

CAMPUS/STUDENT SAFETY

Principals **at all schools** may use their discretion to call the St. John Sheriff's Office whenever the security or safety of their campus or students is endangered.

Any violations of criminal laws, state or federal, committed on school property shall be prosecuted as provided by law. Principals shall notify the proper law enforcement agency and shall cooperate with the prosecuting attorney's office in the prosecution of charges. Principals are to detain students and confiscate drugs or weapons.

PRANKS

Any student involved in **pranks** (senior or otherwise), where vandalism to or theft of **school** or private property occurs, shall be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and Attendance Regulations Handbook (Vandalism Infraction Code). Immediate consequences may restrict and/or prohibit participation in any and/or all school related activities, including commencement exercise.

*Vandalism – intentional cutting, defacing or otherwise damaging property owned by or contracted to the school board and/or others.

GUN FREE SCHOOL ACT

Each state receiving Federal funds shall have in effect a state law requiring local educational agencies to expel from school for a period of not less than one year a student who is determined to have brought a weapon to a school under the jurisdiction of local educational agencies in the state, except that such state law shall allow the chief administering officer of such local educational agency to modify such expulsion requirement for a student on a case-by-case basis.

PRO-CHILD ACT

The Pro Child Act requires that smoking not be permitted in any indoor facility, or in some cases a portion of a facility, used routinely or regularly for the provision of certain types of “children’s services” to persons under the age of 18, if the services are funded by specified Federal programs either directly or through state or local governments.

Act 815 requires schools in Louisiana with grades Pre-K through 12th must prohibit smoking on school property, including buildings, grounds, (outdoors and off campus school activities) and buses. Policies of this sort are generally referred to as 100% smoke-free policies.

RESPECT ORDINANCE *(R. S. 17:416.12)*

Students in St. John the Baptist Parish Schools are required to show respect at all times. Courtesy in addressing adults and peers is taught, encouraged, and expected at all times.

When any St. John Parish public school student is speaking with any public school system employee while on school property or at a school sponsored event, such student shall address and respond to such public school system employee by using the respectful terms “Yes, Ma’am” and “No, Ma’am” or “Yes, Sir” and “No, Sir” as appropriate or “Yes, Miss, Mrs., or Ms. (Surname)” and “No, Miss, Mrs., or Ms. (Surname)” or “Yes, Mr. (Surname)” and “No, Mr. (Surname)” as appropriate. Each such title is to be followed by the surname.

Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)
St. John the Baptist Parish School District
TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS AND NETWORKS
Student Use Agreement

Please read this document carefully before signing.

I. Purpose

The purpose of the St. John the Baptist Parish Internet Program is to enhance student learning by providing students with the latest technological advances thus making learning relevant to goals of the work place by facilitating student research, augmenting student communication skills, and motivating students to become life-long learners. We are very pleased to bring this access to St. John Parish and believe the Internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources to both students and teachers.

II. The Internet

The Internet is an international network of computer users encompassing elementary and secondary schools, universities, government agencies, businesses and corporations, and millions of individuals. This telecommunications network will allow students and teachers to have access to:

- Research institutions, i.e., NASA, etc.
- Electronic mail communication with people all over the world
- Other computers and their data bases
- Access to university library catalogs, Library of Congress, etc.
- Public domain software and shareware of all types
- World-wide web sites

With access to computers and people all over the world comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. The St. John the Baptist Parish School System has taken precautions to restrict access to controversial materials through the use of software, which helps educators reduce the risk of students uncovering inappropriate material on the Internet. Software screens Internet Newsgroups, World Wide Web, FTP, Gopher, and other services. However, on a global network it is impossible to completely control all materials that an industrious user may uncover. We, the St. John the Baptist Parish School System, firmly believe that the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may procure material that is not consistent with the educational goals of the district.

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies, and regional and state networks. In addition, the smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the users who must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here so that you are aware of the responsibilities that you are about to acquire. In general, this requires efficient, ethical, and legal utilization of the network resources. Violation of provisions (any/all) of this policy will result in the temporary or permanent suspension of computer/Internet use. The signature (s) at the end of this document is (are) legally binding and indicates the party (parties) who signed has (have) read the terms and conditions carefully and understand (s) their significance. The St. John the Baptist Parish School System hereby makes it known that it will use its authority to assist state and federal authorities in enforcing copyright, intellectual property rights, and network abuse laws.

III. User Responsibilities

Access to the Internet provided by the St. John the Baptist Parish School System is a privilege and not a right. Users are executed to act with utmost honesty, integrity, and respect for the rights of others. Users are required to adhere to all federal, state, and local rules and laws governing electronic communications and all Guidelines developed by the St. John the Baptist Parish School System. Users failing to comply with the Acceptable Use Policy will be denied access privileges and disciplined according to school discipline policies as outlined in each school's handbook.

Authorized users are defined as students, teachers, and staff members of elementary, middle, high school, head start and

redirection center belonging to the St. John the Baptist Parish School System and who have a signed AUP on file at the school site. Any other user is hereby declared as an unauthorized user. The St. John the Baptist Parish School System is not responsible for any actions of unauthorized users or uses of the networked system outside of the educational setting. Authorized users are limited to Internet access during regular school hours, i.e., 7am - 5pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

IV. Guidelines

The St. John the Baptist Parish School System Guidelines are presented here in an attempt to ensure proper use of Internet privileges:

1.1 Students will be supervised during on-line activities.

All computers which allow Internet access are placed in supervised areas - classrooms, media centers, labs, etc. The classroom teacher or designated system administrator will be present at all times when students (Pre-K - 12) are using Internet resources. The teacher will attempt to monitor student's computer use and will take appropriate action if these resources are used inappropriately. Any student or unauthorized user accessing the Internet, disregarding guidelines, signing on without proper supervision is subject to disciplinary action as stated in the school's handbook.

1.2 Users are held responsible for their actions and activities involving the Internet and/or computer workstation. Unacceptable uses of the network will result in the suspension or revocation of these privileges.

a. Some examples of such unacceptable use are:

- Using the Internet for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts;
- Using the Internet for financial or commercial gain;
- Degrading or disrupting equipment, software or system performance;
- Vandalizing the data of another user;
- Wastefully using finite resources;
- Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities;
- Invading the privacy of individuals;
- Posting personal communications without the original author's consent;
- Posting anonymous messages;
- Accessing, downloading, storing, or printing files or message that are profane or obscene
- Using language that offends or tends to degrade others
- Violating the Broadcast /Publication Guidelines as outlined below

b. Broadcast/Publication

Users will be allowed to produce materials for electronic publication and/or broadcast on the Internet. System administrators (teachers) will monitor these materials to ensure compliance with content standards. The content of materials is subject to the following restrictions:

- No personal information about an individual will be allowed. This includes home telephone numbers and addresses as well as information regarding the specific location of any individual at any given time;
- All user works, such as e-mail, must be signed with the user's full name;
- Individuals in pictures, movies, or sound recording may be identified only by initials (e.g. JQP for John Q. Public). Absolutely no first or last names may appear in reference to individuals in any image, movie, or sound recording;
- No text, image, movie or sound that contains pornography, profanity, obscenity, or language that offends or tends to degrade others will be allowed.

1.3 Users are responsible for all actions taken while using Internet facilities.

The use of Internet facilities is a privilege not a right which may be temporarily or permanently revoked at any time for abusive conduct. Such conduct would include but is not limited to:

- A. the placing of unlawful information on a system
- B. the use of objectionable language in public or private messages

- C. the sending of messages that are likely to result in the loss of other users work on a system
- D. the sending of chain letters or broadcast messages to lists or individuals and
- E. any other types of use which would cause congestion of the system or otherwise interfere with the work of others.

The District cannot be held liable for any losses, including lost revenues, or for any claims or demands against the user by any other party. The District cannot be held responsible for any damages due to loss of output, loss of data, time delay, system performance, software performance, incorrect advice from a consultant, or any other damages arising from the use of the District's computer facilities. Faculty cannot be held liable for the student's use of the network. Students may access the network for individual use or in the context of another class. The Faculty is responsible for attempting to instruct the student on acceptable use of the network and proper network etiquette.

1.4 The user is responsible for following local, state, and international laws.

The St. John the Baptist Parish School System declares unethical and unacceptable behavior just cause for taking disciplinary action, revoking networking privileges, and/or initiating legal action for any activity through which an individual:

- uses the network for illegal, inappropriate, or obscene purposes, or support of such activities. Illegal activities shall be defined as violation of local, state, and /or federal laws. Inappropriate use shall be defined as a violation of the intended use of the Internet/network, and/or purpose and goal. Obscene activities shall be defined as a violation of generally accepted social standards for use of a publicly-owned and operated communication vehicle.
- uses the network for any illegal activity, including violation of copyrights or other contracts violating such matters as institutional or third party copyright, license agreements and other contracts.

Copyright is defined as the unauthorized copying of licensed software and is considered a theft and a violation of the copyright laws. Plagiarism is defined as the copying of a student's computer assignment.

1.5 All on-line internet activities should support learning and teaching and is to be used for educational purposes only.

All on-line Internet activities should support learning and teaching and is to be used for educational purposes only. No illegal activity is permitted and proper courtesy should be observed at all times. Due to the open nature of the Internet, no liability will be assumed by the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board, any parish employee, or any other participant in the Internet program. It is the responsibility of each user to make good decisions as to what information is retrieved and what is done with that information.

1.6 Users are responsible for respecting the policies of other networks which they access and to adhere to them.

Included in the Internet privilege is the use of other agencies networks. Each network or system has its own set of policies and procedures. It is the user's responsibility to abide by the policies and procedures of these other systems.

1.7 Users may not perform any deliberate action which damages or disrupts a network or computer system, change its performance or make it malfunction.

Abuse is defined as any willful action which results in the expenditure of time to correct system performance. In addition, vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

1.8 No computer system will be used to intimidate or harass others.

Because the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board Internet privilege is used as part of each individual school's activity, the schools code of conduct applies to Internet activities as well. Therefore, the Internet Acceptable Use Policy is an extension of the school's behavior code, i.e., the handbook. These rules apply to vandalism of computer equipment, unauthorized access to information, computer piracy, hacking, tampering with hardware and/or software, electronic use of

harassing, and abusive or obscene language.

1.9 Use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right.

Inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of privileges. Parish computing resources cannot be used to intimidate or create an atmosphere of harassment based upon gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, creed or sexual orientation.

1.10 Internet use may be revoked for abusive conduct.

The system administrator (teacher) may revoke Internet privilege at any time as the decision is final. The administration, faculty and staff may request the system administrator to deny, revoke, or suspend Internet use.

1.11 Security is a high priority. The St. John the Baptist Parish School Board makes no warranties of any kind.

If any user identifies a security problem, they must notify a system administrator immediately. Do not show or identify the problem for others. Do not use another individual's account.

The St. John the Baptist Parish School Board makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The St. John the Baptist Parish School Board, individual school systems, its faculty and staff, will not be responsible for any damages suffered including loss of data. Furthermore, the district will not be responsible for the quality of information obtained through this Internet connection.

1.12 Use of Student email System

Students in St. John the Baptist Parish Schools, grades 8th – 12th, have an opportunity to be given access to a district issued student email account. The email system the district will be using, Microsoft Office Outlook, is an internal school tool specifically designed for communication within the district's network. As we continue to work towards creating a 21st Century Learning Environment in our schools, student email is a valuable resource.

With this educational opportunity, also comes responsibility. It is important that you and your child read the administrative regulations and agreement form and discuss these requirements together. Inappropriate system use can result in the loss of the privilege to use this educational tool, as well as, result in possible disciplinary or legal actions. Please note that while the District will take responsible steps to prevent access to inappropriate material, and does not condone access to objectionable material, it is not possible for us to absolutely prevent such access.

Rules for Appropriate Use

- You will be assigned an individual account. Do not share the password with others.
- The account is to be used for identified educational purposes only.
- You will be responsible at all times for the proper use of your account, and the District may suspend or revoke your access if you violate the agreement.

Inappropriate Uses

- Using the system for any illegal purpose.
- Using another person's account.
- Sending personal information about yourself or others (such as street addresses and phone numbers).
- Downloading or using copyrighted information without the permission from the copyright holder.
- Posting messages or accessing materials that are abusive, obscene, and sexually-oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal.

Consequences for Inappropriate Use

- Suspension of access to the system
- Revocation of the student email account
- Other disciplinary, or legal action, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and applicable laws.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN EMPLOYEES AND STUDENTS
St. John the Baptist Parish School System

Any electronic communication between employees and students must be:

- Professional
- Acceptable in content
- Limited to information that is school and/or educational related
- Conducted on the St. John website or with St. John School Board issued devices
- Reported by employee to their supervisor at the first available opportunity, any student-initiated communication that may be construed as inappropriate
- Reported by an employee on the Employee Electronic Communication Reporting Form no later than the end of the next business day if any electronic communication made by any employee to any student or vice versa using a means other than the one provided by or made available by the school system

This policy is not intended to limit the use of technology as an effective teaching tool.

St. John the Baptist Parish School Board shall continue to use:

- District/School Websites
- Microsoft Office 365 Suite
- Digital Collaboration Tools
- EdConnect
- Employee email addresses

Electronic Communications includes:

- Cell phones
- Voice or text-based telecommunication devices
- Computers
- Internet
- Facsimile machines
- Video recorders
- Internet-based social networks (Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, etc.)

At the beginning of each year, each employee, student, and parent must be notified of this policy. Parents have a right to request that his/her child not be contacted through electronic communication unless the purpose of that communication is directly related to the child's educational services.

Any violation of this policy shall be:

- Documented on the Employee Electronic Communication Reporting Form
- Investigated by the employee's supervisor
- Provided to Director of Human Resources

Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action:

- Willful neglect of duty
- Violations of state or federal law(s) will be reported to appropriate authorities
- Up to termination

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN EMPLOYEES AND STUDENTS
St. John the Baptist Parish School System
EMPLOYEE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE RECEIVED, UNDERSTAND, AND WILL ABIDE BY THE NEW POLICY ON ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN EMPLOYEES AND STUDENTS.

Any electronic communication between employees and students must be:

- **Professional**
- **Acceptable in content**
- **Limited to information that is school and/or educational related**
- **Conducted on the St. John website or with St. John School Board issued devices**
- **Reported by employee to their supervisor at the first available opportunity, any student-initiated communication that may be construed as inappropriate**
- **Reported by an employee on the Employee Electronic Communication Reporting Form no later than the end of the next business day if any electronic communication made by any employee to any student or vice versa using a means other than the one provided by or made available by the school system**

Any violation of this policy shall be:

- **Documented on the Employee Electronic Communication Reporting Form**
- **Investigated by the employee's supervisor**
- **Provided to the Director of Human Resources**

Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action:

- **Willful neglect of duty**
- **Violations of state or federal law(s) will be reported to appropriate authorities**
- **Up to termination**

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

The St. John the Baptist Parish School Board supports the involvement of parents and community in the education of their children. Developing strong parental and community partnerships with teachers, principals, and staff is the Board's goal. The School Board is committed to providing quality education for every child in the district. The child benefits when the school and home partners promote high expectations for children. Since parents are first teachers, it is important that they remain as teachers through support roles for the duration of their child's education.

Through a district-wide Parent and Community Advisory Council consisting of community members and parents of students at all levels from preschool (Head Start) through high school, activities will be developed collaboratively along with school system personnel. Activities will address, but not be limited to, academics, homework, at home family discussions, school functions, television programming, and parents in the schools. The activities/programs will be researched and implemented based upon data of involved strategies.

To foster and build parental involvement, St. John Schools will hold annual meetings, in both the Fall and the Spring, to convey information and afford parents the opportunity to be involved in any and all aspects of that program. Parents and the community will be notified of these meetings through fliers, community events, newspaper notices, and public service announcements. At these meetings, parents will be informed of the National Educational Goals, state and local assessments, and the local pupil progression plan. Also, they will be able to make recommendations on applications and plans at both the central office and school level.

In an effort to match programs and activities with the needs of community, parents, and children, the St. John School System shall distribute surveys and questionnaires yearly. Surveys will ask parents to identify the issues preventing them from participating in district-sponsored activities/events. After identified, these barriers to participation will be addressed to foster better parent involvement. From the information gathered through the needs of the assessments, workshops, training sessions, and other programs and activities shall be developed to match the expressed needs.

At the end of every workshop activity, as well as the end of the year, an evaluation of the content and effectiveness will be conducted. This evaluation shall include an assessment of how much parental involvement increased at the district and school levels, and identify barriers to parental involvement that exist. The purpose for parental and community involvement is to achieve and promote student success.

Ref: Improving America's School Act of 1994, board minutes, 04-19-01.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

St. John The Baptist Parish Public Schools: *Garyville Math & Science Magnet, 5th Ward Elementary, Lake Ponchartrain Elementary, West St. John Elementary, East St. John Elementary Preparatory Academy, Emily C. Watkins, Laplace Elementary, West St. John High, John L. Ory Magnet, and East St. John High & Magnet program*; will again be offering meals (both breakfast and lunch) at **no charge** in St. John The Baptist Parish public schools, through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for School Year 2020-2021.

SPECIAL DIET REQUESTS

The St. John the Baptist Parish Child Nutrition Program operates the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. We aim to provide nutritious meals to *all* participating children, including children with disabilities. All children have an equal opportunity to participate in these programs.

Special diet procedures can be found on the district website <http://www.stjohn.k12.la.us/>, on the Child Nutrition Program web page http://www.stjohn.k12.la.us/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=535046&type=d&pREC_ID=1046510

Please note: Peanuts and Peanut Butter are NOT *purchased* for meals produced by the St. John Parish Child Nutrition Program. *HOWEVER*, some products served may contain nuts and some products maybe produced in plants that use nuts and may contain traces of nuts.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH DISTRICT WELLNESS POLICY

St. John The Baptist Parish District Wellness Policy (hereto referred to as the District) is committed to the optimal development of every student. The District believes that for students to have the opportunity to achieve personal, academic, developmental and social success, we need to create positive, safe and health-promoting learning environments at every level, in every setting, throughout the school year.

Research shows that two components, good nutrition and physical activity before, during and after the school day, are strongly correlated with positive student outcomes. For example, student participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) School Breakfast Program is associated with higher grades and standardized test scores, lower absenteeism and better performance on cognitive tasks.^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7}

This policy outlines the District's approach to ensuring environments and opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day while minimizing commercial distractions. Specifically, this policy establishes goals and procedures to ensure that:

- Students in the District have access to healthy foods throughout the school day – both through reimbursable school meals and other foods available throughout the school campus– in accordance with Federal and state nutrition standards;
- Students receive quality nutrition education that helps them develop lifelong healthy eating behaviors;
- Students have opportunities to be physically active before, during and after school;
- Schools engage in nutrition and physical activity promotion and other activities that promote student wellness;
- School staff are encouraged and supported to practice healthy nutrition and physical activity behaviors in and out of school;
- The community is engaged in supporting the work of the District in creating continuity between school and other settings for students and staff to practice lifelong healthy habits; and

- The District establishes and maintains an infrastructure for management, oversight, implementation, communication about and monitoring of the policy and its established goals and objectives.

This policy applies to all students, staff and schools in the District.

ESSA REQUIREMENTS

The St. John the Baptist Parish School Board is committed to providing quality instruction for all students and does so by employing the most qualified individuals to teach and support each student in the classroom.

According to the *ESSA*, you have the right to request and receive information about the professional qualifications of your child's teacher(s). Specifically, you may request:

- Whether the teacher has met State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grades and subjects taught;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or provisional status through which the State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher and the field of certification or degree; and
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

In addition, the law requires that all schools that receive Title I funds must provide notification to every parent in the school whose child is being taught for four or more weeks by a teacher who is not "Highly Qualified."

Under ESSA, LEAs have an obligation to communicate meaningfully with LEP parents. This may include but not limited to information about language assistance programs, special education and related services, Individualized Education Programs (IEP) meetings, grievance procedures, notices of nondiscrimination, student discipline policies and procedures, registration and enrollment, report cards, requests for parent permission for student participation in district or school activities, parent-teacher conferences, parent handbooks, gifted and talented programs, and magnet and charter schools. LEAs must provide LEP parents with effective language assistance, such as translated materials or appropriate and competent interpreter.

PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Students must know what conduct is appropriate and what is forbidden. Therefore, this code and any additional rules governing student discipline shall be distributed to students and their parent(s)/guardian(s). Student(s) and parent(s)/guardian(s) shall sign this code in the places provided herein and return the signed sheet to the Principal as testimony that they have read, understood, and are willing to abide by its content. Failure to return the signed form will result in a parental/guardian conference and/or referral to Families-In-Need of Services (FINS).

ANNUAL NOTICE REGARDING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENTS

St. John the Baptist Parish Public Schools with your consent will seek reimbursement for IEP and Medicaid covered health services provided at school. The disclosure of personally identifiable information to Louisiana Medicaid and access to Medicaid reimbursement for the school district shall not result in any decrease in available lifetime coverage, shall not result in any cost to you or your family, shall not increase any premiums or lead to the discontinuation of your child's benefits or insurance, and shall not create any risk of loss of your child's eligibility for home and community-based waivers based on total health-related expenditures. You may withdraw this consent in writing at any time. For further information, contact your child's school principal.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special Education is a support branch of general education that allows a school system to offer a full continuum of educational services to all children. St. John the Baptist School System serves exceptional children ages 0-22 years with a full range of educational services. Children are screened and evaluated for eligibility to receive special education services while receiving educational support in the regular classroom.

For additional questions or concerns relating to special education, parents/guardians are to contact Special Education Office.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
TEACHERS PLEASE FORWARD THIS FORM TO THE SBLC/S-MHLT CHAIRPERSON AT YOUR SCHOOL

PARENTS & STUDENTS MUST READ AND SIGN BOTH SIDES OF THIS PAGE.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS

St. John the Baptist Parish School System

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The undersigned student and parent(s)/guardian(s) hereby acknowledge that they have received, read, understand and are committed to following the Student Code of Conduct and Attendance Regulations of St. John the Baptist Parish School System, as adopted and amended by the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board.

Parent/Guardian

Parent/Guardian

Student

Date

I hereby affirm that the current contact numbers listed below are correct. I further acknowledge that it is my legal responsibility to notify the school **within 24 hours** of a change of my personal telephone number(s), emergency contact numbers, and a change of either my mailing and/or physical address. I understand that failure to notify the school of any changes would be considered negligence on my part and may lead to legal action being taken by the school system, including but not limited to a Family-In-Need of Services (FINS) referral with the 40th Judicial District Court.

Please print:

Name of Student: _____

Current Home Phone Number: _____

Current Emergency Contact Numbers: _____

Current Mailing Address: _____

Current Physical Address: _____



STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY CONTRACT

I understand and will abide by the terms and conditions for an account on the St. John the Baptist Parish School Net. I further understand that any violation of the regulations is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked and school disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.

STUDENT NAME (PRINT) _____

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN NETWORK RESPONSIBILITY CONTRACT

NOTE: If user is under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must also read and sign this agreement. Please note that a condensed version of this plan is placed within the Student Code of Discipline and Handbook, and by signing the handbook, you are agreeing to the terms of this contract.

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the terms and conditions for St. John the Baptist Parish School Net. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes, and the St. John the Baptist Parish School System has taken available precautions to eliminate controversial materials. However, I also recognize it is impossible for the school system to restrict access to all controversial materials, and I will not hold them responsible for materials acquired on the Internet. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not in a school setting.

I hereby give my permission to issue an account for my child and certify that the information contained on this form is correct.

Parent or Guardian (Print) _____

Signature _____

Date _____



ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and will abide by the Electronic Communications between Employees and Students Policy.

Student Name (Print)

Student Signature

Parent or Guardian (Print)

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date



St. John the Baptist Parish School System

Dear Parent,

Please remove this page and return to your child’s school so the school will have a record that you have received and reviewed this Handbook.

We hereby acknowledge that we have read the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. We agree that the student shall be accountable for the rules and regulations in this Handbook.

Parent’s Signature

Student’s Signature

Names of other children attending St. John the Baptist Parish Schools and grades of each:

If you have any questions, please contact your child’s school.

Internet Use Consent and Waiver

We acknowledge that we have read the Acceptable Use of Internet Policy and hereby We understand that violation of this policy may result in loss of access privileges and disciplinary action may be taken against the student.

Parent’s Signature and Student’s Signature

Television Taping and Broadcast

From time to time, student’s pictures/video will be taken at school or at school activities. These pictures may be broadcast or used in print/TV media for public viewing. **If any parent/guardian does not agree to the use of their child’s pictures in this manner, please express any objections, in writing, in a separate letter to the principal.**



District Media Release Form

OPTIONAL

Parents:

Return this form signed by

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

ONLY if you DO NOT WANT your child to appear in any of the marketing projects listed below.

St. John the Baptist Parish Public Schools utilizes the benefits of modern media and technology. Your child's image may appear in **videos, television programs, commercials, websites, audiotapes, pictures, brochures and/or newspapers.**

Also, periodically your son/daughter may be asked to participate in district, state, and/or national surveys for the specific purpose of collecting data and completing district, state, and national need assessments.

Be it known, that by NOT returning this document with a signature, you jointly and generally forever release, discharge, acquits and forgives the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board and its employees from any and all claims, actions, suits, agreements, liabilities and proceedings of every nature and description both at law and in equity arising from the use of the undersigned's image in any public medium.

This release shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the partners, their successors, assigns and personal representatives. Basically, you as parent/guardian of a student enrolled in the St. John the Baptist Parish Public School System, objects to our using your child in videos, television programs, commercials, web sites, audiotapes, pictures, brochures and/or newspapers for marketing purposes.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2021

Student's Name: _____
(Please Print)

Signature of Parent
or Legal Guardian _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____



School Administration

The central administrative staff can be reached at the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board Office by calling 985-536-1106 or 1-800-296-1106.

Superintendent

-Dr. Lynette Hookfin

Assistant Superintendent

-Vacant

Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction

- Vacant

Chief Financial Officer

- Vacant

Human Resources Director

-Vacant

Special Education

- Dr. Stacey Spies, Director of Special Education/Curriculum

Federal Programs Supervisor of Federal & State Programs/Instruction & Professional Development

-

Student Information Services/Testing/Data Management

- Dr. Juanita Hill, Director

Food Services

- Terry Charles, Supervisor of Child Nutrition

Head Start/Early Childhood/LA4 Program

- Patricia Triche, Director

Purchasing Agent

- Director

Child Welfare and Attendance//Safe & Drug Free School/ Alternative Schools/Hearing Officer

- Robert Schaff, Director

Technology

- David Andras, Coordinator of Information Technology Services/PEP (Interim)

- Bonnie Dinvaut, Coordinator of Instructional Technology

Transportation

-Steve Vales, Supervisor

Maintenance

- Richard Songy, Coordinator



**118 West 10th Street
P. O. Drawer AL
Reserve, LA 70084
985-536-1106
1-800-296-1106**

Board Members

**Charo Holden
District No. 1
985-703-0015**

**Albert "Ali" Burl, III,
District No. 2
985-535-2969**

**Gerald J. Keller, Ph.D.
District No. 3
985-536-6570**

**Patrick H. Sanders, President
District No. 4
985-536-4247**

**Sherry DeFrancesch, Vice President
District No. 5
504-628-2934**

**Clarence Triche
District No. 11
985-652-6193**

**Keith Jones
District No. 6
985-652-5170**

**Phillip Johnson
District No. 7
985-651-4290**

**Debbie Schum
District No. 8
985-212-9501**

**Shawn Wallace
District No. 9
985-651-5360**

**Nia Mitchell
District No. 10
985-233-1700**

**Adopted: September 18, 1985
Revised: August 12, 2021**

RS 17:416

§416. Discipline of students; suspension; expulsion

A.(1)(a) Every teacher and other school employee shall endeavor to hold every student to a strict accountability for any disorderly conduct in school or on the playgrounds of the school, on the street or road while going to or returning from school, on any school bus, during intermission or recess, or at any school-sponsored activity or function.

(b)(i) Each teacher may take disciplinary action to correct a student who disrupts normal classroom activities, who is disrespectful to a teacher, who willfully disobeys a teacher, who uses abusive or foul language directed at a teacher or another student, who engages in bullying, who violates school rules, or who interferes with an orderly education process.

(ii) In addition to those procedures set forth in R.S. 17:416.13 regarding bullying, disciplinary action may include but is not limited to:

(aa) Oral or written reprimands.

(bb) Referral for a counseling session which shall include but shall not be limited to conflict resolution, social responsibility, family responsibility, peer mediation, and stress management.

(cc) Written notification to parents of disruptive or unacceptable behavior, a copy of which shall be provided to the principal.

(dd) Other disciplinary measures approved by the principal and faculty of the school and in compliance with school board policy.

(c)(i) When a student's behavior prevents the orderly instruction of other students or poses an immediate threat to the safety or physical well being of any student or teacher, when a student exhibits disrespectful behavior toward the teacher such as using foul or abusive language or gestures directed at or threatening a student or a teacher, when a student violates the school's code of conduct, or when a student exhibits other disruptive, dangerous, or unruly behavior, including inappropriate physical contact, inappropriate verbal conduct, sexual or other harassment, bullying, throwing objects, inciting other students to misbehave, or destroying property, the teacher may have the student immediately removed from his classroom and placed in the custody of the principal or his designee. A student removed from the classroom pursuant to this Subparagraph shall be assigned school work missed and shall receive either partial or full credit for such work if it is completed satisfactorily and timely as determined by the principal or his designee, upon the recommendation of the student's teacher; however, the teacher shall not be required to interrupt class instruction time to prepare any such assignment.

(ii)(aa) Upon being sent to the principal's office pursuant to the provisions of this Subparagraph, the principal or his designee shall advise the pupil of the particular misconduct of which he is accused as well as the basis for such accusation, and the pupil shall be given an opportunity at that time to explain his version of the facts. The principal or his designee then shall conduct a counseling session with the pupil as may be appropriate to establish a course of action, consistent with school board policy to identify and correct the behavior for which the pupil is being disciplined.

(bb) The principal or his designee shall provide oral or written notification to the parent or legal guardian of any pupil removed from the classroom pursuant to the provisions of this Subparagraph. Such notification shall include a description of any disciplinary action taken.

(cc) The principal or his designee may provide oral or written feedback to teachers initiating the removal of pupils from the classroom. The principal or his designee may provide to such teachers guidance and support on practicing effective classroom management including but not limited to positive behavior supports.

(dd) The principal or designee shall follow all procedures set forth in R.S. 17:416.13 regarding bullying.

(iii) A pupil in kindergarten through grade six removed from a class pursuant to this Subparagraph shall not be permitted to return to the class for at least thirty minutes unless agreed to by the teacher initiating the disciplinary action. A pupil in grades seven through twelve removed from a class pursuant to this Subparagraph shall not be permitted to return to the class during the same class period unless agreed to by the

teacher initiating the disciplinary action. Additionally, the pupil shall not be readmitted to the class until the principal has implemented one of the following disciplinary measures:

(aa) In-school suspension.

(bb) Detention.

(cc) Suspension.

(dd) Initiation of expulsion hearings.

(ee) Assignment to an alternative school.

(ff) Requiring the completion of all assigned school and homework which would have been assigned and completed by the student during the period of suspension.

(gg) Any other disciplinary measure authorized by the principal with the concurrence of the teacher or the building level committee pursuant to law and board policy.

(iv) When a pupil is removed from a classroom pursuant to this Subparagraph, the teacher may require that the parent, tutor, or legal guardian of the pupil have a conference with the teacher in the presence of the principal or his designee before the pupil is readmitted.

(v) Upon the third removal from the same classroom pursuant to this Subparagraph, the teacher and the principal shall discuss the disruptive behavior patterns of the pupil and the potentially appropriate disciplinary measure before the principal implements a disciplinary measure. If appropriate, a referral of the matter may be made to an appropriate building level committee. In addition, a conference between the teacher or other appropriate school employee and the pupil's parent, tutor, or legal guardian shall be required prior to the pupil being readmitted.

(vi)(aa) If disruptive behavior persists, the teacher may request that the principal transfer the pupil into another setting.

(bb) Each city, parish, or other local public school board may adopt a policy that requires the parent or legal guardian of a pupil removed from the classroom pursuant to this Subparagraph to attend after school or Saturday intervention sessions with the pupil. The school board may refer a parent who fails to attend such session to the court of competent jurisdiction in accordance with Chapter 2 of Title VII of the Louisiana Children's Code. Each time a parent is referred to the court of competent jurisdiction, the court may impose a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars and not more than two hundred fifty dollars, forty hours of court-approved school or community service activities, or a combination of forty hours of court-approved school or community service and attendance at a court-approved family counseling program by both a parent or legal guardian and the pupil, and may suspend any recreational license issued by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

(vii)(aa) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, whenever a pupil is formally accused of violating the provisions of R.S. 14:34.3 or school disciplinary rules, or both, by committing a battery on any school employee or is formally accused of violating the provisions of R.S. 14:38.2 or school disciplinary rules, or both, by committing an assault on any school employee, the principal shall suspend the pupil from school immediately and the pupil shall be removed immediately from the school premises without the benefit of the suspension procedures provided by this Section; however, the necessary notifications and other procedures shall follow as soon as is practicable.

(bb) No pupil suspended in accordance with the provisions of this Item shall be considered for readmission to the school to which the school employee, allegedly assaulted or battered, or both, by the pupil, is assigned until all hearings and appeals associated with the alleged violation have been exhausted.

(cc) Except when the school system has no other school of suitable grade level for the pupil to attend, no pupil found guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction of violating the provisions of R.S. 14:34.3 or 38.2, or both, or found guilty at a school system suspension hearing of committing a battery on any school employee or committing an assault on any school employee, or both, shall be assigned to attend or shall attend the school to which the school employee battered or assaulted by the pupil is assigned.

(dd) Notwithstanding any provision of R.S. 17:158 to the contrary, a school system shall not be required to provide transportation to any pupil reassigned to attend a school pursuant to the provisions of this Item if providing such transportation for the pupil will result in additional transportation costs to the school system.

(2) As used in this Section:

(a)(i) "In-school suspension" means removing a pupil from his normal classroom setting but maintaining him under supervision within the school. Pupils participating in in-school suspension may receive credit for work performed during the in-school suspension. However, any pupil who fails to comply fully with the rules for in-school suspension shall be subject to immediate suspension.

(ii) Each city and parish school board shall adopt rules regarding the implementation of in-school suspension by no later than January 1, 1995.

(b)(i) "Detention" means activities, assignments, or work held before the normal school day, after the normal school day, or on weekends.

(ii) Failure or refusal by a pupil to participate in assigned detention shall subject the pupil to immediate suspension.

(iii) Assignments, activities, or work which may be assigned during detention include but are not limited to counseling, homework assignments, behavior modification programs, or other activities aimed at improving the self-esteem of the pupil.

(iv) Each city and parish school board shall adopt rules regarding the implementation of detention by no later than January 1, 1995.

(c) Unless otherwise defined as a permanent expulsion and except as otherwise provided by Subsections B and C of this Section, "expulsion" shall be defined as a removal from all regular school settings for a period of not less than one school semester. During an expulsion the superintendent shall place the pupil in an alternative school or in an alternative educational placement.

(d) "Bullying" is defined in R.S. 17:416.13.

(3)(a) A school principal may suspend from school or suspend from riding on any school bus any student who:

(i) Is guilty of willful disobedience.

(ii) Treats a teacher, principal, superintendent, member, or employee of the local school board with intentional disrespect.

(iii) Makes against any one of them an unfounded charge.

(iv) Uses unchaste or profane language.

(v) Is guilty of immoral or vicious practices, or of conduct or habits injurious to his associates.

(vi) Uses tobacco or who possesses alcoholic beverages or any controlled dangerous substance governed by the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law, in any form, in school buildings, on school grounds, or on school buses owned by, contracted to, or jointly owned by any city or parish school board.

(vii) Disturbs the school and habitually violates any rule.

(viii) Cuts, defaces, or injures any part of public school buildings, any property belonging to the buildings, or any school buses owned by, contracted to, or jointly owned by any city or parish school board.

(ix) Writes any profane or obscene language or draws obscene pictures in or on any school material or on any public school premises, or on any fence, pole, sidewalk, or building on the way to or from school, or on any school bus, including those owned by, contracted to, or jointly owned by any city or parish school board.

(x) Is found carrying firearms, knives, or other implements which can be used as weapons, the careless use of which might inflict harm or injury.

(xi) Throws missiles liable to injure other persons on the school grounds or while on any school bus, including those owned by, contracted to, or jointly owned by any city or parish school board.

(xii) Instigates or participates in fights while under school supervision.

(xiii) Violates traffic and safety regulations.

(xiv) Leaves the school premises without permission.

(xv) Leaves his classroom during class hours or detention without permission.

(xvi) Is habitually tardy or absent.

(xvii) Has engaged in bullying.

(xviii) Commits any other serious offense.

(b)(i) Prior to any suspension, the school principal, or his designee, shall advise the pupil in question of the particular misconduct of which he is accused as well as the basis for such accusation, and the pupil shall be given an opportunity at that time to explain his version of the facts to the school principal or his designee. In

each case of suspension or expulsion the school principal, or his designee, shall contact by telephone at the telephone number shown on the pupil's registration card or send a certified letter at the address shown on the pupil's registration card to the parent, tutor, or legal guardian of the pupil in question giving notice of the suspension or expulsion, the reasons therefor and establishing a date and time for a conference with the principal or his designee as a requirement for readmitting the pupil provided that in the case of expulsion, the contact with the parent or guardian shall include a certified letter. If the parent, tutor, or legal guardian fails to attend the required conference within five school days of mailing the certified letter or other contact with the parent, the truancy laws shall become effective. On not more than one occasion each school year when the parent, tutor, or legal guardian refuses to respond, the principal may determine whether readmitting the pupil is in the best interest of the student. On any subsequent occasions in the same year, the pupil shall not be readmitted unless the parent, tutor, legal guardian, court, or other appointed representative responds. A pupil whose presence in or about a school poses a continued danger to any person or property or an ongoing threat of disruption to the academic process shall be immediately removed from the school premises without the benefit of the procedure described hereinabove; however, the necessary procedure shall follow as soon as is practicable.

(ii)(aa) In any case where a teacher, principal, or other school employee is authorized in this Section to require the parent, tutor, or legal guardian of a pupil who is under the age of eighteen and not judicially emancipated or emancipated by marriage to attend a conference or meeting regarding the pupil's behavior and, after notice, the parent, tutor, or legal guardian willfully refuses to attend, the principal or his designee, shall file a complaint with a court exercising juvenile jurisdiction, pursuant to Children's Code Article 730(8) and 731. The principal may file a complaint pursuant to Children's Code Article 730(1) or any other applicable ground when, in his judgment, doing so is in the best interests of the pupil.

(bb) The principal, assistant principal, or child attendance and welfare supervisor or his assistant of any school, public or nonpublic, shall be a representative of an agency having the responsibility or ability to supply services to a family as that phrase is used in Children's Code Article 731(A).

(c) Any parent, tutor or legal guardian of a pupil suspended shall have the right to appeal to the city or parish superintendent of schools or his designee, who shall conduct a hearing on the merits. The decision of the superintendent of schools on the merits of the case, as well as the term of suspension, shall be final, reserving to the superintendent of schools the right to remit any portion of the time of suspension.

(d) A pupil suspended for damages to any property belonging to the school system or to property contracted to the school system shall not be readmitted until payment in full has been made for such damage or until directed by the superintendent of schools. If the property damaged is a school bus owned by, contracted to, or jointly owned by any parish or city school board, a pupil suspended for such damage shall not be permitted to enter or ride any school bus until payment in full has been made for such damage or until directed by the superintendent of schools.

(e) A pupil who is suspended for ten days or fewer shall be assigned school work missed while he is suspended and shall receive either partial or full credit for such work if it is completed satisfactorily and timely as determined by the principal or his designee, upon the recommendation of the pupil's teacher. A pupil who is suspended for more than ten days, or is expelled and receives educational services at an alternative school site, shall be assigned work by a certified teacher and shall receive credit for school work if it is completed satisfactorily and timely as determined by the teacher. Such work shall be aligned with the curriculum used at the school from which the pupil was suspended or expelled.

(f) When a pupil is suspended for a second time within one school year, the principal may require that a counseling session be held with the parent and pupil by the school counselor if a counselor is assigned or available to that school. In the event there is no school counselor available, the principal may require a conference between the parent, pupil, and all the pupil's teachers and the principal or other administrator.

(4) The governing authority of each public elementary and secondary school shall adopt such rules and regulations as it deems necessary to implement the provisions of this Subsection and of R.S. 17:416.13. Such rules and regulations shall include but not be limited to the following provisions:

(a) A procedure permitting any teacher or other school employee to report any violation of the provisions of this Subsection to the appropriate school principal. The procedure shall provide for the uniform use throughout the school system of two forms to report incidents of alleged discipline violations. One form shall be used to report only school transportation-related incidents and one form shall be used to report all other incidents.

(i) The form for reporting a transportation-related incident shall provide for the following information:

(aa) Bus number and name of operator.

(bb) Pupil name and grade level.

(cc) School name and name of the principal.

(dd) Date of the incident and whether it occurred on the way to or on the way from the school or school function.

(ee) A menu of check-off items to indicate the nature of the incident, including fighting or bullying at the bus stop, fighting or bullying on the bus, smoking on the bus, leaving the bus without permission, boarding the bus at the incorrect stop, showing disrespect toward the operator, committing an immoral or vicious act, throwing objects within the bus or out of bus windows or doors, refusing to occupy an assigned seat, using profane language, showing willful disobedience, defacing the bus, carrying objects or implements which can be used as weapons, or committing some other undesignated violation.

(ff) Space to provide specific remarks and comments concerning the incident and alleged discipline violation.

(gg) Space to indicate a pupil's prior history of discipline violations related to school transportation incidents.

(hh) A statement to be signed and dated by the bus operator or other school employee, if applicable, that the named pupil is causing a discipline problem, that disciplinary action against the pupil is recommended, and that the signatory desires to be informed of action taken on the incident report or the reasons for not taking action.

(ii) A space to report action taken on the incident report, including a menu of check off items to indicate that a parent or other person responsible for the pupil's school attendance has been contacted, that a conference has been conducted with the pupil's parent or other responsible person, that the pupil has been reprimanded, that the pupil has been suspended from receiving school transportation services and for what period of time, that the pupil has been suspended from school and for what period of time, or that some other action has been taken and an explanation of such action. The report on action taken shall be dated and signed by the school principal.

(jj) Space for comments and remarks by the pupil or a pupil's parent or other responsible person concerning the incident and action taken.

(kk) A menu of check off items to indicate that copies of the completed document have been supplied to the pupil's parent or other responsible person, the school's pupil file, the school employee filing the incident report, the supervisor of transportation services for the school system, and the principal.

(ll) Such other information as may be determined by the city or parish school board.

(i) The form for reporting a nontransportation-related incident shall provide for the following information:

(aa) School name.

(bb) Name and telephone number of the pupil.

(cc) Indication of whether the pupil is in regular or special education and the pupil's homeroom number.

(dd) Time and location of the incident.

(ee) Space to provide specific remarks and comments concerning the incident and alleged discipline violation.

(ff) A menu of check off items indicating action taken by the teacher, including having a conference with the pupil, assigning remedial work, referring the pupil to a counselor, referring the pupil to a social worker, placing the pupil in detention, or taking other action with an explanation of such other action.

(gg) A menu of check off items indicating the type and date of contact with the pupil's parent or other person responsible for the pupil's school attendance, including by phone, by letter, by school conference, or by behavior reports.

(hh) A space for recommendations from the teacher or other school employee initiating the incident report.

(ii) A statement to be signed and dated by the teacher or other school employee initiating the incident report that the named pupil is causing a discipline problem, that disciplinary action against the pupil is

recommended, and that the signatory desires to be informed of action taken on the incident report or the reasons for not taking action.

(jj) A space to report action taken on the incident report, including a menu of check off items to indicate contact with the pupil's parent or other responsible person, conduct of a conference with the pupil and the pupil's parent or other responsible person and a summary of conference proceedings, referral to a counselor, issuance of a reprimand, placement on detention, placement on probation, suspension, or that some other action has been taken and an explanation of such action. The report on action taken shall be dated and signed by the school principal.

(kk) Space for comments and remarks by the pupil or a pupil's parent or other responsible person concerning the incident and action taken.

(ll) A menu of check off items to indicate that copies of the completed document have been supplied to the pupil's parent or other responsible person, the school's pupil file, the teacher or other school employee filing the incident report, and the principal.

(mm) Such other information as may be determined by the city or parish school board.

(iii) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall develop the forms necessary to implement the provisions of this Subparagraph and such forms shall be used by each city and parish school board.

(b) Procedures implementing the provisions of R.S. 17:416.13 regarding bullying.

(c) A procedure requiring that, within a reasonable period of time, a principal shall review any such report and then act upon it as provided by this Section, or R.S. 17:416.13, or explain the reasons for failing to act to the local superintendent of schools or his designee and to the teacher, other school employee, student, parent, or legal guardian reporting the violation.

(5) The provisions of this Subsection shall not be construed to conflict with any federal or state rules or regulations or other guidelines affecting special education students as defined in R.S. 17:1943 et seq.

B.(1)(a) Any student after being suspended for committing any of the offenses enumerated in this Section may be expelled, upon recommendation by the principal of the public school in which said student is enrolled, which recommended expulsion shall be subject to the provisions of Subsection C.

(b)(i) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection A of this Section, the principal shall immediately suspend a student who is found carrying or possessing a firearm or another dangerous instrumentality other than a knife, or who possesses, distributes, sells, gives, or loans any controlled dangerous substance governed by the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law, in any form. He shall immediately recommend the student's expulsion in accordance with Subsection C of this Section.

(ii)(aa) Except as provided in Item (c)(i) of this Paragraph, no student shall be permitted to carry or possess a knife of any blade length.

(bb) A student who is found carrying or possessing a knife with a blade less than two inches in length may be suspended by the school principal as provided in Paragraph (A)(3) of this Section; however, in appropriate cases such student, at a minimum, shall be placed in in-school suspension.

(cc) The principal shall immediately suspend a student who is found carrying or possessing a knife the blade of which equals or exceeds two inches in length. He also shall immediately recommend the student's expulsion in accordance with Subsection C of this Section, except that, in the case of a student less than eleven years of age in pre-kindergarten through grade five, the principal may, but shall not be required to, recommend the student's expulsion in accordance with Subsection C of this Section.

(c) The provisions of this Section shall not apply to the following:

(i) A student carrying or possessing a firearm or knife for purposes of involvement in a school class or course or school approved cocurricular or extracurricular activity or any other activity approved by the appropriate school officials.

(ii) A student possessing any controlled dangerous substance governed by the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law that has been obtained directly or pursuant to a valid prescription or order from a licensed physician. However, such student shall carry evidence of that prescription or physician's order on his person at all times when in possession of any controlled dangerous substance which shall be subject to verification.

(2) Any pupil who has been suspended on three occasions for committing any of the offenses enumerated in this Subsection or Subsection C of this Section during the same school year shall, upon

committing the fourth such offense, be expelled from all the public schools of the city, parish, or other local public school system wherein he resided until the beginning of the next regular school year, and the pupil's reinstatement shall be subject to the review and approval of the local school board.

(3)(a)(i) No student who has been expelled pursuant to the provisions of this Section shall be admitted to any public school in any other parish or city school system in the state except upon the review and approval of the school board of the school system to which he seeks admittance.

(ii) No student who has been expelled from any public or nonpublic school outside the state of Louisiana or any nonpublic school within Louisiana for committing any of the offenses enumerated in this Section shall be admitted to any public school in the state except upon the review and approval of the governing body of the admitting school.

(b) No student who has been expelled pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph (C)(2) of this Section shall be readmitted to a public school in the city, parish, or other local public school system from which he was expelled prior to the completion of the specified period of expulsion, unless he has complied with the provisions of Subparagraph (C)(2)(d) of this Section.

(c) To facilitate the review and approval mandated by this Paragraph, any student who has been expelled from any public or nonpublic school within or outside the state of Louisiana shall provide to any public school or school system in the state to which the student is seeking admission information on the dates of any expulsions and the reason or reasons for which the student was expelled. Additionally, the transfer of a student's records by any public school or school system in the state to any other public or nonpublic school or school system shall include information on the dates of any expulsions and the reason or reasons for which the student was expelled.

(d)(i) In addition to any other limitations established by this Subsection on the admission of previously expelled pupils to public elementary and secondary schools in Louisiana, no pupil who has been expelled from any public or nonpublic school within or outside the state of Louisiana for possessing on school property or on a school bus a firearm, knife, or other dangerous weapon or instrumentality customarily used or intended for probable use as a dangerous weapon, or for possessing, possessing with intent to distribute, or distributing, selling, giving, or loaning while on school property or on a school bus any controlled dangerous substance governed by the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law shall be admitted to any public elementary or secondary school in the state, or readmitted to any such school on a probationary basis prior to the completion of the minimum period of expulsion as provided in Subsection C of this Section, until the pupil produces written documentation that he and his parent or legal guardian have enrolled and participated in an appropriate rehabilitation or counseling program related to the reason or reasons for the pupil's expulsion.

(ii) The rehabilitation or counseling required by the provisions of this Subparagraph shall be provided by existing or new programs approved by the juvenile or family court having jurisdiction, if applicable, or by the school system and shall be at no additional cost to the school system. Such rehabilitation or counseling programs may include the following components relative to successful programs, approaches, and activities for parental involvement which better equip parents to provide support for the education of their children:

(aa) Enhancing parenting skills and expanding curriculum offerings relative to character development, the development of a healthy self-esteem and sense of personal and social responsibility, violence prevention, and conflict resolution.

(bb) Raising the educational level of the parents of public school students through instruction in basic skills.

(cc) Improving developmental skills of students to prepare them for academic success.

(dd) Providing a role model for the child through parental interest in education.

(ee) Enabling parents to become familiar with and comfortable in the school setting.

(ff) Enhancing the relationship of the parent and child through planned, structured parent-school interaction.

(gg) Demonstrating to parents their power to affect their child's ability to learn.

(iii) The requirements of this Subparagraph for a student's enrollment and participation in a rehabilitation or counseling program shall be waived by the school system upon a documented showing by the student that no appropriate program is available in the area or that the student cannot enroll or participate due to financial hardship.

(iv) The provisions of this Subparagraph shall be applicable to exceptional children provided special education services pursuant to Part I of Chapter 8 of this Title only to the extent the provisions are not in conflict with federal rules, regulations, and guidelines applicable to the education of exceptional students.

C.(1) Upon the recommendation by a principal for the expulsion of any student as authorized by Subsection B hereof, a hearing shall be conducted by the superintendent or by any other person designated so to do by the superintendent to determine the facts of the case and make a finding of whether or not the student is guilty of conduct warranting a recommendation of expulsion. Upon the conclusion of the hearing and upon a finding that the student is guilty of conduct warranting expulsion, the superintendent, or his designee, shall determine whether such student shall be expelled from the school system or if other corrective or disciplinary action shall be taken. At said hearing the principal or teacher concerned may be represented by any person appointed by the superintendent. The concerned teacher shall be permitted to attend such hearing and shall be permitted to present information the teacher believes relevant. Until such hearing takes place the student shall remain suspended from the school. At such hearing the student may be represented by any person of his choice.

(2)(a)(i) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection B of this Section, any student sixteen years of age or older found guilty of being in possession of a firearm on school property, on a school bus, or in actual possession at a school-sponsored event, pursuant to a hearing as provided for by Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, shall be expelled from school for a minimum period of four complete school semesters and shall be referred to the district attorney for appropriate action. However, the superintendent of a city, parish, or other local public school system may modify the length of such minimum expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided such modification is in writing.

(ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection B of this Section, any student sixteen years of age or older found guilty of possession of, or knowledge of and intentional distribution of, or possession with intent to distribute any illegal narcotic, drug, or other controlled substance on school property, on a school bus, or at a school sponsored event pursuant to a hearing as provided for by Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall be expelled from school for a minimum period of four complete school semesters.

(b)(i) Any student who is under sixteen years of age and in grades six through twelve and who is found guilty of being in possession of a firearm on school property, on a school bus, or in actual possession at a school sponsored event, pursuant to a hearing as provided for by Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, shall be expelled from school for a minimum period of four complete school semesters, and shall be referred to the district attorney for appropriate action. However, the superintendent of a city, parish, or other local public school system may modify the length of such minimum expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided such modification is in writing.

(ii) Any student who is under sixteen years of age and in grades six through twelve and who is found guilty of possession of, or knowledge of and intentional distribution of, or possession with intent to distribute any illegal narcotic, drug, or other controlled substance on school property, on a school bus, or at a school sponsored event pursuant to a hearing as provided for by Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall be expelled from school for a minimum period of two complete school semesters.

(c)(i) Any case involving a student in kindergarten through grade five found guilty of being in possession of a firearm on school property, on a school bus, or in actual possession at a school sponsored event, pursuant to a hearing as provided for by Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, shall be expelled from school for a minimum period of two complete school semesters and shall be referred to the district attorney for appropriate action. However, the superintendent of a city, parish, or other local public school system may modify the length of such minimum expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided such modification is in writing.

(ii) Any case involving a student in kindergarten through grade five found guilty of possession of, or knowledge of and intentional distribution of, or possession with intent to distribute any illegal narcotic, drug, or other controlled substance on school property, on a school bus, or at a school sponsored event pursuant to a hearing as provided for by Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall be referred to the city, parish, or other local public school board where the student attends school through a recommendation for action from the superintendent.

(d)(i) Any student expelled from school may be readmitted on a probationary basis to school at any time during the specified period of expulsion on such terms and conditions as may be stipulated by the city, parish, or other local public school board and agreed to in writing by the student and by the student's parent or

other person responsible for the student's school attendance. Such terms and conditions may include but need not be limited to placing the student in a suitable alternative education program as determined by the school board. However, any such written agreement shall include a provision that upon the school principal or superintendent of schools making a determination that the student has violated any term or condition agreed to, the student shall be immediately removed from the school premises without the benefit of any hearing or other procedure applicable to student suspensions and expulsions. As soon thereafter as possible, the principal or his designee shall provide verbal notice to the superintendent of schools of any such determination and also shall attempt to provide such verbal notice to the student's parent or other person responsible for the student's school attendance. The principal or his designee also shall provide written notice of the determination and the reasons therefor to the superintendent and to the student's parent or other responsible person.

(ii) Any student expelled pursuant to the provisions of this Subsection or Subsection B of this Section seeking readmission on a probationary basis prior to the end of the specified period of expulsion must also comply with the provisions of Subparagraph (B)(3)(d) of this Section.

(iii) The provisions of this Subparagraph shall not be applicable to any student found guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction, or adjudicated a delinquent by a court of competent jurisdiction, of a criminal violation of any provision of Title 14 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 which is related to the reason for the suspension, unless the judge finds otherwise.

(3)(a) Any student arrested for possession of, or intentional distribution of, or possession with intent to distribute any illegal narcotic, drug, or other controlled substance on school property shall be referred by the school principal or his designee, within five days after such arrest, for testing or screening by a qualified medical professional for evidence of abuse of alcohol, illegal narcotics, drugs, or other controlled dangerous substances.

(b) If evidence of abuse is found, the student shall be referred to an alcohol and drug abuse treatment professional chosen by the student's parent or tutor. If the student is found by the professional to be in need of treatment, and if the student agrees to cooperate in the recommended treatment, as certified in writing by the medical professional, such documentation may be used to initiate reopening the student's case. The school board shall take into consideration the student's agreement to receive treatment as a positive factor in the final decision relative to any final disciplinary action.

(4) The parent or tutor of the pupil who has been recommended for expulsion pursuant to this Section may, within five days after the decision is rendered, request the city or parish school board to review the findings of the superintendent or his designee at a time set by the school board; otherwise the decision of the superintendent shall be final. If requested, as herein provided, and after reviewing the findings of the superintendent or his designee, the school board may affirm, modify, or reverse the action previously taken. The parent or tutor of the pupil shall have such right of review even if the recommendation for expulsion is reduced to a suspension.

(5)(a) The parent or tutor of the pupil who has been recommended for expulsion pursuant to this Section may, within ten days, appeal to the district court for the parish in which the student's school is located, an adverse ruling of the school board in upholding the action of the superintendent or his designee. The court may reverse or revise the ruling of the school board upon a finding that the ruling of the board was based on an absence of any relevant evidence in support thereof. The parent or tutor of the pupil shall have such right to appeal to the district court even if the recommendation for expulsion is reduced to a suspension.

(b) If a judgment is rendered in favor of a student who sought judicial review of a decision of a school board pursuant to this Paragraph, the judgment may include an award for reasonable attorney fees if the court finds any school official acted in a grossly negligent manner; with deliberate disregard for the consequences of his actions to the student; with willful or malicious indifference; with intent to deprive the student, his parent, guardian, or tutor of due process; or initiated a charge that is knowingly false. The court may award any damages appropriate under the circumstances and render any other appropriate relief including but not limited to requiring the school board to issue an official apology letter, which shall be provided to the student, his parent, guardian, or tutor, and retained in the student's educational records.

D.(1) The conviction of any student of a felony or the incarceration of any student in a juvenile institution for an act which had it been committed by an adult would have constituted a felony may be cause for expulsion of the student for a period of time as determined by the board. The expulsion shall require the vote of two-thirds of the elected members of the school board.

(2) The conviction of any student of a felony or the incarceration of any student in a juvenile institution for an act, whether said act is committed in this state or outside this state, which had it been committed by an adult would have constituted a felony in this state may be sufficient cause for any public school system superintendent to refuse admission of said student to any school except upon review and approval of a majority of the elected members of the school board when request for admission is made to the board.

E. The provisions of this Section shall be applicable to exceptional children provided special education services pursuant to Part I of Chapter 8 of this Title to the maximum extent allowed by federal law and rules applicable to the education of exceptional children in the state. No policy adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education applicable to exceptional children as provided in this Subsection shall be more restrictive than required by federal law and rules.

F. Notwithstanding any provision of this Section to the contrary, school officials shall have total discretion and shall exercise such discretion in imposing on a pupil any disciplinary actions authorized by this Section for possession by a pupil of a firearm or knife on school property when such firearm or knife is stored in a motor vehicle and there is no evidence of the pupil's intent to use the firearm or knife in a criminal manner.

G. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall formulate, develop, adopt, and fully implement by not later than the beginning of the 1998-1999 school year methods and procedures for use as part of the board's school-approval process to determine whether or not state laws and board policies regarding student discipline are being fully complied with by a school's administrators, teachers, and other employees. Any school determined not to be in compliance with such laws and procedures shall not be approved. The provisions of this Subsection shall not apply to private schools.

H.(1) Effective for the 1997-1998 school year and thereafter, no pupil shall be disciplined in any manner by the governing authority of a public elementary or secondary school or by any public elementary or secondary school administrator, teacher, or other school employee for the use of force upon another person when it can be reasonably concluded that the use of such force more probably than not was committed solely for the purpose of preventing a forcible offense against the pupil or a forcible offense provided that the force used must be reasonable and apparently necessary to prevent such offense.

(2) A pupil who is the aggressor or who brings on a difficulty cannot claim the right provided by this Subsection to defend himself.

I.(1) Effective beginning with the 1999-2000 school year and thereafter, any public school administrator and any administrator's designee who is required to make a recommendation, decide an issue, or take action in a matter involving the discipline of a pupil shall both recuse themselves from doing so whenever a member of the immediate family of the school administrator or of the administrator's designee is involved in any manner in the recommendation to be made, the issue to be decided, or the action to be taken. In case of such recusal, the recommendation shall be made by, the issued decided by, or the action taken by the school system superintendent or an impartial designee of the superintendent.

(2) For the purposes of this Subsection, immediate family means the individual's children, brothers, sisters, parents, and spouse and the children, brothers, sisters, and parents of the spouse.

J.(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section or any other provision of law, a student enrolled in grades prekindergarten through five shall not be suspended or expelled from school or suspended from riding on any school bus for a uniform violation that is not tied to willful disregard of school policies.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, this Subsection shall apply to charter schools. Furthermore, no charter school shall suggest to a parent that it has the authority to suspend or expel a student for a uniform violation that is not tied to willful disregard of school policies.

K. For the purposes of this Section, "virtual instruction" means instruction provided to a student through an electronic delivery medium including but not limited to electronic learning platforms that connect to a student in a remote location to classroom instruction. A city or parish school board discipline policy shall clearly define the rules of conduct and expectations of students engaged in virtual instruction, shall provide for notice of such rules and expectations to the parents and guardians of students, shall include clearly defined consequences of conduct, shall be narrowly tailored to address compelling government interests, and shall take into consideration the students' and their families' rights to privacy and other constitutional rights while at home or in a location that is not school property.

Acts 1962, No. 206, §1; Acts 1970, No. 194, §1; Acts 1970, No. 306, §1; Acts 1974, No. 683, §1; Acts 1975, No. 216, §1; Acts 1978, No. 60, §1; Acts 1982, No. 847, §1; Acts 1983, No. 140, §1; Acts 1983, No. 587, §1; Acts 1985, No. 391, §1, eff. July 10, 1985; Acts 1986, No. 1052, §1; Acts 1989, No. 575, §1; Acts 1990, No. 620, §1; Acts 1990, No. 626, §1; Acts 1990, No. 909, §1; Acts 1991, No. 437, §1, eff. July 12, 1991; Acts 1992, No. 216, §1, eff. June 10, 1992; Acts 1992, No. 229, §1, eff. June 10, 1992; Acts 1992, §749, §1, eff. July 7, 1992; Acts 1993, No. 67, §1, eff. May 26, 1993; Acts 1993, No. 305, §1, eff. June 2, 1993; Acts 1993, No. 802, §1, eff. June 22, 1993; Acts 1994, 3rd Ex. Sess., No. 45, §2; Acts 1994, 3rd Ex. Sess., No. 108, §1, eff. July 7, 1994; Acts 1994, 3rd Ex. Sess., No. 127, §1, eff. July 7, 1994; Acts 1995, No. 80, §1, eff. June 12, 1995; Acts 1995, No. 283, §1, eff. June 14, 1995; Acts 1995, No. 1042, §1, eff. June 29, 1995; Acts 1995, No. 1292, §1, eff. June 29, 1995; Acts 1996, 1st Ex. Sess., No. 74, §1, eff. May 10, 1996; Acts 1997, No. 424, §1, eff. July 1, 1997; Acts 1997, No. 443, §1, eff. July 1, 1997; Acts 1997, No. 459, §1, eff. June 22, 1997; Acts 1997, No. 556, §1, eff. July 1, 1997; Acts 1997, No. 1387, §1, eff. July 1, 1997; Acts 1999, No. 766, §1, eff. July 2, 1999; Acts 1999, No. 1061, §1, eff. July 9, 1999; Acts 2003, No. 97, §1, eff. May 28, 2003; Acts 2003, No. 471, §1; Acts 2005, No. 369, §1; Acts 2006, No. 733, §2, eff. July 1, 2006; Acts 2007, No. 385, §1; Acts 2008, No. 145, §1; Acts 2008, No. 220, §7, eff. June 14, 2008; Acts 2009, No. 240, §1; Acts 2010, No. 861, §8; Acts 2012, No. 831, §1, eff. June 14, 2012; Acts 2012, No. 861, §1, eff. June 14, 2012; Acts 2015, No. 248, §1, eff. June 29, 2015; Acts 2017, No. 335, §1; Acts 2020, 2nd Ex. Sess., No. 48, §1, eff. Nov. 5, 2020.

NOTE: See Acts 2020, 2nd Ex. Sess., No. 48, §2, relative to the hearing process for students recommended for expulsion.

NOTE: See Acts 2020, 2nd Ex. Sess., No. 48, §3, relative to prospective and retroactive application of the Act.



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June 25, 2021

RE: HB 411 (Revisions to La. R.S. 17:416)

Dear Superintendent,

As we noted in an email to you recently, the revisions of La. R.S. 17:416 via HB 411 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature will become law on the Governor's imminent signature. See the attached copy of the bill and the prior law. HB 411 makes multiple and significant changes to La. R.S. 17:416, the main Louisiana discipline statute. The statutory changes will be in effect on August 1, 2021. There are no grace periods for Boards to change policies and procedures nor any directive for BESE to take regulatory action prior to LEAs needing to implement the law as written. In addition, for LEAs which are authorizers of charter schools, HB 411 makes ALL parts of La. R.S. 17:416 (as well as La. R.S. 17:416.2) applicable to charter schools; under prior law, charter schools were exempt from all but one section of La. R.S. 17:416.

We suggest that you provide inservice to your staff at the district and school levels regarding these important changes. The most significant changes to the discipline law brought about by HB 411 include:

- increases significance on student handbooks ("code of conduct"), including notice to parents and students
- requires progressive discipline to be incorporated into (master) discipline plan
- focuses attention on compliance with IEPs, 504 Plans, and BIPs
- requires districts to work with parents when setting up meetings regarding discipline

The statutory changes which may directly affect your discipline policies, procedures, and student/parent handbooks are provided below:

- HB 411 adds the following language in the first subparagraph of La. R.S. 17:416:

"All public schools shall endeavor to address student behavior with a focus on evidence-based interventions and supports. Schools shall endeavor to prioritize classroom- and school-based interventions in lieu of out-of-school disciplinary removals to address student misconduct in order to minimize the loss of academic instructional time."

Comments: The Legislature sets as a priority the use of interventions and other supports which have a foundation in research (i.e., "evidence-based") to address student behavioral issues. This subparagraph further urges such interventions/supports – instead of

removal – as a first step to address student misconduct. The language challenges public schools to aspire to these approaches but stops short of making them mandatory. In fact, the subparagraph also adds the following, “Nothing in this Subparagraph shall prohibit a public school governing authority or its employees from disciplining a student in accordance with the provisions of this Section.”

- HB further alters the language in that same subparagraph as follows (strikeout is ~~deleted text~~; underlined is new text):

“Every teacher and other school employee shall endeavor to hold every student ~~to a strict accountability for any disorderly conduct in~~ accountable for his behavior in school”

- HB 411 removes from subparagraphs (A)(1)(b) and (A)(1)(c) examples of behaviors which may lead to disciplinary action.

Comments: The Legislature simply crafted the subparagraphs to default to the “school’s code of conduct” as the basis for disciplinary action.

- HB 411 *removes* the following part of subparagraph (A)(1)(c)(1) pertaining to assigned work and credit (strikethrough reflects deletion from prior statute):

~~“A student removed from the classroom pursuant to this Subparagraph shall be assigned school work missed and shall receive either partial or full credit for such work if it is completed satisfactorily and timely as determined by the principal or his designee, upon the recommendation of the student’s teacher; however, the teacher shall not be required to interrupt class instruction time to prepare any such assignment.”~~

Comments: Despite the deletion, the statute still provides the principal the authority to choose (in isolation or in conjunction with other “disciplinary measures”) to “[r]equir[e] the completion of all assigned school and homework that would have been assigned and completed by the student during the period of out-of-school suspension.” Awarding of credit for such work is no longer mandatory but may be appropriate. However, note below that changes to La. R.S. 17:416(C) afford students under suspension who are recommended for expulsion the opportunity to complete work and earn credit.

- HB 411 makes multiple changes to subparagraph (A)(1)(c)(iii) regarding the teacher’s removal of a student from the classroom.

- First, the minimum 30-minute out-of-class requirement applies to grades K to 5, instead of grades K to 6 as in the prior statute.
- Next, the provision regarding no-return during the same class period now applies to grades 6 to 12 instead of grades 7 to 12 as in the prior statute..
- The statute expands (and reformats) the list of discretionary actions that a principal may take (with a requirement that “at least one” option be taken). Those bolded below are new items, underlined language is new text added to existing items, and strikeouts are deleted text from the prior statute:

Additionally, the ~~pupil~~ student shall not be readmitted to the class until the principal has implemented at least one of the following disciplinary measures:

- (aa) Conferencing with the principal or his designee.**
- (bb) Referral to counseling.**
- (cc) Peer mediation.**
- (dd) Referral to the school building level committee.**
- (ee) Restorative justice practices.**
- (ff) Loss of privileges.**
- (gg) Detention.
- (hh) In-school suspension.
- (ii) Out-of-school suspension.
- (jj) Initiation of expulsion hearings.
- (kk) Assignment Referral for assignment to an alternative ~~school~~ setting.
- (ll) Requiring the completion of all assigned school and homework ~~which that~~ would have been assigned and completed by the student during the period of out-of-school suspension.
- (mm) Any other disciplinary measure authorized by the principal with the concurrence of the teacher or the school building level committee pursuant to law and board policy.

Comments: The principal retains discretion regarding the “disciplinary measures”. However, the list adds non-exclusionary options (esp., items (aa) through (ee)). This is in line with the new language in (A)(1)(a) (see above).

- HB 411 changes subparagraph (A)(1)(c)(iv) regarding the option for requiring the parent to have a conference with the teacher. In addition to the teacher, the “principal or designee” may require such conference. The conference may now be by phone or virtually, as additional options to what was only an in-person meeting in the prior text.

Comments: The principal/designee conference option is in line with the new language in (A)(1)(c)(iii)(aa) (see above).

- HB 411 changes subparagraph (A)(1)(c)(v) regarding the third removal from the same classroom. The most significant change is the removal of the automatic requirement for a conference between the parent and school staff (e.g., teacher) as a precondition to the student's return to the same classroom. The conference is now discretionary as a disciplinary measure. However, if the school staff opts for the conference, then it can be a precondition to the student's return to the same classroom. Further, if the school requires the parent/staff conference, HB 411 now requires that the school provide *written notice* of the conference. The conference may be conducted in-person, by phone, or using virtual means.

Comments: The principal conference option is in line with the new language in (A)(1)(c)(iii)(aa) (see above). The SBLC referral is no longer specifically tied to a third removal. This is consistent with (A)(1)(c)(iii)(dd) (see above).

- HB 411 adds language to subparagraph (A)(1)(c)(vi)(aa):

“For students who experience multiple behavioral incidents or disciplinary referrals, a principal or his designee shall consider a referral of the matter to an appropriate school building level committee.”

Comments: The “appropriate” committee at the school level may be the “SBLC” (under La. Bulletin 1508, § 303); the IEP Team for a special education student; a Section 504 Team for students eligible under Section 504; or another school-level committee which addresses student behavior/discipline. The obligation is to “consider referral” but not necessarily to make an actual “referral”.

- For districts which opt for a policy mandating after-school or Saturday “intervention sessions”, HB 411 adds language to subparagraph (A)(1)(c)(vi)(bb):

“Such a policy, if adopted, shall be enumerated in the code of conduct and shall include accommodations for parents and legal guardians who demonstrate a documented inability to attend due to work or disability or other health matters pertaining to the parent or legal guardian or a family member under his care.”

Comments: The statute does not specify or provide examples of what “accommodations” the school district can or should provide. However, note that the statute includes an affirmative obligation under policy to accommodate (i.e., “shall include accommodations”). Disability based accommodations for parents could fall under the mandates of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

- HB 411 alters language in the “in-school suspension” (ISS) subparagraph. Revisions to subparagraph (A)(2)(a)(i) now require school districts to give credit for work completed during ISS; the prior law gave the school discretion to give work credit. The revisions also remove the mandatory and “immediate” out-of-school suspension for a student “who fails to comply fully with the rules for [ISS]”; the revised language (i.e., “may”) effectively makes out-of-school suspension discretionary.
- HB 411 changed some language in the subparagraph regarding “detention” and, therein, the discretionary “activities, assignments, or work” given student. In subparagraph (A)(2)(b)(iii), improving “self-esteem” is replaced with “behavior and conduct”.
- For purposes of La. R.S. 17:416, HB 411 adds a definition of the term “firearm” in subparagraph (A)(2):

(e) "Firearm" means any pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, machine gun, submachine gun, black powder weapon, or assault rifle that is designed to fire or is capable of firing fixed cartridge ammunition or from which a shot or projectile is discharged by an explosive.

- Unless specifically referencing “in-school suspension”, references to “suspension” in the prior version of La. R.S. 17:416 are now clarified to mean “out-of-school suspension”. HB 411 adds a definition of OSS in subparagraph (A)(2)(f):

"Out-of-school suspension" means the removal of a student from all classes of instruction on public school grounds and all other school-sponsored activities.

- Prior references in La. R.S. 17:416 to “any city or parish school board” now read “any city, parish, or other local public school board”. These changes in multiple subparagraphs of the statute reflect HB 411's provisions which amend La. R.S. 17:3996, applicable to charter schools in Louisiana. By definition, charter schools in Louisiana are public schools. HB 411 adds to the list of statutes which *are* applicable to charter schools, thereby eliminating some exceptions to the general exemptions in La. R.S. 17:3996(B).
- HB 411 makes multiple changes to an “advise” and “notice” subparagraph pertaining generally to suspensions and expulsions. Subparagraph (A)(3)(b)(i) was revised, in substantial part, as follows (with formatting from the legislative text):

Prior to any out-of-school suspension, assignment to alternative placement, or expulsion, the school principal, or his designee, shall advise the pupil student in question of the particular misconduct of which he is accused as well as the basis for such accusation, and the pupil student shall be given an opportunity at that time to explain his version of the facts to the school principal or his designee. In each case of out-of-school suspension, assignment

to alternative placement, or expulsion, the school principal, or his designee, shall contact, by telephone at the telephone number shown on the pupil's student's registration card or send by electronic communication or a certified letter at sent to the address shown on the pupil's student's registration card, to the parent, ~~tutor~~, or legal guardian of the pupil student in question giving notice of the out-of-school suspension, assignment to alternative placement, or expulsion, the reasons therefor, and establishing a date and time for a conference with the principal or his designee as a requirement for readmitting the pupil student. ~~provided that in~~ In the case of expulsion, the contact with the parent or guardian shall include a certified letter.

- With reference to a required parent conference under La. R.S.17:416, HB 411 deletes the following language in (A)(3)(b)(ii)(aa) (regarding a student): “~~who is under the age of eighteen and not judicially emancipated or emancipated by marriage~~”.
- Regarding students damaging property under (A)(3)(d), HB 411 makes the following substantive changes (with new text underlined):

“A student suspended for damages to any property belonging to the school system or to property contracted to the school system or any property on school grounds owned by a school employee or student shall not be readmitted until payment in full has been made for such damage, an alternative restitution arrangement has been executed, an alternative payment plan has been arranged, or until directed by the superintendent of schools.”

- In subparagraph (A)(4)(a)(ii)(ff) regarding teacher actions taken in response to a disciplinary report, HB 411 adds “certified school psychologist” to the staff to whom the teacher may refer the student.
- HB 411 adds a new subparagraph to (A). Subparagraph (A)(6) reads:

“In carrying out the provisions of this Section, school employees and administrators shall account for and abide by any relevant provisions contained in the Individualized Education Program [IEP], Behavior Intervention Plan [BIP], or Section 504 Plan, as well as the general requirements of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act [IDEA].”

Comments: The subparagraph makes explicit the already existing legal obligation to follow a student’s (as applicable) IEP, Section 504 Plan, and BIP. Further, HB 411 reinforces the existing legal supremacy of federal law (e.g., IDEA). In other words, the rights of students conferred by federal law supersede state law or local rules (e.g., school board policies) to the extent that state law or local rules or policies conflict with federal law. For example, see La. R.S. 17:416(B)(3)(D)(iv) (as amended; see text below) regarding supremacy of federal law and incorporating elements of (A)(6).

- In the subparagraph addressing discretionary expulsion recommendations, HB 411 adds the principal's "designee" as an administrator who can recommend expulsion. See (B)(1).
- HB 411 increases the length of the knife blade from "two inches" to "two and one-half inches". See (B)(1)(b)(ii)(bb) and (B)(1)(b)(ii)(cc).
- In the subparagraph addressing Controlled Substances, HB 411 replaces "licensed physician" with "licensed medical provider". See (B)(1)(c)(ii).
- HB 411 adds the following language to the end of (B)(1)(c)(ii):

"Evidence of the prescription or medical provider's order includes possession of the controlled dangerous substance in its original packaging as received from the pharmacy."
- Subparagraph (B)(3)(b) contains the following language, as amended by HB 411 (new text underlined):

"No student who has been expelled pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph (C)(2) of this Section shall be readmitted to a regular public school in the city, parish, or other local public school system from which he was expelled prior to the completion of the specified period of expulsion at the school system's alternative education setting, unless he has complied with the provisions of Subparagraph (C)(2)(d) of this Section."
- The following introductory language to subparagraph (B)(3)(d)(i) has been *deleted*:

~~"In addition to any other limitations established by this Subsection on the admission of previously expelled pupils to public elementary and secondary schools in Louisiana,"~~
- The multiple references to "parents" in the "rehabilitation or counseling" subparagraph (B)(3)(d)(ii) now read "parents and legal guardians".
- HB 411 amends subparagraph (B)(3)(d)(iv) as follows:

The provisions of this Subparagraph shall be applicable to ~~exceptional children~~ students provided special education services pursuant to Part I of Chapter 8 of this Title and to students who have an Individualized Education Program or a Section 504 Individualized Accommodation Plan only to the extent the provisions are not in conflict with federal rules, regulations, and guidelines applicable to the education of ~~exceptional students~~ students with exceptionalities or the provisions of the students' specific plans.

Comments: As with new subparagraph (A)(6) (see above) and amendments to subsection E (see below), this amended subparagraph reiterates the already existing legal obligation to follow a student's (as applicable) IEP, Section 504 Plan, and BIP. Note that this subparagraph now includes any student who qualifies as a student with a disability under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended). In other words, the prior law made references to only to "exceptional students" under *federal* law, which specifically refers to students with disabilities under IDEA and Louisiana statutes and regulations (see Bulletin 1508). The continuing reference to *federal* law implies exclusion of Gifted and Talented students under Bulletin 1508; these students are also "exceptional" under Louisiana law – but not federal law. Unless School Board policy provides otherwise, students who are Gifted or Talented only (i.e., no Bulletin 1508 disability) are subject to the disciplinary rules for "regular education" students. *See* La. Bulletin 1706, § 1501(A).

- HB 411 makes significant amendments to Paragraph (C) of 17:416. The major changes are provided below (underlined text is new language):

Upon the recommendation by a principal for the expulsion of any student as authorized by Subsection B hereof, of this Section or a school board's code of conduct, a hearing shall be conducted by the superintendent or his designee within fifteen school days ~~or by any other person designated so to do by the superintendent~~ to determine the facts of the case and make a finding of whether or not the student is guilty of conduct warranting a recommendation of expulsion. The school board must provide written notice of the hearing to the student and his parent or legal guardian, and such notice shall advise the student and his parent or legal guardian of their rights. ... Until such hearing takes place the student shall remain suspended from the school with access to classwork and the opportunity to earn academic credit. At such hearing the student may be represented by any person of his choice. A student who is expelled or suspended for longer than ten days shall be provided with academic instruction at an alternative setting in accordance with R.S. 17:416.2.

Comments: The added language establishes important procedural and substantive rights for students and their parents.

- HB 411 deletes language from the subparagraph regarding probationary return of expelled students. The following text from (C)(2)(d) has been removed (as reflected in the ~~strikeout~~):

~~Such terms and conditions may include but need not be limited to placing the student in a suitable alternative education program as determined by the school board:~~

- Later in that subparagraph, HB 411 adds language as follows (underlined text):

However, any such written agreement shall include a provision that upon the school principal or superintendent of schools making a determination that the student has violated any term or condition agreed to, the student shall be immediately removed from the school premises without the benefit of any hearing or other procedure applicable to student out-of-school suspensions and expulsions and returned to the school system's alternative school setting.

Comments: Taken together, the deleted and the added language reflect that the probationary agreement include – as a mandatory term – return to the district’s alternative school.

- In the subparagraph addressing parents’ appeal rights to expulsion recommendations, HB 411 adds the following at the end of (C)(4):

“Each school board's code of conduct shall include information detailing the appeal process provided in this Paragraph and Subparagraph (5)(a) of this Subsection.”

- In the next subparagraph, (C)(5)(a), addressing parents’ appeal rights to district court of school board expulsion decisions adverse to the parent, HB 411 extends the time period during which parents can file such appeals from 10 (calendar) days to 10 *school* days.

- HB 411 makes significant additions to subparagraph (D)(1) (underlined text):

The conviction of any student of a felony or the incarceration of any student in a juvenile institution for an act which had it been committed by an adult would have constituted a felony may be cause for expulsion of the student for a period of time as determined by the board. The expulsion shall require the vote of two-thirds of the elected members of the school board, shall not be for a period of time longer than the student's period of adjudication as determined by the applicable court presiding over the student's criminal matter, and shall run concurrent to the student's period of disposition. If the student was serving an expulsion period when the student was incarcerated for a separate offense and the student completes the period of incarceration with time left in the expulsion period, the superintendent or his designee may require the student to serve the time left in the expulsion period.

Comments: The new statutory text removes the ability of the school district, for an offense for which the student was adjudicated, to “tack on” the expulsion period upon the student’s return to the school district.

- Subsection E was amended consistent with amendments to prior subparagraphs (see (A)(6) and (B)(3)(D)(iv), both above):

The provisions of this Section shall be applicable to ~~exceptional children~~ students with exceptionalities provided special education services pursuant to Part I of Chapter 8 of this Title or to students who have an Individualized Education Program or a Section 504 Individualized Accommodation Plan to the maximum extent allowed by federal law and rules applicable to the education of ~~exceptional children~~ students with exceptionalities in the state. No policy adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education applicable to ~~exceptional children~~ students with exceptionalities as provided in this Subsection shall be more restrictive than required by federal law and rules.

Comments: See Comments for both (A)(6) and (B)(3)(D)(iv).

- In the subsection added in 2020 regarding discipline in the virtual context, HB 411 adds the following to the end of subsection K:

“The provisions of this Section herein related to mandatory recommendation for expulsion shall *not* be applied to virtual instruction received by a student in the student's home.” (Emphasis added).

- HB 411 adds three (3) new subsections at the end of La. R.S. 17:416: L, M, and N. The all-new subsection L reads:

Each city, parish, or other local public school board shall maintain and administer student codes of conduct that meet the minimum requirements of the model master discipline plan as provided in R.S. 17:252. Codes of conduct shall include progressive levels of minor through major infractions and identify corresponding minor through major interventions and consequences. Before an initial referral for a student's expulsion, codes of conduct shall require the prior administration of interventions in accordance with the minor tiers in the code of conduct, except in instances where the expulsion referral is the result of accumulated minor infractions in accordance with the code of conduct, or the underlying incident threatens the safety and health of students or staff. Expulsions shall be reserved for the major tier of behavioral infractions involving weapons or drugs, or when the safety of students and staff has been put in jeopardy.

Comments: While new subsection L allows for *referral* for expulsion for accumulated minor infractions of the code of conduct, the plain language appears to prohibit actual expulsion for any “minor” offenses – whether individually or cumulatively. If existing school discipline master plans do not include progressive levels of infractions and interventions, school districts must modify those plans accordingly.

- The all-new subsection M reads:

The [Louisiana] Department of Education shall publish annually and publish on its website data regarding disciplinary removals disaggregated at the state, system, and school level and also disaggregated and capable of cross-tabulation by the characteristics of gender, race, disability, English language learner [EL] status, and economically disadvantaged status. In reporting such data, the department shall comply with all federal and state privacy laws and shall strive to ensure that all relevant state accountability metrics are valid and reliable.

Comments: This obligation on the LDOE is akin to the federal publication of such data (among much other) via OCR's Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC). However, the requirement to annually publish discipline data will offer much more recent information than is typically available via the biennially published CRDC data.

- The all-new subsection N applies only to a school district from which schools were transferred to RSD under La. R.S. 17:10.7. The new subsection reads:

A public school governing authority that maintains a parish-wide student expulsion process as required by R.S. 17:10.7.1(E)(4) may maintain and develop policies and procedures for student expulsions without regard to the requirements of this Section.

- The final statutory amendments effected by HB 411 relate to the Louisiana charter school law. HB 411 amends La. R.S. 17:3996(B) to add further exceptions to the statutory exemptions which charter school have generally under Louisiana law. Specifically, charter schools in Louisiana are now subject to the requirements of both La. R.S. 17:416 and La. R.S. 17:416.2. As noted earlier in this document, the La. R.S. 17:3996 amendments are reflected in changes to La. R.S. 17:416, including the modification of text references from "each city and parish school board" to "each city, parish, or *other local public* school board" (emphasis added). "Other local public school board" includes a charter school board.
- Note that references to "pupil" throughout La. R.S. 17:416 have been changed to "student".
- The remaining – that is, unaltered – subsections and subparagraphs of La. R.S. 17:416 are still good law. You should read the changes in the context of the whole statute and make revisions to your policies, procedures, and handbooks accordingly. For your convenience, the prior version of La. R.S. 17:416 is attached.

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If you have any questions about HB 411 or our interpretation of the discipline changes resulting therefrom, please feel free to contact this office. As always, we would be happy to work with you to review and revise your district's discipline-related policies and procedures, as well as your student/parent handbooks, to comply with the new law.

Best wishes for a great summer.

Wayne T. Stewart