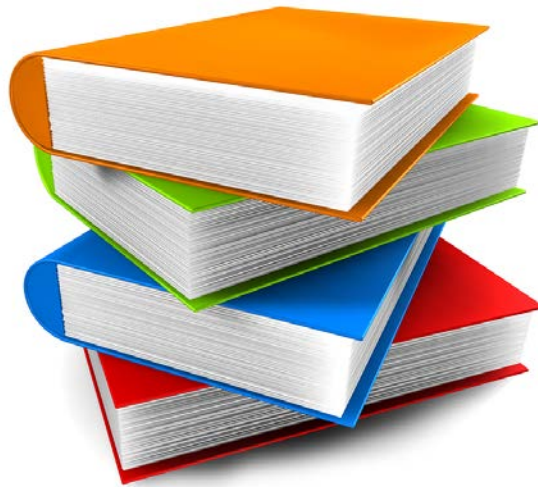


TATE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

PARENT-STUDENT HANDBOOK

2015-2016



DISTRICT VISION

Tate County School District will strive to become a top rated, student-centered district, through excellence in instruction and leadership.

DISTRICT MISSION

Tate County School District exists to educate all students within a safe learning environment, to be college and career ready, and to develop a lifelong love for learning.

TATE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Superintendent
107 Court St. Senatobia, MS 38668
662-562-5861

www.tatecountyschools.org

TATE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
PARENT-STUDENT-TEACHER-PRINCIPAL COMPACT

School Name: _____ Date: _____

We believe all children can learn. We will educate all students so they can become competent contributing members of society.

As a teacher, I, _____ will----

1. Believe that each student can learn.
2. Show respect for each child and his/her family.
3. Come to class prepared to teach and be on time.
4. Provide an environment conducive to learning.
5. Help each child grow to his/her fullest potential.
6. Provide meaningful and appropriate homework activities.
7. Enforce school and classroom rules fairly and consistently.
8. Maintain open lines of communication with students and his/her parents.
9. Seek ways to involve parents.
10. Demonstrate professional behavior and a positive attitude.

As a student, I, _____ will----

1. Always try to do my best in work and in my behavior.
2. Work cooperatively with my classmates.
3. Show respect for myself, my school, and other people.
4. Obey the school and the bus rules.
5. Take pride in my school.
6. Come to school prepared with my homework and my supplies.
7. Believe that I can learn and will learn.

As a parent/guardian, I, _____ will----

1. See that my child attends school regularly and on time.
2. Provide a home environment that encourages my child to learn.
3. Insist that all homework assignments be completed.
4. Communicate regularly with my child's teachers.
5. Talk with my child about his/her school activities every day.
6. Encourage my child to read at home and to monitor his/her TV viewing.
7. Volunteer time at my child's school.
8. Show respect and support for my child, the teacher and the school.

As a principal, I, _____ will support this form of parent involvement.
Therefore I shall strive to do the following:

1. Provide an environment that allows for positive communication between the teacher, parent and student.
2. Encourage teachers to regularly provide homework assignments that will reinforce classroom instruction.
3. Provide appropriate leadership and set the appropriate example for students and staff.

**The school will provide each child with a compact which
must be signed and returned to the school.**

Non-Discrimination Policy

The Tate County School District adheres to a policy of non-discrimination in educational programs/activities and employment, and strives affirmatively to provide equal opportunity for students and staff. Specifically, the district provides employment and educational opportunity without discrimination and without regard to gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, age, religion, disability, or any other legally protected status.

The following person has been designated as the discrimination compliance officer and will handle inquiries regarding the district's nondiscrimination policies, the filing of grievances, and requests for copies of grievance procedures covering discrimination in all areas other than on the basis of disabilities.

Discrimination Compliance Officer:

Amy Williams, Federal Programs Director
Telephone: 662-562-5861 Fax: 662-562-8516

The following person has been designated as the Section 504/Americans with Disabilities Act compliance officer and will handle inquiries regarding the district's nondiscrimination policies, the filing of grievances, and request for copies of grievance procedures covering discrimination on the basis of disabilities.

Section 504 Coordinator:

Kristie Foster, Director of Special Services (See page 1)
Telephone: 662-562-5861 Fax: 662-562-8516

PREFACE

This student handbook has been prepared for the faculty, students, parents/guardians, and other constituents of the Tate County School District to set forth the procedures, policies, services, and practices governing the operation of the district and each of its six schools. The Handbook is subject to change as Tate County School District policies and procedures change.

The development and use of a unified handbook helps to assure consistency and uniformity in communication important rules, and expectations throughout the district's schools. Such consistency is important in guarding the high standards for a nurturing school environment and academic excellence that Tate County parents have for their children.

The Tate County School District Board of Education, administration, faculty, and staff work closely together to establish sound and reasonable goals for Tate County School, to anticipate district needs, to comply with policies governing Mississippi's public schools, to deliver a quality instructional program, and to provide a safe, orderly, environment conducive to learning. Every effort is made to assure that each student's school experience is successful and satisfying. This manual is just one measure of support for the mission of the district.

The policies contained in this handbook apply to any student who is on school property, on the school bus, or at a school-sponsored activity or event. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians and students to familiarized themselves with the handbook. In addition, it is recommended that parents/guardians discuss the contents with their children and sign the parental notices, acknowledgments, and consent agreements contained herein.

Note: Parent as used in this handbook is defined as the biological parent, stepparent, court appointed legal guardian or foster parent, and any individual who is acting in loco parentis on behalf of a court of jurisdiction.

DISTRICT MISSION

The Tate County School District exists to educate all students within a safe learning environment, to be college and career ready to develop a lifelong love for learning.

BELIEFS

We will respect the worth, value, and potential of all individuals.

- ◆ We believe that all students can learn.
- ◆ We believe that the person most responsible for learning is the student; therefore, we will help students develop the attributes of an effective learner.
- ◆ We believe in partnerships between schools and community.
- ◆ We believe safe, healthy schools with a positive climate conducive to learning.
- ◆ We believe in effectively communicating with parents and students to improve student and achievement.

***New state law requires students to be in attendance 63% of the day in order to be counted present. This percentage excludes break, class changes, lunch, or recess.**

NOTICE OF DRUG FREE SCHOOLS

The Tate County School Board resolves to have the most Drug Free School environment possible. The District and School Board, through its Administration, will vigorously seek out those who use, sell, or come to school under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Students who violate the School District Policies in regard to use, possession, or sale of drugs will be subject to the strongest discipline to include alternative school placement and expulsion. The District will conduct drug searches at all of its schools on a regular basis.

Title I No Child Left Behind Parents Right to Know Notice

A federal law known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB) enacted in January 2002 requires every school receiving Title I fund to notify parents of their rights to request and receive the following information from the school:

1. Whether a teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
4. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

These qualifications apply to all instructional staff and not just those paid with Title I funds.

NCLB also requires that our schools notify parents:

1. Of their child's level of achievement in each of the state academic assessments (state tests).
2. If their child has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified under NCLB criteria.

The Tate County School District is committed to satisfying all requirements of NCLB and involving parents in planning and implementing our educational programs and services. Further, the district is committed to bringing qualified, fully licensed teachers into its classrooms and to making sure that all children succeed in school and in life. Parents are informed of decisions, conditions, procedures, and other factors affecting their children through school and district publications and reports; personal conferences; individual student grade and progress reports; personal notes and notices; planning committees; the news media, etc.

Maintaining high quality schools is a job for the entire community. We especially need the help of parents in order to meet the accountability goals and expectations set for us at the state and federal levels. It is equally important for us to work together as a learning community to set high standards for ourselves and our children. If you would like to get involved in your child's school or if you have questions about our NCLB status, please contact your child's principal.

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DRUG & ALCOHOL FREE SCHOOLS

It is the policy of the Tate County School District to maintain all sites as drug and alcohol free schools and workplaces. This includes any school building; any school premises; any school-owned vehicle or any school-approved vehicle used to transport students to and from school or school activities; and off school property during school-sponsored or school-approved activity, event, or function, such as a field trip or athletic where students are under the jurisdiction of the school district. Students who violate this policy may be suspended or expelled. Non-school individuals are subject to removal from district premises and arrest.

TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOLS

Consistent with the provisions of Public Law 103-227, 20USC 6083, the Tate County School District Board of Education bans the use of all tobacco products in all school buildings and school vehicles by all persons at all times. This ban extends to employees, students, and patrons attending school-sponsored events and meetings. Students who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary measures as prescribed by the student handbook. Non-school individuals are subject to removal from district premises and/or arrest.

SAFE SCHOOLS

The Tate County School District believes that its schools and facilities should be safe, orderly places of learning. The district maintains procedures and safeguards for crisis management and response; building and grounds security and maintenance; and codes of conduct for students, staff, and patrons that promote the safety and well-being of all concerned.

EFFECTIVE SCHOOLS

The Tate County School District believes that the schools of the district should be operated in such a way that each child is given the opportunity to reach his/her maximum potential. Concurrent with this responsibility is the obligation of parents, guardians, families, and the general public to cooperate with, support, and contribute to the education process.

GUN-FREE SCHOOLS

The Tate County School District operates in compliance with the Gun-Free Schools Act, Title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. All policies and procedures adopted by the board that affect the conduct and/or discipline of students are supplemented by the requirements of this act. The act prohibits any student from bringing a firearm on school property. The penalty for violating this law is expulsion from school and all of its activities for the minimum period of one calendar year, subject to due process required by law and district policy.

REPORTING GUNS/WEAPONS

The Tate County School District enforces all requirements of the Prevention of School Violence Act, SB3349. Anyone who knows of or suspects that a gun or dangerous weapon has been brought on campus should report it immediately to the principal or another school official. Sources of these reports will be kept confidential. You do not have to give your name.

DISCRIMINATION

The Tate County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, disability, marital status, or sex in providing education or access to benefits of education services, activities, or employment opportunities and benefits in accordance with Title VI, Title VII, Title IX and other civil rights or discrimination issues, Section 504 or the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The following officials have been designated to coordinate compliance with these legal requirements and may be contacted at the Tate County School District office for additional information and/or compliance issues;

Compliance Officers

Discrimination

Amy Williams, Federal Programs Director

Address: 107 Court St.

Senatobia, MS 38668

SECTION 504

Kristi Foster, Director of Special Services (See page 1)

Address: 107 Court St.

Senatobia, MS 38668

Phone: 662-562-5861 Fax: 662-562-8516

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Students in the Tate County School District are protected from sexual discrimination, including sexual harassment, by Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972 to the Civil Rights Act. It is the intent of the district to maintain an environment free from sexual harassment of any kind. Therefore, unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature amounting to or constituting harassment are prohibited. Reports & Complaints
See Appendix.

ASBESTOS SURVEILLANCE

The Tate County School District maintains an asbestos management plan, including documentation of any changes of asbestos containing materials in school facilities. All asbestos containing materials (ACM) are inspected every six months by the engineering firm Pickering Environmental. Any changes in the ACM are recorded in a surveillance report as part of the plan. A three-year re-inspection has been performed as required. A copy of the re-inspection is filed with the Mississippi State Department of Education.

A copy of the surveillance and re-inspection reports, along with a copy of the management plan, is located for review by any interested party in the principal's office at each school. In addition, copies of all plans for the district are maintained in the superintendent's office at 107 Court St. Senatobia, MS 38668.

HOME & SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITIES

Students, parents/guardians, and schools have significant rights in assuring academic success;

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Parents/Guardians have the right to expect:

- ◆ Their child is safe.
- ◆ Fair evaluations and treatment of their child
- ◆ An atmosphere conducive to learning.
- ◆ That their child be taught and treated in a competent and professional manner.

Parents/Guardians have the following responsibilities:

- ◆ Realize the extent of their responsibility for the behavior of their child. Parents are responsible for the behavior of the children while at school, and to and from school.
- ◆ Prepare their children to assume the responsibility for their own behavior.
- ◆ Foster in their children positive attitudes toward themselves, others, school, and community.
- ◆ Communicate with school personnel about their child.
- ◆ Comply with state law on compulsory attendance, property damage, suspension and expulsion procedures.
- ◆ Know and see that their child follows school rules.
- ◆ Attend individual or group training sessions and conferences when requested.
- ◆ Recognize that the teacher acts as parent while the child is at school.

- ◆ Safeguard the physical and mental health of their child and be responsible for necessary health examinations and immunizations.
- ◆ Work with and support school personnel who are trying to help their child.

STUDENTS

Students have the following rights within the provisions of constitutional, federal, state and common laws:

- ◆ An atmosphere conducive to learning.
- ◆ Assembly.
- ◆ Participation in school program and activities.
- ◆ Freedom from discrimination.
- ◆ Due process.
- ◆ Participation in decision-making.

Students have the following responsibilities:

- ◆ Attend school and be on time.
- ◆ Take seriously their responsibility to learn.
- ◆ Assume responsibility for their personal growth and self-discipline.
- ◆ Take care of their personal property.
- ◆ Respect the rights and privacy of others.
- ◆ Work cooperatively with school personnel and other students.
- ◆ Study the school's handbook.
- ◆ Know and follow school rules.
- ◆ Accept responsibility for their actions.
- ◆ Not to disrupt educational process.

DISTRICT DIRECTORY

ADMINISTRATION

107 Court St., MS 38668 PH: 662-562-5861, Fax: 662-562-8516

Superintendent Dr. Daryl Scoggin..... .dscoggin@tcsd.k12.ms.us
Deputy Superintendent..... Alee' Dixon..... adixon@tcsd.k12.ms.us
Federal Programs Director..... Amy Williams..... awilliams@tcsd.k12.ms.us
Director of Special Services..... Kristie Foster..... kfoster@tcsd.k12.ms.us
Business Manager..... Cassandra Patton..... cpatton@tcsd.k12.ms.us
Director of Food Service..... Amanda Meredith..... ameredith@tcsd.k12.ms.us
Director of Operations..... Jerome Martin..... jmartin@tcsd.k12.ms.us
Director of Technology..... Marcus Hall..... mhall@tcsd.k12.ms.us

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Heather Ashe..... President
Brandy Crockett..... Vice President
Carolyn Shead..... Board Member
Martha Jefferies..... Board Member
Malinda White..... Board Member
John Lamar..... Board Attorney

SCHOOLS

East Tate Elementary (GRADES K-8)
6832 East Tate Road, Coldwater, MS 38618..... Timeka Thomas, Principal
Phone: 662-562-4688..... Fax: 662-562-0881

Independence High School (Grades 9-12)
3184 HWY 305, Coldwater, MS 38618..... Melody Carter, Principal
Phone: 662-233-4691..... Fax: 662-233-2214

Coldwater Attendance Center (GRADES K-12)
671 West Street, Coldwater, MS 38618..... Cedrick Von Jackson, Principal
Phone: 662-622-5511..... Fax: 662-622-7061

Strayhorn Elementary School (GRADES K-6)
3402 HWY 4 W, Sarah, MS 38665..... Jim Bolen, Principal
Phone: 662-562-8637..... Fax: 662-562-8631

Strayhorn High School (GRADES 7-12)
86 Mustang Dr., Sarah, MS 38665..... Aundrea Taylor, Principal
Phone: 662-562-9246..... Fax: 662-562-9249

Senatobia-Tate Career Technical Center
165 W Central Ave, Coldwater, MS 38618..... Richard Hartley, Director
Phone: 662-622-5142..... Fax: 662-622-7005

2015-2016 Calendar

July	30-31	New Teachers
August	3-5	Professional Development (No Students)
	3 & 5	Teacher Assistant Work Days
	4	Open House 6pm
	6	1 st Day for Students
September	11-Sept 15	MKAS ² Universal Screener for Kindergarten
	7	Labor Day
	9	Progress Reports
October	21-Oct 2	SATP2 Retest
	7-9	9-weeks Test
	12	Fall Break
November	20	Report Cards & Parent Visitation 5-7
	20-21	MWAP and SATP1 Retest
	11	Progress Reports
	16-20	3 rd Grade Reading Summative Retest
	23-27	Thanksgiving Holiday
December	30- Dec 11	SATP2 Retest
	16-18	Semester Exams
	18	60% Day- <i>Bad Weather Day</i>
January	21-31	Christmas Holidays
	1	Christmas Holidays
	4-5	Staff Development (No Students) <i>Bad Weather Days</i>
	6	School Resumes for Students
February	18	MLK Holiday
	19	Report Cards & Parent Visitation 5-7
	10	Progress Reports
	15	President's Day <i>Bad Weather Day</i>
	17-18	MWAP and SATP1 Retest
March	29	Inclement Weather Make up or Day 37
	1-30	ELPT (English Language Proficiency)
	1-April 15	MAAP (MS Alternate Assessment Program)
	2-4	9 Weeks Test
	7-11	Spring Holidays*
	21-April 8	SATP2 Retest
April	22	Report Cards & Parent Visitation 5-7
	25	Good Friday
	28-April 15	3 rd Grade Reading Summative Assessment
	4	Inclement Weather Make-up or Day 55
	7-May 12	MKAS ² Kindergarten Post-Test
	11-29	MS-CAPS2
	19	ACT
May	25-May 17	Questar Assessment
	2	Inclement Weather Make-up or Day 74
	2-13	MST 5 th and 8 th Science
	3	ACT Makeup
	9-13	SATP2
	18-20	Final Exams
	20	60% Day
	21	Graduation
	23-24	Professional Development Days
	25-27	<i>Bad Weather Days</i>

ACADEMICS

The Tate County School District is committed to meeting the general academic needs of all students and providing opportunities for individuals to develop specific talents and interests. Therefore, students are given a sound foundation in "the basics:" reading, writing, arithmetic, and language arts as well as experiences that embrace broader areas of knowledge that refine thinking skills and expand students' horizons, i.e., fine arts, healthy physical and emotional development, vocational and social studies, foreign languages, advanced mathematics, science, etc.

A district-wide focus on reading is based on the philosophy that there is no single way to teach reading and that Grades K-3 are critical to a child's learning to read. This balanced approach includes strategies and training to address the progressive and complex nature of reading from phonemic awareness to comprehension, the "essence of reading." The district maintains a strict policy in Grades K-6 requiring students to read on grade level before being promoted.

Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, a student scoring at the lowest achievement level in reading on the established state assessment for 3rd grade will not be promoted to 4th grade unless the student meets the good cause exemptions for promotion. (As noted by the Mississippi Department of Education's website)

Continuous improvement in Tate County schools is driven by a professional development program devised annually with extensive teacher input and a comprehensive needs assessment. Topics typically include school safety, classroom management, instruction, curriculum, discipline, technology, parent involvement, education reform, accountability, accreditation, and student assessment. A second instructional support strategy is the Teacher Support Team (TST). TST committees serve as a resource for classroom teachers who need help with a student's behavior or achievement. The quest for a highly qualified teaching staff is enhanced by recruitment, teacher support and training, and participation in the decision-making process.

CURRICULUM

The course offerings in the Tate County School District comply with the approved list of courses developed by the Mississippi Department of Education, and each course includes the skills included in the Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks. The various instructional programs are developed to maintain balanced, integrated, and sequentially articulated curricula that serves the educational needs of all students. The Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards are used for each subject for which grades are given. Specific objectives are designated with material/resources and processes suggested for teaching the objectives. Tests based on the specified objectives are developed; each student is expected to demonstrate mastery of the objectives. An analysis of mastery/non-mastery of objectives serves as one means of evaluating the curriculum. At all levels, provisions are made for a wide range of individual differences.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAM

The program of instruction in the elementary schools includes the following areas: (1) language arts, reading, writing, spelling, and oral and written expression; (2) mathematics, (3) science, (4) social studies, (5) health, safety, and physical education, (6) music, and (7) arts and crafts. Each of these subject matter fields embraces, insofar as is practical, instruction in study and work habits, library usage, conservation, health and hygiene, citizenship, drug abuse, occupational and economic awareness, and development of character. MS Code §37-1-3(2) The kindergarten program complies with Mississippi Department of Education regulations.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

The junior high school program provides experience in (1) language arts-literature, reading, writing, spelling, and oral and written expression, (2) mathematics, (3) science, (4) social studies, (5) health, safety, and physical education, (6) fine arts, and (7) tech prep.

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

The state Board of Education and the Mississippi Commission on School Accreditation set minimum requirements for the curriculum that must be met by all students as a prerequisite for graduation. In addition to required courses, a wide selection of additional courses is available to prepare students for a variety of postsecondary options.

The basic high school curriculum consists of required and approved courses that generate up to seven Carnegie units annually from the current edition of Approved Courses for the Secondary Schools of Mississippi published by the Office of Instructional Development. MS Code §37-1-3(2)

Career/Technical Education

Vocational and technical programs in the Tate County School District enable students to acquire needed skills and abilities and achieve their occupational goals. Upon successful completion of vocational-technical program area courses, students will possess marketable job skills.

Advanced Placement

Eligible high school students may choose to enroll in College Board Advanced Placement (AP) courses through IVN. AP courses are intense courses taught on the college level AP courses offered at the high school include English III, IV; Calculus; U. S. History; U.S. Government; and Economics. Students may opt to take exit exams at their own expense to earn college credit for these courses. Standards for earning post-secondary credit are determined by the institutions of higher learning.

Dual Enrollment

The Tate County School District will follow MS Code 37-15-37 and State Board Policy.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

The Tate County School District alternative education program is provided for students who have been referred through district procedures for services and meet Mississippi Department of Education eligibility criteria.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

The Tate County School District provides appropriate educational and related services within the least restrictive environment for all students identified as having a disability in accordance with policies and procedures established by the Mississippi Department of Education. The district has effective student support/teacher support teams to assure that appropriate accommodations are made to mitigate the need for referral to more restrictive school services. Accommodations/interventions for meeting the special needs of students within the regular education setting include but are not limited to the following:

1. Classroom modifications to enhance attending, work production, and social adjustment, i.e., extended time, adaptations to learning styles, physical placement in the classroom, classroom arrangement, use of technology, etc.
2. Behavioral management systems to reduce problems in areas most likely to be affected by attention deficits, i.e., unstructured situations, transition from one class to another or one school to another, etc.
3. Instruction in study skills and social skills within the regular classroom setting whenever possible to increase generalization to all areas of school life.
4. Consultations/conferences with parents to assist in behavior management, homework assignments, etc., to facilitate home-school cooperation and collaboration.
5. Opportunities for professional development to enhance appropriate instructional and other accommodations within the regular classroom. Collaboration with community agencies providing related services to students.
6. Collaboration with community agencies providing related services to students.
7. Referral for a comprehensive assessment for special education services when adaptations and modifications fail to address student deficits adequately and place the student at risk for school failure.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special education programs are provided in the Tate County School District in accordance with provisions of Title 37, Chapter 23 of the Mississippi Code, and with applicable federal legislation and regulations, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 2004, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the State Plan for Special Education. Services are provided to students who are identified with disabilities in any of the following areas. See *Section X -School Services*.

GIFTED EDUCATION

Gifted education is provided for students who meet eligibility criteria in Grades 2-6. The purpose of the program is to provide an enriched curriculum for eligible students. Students who participate are not expected to do all work that is assigned in their regular classes in addition to the activities and studies related to the gifted program. These activities and studies may involve exploring topics discussed in the regular classroom in greater depth or topics that may be developed in upper grades. To qualify for the program, the student must meet criteria set by Mississippi's State Department of Education in three areas: teacher questionnaire, achievement test scores, and mental abilities test scores. Participation is voluntary. Participating students are recommended annually.

ELL

All students in the Tate County School District receive a home language survey upon initial registration. Follow-up testing is provided for students who indicate that a second language is spoken in the home to determine the need for additional language support. District ELL services are implemented according to the guidelines of the Mississippi Department of Education for immersion language development.

TITLE I

The Tate County School District implements programs, including remediation for disadvantaged students, in compliance with state and federal guidelines set forth in the Improving America's Schools Act: Titles I, II, IV, and VI, and successive reauthorization legislation. See *Section X-School Services*.

RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION RTI/TEACHER SUPPORT TEAM TST

See *Section X-School Services*

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

See *Section IV-Attendance and Section X-School Services*.

HEALTH/SEX/FAMILY EDUCATION

Abstinence education, as defined in House Bill 1304 (1998), is the state standard for any sex related education taught in the Tate County School District. Therefore, any course containing sex education must include instruction in abstinence education. Each school providing instruction or any other presentation on human sexuality in the classroom, assembly, or other official setting is required to provide no less than one week's written notice to the parents of children involved. The written notice informs the parents of their right to request the exclusion of their child from the instruction or presentation. The notice also informs the parents of the right, and the appropriate process, to review the curriculum and all materials to be used in the lesson or presentation. Upon the request of any parent, the school excuses the parent's child from the instruction or presentation, without detriment to the student. These restrictions do not apply to any biological science course or curriculum.

ABSTINENCE-ONLY SEX EDUCATION

The Tate County School District believes that every student has the right to accurate information concerning the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. The School Board is committed to fostering community partnerships that educate both students and parents about this important topic.

The Tate County School District seeks to affirm commitment to creating healthy and responsible teens in the Tate County School District by fully complying with the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, Section 37-13-171, and by:

- Adopting educational programs designed to help students and parents take action to reduce rates of teen birth and sexually transmitted infections and integrating such programs into already established classes, and
- Establishing principles, guidelines, and strategies for implementing effective sex education programs, referred to in state law as "Abstinence-Only" education programs.

The district shall utilize an age-appropriate, evidenced based, medically accurate, Abstinence-Only curriculum from the list of curricula approved and recommended by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), including as one choice the curricula of Abstinence-Only developed by the Mississippi Department of Human Services and the Mississippi Department of Health, if such curricula are on the MDE's approved Curriculum list.

CLASS TIME

It is the responsibility of each school principal to see that a satisfactory instructional program is scheduled for each student. This schedule should provide for the best use of the students' time. Each day provides, as a minimum, 330 minutes of academic instruction exclusive of time for change of classes, lunch, breaks, etc. Instructional time is protected from undue interruptions and delays.

At the elementary level, Grades K-6, time spent in basic skills (reading, language arts, and math) instruction meets or exceeds the requirements specified in Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards (2013). See *Curriculum and Section VI-School Day*.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The Tate County School District Board of Education encourages persons from outside the school with special knowledge, talent, or interesting vocation to address students. The time given by a resource person and the limitations imposed by the necessity to schedule the regular program of studies must be considered when arranging for speakers. The building principal must approve each visit or program. See *Section XI Home-Community Relations*.

FIELD EXPERIENCE

Students may be taken on field trips as part of the educational program of a school or the district. Trips are made only with the permission of the child's parent. When field trips are being planned, permission slips are sent home to be signed by the parent. All field trips must be approved by district administration and supervised by regular classroom teachers. Teachers serving as supervisors are required to submit all forms-field trip requests, school business leave requests, and requisitions-at the same time.

Field trip requests must be submitted to the superintendent's office two weeks prior to the trip. See *Section VI-Records and Release, Section XI School-Home-Community Relations, and Appendix*.

MATERIALS FEES

The district is authorized to charge reasonable fees, but not more than the actual cost, for the following:

1. Supplemental instructional materials and supplies, excluding textbooks;
2. Other fees designated as fees related to a valid curriculum educational objective, including transportation;
3. Extracurricular activities and any other educational activities of the school district that are not designated by the superintendent as valid curriculum educational objectives.

All fees authorized to be charged under this policy, except those authorized under 3 above, are charged only upon the condition that a financial hardship waiver may be granted upon request pursuant to the following.

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP WAIVER (JS)

All fees charged under the fee policy above shall be assessed only upon the following conditions:

1. Applications for hardship waivers shall be kept in the strictest of

- confidence with all files and personal disclosures restricted from review by the general public.
2. Pupils eligible to have any such fee waived as a result of an inability to pay, shall not be discriminated against nor shall there be any overt identification of any pupil who has received a financial hardship waiver by use of special tokens or tickets, announcements, posting or publication of names, physical separation, choice of materials or by any other means.
 3. In no case shall any of these procedures expose any pupil receiving a hardship waiver to any type stigma or ridicule by other pupils or school district personnel.
 4. The confidentiality provisions of this policy shall apply equally to any students who have an inability to pay any fees authorized by this policy.

In no case does the inability to pay the assessment of fees authorized under the provisions of this fee policy result in a pupil being denied or deprived of any academic awards or standards, any class selection, grade, diploma, transcript or the right to participate in any activity related to educational advancement. A parent who wishes to apply for a hardship waiver may do so by contacting the child's teacher.

REFUNDS

See *Transfer and Withdrawal of Students*.

PARENTAL REVIEW OF PROGRESS

The report card should not be regarded as the only method of being informed of a child's progress. Parents are encouraged to keep up with their child's accomplishments and to schedule conferences to meet with their child's teacher in order to follow his/her academic progress. Grades may be monitored at any time on Active Parent.

GRADING & GRADE REPORTING GRADING (IHA)

The academic standard of the Tate County School District for Grades K-12 is as follows:

K-6th Grades

- A 93-100
- B 85-92
- C 76-84
- D 70-75
- F Below 70

7th-12th Grades

- A 90 - 100
- B 80 - 89
- C 70 - 79
- D 65 - 69
- F Below 65

1. A minimum of ten daily grades, 4 major test, and one nine weeks assessment/exam is required to determine a student's nine-week average.
2. In determining nine-week averages, the nine-weeks test should be recorded as 2 major test grades for the grading period. A minimum of 10 daily grades (including daily test, class participation, homework, etc.) should be recorded during the grading period. Determine the MAJOR TEST AVERAGE and the DAILY AVERAGE by totaling each category and dividing by the number of grades in each specific category. Add the MAJOR TEST AVERAGE twice along with the DAILY AVERAGE once and divide by three to arrive at the student's NINE-WEEK AVERAGE.
3. The semester averages are an average of the two preceding nine-weeks.
4. The yearly average is an average of the two semester averages.

CHEATING

Consequences for cheating are as follows:

1. A zero for the work is given.
2. Parents are notified by the teacher.
3. Other disciplinary measures for recurrences are assessed at the discretion of the teacher and/or principal.

Numerical Average/RANK IN CLASS (IHC)

The students' Numerical Average for rank in class is figured at the end of the third nine weeks of the senior year. See *Graduation Requirements*.

WEIGHTED GRADES (IHC)

Weighted averages for advanced level courses are computed as follows:

1. 1.05 x the earned grade for advanced courses (A&P Physics, Alg III)
2. 1.10x the earned grade for Dual Credit and AP courses
3. Courses bearing 1 credit will count two times
4. Courses bearing ½ credit will count one time.
5. Courses bearing 2 credits will count four times.
6. Physical education, chorus, and band or any class repeating will only be included once .

PROGRESS REPORTS

The school year consists of four terms of nine weeks each. Progress reports are sent home midway during the term to let parents know how their child is progressing. Reports should be signed and returned to the teacher. Additional progress reports may be given to the students at other times than those mentioned above. The individual situation will determine when these reports are issued. Parents are urged to talk with their child's teacher(s) anytime they have questions or concerns regarding their child's progress.

GRADE REPORTS

Report cards are issued at the end of the nine week period. Parents are to review the report, sign it, and return it to the teacher.

TESTING

A variety of student assessments-both formal and informal-is used in Tate County schools to satisfy state testing requirements, assess student progress toward mastery of skills, help determine program placement, help personalize instruction, help educators design instructional strategies, and assist in the development of the curriculum.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARTICIPATION

The Tate County School District ensures that children with disabilities are included in general state and district-wide assessment programs, with accommodations and modifications in administration in accordance with the policies and procedures established by the Mississippi State Department of Education, the district, and the child's IEP. Children with disabilities who cannot participate in general state and district-wide assessment programs are provided an alternate assessment in accordance with policies and procedures established by the Mississippi Department of Education, the district, and the child's IEP.

PROMOTION & RETENTION

GENERAL POLICIES

Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, a student scoring at the lowest achievement level in reading on the established state assessment for 3rd grade will not be promoted to 4th grade unless the student meets the good cause exemptions for promotion. (As noted by the Mississippi Department of Education's website)

Decisions on pupil progression or placement are made to serve the best interests of the student after information has been collected from all possible sources. The primary responsibility for determining each pupil's level of performance and ability to function academically, socially, and emotionally at the next level is that of the classroom teacher, subject to review and approval by the principal. The superintendent or a designee also has the responsibility to review individual cases to ensure that they are in accordance with applicable state and federal policies.

Policies on pupil progression are designed to assure that each student in the Tate County School District is placed in an instructional program that provides appropriate opportunities for success in school. A

complete set of records is maintained on each student for documentation. These records must contain the progression record that identifies mastery of basic skills and state benchmarks. Other considerations for promotion and retention are as follows:

1. Mastery of the minimum skills and learning objectives is required for each course or grade. Criteria for this purpose include that the basic skills and benchmarks be reflected in the grade issued by the teacher.
2. Course mastery is defined as the demonstration of the minimum standards for passing each grade/subject/course.
3. School principals are responsible for ensuring that the school is appropriately disseminating information to the parents. This information is to include data such as student progress and minimum skills required before assignment can be made to the next grade or course level.
4. Parents are notified of deficiencies in academic progress.
5. Pupil retention is regarded as an administrative procedure to provide pupils with additional time to master skills required for success at higher levels.
6. Students are not retained for the sole purpose of participation in school-sponsored extracurricular activities.
7. Students in Grade 1 through 4 must pass Math and Reading.
8. Students in grades 5 through 8 must pass Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts.

GRADE CLASSIFICATION

Grades 1-9.....	Passed previous grade level
Grade 10	6 Carnegie Units
Grade 11	12 Carnegie Units
Grade 12	18 Carnegie Units
Graduation	24 Carnegie Units

Promotion Standard (IHE)

1. Students are classified as seniors if they are within seven credits of the number required for graduation.
2. Students in Grades 9-12 are awarded Carnegie Units credit upon demonstrated mastery of the exit skills and a final average of D (65) or higher based on course/class requirements in each course.
3. Students in Grades 9-12 must comply with student proficiency standards for promotion to grade levels leading to graduation as established by the State Board of Education.
4. Graduates must satisfy all state and district requirements for graduation. See *Graduation Requirements*.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Students who are enrolled in a self-contained special education program are required to complete successfully the Individual Education Plan (IEP) for grade-level promotion.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Students enrolled in any of the district's alternative school programs must demonstrate competency on district skills for promotion. Decisions concerning re-entry into the regular school program are made on an individual basis by the alternative education committee. Students enrolled in Alternative Education are not allowed to participate or attend any extracurricular activities or events until they return to the Regular Education program.

Graduation Requirements (IHF)

Each student graduating from the Tate County School District must complete 24 Carnegie units offered in Grades 8-12 and earn a passing score on state exit exams. Contents of each required and elective course must include the core objectives identified in the Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks. All courses offered in a sequence (I, II, III, IV) must be successfully completed in that sequence. Credit for all courses is based on the student's yearly average or, in the case of a 9 weeks class, 9 weeks average for the course. Some students may qualify for other Pathway Diplomas. Please check with the high school counselor.

HONORS(IHC)

For all entering 8th Graders in 2011-2012 and thereafter:

College normally request information regarding the rank of perspective students in their graduating class. The following procedure will be used to determine a student's rank.

1. The final grade for each credit-bearing course will be the basis for the calculation.
2. The final grades will be totaled and divided using the following formula:
 - a. Courses bearing 1 credit will count two times
 - b. Courses bearing ½ credit will count one time.
 - c. Course bearing 2 credits will count four times.
 - d. Advanced course grades will be multiplied by 1.05 during calculation.
 - e. Advanced placement (AP) course grades will be multiplied by 1.10 during calculation. Students must take the Advanced Placement assessment to earn the weighted grade.
 - f. Dual credit course grades will be multiplied by 1.10 during calculation.
 - g. Physical education, chorus, and band or any class repeating will only be included once .
3. The average will be calculated to the nearest one-hundredth. (For example – 89.59) The final average of each course will be used to calculate final averages/ranks as printed on permanent records with the exception of Advanced Courses. Advanced Courses will be calculated at the rate of 1.05 times the final grade.
4. The final class ranking will determined after the 3rd 9 Weeks.

When necessary to calculate a grade point average (GPA), the following procedure will be used.

1. The final grade from each credit-bearing course will be the basis for the calculation.
2. Four quality points will be awarded for an A, three for a B, two for a C, and one for a D.
3. GPA's will be totaled and divided using the following formula:
 - a. Courses bearing 1 credit will count two times
 - b. Courses bearing ½ credit will count one time.
 - c. Course bearing 2 credits will count four times.
4. The quality point average will be calculated to the nearest one-hundredth.

Advanced course are as follows: A&P Physics, Alg III

The number one ranked student as result of this calculation will be recognized as the Valedictorian and the number two ranked student will be recognized as the Salutatorian. To be considered for Valedictorian and Salutatorian, credits for three semesters prior to ranking must be earned at the graduating school beginning 2012-2013. Students' course work must be aligned to IHL requirements.

Students who earn an overall high school average of 90 or above will graduate with "HONORS" and those who earn a 93 or higher high school average will graduate with "SPECIAL HONORS." Only traditional diploma students will be ranked or recognized as honor graduates. All Honors students must have passed all state tests by December of their graduating year.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

A student who has exceptions for special education, in accordance with rules established by the state board, is not required to meet all requirements of MS Code §3716-7, and will, upon meeting all applicable requirements prescribed by the Tate County School District, be awarded a special diploma, if the special graduation requirements include the minimum graduation requirements of the state board.

Any student who meets all special requirements of the district for his/her exceptionality but is unable to meet the appropriate special state minimum requirements is awarded a special certificate of completion in a form prescribed by the state board. These provisions do not limit or restrict the right of an exceptional student solely to a special diploma. Any student may, upon request, be given the opportunity to meet all requirements of MS Code §37-16-7 through the standard procedures and thereby qualify for a standard diploma upon graduation.

Self-contained special education students may, upon completion of the IEP, be awarded a certificate of life skills that reads, in part, "Has completed the district's special education program as outlined in the Individual Education Plan."

Students having a disability as defined by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act, may, upon proper request, be afforded the opportunity to fully meet the requirements for a Mississippi Occupational Diploma upon graduation. The occupational diploma option is designed primarily for students with mild to moderate disabilities that, in the opinion of the IEP committee, are appropriate candidates. The option will provide the meaningful inclusion of students with disabilities in the community and the workplace, thereby achieving increased independence, citizenship, and post-school employment. The Mississippi Occupational Diploma offers an exit avenue that prepares students with disabilities for a productive and contributing adulthood.

SUMMER, INDEPENDENT STUDY

No more than two units of independent study work may be counted toward graduation. Enrollment in independent study courses (on-line and correspondence) must have prior approval granted by the principal. All work must be completed during the summer session and taken through an approved university program. A maximum of one unit of work per summer and a total of four Carnegie units of credit earned in summer school may be counted toward graduation.

Credit/Course Recovery (IDCAB)

SAR Program [Student Academic Recovery]: Students in grades 5 and higher who fail a course can recover the credit or course by receiving targeted instruction facilitated by a licensed teacher in a direct method/independent study format. The SAR program operates on the principle that in a standards based environment, success should be measured by the proficiency of students on the essential skills of the course. The SAR program is a course-specific, skill-based learning opportunity for students who have previously been unsuccessful in mastering content/skills required to earn credit or earn promotion. This program will operate with independent and guided practice as the primary instructional delivery method. Upon completion, students are to show proficiency on a standards based assessment in the form of a written, online, or performance-based assessment.

- The program is designed for credit recovery once the course has been completed and an "F" within 3 points of a passing score has been earned for the course.
- Seat time for credit or course has been satisfied.
- SAR is an individualized, standards-based curriculum program facilitated by a licensed teacher through guided practice and independent study. This can be provided through STRIDE Academy, Compass Learning, ELS, or Khan Academy and/or any other online instructional modality that aligns to state curriculum expectations.
- A Credit Recovery Day will be conducted at the end of each semester by the academic counselor and the principal or Designee. The purpose of this meeting will be to prepare a

student priority list for academic recovery for each academic term.

- The parent and student will be contacted with SAR placement information, and the student will be enrolled in the SAR program.
- Once the needed objectives have been met that were lacking which led to the student's "F" grade, the documentation of the credit recovery will be forwarded to the teacher for whom the child made the failing score. After considering the documentation available the original teacher may award the student the minimum passing score for the course and thus the student may then be awarded credit for the course.
- Students will not be allowed to utilize Credit/Promotion recovery with more than 2 courses per semester.
- Approval must be obtained by the teacher, parent, and principal before a student can be enrolled in the SAR program.
- All documentation of the student's work must be maintained and relevant to the Mississippi Curriculum for the course and grade in question.
- A test may be required covering the specific skills the child was targeted to master and show proficiency. This test should be commensurate with the level of support provided to the child in the child's attempt to show proficiency on the skills needed for the passing score.
- Students not meeting the expectations set forth in the code of conduct/or for attendance will not be eligible or may be removed from the SAR program at the discretion of the principal.

**The only way a student may be allowed credit recovery for a Subject Area Tested course that requires an end of course test is for the student to have already taken the State Test and passed the exam with the required score.

Credit/Promotion Recovery will be focused on the four major subjects of Math, English, Science, and Social Studies, but other subjects may be considered by the committee.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

A student who transfers from a non-accredited (i.e., not accredited by either the state or regional accreditation agency) school or home schooling program must demonstrate proficiency as measured by a district-administered subject-area, criterion-referenced, or norm-referenced test in each subject-prior to recognition of the course and credit being awarded. Seniors who transfer from other public schools into the Tate County School District are required to meet all graduation requirements set forth by the Tate County School District. See also *Admissions*.

GRADUATION CEREMONY

As established by state accreditation standards, only students who have completed the requirements in the regular program or special education students who have completed the IEP are permitted to participate in the graduation program. Students are required to participate in the graduation ceremony rehearsal in order to participate in the graduation ceremony.

ACADEMIC HONORS

HONOR ROLL

Honor roll students are recognized throughout the district. Students receiving all A's receive the Principal's List Award. Students receiving A's and B's receive the Honor Roll Award.

GRADUATION HONORS

See *Graduation Requirements*.

AWARDS

Outstanding academic achievement, citizenship, and participation in extracurricular activities are recognized during awards ceremonies at the end of each school year.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships for college are available to deserving students. High school students are advised to study college and university catalogs to be familiar with opportunities for institutional, service, and foundation scholarships that are offered. Most are available by completing a single application provided by the college or university. Applications for college scholarship are available in the high school guidance office. Students are advised to check the file frequently. Additional information is available in the school's career center. See Section X-Guidance and Support and Appendix

ADMISSIONS

ELIGIBILITY

Tate County School District admits into its schools all eligible resident and legally transferred minor children who are at least five years old and not over 21 years of age on or before September 1 of the current school year. The legal definition of residence for school attendance requires that a student physically reside full time within the school district boundaries. Each minor child must attend school in the school district of his/her residence unless legally transferred to another school district by the school board pursuant to MS Code §37-15-29 (1992). Except for students who have been legally transferred, each minor child seeking to enroll also must be a resident of the school zone in which the child is enrolling. All students must register at the school they are assigned to attend. Out-of-district transfer students and those living with a legally appointed guardian must furnish appropriate documentation at registration.

Any new student enrolling in the district or any continuing student whose residence has changed must be accompanied to enrollment by his/her parent/guardian who will register the minor child for admission, except students who have been legally transferred. The student's parent or legal guardian is required to verify his/her residence as part of the registration process. In the case of separated or divorced parents, court orders and decrees involving custody of children are controlling. All students presented for admission must submit or have on file a birth certificate, immunization records, and verification of residency.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

"Compulsory school-age child" means a child that-

1. Has attained or will attain the age of 5 years on or before September 1 and has enrolled in a full day public school kindergarten program. Note: Five-year-olds who enroll in public school kindergarten are subject to compulsory attendance laws. However, parents may un-enroll a child once.
2. Has attained or will attain the age of 6 years on or before September 1 of the calendar year, beginning in the school year that commences during the year the child attains the age of 6 years.
3. Has not attained the age of 17 years on or before September 1 of the calendar year.

A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school-age child in Mississippi must enroll a child to attend a public school or legitimate non-public school for the period of time that the child is of compulsory school age, except under the following circumstances:

1. When a compulsory school-age child is physically, mentally or emotionally incapable of attending school as determined by the appropriate school official based upon sufficient medical documentation.
2. When a compulsory school-age child is enrolled in and pursuing a course of special education, remedial education or education for disabled or physically or mentally disadvantaged children.
3. When a compulsory school-age child is being educated in a legitimate home instruction program.

Compulsory school-age children must be enrolled in school within 15 calendar days after the first day of the school year of the public school that such child is eligible to attend. Parent(s) of school-age children are legally responsible for seeing that their children attend school. MS Code §97 -5-39 and §37 -13-91. See *Late Enrollment and Section IV--Attendance*.

ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS (JBC)

BIRTH CERTIFICATE

Any child enrolling in kindergarten or Grade 1 must present a certified birth certificate upon admission. The birth certificate must be from the Bureau of Vital Statistics or from the U.S. State Department for students born overseas. Hospital records, baptismal records, etc., are not acceptable. No other birth certificate is acceptable. The principal or his/her designee must verify the birth certificate.

VERIFICATION OF RESIDENCY

As a result of the Residency Verification Procedure adopted as a policy of the Mississippi Board of Education on April 20, 1990, each parent or legal guardian or other adult with whom a student legally resides must

provide to the school administration a copy of at least two of the following items of verification of residence.

These items must reflect a street address or designated road address. A post office box address is not acceptable. Documents must be for current school year residence only; documents for rental or other commercial property are not acceptable. Motel/hotel addresses are not acceptable.

1. Filed Homestead Exemption application form
2. Mortgage documents or property deed
3. Apartment or home lease
4. Utility bills (power/gas)
5. Driver's license listing present address
6. Current voter precinct registration
7. Automobile registration
8. Affidavit of residence "and" personal visit by designated school district official at district option
A shared residency form must be completed with an affidavit attached. Providing falsified information will lead to student being removed from school and possible charges filed against parent/guardian and the homeowner listed on the affidavit.
9. Any other documentation that will objectively and unequivocally establish that the parent or guardian resides within the school district.
10. Certified copy of filed petition for guardianship if pending and final decree when granted

Anyone appointed as a legal guardian of a student must also provide a copy of the court order signed by a judge. Legal guardianships formed for the purpose of establishing residency for school district purposes are not recognized. MS Code Ann. §37-15-31, 1989 Supplement. An affidavit is not a legal document allowing transfer of custody or guardianship.

IMMUNIZATIONS & VACCINATIONS

A student enrolling in school must present from a doctor or the Tate County Health Department a Certificate of Compliance for immunization. The school is not allowed to enroll or register a student without this certificate.

Starting with the 2012- 2013 school year, the Mississippi Department of Health requires the Tdap vaccine (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) for all students entering 7th grade before they may attend school.

HOMELESS CHILDREN

When a child is determined to be homeless as defined by the Stewart B. McKinney Act 42 USC §11431(1), 11432(e)(4) and 11302(a), the Tate County School district considers and takes enrollment action that is in the best interest of the child, pursuant to 42 USC II 432(e)(3).

1. The requirements of Section 11 are minimum requirements, and the district may require additional documentation and verification at any time;
2. At the minimum, the district maintains in a file a written

instrument identifying the types of documents used to verify each student's residency and copies of any relevant guardianship petition or decree.

3. The provisions of this policy do not apply to students who reside outside the school district but who have legally transferred into the school district.

Any court-ordered procedure shall take precedent over any procedure contained herein.

STUDENT TRANSFER

TUITION TRANSFER

Except for special provisions for school district employees, residents of adjacent school districts may be legally transferred into the Tate County School District by the mutual consent of the school boards of the districts concerned. Consent is to be given in writing and entered into the minutes of the school boards.

If approved, the parent/guardian of the student so approved must complete a tuition contract with the district. This contract is available in the superintendent's office. If the Tate County School District's board accepts an out-of-district student properly released from the resident district, approval is based on the stipulation that the parent/guardian is responsible for transportation of the student to and from the school of attendance in Tate County.

The Tate County School District shall apply a uniform tuition policy for any student who lives out of district. The tuition is \$2500.00 per year per child, due in full prior to enrollment. The procedure for applying this policy is as follows:

The out-of-district student must be released by his/her home district.

The parent or guardian would request acceptance of the student by the Tate County Board of Education at the next scheduled board meeting.

All students would be accepted unless:

- a) the student is being disciplined by his/her home district through OLC or expulsion
- b) Tate County School District cannot provide any special services that the student may require
- c) Space availability (not to exceed 25 students per academic class period).

The parent or guardian would be charged \$2500.00 per year per child for their student to attend school in the district. This tuition would be payable prior to enrollment after acceptance by the Tate County Board of Education. The student will not be permitted to enroll in Tate County Schools until tuition is paid in its entirety. The tuition is not prorated if the student begins the year late in the semester. The tuition is non-refundable if the student withdraws from school or is expelled. The student will not be reconsidered for acceptance if he/she withdraws or is expelled. If rejected by the Tate County Board of Education or voided for any reasons, no appeal or reapplication to the district will be allowed.

Students accepted prior to the 2009-2010 school year will not be grandfathered in; thus all must apply according to this policy.

There should be no waivers of tuition granted for any reason. There should be no consideration given to the failure of the student's home district to provide services or transportation in taking into account the tuition charged for the privilege of attending school in the district. The tuition is intended to help cover the costs of that student's education when the parent or guardian's school taxes are paid to another district.

This policy cancels and/or supersedes any reciprocity agreements that the district may have had with any other school district, whether written or verbal.

The district does not recognize any legal guardianship formed for the purpose of establishing residency for school district attendance purposes. Only court approved guardianships stipulating a full-time living arrangement are viewed as appropriate to result in an exemption of the tuition requirement.

Questions regarding student transfers, tuition arrangements, and other

matters related to transferring students should be directed to the superintendent or assistant superintendent.

TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS

1. Any child transferring to any school in the Tate County School District must have a valid immunization certificate, birth certificate, report card, and name and address of the former school attended.
2. No transfer student is to be permanently enrolled until all admissions criteria are met.

Any child who transfers from an out-of-state public or private school in which the state's law provides for a first grade or kindergarten enrollment date subsequent to September 1, is allowed to enroll in the district at the same grade level as their prior out-of-state enrollment, if-

1. The parent, legal guardian or established custodian of the child was a legal resident of the state from which the child is transferring.
2. The out-of-state school from which the child is transferring is duly accredited by that state's appropriate accrediting authority.
3. The child was legally enrolled in a public or private school for a minimum of four weeks in the previous state.
4. The superintendent or a designee determines that the child was making satisfactory educational progress in the previous state.
5. The family meets district residency requirements. See *Residency*.

TRANSFER & ENROLLMENT

ACCREDITED SCHOOLS

An official transcript mailed directly from the office of the school previously attended is required for students transferring into a Tate County school from a school accredited by a state or regional accrediting agency. A report card or transfer papers from the previous school attended may be used for temporary class placement.

NON-ACCREDITED SCHOOLS

Students entering a school in the Tate County School District from non-accredited public, private, parochial, or home schools are placed initially at the discretion of the principal, pending observation by classroom teachers, guidance personnel, and the principal.

Criteria for placement may include any of the following:

1. Scores on achievement tests, which may be administered by appropriate district personnel.
2. Recommendation of the sending school.
3. Prior academic record.
4. Chronological age and social and emotional development of the student.
5. District-developed assessment instruments.

Elementary (Grades K-8)

1. The student will not be placed more than three grades below the grade or class that the pupil would have been assigned to had the pupil enrolled during the year the child reached his/her sixth birthday on or before September 1.
2. The enrollment is not considered official until a test has been given.
3. Principals determine the final grade placement on the basis of these observations and the achievement test scores.

High School (Grades 9-12)

The district validates high school credit for courses of transfer students from non-accredited public, private, or parochial schools by testing or by other evidence that the courses meet state requirements and standards.

1. The student is not placed above the grade that he/she would have attained had the pupil enrolled during the year his/her sixth birthday on or before September 1.
2. The student is required to take a test deemed appropriate by the Tate County School District. This test is used to ensure the student has the ability to perform on a high school level.
3. The student is required to complete all state and local requirements for graduation. The set of requirements that the student must meet will be determined as follows:
 - a. If the student is placed above the ninth grade level, the

- student must meet requirements for entering the ninth grade based on his/her chronological age as set forth above,
- b. If the student is placed in the ninth grade, the pupil must meet requirements of the ninth grade class in which he/she is enrolled,
4. The Carnegie Unit system is the primary factor in determining grade level placement of the high school student. The awarding of Carnegie units for non-accredited public, private, or parochial schools, or home school courses is at the discretion of the school principal. As a minimum, formal documentation for each course for which a Carnegie unit is requested must be presented to the principal as follows.
 - a. A set of objectives for the courses that are significantly similar to the objectives used in the Tate County School District instructional plan.
 - b. Extensive samples of work that reflect an extended period of study and practice/application of each objective presented in Item a.
 - c. Assessment measures used to determine that objectives have been met at a minimum of 70% mastery level.
 5. The number of Carnegie units awarded by the principal determines the grade placement of the pupil in accordance with the graduation requirements and state/local mandates.
 6. No authority is given or is to be implied regarding the waiver of any state or local graduation requirements for a student who transfers from non-accredited public, private, parochial, or home schools.
 7. A permanent record for the student is made upon enrollment. The record will contain all pertinent information and will show that the student entered from a non-accredited public, private, parochial, or home school.
 8. Any Carnegie units awarded by the principal are listed on the cumulative records and will be reflected as non-accredited public, private, parochial, or home school. (Home school credit may be recorded as pass/ fail and will not count toward GPA.) *See Section II-Academics: Graduation Requirements.*

WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

Out-of-District Transfers

All students who move outside the district at any time during the school year must withdraw from the school system using the following method of withdrawal.

1. School officials/teachers should be notified a least one-day prior

2. The student's parent must come to the principal's office and officially withdraw his/her child. All books and fines must be cleared before official withdrawal is completed and the student's academic record is cleared.
3. Any student who moves during the school year must record the change of address with the principal.
4. The principal is authorized to release reports or records when an official written request is received from the school district to which the student is transferred. (A parent or legal guardian has the right to review his/her child's school records.)
5. A student leaving the district may obtain a record of the student's work to date for the current term, Reports may be held if the student has any indebtedness to the school i.e. lunchroom, workbooks, library, text books, restitution damages, etc.).
6. If a student withdraws during the last two weeks of the school year and moves out of the district, the student receives grades in progress to be presented to his/her new school. The school to which the student transfers has the option of accepting the grades in progress as the student's final grade or-for students in In-District Transfers

A student who moves from one school zone to another in the Tate County School District is permitted to continue attendance in his/her present school if the move is made after the fourth term begins, and he/she may remain in the school only until the end of the current school year.

If a move occurs within the last three weeks of Term 1 (first nine weeks), or Term 2 (second nine weeks), or Term 3 (third nine weeks), the student is permitted to complete the term at his/her present school but will be required to move to his/her new school at the end of that term.

REGISTRATION

Appropriate registration forms must be completed or updated annually and signed by the student's parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control.

DRIVER'S LICENSE SCHOOL ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENT

In accordance with MS Code §63-1-10, 1972, as amended, any applicant for a driver's license less than 18 years of age must submit documentation from the appropriate school authority that the applicant is a full-time student in the Tate County Schools. These forms can be obtained in the principal's office.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE (JBA)

The Procedures in this section shall constitute a good-faith effort by the Tate County School District to comply with state law, to foster academic growth, and to establish expectation of each student of the Tate County School District to attend classes on a regular basis.

STATE LAW

The Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law (37-13-91) requires all children who have attained or will attain the age of 6 years on or before September 1 of the calendar year and who have not attained the age of 17 on or before September 1st of the calendar year to be in regular attendance at school. The law also requires that the Superintendent report immediately to the local school attendance officer any compulsory school-age child who has not enrolled within 15 calendar days after the first day of the school year. In addition, the Superintendent will report any child with 5 unexcused absences to the School Attendance officer for appropriate consultation between the officer and parents/guardians. An additional report is submitted when the student has 10 unexcused absences. Once the child has 12 unexcused absences, the law provides that charges of "Education Child Neglect" may be brought against the parent/guardian. Potential punishment for Education Child Neglect is a fine up to \$1000 and/or 1 year in jail. The School Attendance Officer is available to assist parents in having the children understand the importance of getting an education through our public school system.

ATTENDANCE

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

The law of Mississippi requires that all children between the ages of 6 and 17 attend school on a regular basis. In addition, five-year olds who are enrolled in public school kindergarten are subject to compulsory attendance laws. See Section III-Admissions. This law requires the school to:

1. Report to the Tate County attendance officer any child not enrolled within the first 15 days of the school year.
2. Report to the Tate County attendance officer any child who has:
 - a. 5 accumulated unexcused absences
 - b. 10 accumulated unexcused absences
 - c. 12 accumulated unexcused absences.
 - d. Been suspended or expelled.

After making the report, it is the duty of the court to determine if the parent/guardian is guilty of contributing to the neglect of a child and thus punishable in accordance with the provisions of MS Code §97-5-39 (1972).

STATE LAW: The Mississippi Compulsory attendance Law (37-13-91) requires all children who have attained or will attain the age of 6 on or before September 1 of the calendar year and who have not attained the age of 17 on or before September of the calendar year to be in regular attendance at school. The law also requires that the superintendent report immediately to the local school attendance officer any compulsory school age child who has not enrolled within 15 calendar days after the first day of the school year. In addition the superintendent will report any child with five unexcused absences to the School Attendance officer for appropriate consultation between the office, and parent/guardians. An additional report is submitted when the child has 10 unexcused absences. Once the child has 12 unexcused absences, the law provides that "Educational Child Neglect" may be brought against the parent/guardian. Potential punishment for Education Child Neglect is a fine up to \$1000 and/or 1 year in jail. The School Attendance Officer is available to assist parents in having the children understand the importance of getting an education through our public school system.

***New state law requires students to be in attendance 63% of the day in order to be counted present. This percentage excludes break, class changes, lunch, or recess.**

ATTENDANCE: GRADES K-6

Tate County requires that each student attend a minimum of 168 class days during the school year. No more than 12 absences are allowed in order to receive official academic credit for that year.

(No more than 12 absences may be documented through parent letters; **no more than 5 per semester**. Absences from school for school-sponsored activities under the direct supervision of a certified school employee are **not considered an absence**.

All absences other than those accompanied by a doctor's excuse, or those due to out of school suspension are counted in the total number of absences allowed.

Students/Parents/Legal Guardians are responsible for keeping up with the student's absences.

Students with excessive absences must get principal approval before being allowed to participate in field trips or activities that will remove the student from class.

ATTENDANCE: GRADES 7-12

All students attending a Tate County School must attend a minimum of 168 days out of a total 180 days scheduled in order to be eligible to receive academic credit for the school year.

1. Straight 7-period Schedule

- a. 6 days missed in semester course
- b. 12 days for year courses

3. Two-unit Vocational Classes

- a. 12 days in 2 unit classes

A student may be absent no more than 6 times in a semester course (a course that meets for one semester and is completed at the end of the semester) and may be absent no more than 12 times in a yearly course during the academic year. Any student enrolled in a half semester course may only have 3 absences. The parents/guardians of students who are absent for 6 days in a semester course or 12 days in a yearly course are notified by the school. This notification is documented by the principal or assistant principal. No more than 12 absences (6 per semester) may be documented through parent letters. Absences from school for school-sponsored activities under the direct supervision of a certified school employee are not considered an absence.

All absences other than those accompanied by a doctor's excuse, or those due to out of school suspension are counted in the total number of absences allowed.

EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

A student who exceeds these limits above in any one course for any reason-excused or unexcused-is not granted credit for the course unless all missed work, seat time is made up, and the student has a passing grade in the course..

Opportunities to make up seat time will be made available throughout the year at the discretion of the principal.

Students with excessive absences may be given the option of attending a summer school at the parent/guardians expense in order to receive credit.

Excessive/Appeal for Absences

Once the student exceeds the allowable days the principal shall be responsible for timely written notification to the student/parent/legal guardian that the student has excessive absences and has lost academic credit. Even after such notification, the student/parent/guardian will continue to be responsible for presenting the required notes for any further absences incurred and such notes will be placed on file to be considered by the District Review Committee should the student/parent/guardian seek a ruling (exception) from the committee.

At the time the principal notifies the student/parent/guardian that the student has excessive absences, the principal shall also provide the proper form explaining procedures for requesting review by the attendance hearing committee. This form must be completed and returned to the principal within five (5) days.

If the student/parent/guardian requests a review by the attendance hearing committee, the principal shall immediately forward a copy of the request and all available information, including the principal's recommendation, to the committee chairman. The chairman will be responsible for notifying the student/parent/guardian of the time and date of the review.

Failure to appear at the scheduled time without prior notification to the Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent will represent a forfeiture of the review.

The review committee will review all statements, both written and oral, from both the school administrator and the student/parent/guardian and in a closed session will make their determination. In most cases, the committee will present its ruling on the day it hears the individual case. In some situations, the committee may feel it needs additional information and may, in its discretion, continue the matter to a special meeting by arrangement.

The decision of the review committee shall be final.

ABSENCES & EXCUSES GRADES K-12

UNLAWFUL ABSENCES

An "unlawful absence" is an absence during the school day which is not due to a valid excuse for temporary nonattendance.
MS Code §37-13-91

EXCUSED ABSENCES

1. An absence **is** excused-
 - a. When the absence results from the attendance at an authorized school activity with the prior approval of the principal.
 - b. When the absence results from illness or injury of the student confirmed by a doctor's excuse; by the parents/guardians or school officials.
 - c. When isolation is required by a doctor, health department or school.
 - d. When it results from the death or serious illness of a member of the immediate family of a student confirmed by parents or guardians.
 - e. When it results from a medical or dental appointment making absence necessary.
 - f. When it results from the attendance of a student in a court proceeding.
2. An absence **may be** excused-
 - a. If the religion of the student or the parents require or suggest the observance of a religious event. Approval is at the discretion of the principal, but approval should be granted unless it would interfere with the student's education.
 - b. When it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the

principal that the purpose of the absence is to take advantage of a valid educational opportunity such as travel. Approval must be gained from the principal prior to the absence but approval is not unreasonably withheld.

PROCEDURE: SUBMITTING AN EXCUSE TO VALIDATE AN ABSENCE

Absences are to be reported to the principal or his designee by written note within two days of the student's return to school following the absence. Excuses received beyond this date are considered "unexcused" and will be reported as such unless there is just cause and approval by the principal.

Only five (5) parent notes for days missed are allowed during a school semester. The note should include: the date(s), the specific reason for the absence, and student's name.

After the 5 parent notes are exceeded, the student must have a verifiable legitimate medical excuse for the absence to be considered excused. A medical doctor's excuse which covers multiple days is considered "1 excuse".

Any absence exceeding three consecutive days will require a medical excuse to be considered excused, even if the allotted five parent notes have not been exceeded.

CHRONIC ILLNESS

Chronic health problems may or may not interfere with attendance at school. Chronic illness may include but not be limited to: diabetes, asthma, and severe allergies. It is the parent's responsibility to meet with a school administrator, teacher(s), and the school nurse to formulate an individual student plan to address absences, make-up work, and a school health care plan, if needed. Verification of the illness must be provided, in writing to the principal by a medical doctor.

EXCEPTIONS

The principal shall have the right to use his/her professional judgment to make exceptions to the attendance limit for excused absences.

ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Students may not participate in extracurricular activities on the days they are absent or suspended from school.

DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL

All requests for early dismissal should be turned in to the attendance office by 9 A. M. except for dismissals that are due to emergencies. Students dismissed from school because of illness are sent directly home or to a doctor after the parents have been contacted.

Any written request for early dismissal must have a date, reason, and parent's signature on the request. Permission must be secured from the principal or assistant principal before any student can check out or leave the school grounds. Unauthorized checkouts are treated as leaving school without permission.

NOTIFICATION

When a student is absent the parents/guardians are notified by telephone, letter, or in person by the principal or designee of the student's absentee. This notification is documented by the principal (or designee). Absences are most commonly communicated to parents/guardians through the School Messenger Phone System, Progress Reports and Report Cards.

MAKEUP WORK (EXCUSED/UNEXCUSED) (IHBA)

Students are allowed to make up work missed following an absence by contacting their teachers. The makeup work may be done under the following provisions:

Classroom Tests

Students who miss tests on days during excused absences will be

allowed to make up the tests. Make-up tests are not given during regular class time so as not to cause the student to miss on-going instruction. The student should check with his/her teacher to get the exact time for make-up tests. When a student misses a test because of truancy, out-of-school suspension, or for other unexcused absences, he will be allowed to take a make-up test on the day the student returns.

Nine-Week, Semester, or Final Exams

Students who are absent for a nine-weeks exam, a semester exam, or a final exam will be allowed to take the exams whether their absence was ruled excused or unexcused. The student will receive the grade earned on the exam. The teacher and principal will arrange a time for the student to make-up the exam.

Homework and Daily Work

Students must take the initiative to consult with each teacher about make-up work. Principals may specify a longer period of make-up time for students who experience an extended period of excused absences.

Students makeup work will be a two days to make up for a day missed for all work and tests missed.

ABSENCES FROM CLASS

A student who is in school cannot be absent from a class without the permission of the principal or assistant principal.

REQUESTS FOR ASSIGNMENTS

Any parent or guardian desiring homework assignments for students who are not in school should call the principal's office of the school by noon. Assignments may be picked up at the end of the school day.

TARDINESS (GRADES K-12)

The Tate County School District Board of Education regards promptness as a virtue that becomes a habit. Therefore, the board encourages students to develop the habit of punctuality. Tardiness and checking out of class early interrupt the education process for all children in the

classroom, not just the one that is tardy or being checked out. Students who have been absent for any part of the school day must report to the principal's office to sign in. Parents of students in grades K-6 are required to accompany their child to sign in. The following guidelines will be used for tardiness or checking out early:

1. Unexcused tardies/checkouts will be determined in the same manner as unexcused absences.
2. No more than six medically related tardies will be excused in a nine-week school term through parent documentation.

Negative consequences for four or more unexcused tardies will be enforced as follows:

- Warning to student
- Notification to parent
- Phone call to parent
- Conference with parent
- Written notification
- Negative consequences (such as ISS, OSS, and loss of driving privileges)

Late arrivals that exceeds a specified time for each campus may be considered check-in and result in absences from impacted classes'.

HOMEBOUND SERVICES

See *Section II-Academics and Section X-School Services*.

CHECKING IN - OUT

See *Section VIII-School Day*.

Admission Slips

Students who have been absent for any part of the school day must report to the principal's office to sign in. Parents of students in K-6 are required to accompany their child to sign in.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Perfect attendance is perfect and shall be defined and observed as no absences, no tardies, no check in, no check outs, or early dismissals from school. Exceptions shall be school bus tardies and school sponsored activities.

STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

Civility is a critical factor in establishing an environment conducive to learning and to the protection of the safety and well-being of students. Parents, guardians, staff, and students must assume responsibility for their own behavior and are expected to conduct themselves in an agreeable, acceptable manner that promotes kindness and understanding among people.

The philosophy of student conduct and discipline in Tate County Schools is rooted in the belief that every child is entitled to a safe, orderly learning environment in which to learn and that students, parents, and staff share in the responsibility for creating and supporting a positive school climate. Discipline policies are built around clearly defined rules and consequences, both positive and negative, applicable in the classrooms, in corridors, on campus, on school buses, and at school functions both on and off campus. Discipline policies and practice have the qualities of understanding, consistency, fairness, and firmness. When students choose to break rules, disciplinary action is taken at the discretion of the school principal and the guidelines and steps prescribed in a district-wide code of conduct. Consideration is given to the cause, nature, condition, and frequency of misconduct.

Recognizing the need to support the professional personnel of the Tate County schools, the district encourages the development of harmonious and cooperative relationships between students and faculty members based on mutual respect and understanding as a fundamental principle of school discipline. Significant interruptions of the educational process resulting from overt disrespect shown by students to faculty members, unruly student behavior, and vulgar or otherwise discourteous actions are not permitted. The basic objectives of discipline policies in Tate County are fourfold:

1. To establish conditions which do not prevent any teacher from teaching or any student from learning.
2. To establish and maintain study conditions that are conducive to learning.
3. To develop, on the part of each student, the habits and skills that make him/her self-directive and to help him/her realize that he/she is responsible for his/her own behavior.
4. To guide students in learning how to make better choices based on decision-making skills that enable them to become self-disciplined.

MISSISSIPPI SAFETY ACT OF 2001

Giving principals full authority under the law to establish and maintain discipline on school campuses, the Mississippi School Safety Act of 2001 affords school administrators and teachers the right to administer discipline. This includes the right of the teacher to remove from the classroom any student who disrupts the learning environment to the office of the principal or assistant principal. The principal or assistant principal determines the proper placement for the student, who may not be returned to the classroom until a conference has been held with the parent, guardian or custodian during which the disrupting behavior is discussed and agreements are reached that no further disruption will be tolerated. The following terms and conditions are set forth in the act:

The term **"disruptive behavior"** means conduct of a student that is so unruly, disruptive or abusive that it seriously interferes with a school teacher's or school administrator's ability to communicate with the students in a classroom, with a student's ability to learn, or with the operation of a school or school-related activity, and which is not covered by other laws related to violence or possession of weapons or controlled substances on school property, school vehicles or at school-related activities. Such behaviors include, but are not limited to: foul, profane, obscene, threatening, defiant or abusive language or action toward teachers or other school employees; defiance, ridicule or verbal attack of a teacher; and willful, deliberate and overt acts of disobedience of the directions of a teacher.

The term **"habitually disruptive"** refers to such actions of a student which cause disruption in a classroom, on school property or in vehicles or at a school-related activity on more than two occasions during a school year, and to disruptive behavior that was initiated, willful and overt on the part of the student and which required the attention of school personnel to deal with the disruption. However, no student may be considered to be habitually disruptive before the development of a behavior modification plan for the student in accordance with the code of student conduct and discipline plans of the school district.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The parent, guardian or custodian of each student is required to sign a statement verifying that they have been given notice of the discipline policies of the school district.
2. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school-age child enrolled in the district is responsible financially for a minor child's destructive acts against school property or persons.
3. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school-

age child enrolled in the district may be requested to appear at school by the school attendance officer or an appropriate school official for a conference regarding acts of the child, or for any other discipline conference regarding the acts of the child.

4. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school-age child enrolled in a school district who refuses or willfully fails to attend such discipline conference specified in this section may be summoned by proper notification by the superintendent or the school attendance officer and be required to attend such discipline conference.
5. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school-age child enrolled in the district is responsible for any criminal fines brought against such student for unlawful activity occurring on school grounds or buses.
6. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school-age child who (a) fails to attend a discipline conference to which such parent, guardian or custodian has been summoned or (b) refuses or willfully fails to perform any other duties imposed upon him or her, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not to exceed \$250.
7. The district is entitled to recover damages in an amount not to exceed \$20,000, plus necessary court costs, from the parents of any minor under the age of 18 years and over the age of six years, who maliciously and willfully damages or destroys property belonging to such school district. This does not apply to parents whose parental control of such child has been removed by court order or decree. The action is in addition to all other actions that the district is entitled to maintain. This does not preclude recovery in a greater amount from the minor or from a person, including the parents, for damages to which such minor or other person would otherwise be liable.
8. A student may remain in school by having the parent, guardian or custodian, with the consent of the student's teacher or teachers, attend class with the student for a period of time specifically agreed upon by the reporting teacher and school principal. If the parent, guardian or custodian does not agree to attend class with the student or fails to attend class with the student, the student shall be suspended in accordance with the code of student conduct and discipline policies of the school district

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Administrators and teachers hold students accountable for their conduct in school, on the way to and from school when transported on school buses, at any school-sponsored event in or out of town, and while riding any school owned vehicle or at any school related activity or event. Also included is conduct occurring on property other than school property or other than at a school-related activity or event when conduct by a pupil, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders that pupil's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole. MS Code §37-7-301.

Any school official may correct any type of student misconduct.

The failure of any student to recognize and adhere to verbal statements of correction by school officials is cause for discipline.

Teachers are expected to handle most of the disciplinary problems. If, however, a student does not adhere to the corrections and warnings of a teacher, counselor, bus driver, etc., the student may be referred to the assistant principal and/or principal for disciplinary action. In each instance when this is done, a written and signed referral form is submitted by the referring teacher explaining the problem.

Each student referred to the assistant principal and/or principal for disciplinary reasons is given a fair and prompt hearing, when requested, before any action is taken.

Acts of violence and other illegal actions by students at school or school activities are reported to appropriate parents/guardians and law enforcement and/or court authorities as required by the Mississippi School Violence Act of 1994.

THREAT ASSESSMENT

Threat Assessment Procedure

Whenever there is a threat of violence against a student, faculty member, or staff member, extreme caution must be taken to ensure the safety of all concerned. Due to the increased violence in schools, threats of any kind cannot be tolerated or overlooked. If a student threatens another student, teacher, school staff or self with bodily harm, immediate disciplinary action will be taken by the school, as well as notification to appropriate district level personnel. If the threat's severity is moderate to severe, the parent or guardian will be responsible for seeking further assessment from a state approved mental health agency; such as the ones listed below before he/she will be allowed to return to regularly scheduled classes.

Assessments from these agencies are free of charge. A written and signed document must be presented to the principal from one of the following outside agencies: St. Francis, 1-800-292-7707, 5959 Park Avenue, Memphis, TN 38119; Parkwood Behavioral Health System 1-800-477-3422, 8136 Goodman Rd, Olive Branch, MS 38654.

After further assessment has been completed from an agency, a recommendation is given for either outpatient services, or additional treatment for the child. If the agency used recommends outpatient or inpatient services it is the parent or guardian responsibility to follow the recommendations given. A student will not be allowed to return to regularly scheduled classes until a written and signed document is obtained by the district from the agency, stating that the student is safe and is not a threat to themselves, other students, faculty, or staff.

PUNISHABLE OFFENSES

ASSAULT

A person is guilty of simple assault if he/she (a) attempts to cause or purposely, knowingly or recklessly causes bodily injury to another; or (b) negligently causes bodily injury to another with a deadly weapon or other means likely to produce death or serious bodily harm; or (c) attempts by physical menace to put another in fear of imminent serious bodily harm.

A person is guilty of aggravated assault if he/she (a) attempts to

cause serious bodily injury to another, or causes such injury purposely, knowingly or recklessly under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to the value of human life; or (b) attempts to cause or purposely or knowingly causes bodily injury to another with a deadly weapon or other means likely to produce death or serious bodily harm. (MS Code 97-3-7)

BATTERY

Battery is physical aggression perpetrated against another student or school employee.

BREAKING LAWS AT SCHOOL

Any act in violation of federal, state, or local law done on the campus of a public school is punishable by the appropriate agency.

CHEATING

Cheating involves scholastic dishonesty: giving or receiving information by any means in a testing situation, classroom work, or homework. This includes giving answers to a test and/or quiz to other persons, copying another student's work, securing tests or test answers, using unauthorized materials during a test, collaborating with other students taking a test, substituting for another student, or soliciting a substitute for a test. It also includes plagiarizing information in reports or papers. Penalties range from receiving zero on the work and the teacher contacting the students' parents to being discipline.

COUPLE'S INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

Inappropriate display of affection by students, such as petting, fondling, kissing, holding hands, hugging, feeling another's body, or engaging in sexual misconduct is prohibited on school properties or at school sponsored activities.

DISRUPTION OF SCHOOL OPERATIONS, PROGRAMS, OR ACTIVITIES

Any action or conduct which disrupts any school function including classroom, cafeteria, school bus, activity events, student assemblies, or class changes is prohibited.

DISREGARD OF DRESS & GROOMING CODE

A chronic disregard of the district dress, accessories, and/or grooming codes. See *Dress Code*.

DISRESPECT/INSOLENCE TOWARD EMPLOYEES/OTHER STUDENTS

These terms indicate a lack of respect shown through insultingly contemptuous speech, body language, or conduct toward school employees, visitors, or other students.

FIGHTING OR PROVOKING A FIGHT

Striking or grabbing a fellow student; starting a fight by same or verbally or in some other way encouraging people to fight and play fighting constitute this offense. These may be considered violent acts. Students who are involved in assaults, who engage in fighting or who are responsible in any way for fighting while under the jurisdiction of the school are subject to arrest, removal and/or expulsion from school in accordance with statutes and/or district policy. This includes fighting while on a bus, bus stops, or at any activity/event sponsored by the Tate County School District.

FORGERY

Forgery means writing or using the signature of another person.

GAMBLING

This term includes involvement in any game of chance, i.e. cards, dice, coin flipping, betting (e.g. sports, fights, and academic success or failure), etc.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, OR VERBAL ASSAULT

These terms indicate bothering another student or teacher, extorting money, food or objects, damage to personal property, and threats. They also include verbal assaults. These may be considered violent acts.

STUDENT BULLYING (JDDA)

The Tate County School District does not condone and will not tolerate bullying or harassing behavior. **Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that (a) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, or (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits. The School Board directs the superintendent or designee to design and implement procedures for reporting, investigating, and addressing bullying and harassing behaviors.**
**Refer to Policy JDDA: Student Bullying, Student Complaints of Bullying or Harassing Behavior & Bullying Harassment Reporting Form in the Appendix*

INDECENT EXPOSURE

Indecent exposure is the intentional or careless exposure of various private body parts. This may result from a dress code infraction.

INSUBORDINATION

Insubordination is the failure to submit to authority, disobedience or refusing or failing to obey a direct request, either privately or publicly (in the presence of others). Insubordination includes such action to any school district employee.

PROHIBITED ORGANIZATIONS

No student may actively participate or wear clothing or other indications of membership in an organization that advocates violence or hatred toward any group of students and other individuals, or an organization which either intends to or does disrupt the educational process through its purpose or actions.

Sororities, Fraternities, & Secret Organizations

State laws specifically prohibit the existence of any sorority, fraternity, or secret society as a part of any high school in Mississippi. The Tate County School District expressly prohibits use of any school in the district as a part of the name of any of these groups, raising funds in the name of any school in the district, conducting any part of their initiation at any district in the school (including wearing of unusual dress, signs, and directions or instructions given to initiates by members), and the use of any school facility-grounds or buildings-for the purpose of meeting or holding any type of program or exhibition. The above regulations are not inclusive; other conduct in connection with these groups is forbidden at or in the schools. Students who violate the position of the Tate County School District in this matter are subject to suspension, with a parental conference required before reinstatement.

Gang Activity or Association

Gangs that initiate, advocate, or promote activities which threaten the safety or well-being of persons or property on school grounds or which disrupt the environment are harmful to the educational process. The use of hand signals, graffiti, or the presence of any apparel, jewelry, accessory, or manner of grooming which, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, symbol, or any other attribute that indicates or implies membership or affiliation with such a group, presents a clear and present danger and is prohibited. This creates an atmosphere where unlawful acts or violations of school regulations may occur. Incidents involving initiations, hazing, intimidations, and/or related activities of affiliations which are likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to students are prohibited.

POSSESSION, TRANSFER, OR USE OF PROHIBITED ITEMS

1. GUNS/WEAPONS

The Tate County School District bans the possession, transfer, use, or attempted use of any gun, rifle, pistol or other firearm; any dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine or powerful explosive; or a Bowie knife, dirk, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, switchblade knife, blackjack, metallic knuckles, razors and razor blades and

other sharp-pointed or edged instrument except instructional supplies.

2. FIREWORKS

3. ILLEGAL OR STOLEN PROPERTY

4. TOBACCO/ALL TYPES/ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES
 Tate County School District Board of Education bans the use of all tobacco products to include but is not limited to, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, smokeless and electronic cigarettes, and matches, lighters, rolling papers, cigars and pipes. This ban includes all school buildings in the district and in all school vehicles by all persons at all times. This ban extends to all employees, students, and patrons attending school-sponsored events and meetings and in school-owned or operated vehicles and facilities.

5. DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

The Tate County School District prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of alcoholic beverages, prescription drugs used improperly, marijuana, or other controlled substances by students and employees on school campuses or as part of any of its activities. This ban includes being under the influence of these controlled substances. Disciplinary sanctions on students and employees are consistent with local, state, and federal laws. *See also Introduction-Civil Responsibilities and Appendix.*

6. LASER ITEMS

This ban includes laser pointers, laser key chains, or any other laser items.

7. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Electronic devices are not allowed anywhere on campus at any time with the exception of in the classroom with teacher permission for educational purposes. No ear buds, Bluetooth, over-the-ear headphones, or any other accessories, may be visible.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The Tate County School District is committed to providing for its students an educational environment that is respectful of human dignity and free from sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is defined as derogatory or objectionable conduct including, but not limited to, unsolicited, unwanted or offensive touching, rubbing, bumping against another's body or other physical contact, and making unsolicited, suggestive sexual verbal comments or innuendoes, including but not limited to sexist slurs, sexually oriented obscene, lewd, vulgar, unwanted, offensive, or indecent language. In addition, pressure for dates or sexual activity is not tolerated. Students guilty of threatening or sexually harassing other students or school employees are subject to appropriate disciplinary action. *See also Introduction-Civil Responsibilities: Sexual Harassment.*

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Sexual misconduct is defined as rape, sexual intercourse, sexual battery, and "heavy" petting. Sexual misconduct also includes sexual harassment, and verbal sexual assault.

THEFT

Stealing in any form, taking something under any circumstances that does not belong to you is prohibited. This includes stealing of any school district property and/or stealing from school district personnel, visitors, or other students.

TRESPASSING

Trespassing is unauthorized presence on school property. Students who are assigned to parent care or out-of-school suspension, recommended for expulsion, or expelled but are on campus unaccompanied by a parent/guardian are considered to be trespassing.

VANDALISM/GRAFFITI

Vandalism is intentional damage to school property, or to the property of others which is located on school property. Restitution for damage to school property is required.

VULGARITY

Profanity or inappropriate language for the school environment whether it is oral, written, or indicated is classified as vulgar. Examples include dirty notes/ letters, "shooting the bird", or other indications of vulgarity.

ASSERTIVE DISCIPLINE LADDER

The discipline program, which governs student behavior, includes behaviors and consequences that result in a student being placed on a discipline ladder. All disruptions/discipline problems and consequences are applicable to all students during all periods of time they are under and subject to the jurisdiction of the Tate County School District as defined by the laws of the State of Mississippi and/or while they are participating in or going to or from any activity sponsored by the district and/or while under the supervision and direction of any teacher, principal, or other authority of the district.

CONSEQUENCES

Warning

A student may receive any of the following types of warnings in order to correct the inappropriate behavior: a simple stated warning, noticeable eye contact or gesture. When a student's behavior becomes such that the teacher must stop teaching to reprimand him/her, then the teacher issues demerits or fills out a discipline report.

Detention

Detention is one method for handling student misbehavior. The student is required to report to detention for short periods of time. Detentions are completed on a daily basis either during school, in the classroom, before school, or after school. Truancy, student misbehavior, or being uncooperative during detention results in referral to a school administrator for further discipline. Classroom detention is managed by the individual classroom teacher. Other detentions may involve larger groups assigned by teachers and/or administrators.

In-school Detention (ISD)

ISD is the removal of a student by an administrator from a class or classes for a specified period of time to remain at school during class periods in a specified area. The student may complete assignments and receive counseling and/or behavior modification assistance. In-school detention may also entail the denial of certain privileges, i.e., recess outside the classroom. In addition, students may be required to complete tasks on campus such as picking up paper.

After-school Detention (ASD)

After-school detention is maintained during the first hour following dismissal from school. Parents/Guardians must come to school to sign a child out of ASD. Any parent/guardian who does not comply with the guidelines must be required to meet with the principal before the student is allowed to return to school.

Suspension

In-School Suspension (ISS)

In the ISS program a student is isolated from his/her classmates. The student is counted present for the day, required to complete school work for credit, and complete all work assigned by the ISS teacher or district designee. To remain in the ISS for the specified time, the student must display a cooperative attitude, willingness to work, and excellent behavior. An uncooperative attitude may result in additional disciplinary actions. If a student receives ISS, participation in extracurricular activities is at the discretion of the principal.

Out of School Suspension (OSS)

Out-of-school suspension is the denial of the privilege of attending school in the district imposed after due process upon any student of the district at the direction of the principal of the school in which the

student is enrolled. A suspended student may return to school following the expiration of the suspension period without application for readmission but is required to be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or custodian before being readmitted to class. A suspension includes the denial of the privilege of participating in or attending any school related activity for the period of the suspension. Further, suspended students may not trespass upon any school campus or enter into any school building except for a prearranged conference with a principal. Occasionally a student is suspended immediately, if it is determined to be in the general welfare of the student, other students, and/or school personnel. Students assigned to OSS are reported absent from school while under home suspension. Parents are notified of the suspension by telephone or letter. If a parent is not contacted by phone, a letter is mailed to notify them of the suspension.

Referral to Teacher Support Team (TST)

The teacher making the referral requests a meeting with the TST to discuss the student's behavior at school. The TST then makes recommendations including but not limited to interventions. Parent notification of TST referral is sent to parent/guardian at the initial Tier 2/3 placement. The parent may request to be present at this meeting. The meetings are scheduled as needed.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment is an option in the disciplinary program of the Tate County School District. The principal or assistant principal may administer corporal punishment. In all cases, another certified person must be present when the punishment is administered. Corporal punishment may not be administered in anger or in the presence of the other students. Suspension is mandatory in instances where corporal punishment is refused.

In all cases where corporal punishment is administered, a discipline form is completed immediately and must contain the following information:

1. Student's Name
2. Date
3. Details of specific incident for which punishment was administered
4. Signature of person administering punishment
5. Signature of witness

The office copy of the discipline form is filed in the principal's office. The parent's copy is sent home by the student or through the mail.

Alternative Placement

A district disciplinary committee composed of Tate County School District personnel reviews the academic and conduct record of a student recommended for alternative placement. Alternative environments typically have a low pupil teacher ratio and a variety of intervention strategies. A certified teacher is assigned to each alternative class. Students are given instruction and assignments at the appropriate level. Periodically, the alternative placement committee reviews the student's progress for the purpose of determining future placement. Students alternately placed are not allowed to attend any Tate County School District functions.

Expulsion

The student is not allowed to attend any school in the district for the term of the expulsion. Admittance to school the upcoming year is determined by a discipline review committee prior to school starting. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to request this meeting. Students expelled from school are not allowed to attend any Tate County School District functions.

Automatic Expulsion

The superintendent or principal has authority to recommend automatic expulsion of any student who possesses any controlled substance in violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Law, a knife, handgun, other firearm, or other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm or who commits a violent act on school property. The expulsion takes effect immediately subject to constitutional due process rights. See *Appendix*.

BEHAVIOR LEVELS

Level I

Classroom management is the responsibility of the instructor. Classroom rules are developed by each teacher. These rules ensure safety, respect, and responsibility for all students. Each teacher enacts disciplinary actions according to the severity of the student's Level I misbehavior. The following is a sample of Level I behaviors but is not all-inclusive.

1. Unacceptable talking or loud noises
2. Displays of verbal or physical disrespect to other students
3. Distractive items
4. Eating or chewing gum in class without permission
5. Unauthorized movement in the classroom
6. Unacceptable contact with others, including public displays of affection
7. Running
8. Unauthorized use of a computer or any school equipment
9. Fussing
10. Tattling
11. Hitting
12. Throwing objects
13. Unnecessary comments
14. Poor cafeteria manners
15. Littering
16. Disregarding instructions/Insubordination
17. Writing on desks or walls
18. Argumentative
19. Lying
20. Stealing or borrowing without permission
21. Copying homework or test
22. Cheat sheets
23. Threats
24. Promoting and instigating a fight
25. Out of area
26. Forgery (grades K-6)
27. Rest room misbehavior
28. Use of profanity
29. Dress Code Violation
30. Tardy to class/school

Consequences for Level I behaviors may include reprimand, issuance of demerits, discipline form completion, detention, parent contact, referral to Teacher Support Team.

DEMERIT SYSTEM CONSEQUENCES

When Merit/Demerit Systems are used, the following are possible repercussions for incurring demerit points. Other disciplinary action may be assessed at the discretion of the principal or his designee.

- Any student who incurs seven demerits will receive parental contact.
- Any student who incurs ten demerits will be referred to the office and a parent conference will be required before the student is allowed to return to school.
- Any student who incurs fifteen demerits will move to step 3 on the disciplinary ladder.
- Any student who incurs twenty five demerits will move to step 4 on the disciplinary ladder.
- Any student who incurs demerits beyond thirty will move to step 5 – 7 on the disciplinary ladder.

LEVEL II

Level II Behaviors are those resulting in action by the principal and/or assistant principal. The principal or designee administers discipline according to the severity of the student's Level II misbehavior. The following is a sample of Level II behaviors. This list is not all-inclusive. Consequences are based on previous conduct.

BEHAVIOR

- | STEP | CONSEQUENCE |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Continued Level 1 Misbehavior (after TST referral and intervention) | 1-6 |

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 2. Assault on a student | 3-7 |
| 3. Bullying | 2-6 |
| 4. Extortion | 2-6 |
| 5. Possession/Use/Transferring of Firearms and Ammunition (firearms only) | 7 |
| 6. Fighting or Instigating | 1-7 |
| 7. Gang related activity | 2-7 |
| 8. Any death that occurs on school property caused by student | 7 |
| 9. Without lawful authority to cease confine or imprison a person against their will | 3-7 |
| 10. Disfigurement of a person Slicing, cutting with a razor or the intentional disfigurement of a person | 7 |
| 11. Introduction by a student of a hazardous substance to food or water supply with the intent to kill or injure | 5-7 |
| 12. Sexual relations by a person 18 or older with a child under the age of 14, any person who forcibly attempts to have sexual relations with a female regardless of age. | 7 |
| 13. Robbery: To take property from the possession of another by violence or threat of | 2-4 |
| 14. Assault on teachers or other school personnel (physical or verbal) property | 5-7 |
| 15. To harass or credibly threaten another with the intent to instill fear of death or injury that results in prosecution | 7 |
| 16. Actual sexual penetration without consent; or of a mental defective ; or child greater than 14 but less than 18; or sex between staff and student | 7 |
| 17. Possession of a knife, box cutter, chain, mace, pepper spray, or any weapon or act in concert with any students who have such items in their possession or constructive control | 2-7 |
| 18. Alcohol: Liquor, beer or other alcohol beverage | 5-7 |
| 19. Bomb Threat | 7 |
| 20. Disorderly Conduct | 5-7 |
| 21. Possession/sale/ transferring /use of unauthorized substances including, tobacco, drugs, drug paraphernalia | 2-7 |
| 22. Theft | 2-7 |
| 23. Entering school property without authorization or not pursuant to school business | 2-7 |
| 24. Destruction of school property on campus | 1-6 |
| 25. Any incident which is a violation of school policy which is not a violation of the law | 1-4 |
| 26. Possession of a cell phone/unauthorized use of a cell phone. | 1-7 |

Note: The cell phone will be retained in the principal's office as follows: first offense – parent may pick up device, second offense – five calendar days confiscation, third offense – confiscation for a minimum of 10 days and 3 days suspension from school. **If a student refuses to give their electronic device to a school official, they will be written up for insubordination and suspended for 3 days.**

27. Skipping class and/or leaving campus 1-6

*To promote a safe campus, students are given eight seconds to remove themselves from an area in which a fight is in progress. Failure to do so results in disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the principal or designee.

Consequences for Level II Behaviors

- | STEP | CONSEQUENCE |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | A. Contact parents*
B. Detention - 3 days
C. In-School suspension -1 day |

- D. Corporal punishment
- 2
- A. Contact parents
 - B. Detention - 5 days
 - C. In-School suspension - 2 days
 - D. Home suspension - 1 day
 - E. Corporal punishment
 - F. No participation in or attendance at any school activities during the home suspension period
- 3
- A. Contact parents*
 - B. In-School suspension - 3 days
 - C. Home suspension – 2-4 days
 - D. No participation in or attendance at any school activities during the home suspension period
 - E. Parent conference with principal at school
- 4
- A. Contact parents*
 - B. Combination of in-school and home suspension for 3 - 5 days
 - C. Home suspension for 4 - 6 days
 - D. No participation in or attendance at any school activities during the home suspension period
- 5
- A. Contact parents*
 - B. Combination of in-school and home suspension for 5 - 9 Days
 - C. Home suspension for 5 - 9 Days
 - D. No participation in or attendance at any school activities during the home suspension period
- 6
- A. Contact Parents*
 - B. Home suspension - 9 days
 - C. Student may be recommended for alternative education for up to 45 days
 - D. Student may be recommended for expulsion
 - E. No participation in any school activity for the remainder of the school year and no attendance at any school activity for nine weeks
- 7.
- A. Contact parents*
 - B. Home suspension – 9 days
 - C. Recommended for expulsion
 - D. No participation or attendance at any school activity for the remainder of the school Year.

*Mandatory consequence

BUS CONDUCT/DISCIPLINE LADDER

The privilege of riding a school bus carries with it certain responsibilities on the part of the student. Drivers are expected to keep order and discipline on the bus, but their major responsibility is to drive the bus. The bus is an extension of the classroom. Violations of school rules while on the bus are handled as if the students were in school.

Riding the school bus is a privilege that can be lost if proper conduct is not followed. Students jeopardize this privilege by failing to conduct themselves in a proper way. Therefore, students are expected to cooperate with all disciplinary and safety regulations. When a student fails to observe bus safety rules, the driver will complete a bus discipline report that will be sent to the principal at the student's campus. The principal will confer with the student and assign an appropriate disciplinary action based upon the infraction.

- Step 1: Student given a warning by the driver
- Step 2: Student sent to the principal's office
- A. Warning may be given and notice sent to parents about future consequences.
 - B. Corporal punishment may be administered by the principal or assistant principal.
- Step 3:
- A. Student may be removed from the bus For 1-3 days
 - B. Student may be removed from the bus for 5-10 days.
 - C. Student may be removed from bus for a length of time up to the remainder of the semester.
 - D. Student may be removed from the bus for the remainder of the school year.

Severe Clause: If an incident occurs that is deemed severe enough, the steps may be bypassed and the student removed from transportation services for a length of time deemed appropriate by the principal.

Fighting is not tolerated. Anyone fighting on a bus will be suspended from the bus and/or school for a period of time to be determined by the principal.

Actions that result in disciplinary action include, but are not limited to, the following.

1. At no time are students to touch the outside of the bus or hang heads, arms, legs, bodies, or hands out of the windows of the bus.
2. Immediately upon entering the bus, students are to be seated and remain seated until they arrive at their destination.
3. Students are to board the bus and leave the bus according to the instructions of the bus driver.
4. Students may not leave the bus on its way to or from the school except at their designated stop.
5. Students are not to throw or in any way sail/shoot/ pitch objects on or out of the bus.
6. Drivers have the option of delegating students to an assigned seat.
7. The bus must come to a complete stop before students may enter or exit the bus.
8. Loud talking and other loud noises are not permitted on the bus.
9. Students are held financially responsible for defacing or vandalizing the bus.
10. No beverages, chewing gum, or food may be consumed on the bus.
11. Intentional littering of the bus is prohibited.
12. Students must identify themselves properly when requested to do so by school bus personnel.
13. Vulgar language is prohibited on the school bus.
14. Students are not to harass, intimidate, or threaten other students while waiting for or riding a bus.
15. Students are not to fight on the bus or at the bus stop. (Incidents are reported to law enforcement.)
16. Use or possession of dangerous objects on the school bus or at the bus stop is forbidden. (Reported to law enforcement.)
17. Students are not to use, sell, possess, or be under the influence of drugs or alcohol on the school bus or at the bus stop. (Reported to law enforcement.)
18. Stealing is prohibited.
19. Tobacco products are not permitted on the bus or at bus stops.
20. Open defiance or open displays of disrespect or insolence toward a bus driver are not tolerated.
21. Other misbehavior as determined by the administration, including a pattern of repeated bus misbehavior, is not permitted.
22. Weapons on the school bus or at bus stops are forbidden. (Reported to law enforcement.)
23. Disruption of the bus.
24. Standing or changing seats while the bus is in motion.
25. Instigating or participating in fights. Engaging in destruction of public, personal, or private property.

26. Violation of safety regulations.
27. Committing any act that, in the opinion of school personnel, is detrimental, to decency of decorum.
28. Misbehavior that causes injury (bodily or psychological) to another student or self.
29. Students are expected to abide by the school district's dress code and other school rules while riding school buses.
30. No balloons, glass, pets, etc. are allowed on the bus.

Bus drivers submit misconduct reports in writing. When possible the driver delivers reports to the principal/or designee in person. Only the school principal/or designee may suspend a student. Bus suspension usually refers to the school bus only and the number of days applies to school days only. Weekends and holidays do not count. When students are suspended from riding a school bus they are not allowed to ride any bus. The responsibility for transporting the child is left to the parent. The principal/or designee notifies the student at least one day in advance of the date on which his/her suspension is to take effect.

A record of all suspensions giving the name of the student involved, dates of the suspension, and reason/ reasons for the suspension are kept on file in the principal's office. Copies of the suspension report are sent to the student parent/guardian, to the central office, and to the bus driver. See *Section VII-Safety and Security: Bus Safety and Section X-School Services: Transportation*.

SEARCHES AND INTERROGATIONS (JCDA)

School administrators, teachers, and school resource officers have the right to question students regarding their conduct and/or the conduct of others. In regard to students' alleged actions, except where the alleged action would **constitute a criminal offense**, the right against self-incrimination does not exist.

SEARCHES

The Tate County School District must maintain an atmosphere conducive to the pursuit of its educational goals, including a right to search students' personal belongings when it is in the interest of the overall welfare of other students or is necessary to preserve the good order and discipline of the school. Lockers may be opened or other searches conducted in the presence of two members of the professional staff.

VEHICLES

The school retains authority to inspect student vehicles used as transportation to school whether on or off school property. When a school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal or unauthorized materials are contained inside a student vehicle, the student may be required to open the vehicle, including the trunk, for further inspection.

CANINE

The district may at any time utilize trained police dogs to search vehicles, desks, lockers, school property, except possessions on a student's person, with reasonable suspicion of a violation following written notification to the superintendent. A canine response indicating the presence of contraband constitutes reasonable suspicion and a more intrusive search may be conducted at the direction of the principal, school resource officer, and responding law enforcement personnel.

DESKS & LOCKERS

Desks and lockers are school property and remain at all times under the control of the school. However, students are responsible for whatever is contained in desks or lockers issued to them by the school. School authorities may conduct periodic general inspections at any time for any reason related to school administration. Inspection of individual desks or lockers may occur when there is a reasonable basis to do so, or for health and safety reasons. In those cases, the student or a third party may be present. Items which may be placed or kept in a desk or locker include, but are not limited to, school issued books, pencils, pens, paper, clothing apparel. Items that may NOT be placed or kept in a desk or locker include, but are not limited to, items not directly connected with school requirements such as weapons, explosive devices, illegal contraband, and other items in violation of school policy.

BOOK BAGS, PURSES, ETC.

A student's personal effects may be searched whenever a school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe the student is in possession of illegal or unauthorized materials or contraband.

PERSONAL SEARCH

A student's person and/or personal effects may be searched whenever a school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student is in possession of illegal or unauthorized materials or contraband. A pat-down search of a student's person, if required, must be conducted in private by a school official of the same sex with at least one adult witness present. Only extremely rare situations require a more intrusive search of a student's person than a pat-down. If extreme emergency conditions exist, and only upon prior approval by the central office, is a more intrusive search to be considered. If such a search is necessary, it is conducted in private by a school official of the same sex with an adult witness of the same sex present.

METAL DETECTORS/VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

Metal detectors are used at selected school events at the discretion of the school administration. Metal detectors are used in the schools as deemed appropriate. Inspections/searches of personal property at public events are conducted by school administrators and/or law enforcement personnel. Inspections/searches of personal property at school sites may be conducted by school administrators in accordance with established procedures. Refusal to pass through the metal detectors is considered sufficient cause to deny entrance to the event or to school until a personal search is completed. Video cameras may also be used on buses or on school property to ensure safety and/or to record student discipline problems.

DUE PROCESS

A student who has been suspended or expelled or otherwise denied admission to attend school has the right to due process. All aspects, circumstances and records of the student's case shall be confidential and available only to authorized school officials dealing directly with the student or to the student's parents, legal guardians or attorneys for the student or for the Board. The following procedures provide notice and opportunity to be heard in such matters.

STEP ONE: INITIAL INFORMAL HEARING

Applies to: Suspensions of 10 days or less
 Suspensions of 11 days or more
 Recommendations of Expulsions
 Denials of admission

1. An initial informal hearing is required in each case where disciplinary action may be taken against a student and where an expelled student makes application of readmission following the conclusion of the expulsion period. After an initial investigation appropriate under the circumstances, the principal, superintendent or designee shall:
 - a. Advise the student of the charges against him or reasons for nonadmission;
 - b. Afford the student a full opportunity to respond; and
 - c. If the student denies the charges or contests the reasons for nonadmission, explain the evidence in support thereof.
2. After the informal hearing, the principal may take the following actions:
 - a. **SUSPENSION OF 10 DAYS OR LESS:** The principal may issue to the student and legal guardian a notice of suspension not longer than 10 consecutive school days.
 - b. **IMMEDIATE REMOVAL:** The principal may immediately dismiss the student from school for the day when such is necessary to restore order, to protect the safety of the student or others, and/or to resume normal school functions but when an immediate suspension is not or may not be appropriate. A student sent home under these circumstances shall be instructed to return the

following day with his legal guardian. Should the student not return as instructed, the principal shall mail a "Notice of Suspension" for 10 days or less, as appropriate.

- c. IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF EXPULSION: The principal or superintendent shall immediately suspend a student for 10 days or less and recommend expulsion when there is reason to believe that the student committed an unlawful or violent act, as defined or otherwise provided by District policy. The suspension shall be effective immediately, pending conclusion of due process on the recommendation of expulsion.
- d. IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF SUSPENSION OF 11 DAYS OR MORE/EXPULSION: The principal or the superintendent may immediately suspend a student for 10 days or less and recommend a suspension of 11 days or more or expulsion, as appropriate under the circumstances. The suspension shall be effective immediately, pending the conclusion of due process on the recommendation of long-term suspension or expulsion.
- e. DENIAL OF ADMISSION: The principal or superintendent may recommend a denial of admission which shall be effective immediately, pending the conclusion of due process.

STEP TWO: APPEAL

Applies to: Suspensions of 11 days or more
Expulsions
Denials of admission

If after the initial hearing the principal or superintendent determines that a recommendation of suspension for 11 days or more, expulsion or other denial of admission is the appropriate disciplinary action:

1. The principal or superintendent shall give the student a written "Notice of Suspension and Recommendation of Expulsion/Nonadmission and Statement of Rights" in a form provided by the superintendent for such purposes.
2. The notice shall contain a statement of the charges/reasons, advise the student of his rights to legal counsel, to present witnesses and to cross-examine witnesses presented against him and state the date, time and place for hearing. A copy of the notice will be hand-delivered to the student when possible and the original hand-delivered or mailed to the legal guardian.
3. A hearing before the Tate County School District Disciplinary Hearing Committee shall automatically be scheduled no later than the tenth school day following the date of notice.
4. Pending the outcome of the hearing before the Tate County School District Disciplinary Hearing Committee:
 - a. The student may be offered temporary placement in the alternative school program when the counselor verifies the student's suitability for such program and, in such case, the hearing before the Tate County School District Disciplinary Hearing Committee may be held at any appropriate time without application of the 10-day limitation. However, the District may not offer temporary placement when the offense upon which the action is based is gang or group-related fighting, violation of prohibitions against weapons or controlled substances, assault of a staff member or other unlawful or violent act.
 - b. The student may be allowed to remain in school if the principal or, in the case of nonadmission, the superintendent determines that his continued presence is not detrimental to the normal functioning of the school program and, in such case, the hearing before the Tate County School District Disciplinary Hearing Committee may be held

at any appropriate time without application of the 10-day limitation.

- c. The hearing will be before the Tate County School District Disciplinary Hearing Committee:
 - i. The Tate County School District Disciplinary Hearing Committee shall be composed of three or more school administrators, none of whom may be on the staff of the school from which the student is enrolled.
 - ii. The superintendent's designee will serve as the investigator, convene and administrative officer of the Committee but shall not vote.
- d. The Tate County School District Disciplinary Hearing Committee shall hear and consider all cases presented and is authorized to:
 - i. To concur or not concur in the suspension, expulsion or nonadmission recommendation;
 - ii. To confirm or specify the duration of a suspension of eleven days or more, to remove the suspension or expulsion or to recommend admission; and
 - iii. Subject to review and approval of the superintendent, to recommend limited or unlimited expulsion or nonadmission to the board.
 - iv. The Tate County School District Disciplinary Hearing Committee shall prepare a written summary of each case.
- e. All expulsion and nonadmission recommendations shall be subject to review by the superintendent and by the board.
- f. After completing this appeal step, a parent, legal guardian or custodian aggrieved by a decision to suspend his child may request review of the decision by the board. A request for review must be submitted to the board within 2 days after receiving a decision at this appeal step.

STEP THREE: REVIEW BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Applies to: Expulsions
Denials of admission

The superintendent shall review all recommendations by the Tate County School District Disciplinary Hearing Committee for expulsions or denials of admission:

1. If the superintendent concurs in the decision of the Tate County School District Disciplinary Hearing Committee, he shall submit the recommendation to the Board for final action.
2. If the superintendent does not concur in the decision of the Tate County School District Disciplinary Hearing Committee, he may remove expulsion, assign an appropriate duration of suspension or recommend expulsion or, in the case of other denial of admission, recommend admission.
3. All recommendations by the superintendent of expulsions or denials of admission shall be subject to review by the board.

STEP FOUR: REVIEW BY THE BOARD Applies to: Suspensions (only upon request by parents)

Expulsions
Denials of admission

The board shall, at its next regular or special meeting following the recommendation, review and take final action on all recommendations for expulsions, denial of admission and any requests for review of suspensions. All consideration of student disciplinary actions shall be conducted in accordance with standard board procedure. All decisions by the board shall be final.

According to a 1998 Attorney General Opinion, automatic fail provision of an absences policy may not apply against legal, excused absences. Such absences policies may not be applied against absences resulting from disciplinary suspensions if absences policies are applied to truant children who are otherwise passing, the district must afford the child procedural due process. (Attorney General Opinion, Carter, 1-9-98) (#183) (97-0817)

1. It is the resolute policy of the school district to recommend expulsion only as a last resort. As a general rule, no student shall be expelled without clear proof that:
 - A. He/She poses a threat to the orderly operation of school programs and activities or are a danger to the physical well being of other students or faculty, or to school property or the safe operations of the school bus.
 - B. The student's parent or guardian has been notified of the student's misconduct and the possibility of expulsion, and has been offered opportunities to confer with the principal or the relevant faculty members regarding the student's misconduct.

WEAPONS

MS Code §97-37-17

1. The following definitions apply to this section:
 - A. "Educational property" means any public or private school building or bus, public or private school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used or operated by any local school board, school, college or university board of trustees, or directors for the administration of any public or private educational institution or during a school related activity; provided however, that the term "educational property" shall not include any sixteenth section school land or lieu land on which is not located at a school building, school campus, recreational area or athletic field.
 - B. "Student" means a person enrolled in a public or private school, college or university, or a person who has been suspended or expelled within the last 5 years from a public or private school, college or university, whether the person is an adult or a minor.
 - C. "Switchblade knife" means a knife containing a blade or blades that open automatically by the release of a spring or a similar contrivance.
 - D. "Weapon" means any device enumerated in #2 and #4 below.
2. It is a felony for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed any gun, rifle, pistol or other firearm of any kind, or any dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine or powerful explosive on educational property. However, this definition does not apply to a BB gun, air rifle or air pistol. Any person violating this policy is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, will be fined not more than \$5,000, or committed to the custody of the State Department of Corrections for not more than three years, or both.
3. It is a felony for any person to cause, encourage or aid a minor who is less than 18 years old to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any gun, rifle, pistol or other firearm of any kind, or any dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine or powerful explosive on educational property. However, this does not apply to a BB gun, air rifle, or air pistol. Any person violating this policy is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, will be fined not more than \$5,000, or committed to the custody of the State Department of Corrections for not more than three years, or both.
4. It shall be a misdemeanor for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any BB gun, air rifle, air pistol,

Bowie knife, dirk, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, switchblade knife, blackjack, metallic knuckles, razors and razor blades (except solely for personal shaving), and any sharp-pointed or edged instrument except instructional supplies, unaltered nail files and clips and tools used solely for preparation of food, instruction and maintenance on educational property. Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$1,000, or be imprisoned not exceeding 6 months, or both.

5. It shall be a misdemeanor for any person to cause, encourage or aid a minor who is less than 18 years old to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any BB gun, air rifle, air pistol, Bowie knife, dirk, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, switchblade knife, knife, blackjack, metallic knuckles, razors and razor blades (except solely for personal shaving) and any sharp-pointed or edged instrument except instructional supplies, unaltered nail files and clips and tool used solely for preparation of food, instruction and maintenance on educational property. Any person violation this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$1,000, or be imprisoned not exceeding 6 months, or both.
6. It shall not be a violation for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any gun, rifle, pistol or other firearm of any kind on school property if---
 - A. The person is not a student attending school on any educational property;
 - B. The firearm is within a motor vehicle; and
 - C. The person does not brandish, exhibit or display the firearm in any careless angry or threatening manner

*Recommend that school districts institute a policy prohibiting school employees from possessing firearms on their person, within their vehicles, or in any other manner on school properties. The only exception should be for school employees, e.g., school resource officers, school police and school security personnel, who are certified law enforcement personnel by the State of Mississippi and are working part-time or full-time for their school district.

7. This section shall not apply to:
 - A. A weapon used solely for educational or school-sanctioned ceremonial purposes, or used in a school-approved program conducted under the supervision of an adult whose supervision has been approved by the school authority;
 - B. Armed forces personnel of the United States, officers and soldiers of the militia and National Guard, law enforcement personnel, any private police employed by an educational institution, State Militia or Emergence Management corps and any guard or patrolman in a state or municipal institution, when acting in the discharge of their official duties;
 - C. Home school as defined in the compulsory school attendance law, §37-12-91;
 - D. Competitor while participating in organized shooting events;
 - E. Any person as authorized in §while in the performance of his/her official duties;
 - F. Any mail carrier while in the performance of his/her official duties; or
 - G. Any weapon not prescribed by §97-37-1 which is in a motor vehicle under the control of a parent, guardian, or custodian, as defined in §43-21-105, which is used to bring or pick up a student at a school building, school property, or school function.
8. All school shall post in public view a copy of the provisions of this section.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Students possessing or using alcohol, tobacco in any form, illegal drugs or "look alike" drugs on school campus or at a school event will be suspended and reported to the police. The same consequence will apply to students who are under the influence of any of the above,

exemplified by breath, conduct, or other observable behavior. (MS Code §97-32-25, §32-27, and §97-32-29)

§97-32-25

This act shall be known and cited as Mississippi Adult Tobacco Use on Educational Property Act of 2000.

§97-32-27

- "Adult means any natural person at least 18 years old.
- "Minor" means any natural person under the age 18 years.
- "Tobacco product" means any substance that contains tobacco including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, snuff, smoking tobacco or smokeless tobacco.
- "Educational property" means any public school building or bus, public school campus grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used or operated by any local school board, school, or directors for the administration of any public educational institution or during a school-related activity; provided, however, that the term "education property" shall not include any 16th section school land or lieu land on which is not located at a public school building, public school field. Educational property shall not include property owned or operated by the state institutions of higher learning, the public community and junior colleges, or vocational-technical complexes where only adult students are in attendance.

§97-32-29

No person shall use any tobacco product to include but is not limited to, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, smokeless and electronic cigarettes, matches, lighters, rolling papers, cigars and pipes on any educational property as defined in Section 2 of this act. Any adult who violates this section shall be subject to a fine and shall be liable as follows:

- A. For a first conviction, a warning;
- B. For a second conviction, a fine of \$75.00; and
- C. For all subsequent convictions, a fine not to exceed \$150.00 shall be imposed.

Any adult found in violation of this section shall be issued a citation by a law enforcement officer, which the citation shall include notice of the date, time and location for hearing before the justice court having jurisdiction where the violation is alleged to have occurred. For the purposes of this section, "subsequent convictions" are for violations committed on any educational property within the State of Mississippi.

Anyone convicted under this act shall be recorded as being fined for a civil violation of the act and not for violating a criminal statute.

It is the responsibility of all law enforcement officers and law enforcement agencies of this state to ensure that the provisions of this act are enforced.

DRESS AND GROOMING

Students are expected to come to school appropriately dressed. Cleanliness, neatness, and appropriateness are standards that can be observed by all students in their personal dress and grooming regardless of personal taste and circumstances. No student dress or grooming should cause a disruption to the learning environment or cause safety concerns. Students violating the dress code are not allowed to attend class until they are in compliance.

Note: Principals have the authority to apply discretion in the enforcement/interpretation of district guidelines within the parameters of propriety and decency for the age group or groups and extenuating individual situations represented at their school. In addition, school administrators have the

authority to respond to facts that are not covered through district policy but, without a doubt, are disruptive to the learning environment and peace and dignity of the school.

GENERAL DRESS STANDARDS

1. No see-through apparel is permitted.
2. All apparel must be hemmed.
3. Shoes must be worn and appropriately fastened at all times.
4. Hair must be neat, clean, and well-groomed.
5. Military shirts or jackets with insignias are not permitted. Gang insignias are not permitted.
6. No student is permitted to wear clothing that has on it writing which is indecent, suggestive of indecency, or advertising of alcoholic beverages or tobacco.
7. A student's midriff must be covered.
8. Sunglasses or shades are not permitted in the classroom.
9. Only earrings that are of nongauge type are acceptable. Neither male nor female students will be permitted to wear rings and/or studs in their noses, tongues, or other exposed body parts other than ears. Rings on fingers are acceptable.
10. All pants or shorts must be worn at the appropriate waist position. No sagging pants or shorts are allowed.
11. Only dress shorts are acceptable. No gym shorts.
12. Elementary students (grades K-6) are not allowed to wear makeup.

MANDATORY DRESS CODE STANDARDS POLICY

The Board of Trustees for the Tate County School District has mandated a mandatory dress policy for all students.

Mandatory Dress Code

1. The mandatory dress code outlines the acceptable form of attire approved to be worn by students in this district. Any deviations, however slight, are disallowed.
2. Every component of the mandatory dress code should be appropriate in length and size. All clothing must fit properly. Appropriate is defined as that which properly covers the body and is in good taste.
3. The principal shall have the final decision about the appropriateness of the length/size of clothing. Shorts or skirts must be to the top of the kneecap.
4. Undergarments should never be visible.
5. All teachers will monitor student dress and send students who are dressed inappropriately to the principal.
6. Students are prohibited from wearing additional patches, pins, tattoos, earrings, jewelry, or any other item that may be considered lewd, profane, obscene, vulgar, suggestive, or any item that may distract from the educational process. Chains are not allowed.
7. Pierced earrings for students are acceptable. Other visible body piercing is not allowed, including tongue rings. Nose pins may not be worn by students.
8. Head coverings including but not limited to caps, visors, hats, bandannas, doo-rags are prohibited.
9. Toboggans with no inappropriate markings may be worn in winter conditions outside.
10. Clothing must fit properly. Extremely tight-fitting clothing is not acceptable (no skinny jeans, leggings, etc.). Oversized clothing, "sagging" and/or "hip huggers" are not acceptable. Jogging pants, yoga, etc. are not acceptable.
11. Underclothing shall be worn.
12. New students to the district enrolling on or after the first day of school shall have five (5) days to comply with the dress code policy.

Belts

Belts should be worn with all pants/shorts/skirts that have belt loops. If belts loops are removed, the article of clothing is not permissible.

Shoes and Socks

Any shoe appropriate for school. All shoes must be fastened properly. No flip-flops, platform, high heel shoes or any shoe promoting any illegal substance or action that disrupts the learning process.

Jackets/Coats/ Vests

- Any jacket/coat appropriate for school. Jacket/Coat must be of proper fit. No hooded sweatshirts (hoodies) or jacket/coat promoting any illegal substance or action that disrupts the learning process.
- Hooded Jackets/Coats allowed. Hoods are not to be worn inside buildings.

School Sold Items

Any school sponsored sale of shirts or sweat shirts require permission from the principal for color, emblems, and style. Items must be in compliance with standard dress policy. Polo shirts and sweat shirts sold can be used as school approved items.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Gym/PE Clothes (Grades 7-12)

Dress should be modest and appropriate for students taking PE/gym/sports activities. No short-shorts, exposed midriffs, see-through shirts, halter-tops, spaghetti straps, muscle shirts or jerseys with large armholes will be allowed.

GENERAL COURTESIES & SCHOOL DECORUM

Students and staff are expected to abide by and respect the following commonly held core values: learning, freedom, responsibility, honesty, cooperation, services to others, and civility.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL AREAS

1. Wait in designated areas in an orderly manner.
2. Do not block doors.
3. Keep your hands and feet to yourself. Do not push or shove. Be patient, polite, and courteous.

HALLWAYS & CAMPUS

1. In passing through corridors to classes, or in entering or leaving the building, always move by the nearest route with the least possible confusion.
2. Keep to the right and do not block the corridors by stopping to talk or play.
3. Sitting on outside rails or staircase railings is not permitted.
4. Radios, toys, pets, headsets, beepers, and other electronic devices not needed for class work are not allowed on campus.
5. Treat school property and other people with respect.
6. Use all equipment and materials appropriately.
7. Follow directives by school personnel.
8. Take care of all personal belongings.
9. Dispose of trash in trash cans provided.
10. Reserve running, jumping, and exercising for playgrounds or athletic fields.
11. Report abuse (verbal or physical) to a teacher or other adult. Do not try to resolve serious conflicts alone.
12. Be courteous to others.
13. Hold doors for those behind you.
14. Speak in a quiet voice. Loud talk and whistling are not appropriate.
15. Obtain hall passes for moving about the campus during class.
16. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
17. Public displays of affection are prohibited in all parts of the school campus and on school buses.
18. No open food or drinks are permitted in the school building except water.
19. Chewing gum is not allowed at school. Repeated disregard for this ban will result in disciplinary action.

RESTROOMS

1. Put towels in trash cans.
2. Flush toilet.
3. Do not splash water.
4. Help keep restroom facilities clean and in good working order. Restroom vandalism is classified as a serious offense.
5. Report inoperable equipment or water leaks.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

1. Enter auditorium/gym quickly and remain quiet. Any person displaying inappropriate conduct or discourtesy during assemblies are removed immediately.
2. Pay attention to speaker or program.
3. Do not make comments and disturb those around you.
4. Applaud courteously.
5. Never boo, whistle, or stomp your feet, regardless of your opinion of the program.
6. Do not read or do homework during a program.
7. Sit in your designated areas as required.
8. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.

CAFETERIA

See also Section X-School Services: Food Service.

1. Observe wait areas and service area boundaries.
2. Display courtesy and good table manners. Sit with feet on floor and facing the table.
3. Get your tray promptly, without delaying the line. Pick up what you need so you do not have to return to the line.
4. Respect the place of others; never crowd or try to get ahead.
5. Leave your table clean and neat.
6. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.

CLASSROOM

1. Be punctual. Students are expected to be in their room and seated when the bell rings. High school and junior high students are expected to begin pre-bell assignments as soon as they come into the classroom.
2. Be prepared. Students are expected to report to class with books, pencils, paper, and materials.
3. Be quiet, but not silent. Take a positive role as an important member of the learning community.
4. Be an active thinker and a good listener.
5. Keep your voice in a conversational tone.
6. Do not talk when someone else is talking.
7. Cooperate with the teacher and other students.
8. Complete all assignments.
9. No eating is permitted in the classroom, except for school-approved parties.
10. Contribute to the class daily.
11. Follow each teacher's classroom rules.
12. Respect the opinions of others and individual differences in skills and abilities.
13. Follow directions.
14. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
15. Students are to remain seated at the end of a class period and/or school day until they are dismissed by the teacher.

SCHOOL- SPONSORED TRIPS

Students who are involved in school-sponsored events and/or activities are expected to abide by all school rules, regulations, and curfews and represent the school and school district in a positive, civil manner. Students with excessive absences must have prior approval from principal.

ATHLETIC EVENTS

Interscholastic athletics allows for the opportunity to engage in friendly competition with member schools. In order for the Tate County School District to abide by the regulations set forth by the Mississippi High School Activities Association, high standards of conduct must be maintained at all sporting events. Sportsman-like conduct must be displayed by players and spectators alike. See

Section IX-Student Activities.

1. Remain in stands during the game. Spectators are not allowed on athletic playing fields, courts, or tracks.
2. Don't loiter, run or play in or around concession/restroom areas.
3. No tobacco products, includes, but is not limited to, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, smokeless and electronic cigarettes, matches, lighters, rolling papers, cigars, pipes, alcoholic beverages, or controlled substances are allowed.
4. No bottles, cans, or glass containers are allowed.

5. Do not use profane, vulgar or obscene language.
6. Do not throw objects or use artificial noisemakers.
7. If you leave a game, you must pay to return.
8. All school rules and regulations apply during athletic events.
9. Violations may result in suspension from school and/or arrest.
10. Do not harass competitors, fans, or officials.

Students placed in Alternative Education are not allowed to attend extracurricular events

STUDENT RECORDS & RELEASE

SCHOOL RECORDS

Permanent records and cumulative folders for individual students contain all required data and are collected, maintained, and disseminated in compliance with state law, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, district policy, and the Confidentiality Section of P. L. 94-142. All references to students' disciplinary actions in the minutes of the Tate County School District Board of Education are indicated by reference number to the student disciplinary file maintained in the superintendent's office.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS & PRIVACY

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students." The school gives full rights under the act to either parent, unless evidence that there is a court order or other legally binding document relating to such matters as divorce, separation, or custody that specifically revokes these rights.

Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies. Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records that they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student may place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information. Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, schools may disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):

1. School officials with legitimate educational interest.
2. Other schools to which a student is transferring.
3. Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes.
4. Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student.
5. Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school.
6. Accrediting organizations.
7. To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena.
8. Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies.
9. State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific state law.

Record of Review

A record of individuals requesting access to the educational record of each student is maintained in each school building. Parents/guardians are entitled to have access to this list. The record contains the signature, the date, and the reasons for needing access and is available

for parents' review upon request. The law, however, allows school officials, including a child's teachers, to have access to school records without signature.

RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance unless a parent submits a request to principal not to do so. This request must be submitted in writing within 30 days of the first official school day of the year stating that identifiable information regarding the student be deleted from school publications. Requests from colleges, military organizations, prospective employers, and other legitimate groups may be honored when it is determined to be in the child's best interest. *See also Student Interview.*

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

For the protection of their child, parents are asked to keep the following information up-to-date on their child's school record:

1. Emergency information/contacts: Names, address, telephone numbers, relationship to student
2. Current address
3. Phone number
4. Special conditions (medical, release of information, pertinent custodial arrangements or court decrees affecting the child, etc.)

Change of Address or Telephone Number

Parents must notify the school immediately upon any change of home address and telephone number affecting the student.

STUDENT INTERVIEW

With the exception of youth court jurisdiction and the Department of Human Services, no student may be interviewed by outside agencies without permission of a parent or guardian. *See Release of Information.*

FIELD TRIPS

See Section /I-Academics and Appendix.

DELIVERIES

See Section VIII-School Day

POSTING SIGNS

All advertising or promotions are prohibited on school grounds or in school buildings by outside groups or organizations without the permission of the superintendent. Unauthorized signs or posters placed in the corridors, school buildings or on school property are removed.

Only the principal may authorize posting signs by students and/or student organizations. Organizations or individuals authorized to place signs are responsible for removing them within the specified time.

PA ANNOUNCEMENTS

All intercom announcements must be approved by the school principal.

RECORDED MEETINGS

The Tate County School District reserves the right to audio and/or videotape board meetings and other board meetings conducted by school personnel. Meetings may be recorded using audio and/or video recording equipment whenever the administrator in charge of the meeting deems the recording necessary to ensure an accurate record of the meeting and that the meeting is conducted in a professional manner. Any recordings

will be handled consistent with all applicable privacy laws and requirements. The types of meetings that may be audio and/or video taped include but are not limited to the following: board meetings, meetings with district personnel, discipline hearings, parent conferences, IEP meetings, etc

SAFETY & SECURITY

SAFE, NURTURING SCHOOLS

Safety is a school's first job. Neither teaching nor learning can occur in a chaotic, unstructured, unprotected environment. Emergencies do occur on school campuses. Schools are neither immune to naturally occurring conditions like earthquakes nor can they prevent completely unwanted disturbances or intrusions; however, school personnel can prevent unnecessary confusion and turmoil. In times of a crisis, schools need to respond immediately to prevent tragedy and reduce the possibility of escalation. The Tate County School District's safety program follows two major strands: prevention and intervention. To provide for the most effective tactics, the district's safety network features numerous collaborations, including close ties with law enforcement, youth court, local mental health clinics, and other agencies; the school nurse; behavioral intervention plans; and tutorial programs.

PREVENTION

Planning is key to prevention. In Tate County schools, preventative plans include facility audits, well maintained school campuses, crisis response plans including evacuation drills, and first aid/CPR training.

INTERVENTION

Consistent, fair discipline policies and consequences for student offenses are the primary intervention responses to school safety and security. See *Section V-Student Conduct and Discipline*. Other tactics include filing charges against anyone who violates a law at school or at a school event, restrictive program placement, and recognizing and reporting suspicious behavior.

CRISIS CONTINGENCY

The Tate County School District recognizes its duty to provide due care to staff and students in any emergency event. It is important for educators and families to manage the response to the emergency appropriately to help children cope with their feelings, fears, and needs during and after an emergency. Respecting the child's feelings and involving them where possible in recovery activities can reduce stress and anxiety.

Written emergency response plans and procedures setting forth specific steps to be followed are used in all Tate County schools to heighten response to emergencies that threaten the safety and well-being of schools. The intent of the plan is to assist in the response as well as provide information to family members concerning crisis response.

Every effort is made to dispense accurate information to parents and media during and after a crisis. However, it must be noted that the immediate safety of students is the first consideration for a school administrator in responding to and containing an emergency.

FACILITY SITE PLAN

The facility site plan charts the evacuation routes, exits, and fire extinguishers. It also indicates emergency assembly areas and routes to these areas. These plans are posted in each classroom and office.

COMMUNICATIONS

Initial reaction to a crisis follows these universally applicable steps:

1. Notify emergency agencies (police, fire, ambulance).
2. Take action to protect children, staff, and property.
3. Initiate other crisis management as prescribed in the crisis response plans.

EVACUATING & SHELTERING

The procedures for evacuating and sheltering the occupants of the school building include (1) shelter-in-place in designated safe areas inside the school and (2) evacuation to an outside area away from the

building, and (3) lockdown. Drills are conducted on a monthly basis to keep students and teachers safety conscious.

Shelter-In-Place

Shelter-in-place may be ordered for severe weather or to provide emergency protection in the event of a hazardous materials accident or other airborne threat.

Evacuation

In the event of an emergency requiring an evacuation, school staff are directed to follow procedures for evacuation and/or sheltering until the crisis is over. Teachers are universally required to maintain an accurate attendance list, account for all students in their care, and keep necessary records (grade book) with them at all times.

Lockdown

Lockdown is used in situations that may result in harm to persons inside the school. This includes a shooting, hostage incident, intruder, trespassing, disturbance, or at the discretion of administrators.

Bus Evacuation

Students are to follow the procedures below in the event an emergency occurs requiring that a school bus be evacuated: See also *Bus Safety and Section VI-School Services: Transportation*.

1. Students should leave the bus as directed in an orderly, safe manner.
2. Older students should help the younger elementary students.
3. Students should move away from the bus and as far off the road as conditions will permit.
4. All students must stay in the area where the bus is and remain quiet so instructions of the bus driver can be heard.
5. Students must not leave the area and attempt to walk home from a disabled bus.

PRIMARY & BACKUP WARNING

The alarm signals for evacuation or drill include sounding the school bell, using the intercom, and issuing verbal warnings.

SCHOOL CLOSURE/EARLY DISMISSAL

The superintendent makes decisions about emergency closures of schools. The announcements are communicated via automated phone notification and local broadcast media (TV and radio.) Emergency closings are also posted on the district Web site. Factors to be considered in closing and reopening are advisories by emergency management authorities; condition of the facility; condition of area roads, bridges; and access to the locations.

DISASTER RESPONSE/DRILL PROCEDURES

Most severe weather may be predicted several days in advance in the case of hurricanes and winter storms or within a few hours or less for tornado and other wind, rain, or ice storms. Listening to weather forecasts and storm watch or warnings is critical to being prepared. The National Weather Service issues storm watch and warnings through commercial television, radio, cable (Weather Channel) and NOAA weather alert radios.

TORNADO

Tornadoes typically occur in Mississippi during early spring. Sudden weather shifts present conditions where tornadoes can form. Weather fronts that can produce tornadoes may also generate severe rain, wind

and hail that can cause serious damage. When severe weather warnings or watches are issued by the United States Weather Bureau, local civil defense officials issue alerts through the emergency response radio network maintained at the center and clinic. School personnel monitor the weather alerts and, if indicated, retain children in tornado (severe weather) drill until the danger passes.

Shelter-in-Place areas designated by emergency management officials are used in cases of weather-related emergencies. Approved areas include interior hallways on the ground floor that are not parallel with the usual southwestern path of a tornado. Rooms with windows and other glassed areas and wide-span roofs are not used.

A tornado watch is issued when weather conditions are prime for the formation of a tornado, but none have been spotted in the area. Procedures are as follows:

1. Monitor Emergency Management advisories.
2. Bring all persons inside the building. Keep children, staff, and visitors inside the building.
3. Close windows and blinds.
4. Review tornado drill procedures and the location of the closest safe areas.
5. Review "drop and tuck" procedures.

A tornado warning is issued when a tornado has developed and has been spotted in the area. Response includes the following:

1. Students and teachers will evacuate unsafe classrooms and offices. Teachers will take class rosters and close but not lock classroom doors. Students do not have to take their books with them; however, they should take any valuables, (i.e., wallets, purses, calculators) that they have with them.
2. Students will move along inside walls to the safest areas of the building.
3. Students will sit in the tornado position
4. Teachers are to account for all students and staff.
5. Students are asked to remain calm and quiet in the safe area in the tuck position until the warning expires or emergency response personnel issue an all-clear signal.
6. Students are not allowed to leave the area until an all-clear signal is issued. In addition, students are not allowed to use the telephone during severe weather alerts except in cases of extreme emergency with the permission of the principal.

FREEZING WEATHER

Custodians and maintenance personnel take preventative measures to diminish damage to the facility when freezing weather is predicted. Severe snow and ice storms can result in the shutdown of facilities, closed roads, and damage to power lines and structures. School closure or early dismissals are responses to freezing weather.

EARTHQUAKE

Precautions taken against earthquake damage include the following:

1. Ongoing assessments of facility to reduce the potential for shelving, fixtures, or heavy equipment to cause injury.
2. Knowing where and how to shut off electricity, gas, and water service.
3. Identifying the safest locations in each room away from windows and potential falling objects.

FLOOD

Floods may result from heavy precipitation and build over several days or occur rapidly in the form of flash floods. Schools are monitored for flash flooding when conditions indicate.

PERSONAL SAFETY

Procedures are in place for responding to the following threats to personal safety of students and teachers: assault/physical altercations, intruders/hostage situations, shootings, bomb threats.

VIOLENCE OR CRIME: ASSAULT/PHYSICAL

ALTERCATION/INTRUDER/HOSTAGE/SHOOTING

Teachers and other school employees are expected to question and/or report unauthorized visitors as well as take appropriate steps as outlined in the district crisis management plan in all cases of violence or crime on campus and in the school facility. Students have 8 seconds to move away from a fight or risk disciplinary action themselves. See *Section V-Student Conduct and Discipline*.

BOMB THREAT

Any bomb threat is considered to be of extreme importance. Phones are equipped with caller identification devices as a means of deterring and identifying pranks or bomb threats. Personnel are trained in handling threatening calls. All personnel have instructions for carrying out their responsibilities in the event of a bomb threat. Criminal charges are filed for prank bomb threats.

MISSING CHILD

The possibility of a missing child is one of a school's most serious threats. Policies for supervision, strict dismissal procedures, and careful record keeping greatly reduce the likelihood of a missing child. Specific procedures for responding immediately and thoroughly to locate a missing child include searching the building and grounds, checking the child's pickup list, contacting transportation or appropriate law enforcement authorities. See *Attendance Section IV-Attendance*.

TECHNICAL HAZARDS

FIRE/EXPLOSION

Fire is perhaps the most common hazard. Fire can occur for many reasons, including as a result of damage from an earthquake, damaging wind or water, damage to electrical equipment, etc. The crisis response plan includes evacuation procedures, marked exits, fire extinguishers, safe storage and use of flammable materials, and fire drills.

When the fire alarm is sounded, students and teachers are to clear the building by at least 50 yards using evacuation routes established and posted for the area in which they are located. Students should not attempt to take books with them. However they should take any valuables that they have with them, i.e., wallets, purses, calculators, etc.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Hazardous materials are substances that are either flammable, combustible, explosive, toxic, noxious, corrosive, oxidizable, an irritant or radioactive. Hazardous materials accidents that could occur in a school include natural gas leaks, spilling of a solvent, or spills on a roadway, factory, or processor in the immediate area. If a hazardous materials accident occurs personnel follow these steps:

1. Notify the fire department and follow safety directions.
2. Be prepared to isolate the immediate area, evacuate, or shelter-in-place.
3. Seal windows, doorways and shut off air intake systems to provide protection from airborne hazardous materials.

ASBESTOS

Asbestos is not considered hazardous until it is airborne as dust fibers. The district's asbestos management plan is available for review in each school principal's office and the superintendent's office.

CHEMICAL ACCIDENT OR CHEMICAL/BIOLOGICAL TERRORISM

If a major chemical accident or chemical or biological act of terrorism makes it necessary to evacuate the center, the fire department is called in to take command of the situation.

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

The risk of injury is directly related to the physical environment, student's behaviors, and how these are managed. Injuries can be divided into two categories: unintentional and intentional. Unintentional injuries may result from choking, falls, burns, swallowing toxic or other materials, cuts from sharp objects, exposure to environmental hazards such as chemicals, radon, or lead, animal bites, or other accidents. Intentional injuries are usually due to bites, fights, or abuse. School officials guard

against injury by closely supervising students, monitoring the physical environment, and employing consistent discipline techniques. Schools are not financially responsible for accidents on school campuses or at school-sponsored events. Proof of insurance is required for participation in athletics. See *Section X-School Services: Health*.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

An accident insurance policy for students is available on an optional basis. Cost for coverage is minimal. Information regarding the insurance is provided to each student at the beginning of the school year.

ACCIDENT, INJURY, ILLNESS

Any student who becomes injured or ill should report to or be taken to the school office. Every effort is made to have CPR/AED certified individuals on each campus. However, school personnel may not exceed the practice of first aid or CPR/AED in dealing with the injury or illness of a student. When a student becomes too ill to remain at school, parents are called to pick them up. If the parent or guardian cannot be reached, school personnel act to safeguard the student in every reasonable way.

MEDICAL RELEASE

Students exempt from PE/Athletics due to a doctor's recommendation must be cleared/released by the doctor prior to returning to school activities. The doctor's release must be on file in the school office.

FIRST AID

First aid kits containing sterilization compounds and bandages are located in each school office. The immediate needs of the student are considered according to protocols established by the district crisis management plan. Emergency medical treatment is secured and parents are notified as appropriate. Responsibility for emergency treatment is to be assumed by the student's parents/guardian.

MEDICATION

Board policy does not allow for medication to be provided to a student by school employees. However, the district recognizes that some children require treatment for chronic disabilities or illnesses. All medications taken at school during school hours are administered according to district policies by an authorized employee, with the exception of approved self-administration of asthma medications. See also *Section X--School Services: Health and Appendix*.

DRUG-RELATED

A drug-related medical emergency is handled as a medical emergency. The student receives medical treatment. Once the student is stable, an investigation is made to determine the cause of the emergency. See also *Introduction - Civil Responsibilities and Rights and Section V-Student Conduct & Discipline*.

Death or Suicide

Every year school-age children experience the death of a teacher or other adult role model, a classmate, relative, or friend. One of every seven children loses a parent to death before the age of 10. The role of the school is especially important when children experience grief. The goal in helping children deal with death is (1) to acknowledge the death honestly, (2) to allow children to vent their feelings, and (3) to offer an outlet for the children's desire to help. Most importantly, educators and parents should remember that grief work takes a long time as they help children cope with a death in their lives.

GRIEF COUNSELING

The Tate County School District maintains a close, interactive relationship with local mental health clinics and personnel. The mental health counseling and training offered by these clinics are available in the event of a traumatic event that adversely affects the emotions of staff and children, i.e., death of a child or caregiver and other catastrophic events.

SCHOOL SURVEILLANCE & SECURITY

The primary deterrent to any threat to the safety of children is the diligent, thoughtful, watchful care of the adults charged with their care. An alert staff is perhaps the best, most effective method for maintaining a safe, nurturing school environment. This technique includes supervising classrooms and school campuses and maintaining a close watch via strategic duty posts and "walkabouts." Other surveillance strategies designed to deter problems include hand-held metal detectors, ID

badges, random drug dog visits, security systems, random drug screening, and employee background checks. See *Section V-Student Conduct and Discipline: Search and Seizure*.

Prior to a personal crisis there are many pre-indicator signs that often go without notice. For example, people often write, draw, and verbalize feelings well in advance of acting the feelings out in the real world. Tate County educators take all such threats as serious and are proactive in identifying signs of distress or threat. Response to clear and present danger of threats such as suicide or homicide includes the following:

1. Suspending the child from school and informing parents the student cannot return without clearance from a mental health care professional. A letter stating the child is not a perceived threat to self or others must be presented to the principal prior to re-admittance.
2. Filing violence reports with local authorities.
3. Filing reports with superintendent.
4. Reviewing student's past discipline records to determine if expulsion is an appropriate response.
5. Filing criminal charges if applicable.

ATTENDANCE CHECKS & NOTICES

Attendance is checked, monitored, and reported at the beginning of each class session. Absentee reports are prepared so that teachers may cross reference absentees throughout the day. Parents are notified of truancy and unauthorized absences. See also *Section IV-Attendance: Absence from Class, Truancy, Dismissal*.

Dismissal/Release

All students must gain permission from the principal's office to check out of school and/or leave school grounds. See also *Section IV-Attendance: Dismissal*. No child is released into the custody of a third party without prior arrangements certified by the parents or legal guardian during registration. No exceptions to this policy are granted. Children are not released to a parent or guardian who is obviously intoxicated or otherwise incapable of transporting the child safely. Parents who are divorced are expected to disclose custody arrangements and terms as a part of the registration process.

Tardiness/Pickup

Parents/guardians are responsible for the timely arrival and pickup of children who do not ride school buses. Parents/guardians must notify the school of hardships or emergencies that would result in delayed pickup of a child, so that arrangements can be made in the best interest of the safety and welfare of the child. Child abandonment/neglect reports are filed in instances where parents habitually or willfully disregard school hours.

CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT REPORTS

School employees have a legal and ethical responsibility to report immediately to their supervisor and the local authorities any reasonable cause to suspect that a child is being neglected, abandoned, exploited, or abused. Reports and the identity of the reporter are confidential except when the court in its discretion determines the testimony of the person reporting is material to a judicial proceeding. Any employee who participates in making a required report pursuant to Mississippi law is presumed to be acting in good faith and is therefore immune from civil or criminal liability.

VISITORS

See *Section VIII-Visitors*.

SAFETY LEGISLATION

See *Introduction-Civil Responsibilities and Rights; Section V-Student Conduct & Discipline; and Appendix*.

BUS SAFETY

Students should be familiar with the following regulations to assure safety on school buses. See also *Section X-School Services: Transportation*.

1. Be at your assigned loading zone on time.
2. If you must walk to the bus stop and there are no sidewalks, walk facing the traffic so that drivers can see you and you can see them.
3. Do not play on or near the road while waiting for the bus.
4. If you must cross the road, do not cross until the bus arrives and

you are given a signal to cross. Look both ways before crossing. When crossing the road, always cross at least six feet in front of the bus.

5. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before trying to load or unload.
6. Use handrail while loading or unloading.
7. Never get under a bus for any reason.
8. When leaving the bus, move away from the loading zone as soon as possible, but do not run.
9. There will be no loading or unloading at any other place than the school or the student's regular bus stop, except for parental requests that have been approved by the principal.

While on the bus:

1. Do not talk to the driver or distract the driver's

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

All students not participating in the school bus transportation program must register with the school office. This registration must designate the mode of transportation-parent, car pool, student driver, walker, etc.-and must be updated when arrangements change. Parents who wish to transport students to and from school must drop their children off and pick them up in the designated areas. While students are expected to arrive in time for the beginning of the school day, they should not arrive on campus prior to 7:20 a.m. Students should be picked up no later than 3:10 p.m. On designated early dismissal days, students should be picked up no later than 2:30 p.m. See *Section IV-Attendance*; *Section VII-Safety and Security*; and *Section XII-School Regulations*.

PARKING

See *Section X-School Services: Transportation*.

CHECKING IN/OUT

Schools in the Tate County School district are operated as closed campuses. Students must remain on campus from the time they arrive each morning until the end of the school day, unless they are authorized by their parents or guardians through the principal's office to be dismissed early. Parents are asked to sign students in Grades K-6 in and out personally. ID must be presented when checking students out. See also *Section IV-Attendance and Section VII-Safety and Security*.

Dismissal

No student may leave the school grounds without permission from the principal or assistant principal. Unauthorized checkouts are treated as leaving school without permission. All written requests for early dismissal should be in the attendance office by 9 A.M. except for emergencies. Written requests for early dismissal must state the date, reason, and bear the parent's signature. All pupils dismissed from school because of illness are sent directly home or to a doctor after the parents have been contacted. Students are not approved for dismissal by or to any unauthorized person. See also *Section IV-Attendance and Section VII-Safety and Security*.

Admission Slips See Section IV-Attendance.

Early Release

Seniors who are released before the end of the day must follow the procedure below. See *Section II-Academics*.

1. File with the office a written permission statement from parents or legal guardians requesting that the student be released at a specified time each day.
2. This document must include a statement that the parents/legal guardians are responsible for the student from the time he/she leaves school.
3. Students who are released early must leave the campus immediately. Students who do not have transportation available for early release must enroll in a full seven period schedule.

Truancy - Absence from Class

2. attention except in an emergency.
2. Do not make unnecessary noise.
3. Keep head, hands, and articles inside the bus.
4. Do not bring unauthorized articles on the bus. This includes balloons, glass objects, noise devices, laser lights, animals, or any other items that are hazardous to the health, safety, and welfare of others.
5. Be courteous to the driver and fellow passengers.
6. Follow instructions.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

The Tate County School District does not assume responsibility for the theft of or damage to personal property brought onto school property.

SCHOOL DAY

See *Section IV-Attendance and Section V-Student Discipline and Conduct*.

CLASS SCHEDULING

It is the responsibility of each principal to see that a satisfactory instructional program is scheduled for each student. This schedule provides for the best use of the students' time and academic goals. Each day provides, as a minimum, 330 minutes of academic instruction as specified in Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards (2013).

INSTRUCTIONAL SCHEDULES

All students in Grades 7-12 are issued a daily schedule. Parents are asked to keep this schedule on file for reference throughout the school year. Parents are notified of schedule changes. Instructional time is protected from undue interruptions and delays.

Elementary

At the elementary level, Grades K-6, time spent in basic skills (reading, language arts, and math) instruction meets or exceeds the requirements specified in Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards (2001). See *Section II-Academics*.

High School/Junior High

At the secondary level, Grades 7-12, each class period consists of a minimum of 50 minutes of instruction. See *Section IV-Attendance and Section II-Academics*.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Adding or dropping classes in Grades 7-12 is only allowed for valid educational purposes at the beginning of the school year. The opportunity to make course selections and adjustments is between April and May of each school year. Students are not allowed to try a class for a time then drop the class.

VISITORS

No one other than regular school employees is allowed on campus without clearance from the principal's office. All visitors, including parents, district employees, community members, consultants, and other officials, must check in and out of the principal's office upon arriving on campus. Visitors must leave a photo ID/Driver's License or car keys in the office before receiving a visitor pass. Visitors must receive a visitor's pass/ID from the school office before seeing any student or staff member during the school day. Visitors are asked to park in designated areas as an added precaution for the safety of students. See *Classroom Observations and Section VII-Safety and Security*. **Visitors who fail to secure written permission from the principal's office to be on campus may be referred to police officials.**

Preschool children or friends of students are not allowed to visit schools during the school day. Students leaving school to go home with another student must have a written note from their parent on file in the office.

School principals must approve all bus permits for visitation. No large groups are approved.

CLASSROOM OBSERVATIONS

Parents/guardians are welcome to observe their child's class(es). School officials, professional visitors, or community members may also arrange for school tours and class visitations. All arrangements for these visits must be made through the office. Observations and visits must not be disruptive to the class. Please notify the principal's office in advance of the requested visit.

Visitors are asked to enter and exit the rooms as quietly as possible. Parents should follow up classroom observations with a conference with the teacher during the teacher's planning/conference time.

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Students who are on campus for other after-hours events such as concerts, dances, athletic events, etc. are not permitted to loiter outside of the building, stadium, gym, auditorium, or in the parking lot.

INTERRUPTIONS

PHONE CALLS/MESSAGES

School telephones are for school business only, and students are not

permitted to use them. In case of emergency or illness, calls for students are made through the office.

DELIVERIES

No deliveries of flowers, balloons or other gifts are made to students. For safety reasons, balloons, glass, and other items are banned from school buses.

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS

Only educational materials or materials approved by the superintendent and/or the school board may be distributed by organized groups. In order to protect the time of the schools, students, and parents, distribution of outside materials and communications for nonschool purposes to the homes through the pupils is kept to a minimum in Tate County schools. See *Section VI-Student Records and Release*.

PA ANNOUNCEMENTS

All intercom announcements must be approved by the school principal. School groups who wish to make an announcement should submit the announcement with the signature of an advisor, teacher, or coach one day in advance. Announcements should be kept as brief as possible.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Extracurricular activities are activities presently governed by the Mississippi High School Activities Association. "Extracurricular activity" is defined as "organization-sponsored student activities that require administrative provision and student involvement outside the time allocation for instruction." This definition and associated requirements specifically apply to organized practice or competition that requires additional input of students' time outside the normal school day. When required, students participating in extra- and co-curricular activities must have on file at the school written parental consent and liability waiver forms.

ELIGIBILITY

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

In order to participate in any extra- or co-curricular activity, the student must attend school for at least 60 percent of the day on the day of the scheduled activity. See *Section IV-Attendance*.

GRADE REQUIREMENTS

Based on the MHSAA guidelines

WAIVERS & CONDITIONS

When required, students participating in extra- and co-curricular activities must have on file at the school written parental consent and liability waiver forms. In addition students in Grades 7-12 participating in district activities must:

1. Pass and file report on a physician's physical.
2. File a signed parent permission form.
3. Provide evidence of medical insurance.

The Tate County School District and individual schools are not responsible for insuring students. This responsibility is that of the parent/guardian of the student. An accident insurance policy for students is available on an optional basis. Cost for school-day coverage is minimal. Information regarding the insurance is provided to each student at the beginning of the school year. See *Section VII-Safety and Security: Insurance*.

FUNDRAISING

The Tate County School District recognizes the need for limited student fundraising activities. The type of and extent of these activities, however, are restricted and limited to activities that have recognized educational value.

The school board approves or denies fundraising projects. No students representing groups outside school are permitted to conduct fundraising activities in the school. Students possessing candy or other items at school for sale to other students, other than for approved school-sponsored and approved activities, are subject to disciplinary action. Fundraising activities, as governed by district policy, do not include routine duties such as collecting lunch money, fees, book fines, etc.

MEDICAL RELEASE

Students exempt from PE/Athletics due to a doctor's recommendation must be cleared/released by the doctor prior to returning to school activities. The doctor's release must be on file in the school office.

STUDENT DRUG TESTING (JCDAB)

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Tate County School District School Board, in an effort to protect the health and safety of its students from illegal and/or performance-enhancing drug use and abuse, thereby setting an example for all other students of this school district, has adopted the following policy for drug testing of students participating in extracurricular activities.

Participation in school-sponsored extracurricular activities is a privilege. Illegal drug use of any kind is incompatible with participation in any extracurricular activities on behalf of the school district.

This policy is intended to complement all other policies, rules and regulations of the Tate County School District regarding possession or use of illegal drugs. This policy is not intended to be disciplinary or punitive in nature. The sanctions of this policy relate solely to limiting the opportunity of any student found to be in violation of the policy to participate in any extracurricular activities. There will be no academic sanction for violation of this policy. This policy shall apply to all participant students in Grades 7-12.

Procedures

The drug-testing program shall be implemented in accordance with the established Tate County School Board Policy, and with the advice and assistance of representatives from the medical profession. The contracting biomedical laboratory shall be approved by the Tate County Board of Education and conduct testing according to national accepted standards and procedures. The testing shall be implemented only after written consent from the student and the parent legal guardian. If any student and/or parent/legal guardian refuses to sign the drug testing informational release form or permission for the student to take the drug test, the student will immediately be suspended from participation in the extracurricular activity.

ATHLETICS & CHEERLEADING

All students participating in athletics are required to have on file written parental consent, proof of insurance, liability waiver, and medical screening by a licensed physician. Eligibility for competitive activities is determined according to the rules of the Mississippi High School Activities Association. Students must meet all requirements established by the MHSAA. Among the requirements are the following:

1. To meet all residency verification requirements as established by the MHSAA.
2. To acquire credits in major courses during the year prior to participation in accordance with MHSAA requirements.
3. To be under 19 years of age prior to September 1.
4. To be limited to six consecutive years of competitive athletics from the time the student enters the seventh grade.
5. Students must meet MHSAA academic requirements before tryouts occur in the spring of the year.

To be eligible for athletics and activities, a student must be a bona fide resident of the Tate County School District and/or have a parent who is a member of the instructional staff in the district.

CHEERLEADER TRYOUTS

Students in Grades 6-11 who wish to participate in cheerleader tryouts are required to try out before a panel of qualified judges. Tryouts occur in the spring of the year. Students must register with the sponsor during the time period announced. Cheerleaders are required to purchase or rent their own uniforms.

All cheerleader candidates must meet the following grade and citizenship requirements:

- No semester average failing grades in any subject the semester before elections.
- Requirements set forth by the MHSAA.

PERFORMING ARTS

BAND

Instruction in band is offered to students at designated schools in the Tate County School District in Grades 6 -12. Membership in the school's marching and performing bands at the junior and senior high school levels is based upon the recommendation of the director of bands. Students who fail to show maturity through a lack of discipline are not be allowed to enroll in the class. Band camp is held for one week during the summer and is a prerequisite for participation. Students must attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances. Students are required to meet with the director prior to enrolling in the class.

PERFORMING CHOIR

Choirs furnish music for many school and community activities, both as a concert choir and small ensembles. Members of these groups are selected by the director. Members of select ensembles must purchase their uniforms. Auditioning for choir may be a prerequisite to selection as a member of the choir or ensembles.

ELECTIONS

ELIGIBILITY

At the time of elections the student has to have an overall C average or better in classes. In addition, they must meet all eligibility requirements as well as meet the standard listed below. ie, (Class Officer, Student Council, Who's Who, etc....)

1. No disciplinary infractions resulting in out-of-school suspension or expulsion during the previous and current school year. In addition, a person cannot run for an office or position if he or she has been arrested on school grounds or at any school event during the current or previous

STUDENT SOCIAL EVENTS

Elementary Schools

In elementary schools, K-6, parties are permitted with the approval of the principal. Priority will be taken that these parties will not detract from student instructional time.

Secondary Schools

Parties are permitted in the secondary schools, Grades 7-12, during the school day with the approval of the principal. Priority will be taken that these parties will not detract from student instructional time.

All evening parties and dances shall be scheduled with the administration in accordance with district policy and shall end no later than 10 p.m. for junior high school and 11:30 p.m. for senior high.

Dances will not be held on an evening during the school week, but may be held on a day in which school will not be in session the next day. All junior high school dances will be limited to events that do not permit students to rent or wear formal attire.

Students who indulge in or have possession of alcoholic beverages or drugs will be subject to disciplinary action as required under board policy regarding use and/or possession of alcohol or controlled substances on school grounds or at school events.

Students who leave will not be allowed to return to the event.

Parties or dances are given only for members of the sponsoring student body.

There will be no spontaneous parties or dances. Plans must be made by the sponsor of each activity and submitted in writing to the principal at least 10 school days before the activity.

All chaperones (parties, field trips, dances, etc.) shall be approved by the principal.

Any student group making a field trip of any kind will be required to have approval as required under board policy and the sponsor of that group must accompany.

The sponsoring club of any social event occurring after school hours will be required to provide for the hiring of at least two security officers (Private Security [licensed and bonded] or Tate County Sheriff deputies) for the event.

School Board Policy EBH in regard to facility use and rental shall govern the securing of facilities to be used in conjunction with the social events discussed here.

Tate County School District does not recognize this policy as establishing school sponsored dances, any such activities will be sponsored by clubs or organizations and not considered school or district sponsored events.

CLASS TRIPS

Criteria for school or class trips are available from school principals.

SCHOOL SERVICES

FACILITIES AND GROUNDS

School buildings, grounds, materials, furnishings, and equipment are provided at the expense of the taxpayers of Tate County. Students are expected to participate in the care of school properties. Defacing and damaging school property are punishable offenses with restitution required. See *Section V--Student Discipline and Conduct*.

Students must not use school buildings and school facilities unless permission has been granted by the school principal. Any student use of facilities must be supervised by a responsible adult.

HEALTH

If a student becomes ill anytime during the school day, he/she should report to the office immediately. If in class the student should notify the teacher. If an emergency situation arises that necessitates, in the opinion of school officials, transporting a student to the hospital in an ambulance, the parent is notified if possible and an ambulance called at no cost to the school district or administration of the school. A student who is ill or injured is not sent or taken home unless it is known that someone is there to receive him/her. The school office does not supply medication of any kind to students.

ACCIDENTS/FIRST AID

In the case of an accident, minimum first aid is administered and 911 contacted for emergency transport to a medical facility if further treatment is needed. In all cases where the nature of the accident or injury appears serious, every effort is made to contact the parent(s) or other persons listed on the student's emergency information file. See *Section VII-Safety and Security*.

IMMUNIZATIONS & VACCINATIONS

It is unlawful for any child to attend school without first being vaccinated with at least one dose of diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, red measles, rubella, and polio vaccine and completing the entire series within 90 days. Every student in Kindergarten through Grade 12 must present or have on file an up-to-date certificate of immunization compliance from his/her doctor or from the health department. See *Section 111- Admissions*.

HEAD LICE

A student suspected of having head lice is inspected by the school nurse or other school personnel. If found to have head lice, the student's parent(s) are contacted by telephone to pick the student up from school for treatment. If school officials are unable to contact a parent by telephone, the student may remain in school for the remainder of that school day only, and a letter is sent home with the student notifying the parent of the infestation.

Written instructions for treatment of head lice are given to the parents/guardians. The student may return to school the following day but must bring proof of treatment such as a label or box top from shampoo.

If a student in a self-contained classroom is found to have head lice, all of the students in that classroom are checked for head lice.

If a student is re-infected within four weeks after the first diagnosis and treatment, the student is not allowed to return to school until his/her hair is free of all nits. In these cases, a school nurse or other official inspects the student's hair before he/she is readmitted to school. Readmission is based on a parent conference regarding special requirements for care.

MS Code §41-79-21 requires that the principal or administrator notify the county health department after the third incident of head lice for a student during a school year and that the student obtain proof of treatment from the county health department in order to return to school.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS

To assure school attendance for children who must use medication in the treatment of chronic disabilities or illnesses, a designated school employee administers the medication at school. Any student who is required to take medication during the school day must have a medications form completed and signed by a parent on file with the school office. See *Section VII-Safety and Security and Appendix*.

Self-Administration of Asthma Medication

In accordance with H. B. 1072 (2003) the Tate County School District permits self-administration of asthma medications by a student if the student's parent or guardian provides written authorization to the school and a written statement from the student's doctor confirming that the student has asthma and has been instructed in self-administration asthma medications.

Upon fulfilling the requirements of the district policy for self-administration of asthma medication and approval by the principal or designee, a student with asthma may possess and use asthma medications when at school, at a school-sponsored activity under the supervision of school personnel, or before and after normal school activities.

EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL

A student who has an infectious or contagious disease known to be spread through casual contact is excluded from school until the danger of transmitting the infection or disease to other students has passed. The principal may require a written note from the student's family doctor or public health department for a student returning to school after having a communicable or infectious disease. Below is a list of diseases or conditions for which a child should not attend school until danger of communicability has passed.

Disease	Exclusion from school
Chicken Pox	7 days after eruption appears or until vesicles become dry
German Measles	4 days after onset of rash
Red Measles	7 to 10 days after onset of rash
Mumps	9 days after glands swell
Hepatitis	Clearance by physician
Mononucleosis	Clearance by physician
Conjunctivitis	Until receiving proper treatment
Impetigo	Until receiving proper treatment
Pediculosis (Lice)	Until nits are gone
Ringworm	Until receiving proper treatment
Scabies	Until receiving proper treatment

PREGNANCY

When it becomes known that a student is pregnant, the student or parent of the student is responsible for submitting to the school a statement from a medical doctor concerning any precautions that should be taken to secure the health, safety and well-being of the student and child.

In emergency situations, the school makes every effort to contact the parent or spouse of the student so the student may be picked up immediately. If the parent or spouse is not available at the phone number on file in the office, or if they are not able to pick the student up immediately, the administration will, at no cost to the district or administration of the school, secure the services of an ambulance to transport the student to the hospital. School administrators may not attempt to make any determination concerning the severity of any situation involving a pregnant student and will seek medical attention immediately for the student. A pregnant student must receive permission from the principal before being allowed to attend any type of field trip. See also *Section I-Academics and Section VI-Records and Release*.

HOMEBOUND SERVICE

The Tate County School District offers homebound services for students who, because of severe disabilities or chronic illnesses, are unable to attend school for extended, long-term periods or for other reasons as approved by the board for the education of students not in the normal academic program. The school district's administration, in cooperation with the instructional staff, determine the student's eligibility for homebound services. No principal or teacher or any other staff person has the authority to place a student in the Homebound Program. Applications for homebound services are in the principal's office. See *Section IV--Attendance*.

PE Exemptions

A student who should not participate in the physical education program must bring a note from the parent/guardian. Prolonged or permanent exemptions are granted only by the principal upon the recommendation of a physician. All other participation remains at the discretion of the teacher.

FOOD SERVICE

Well-balanced meals and healthy eating habits are an important part of every student's growth and development. The Tate County School District encourages students to enjoy nutritious meals in school cafeterias. The school meal program makes it possible for every pupil to have an adequate well-balanced breakfast and lunch and sufficient time in which to eat. The following rules apply to cafeterias in Tate County schools:

1. Non-nutritious drinks cannot be brought into the cafeteria by students or teachers in original container.
2. In accordance with Federal (USDA) guidelines, commercially prepared competitive food and drink items may not be distributed or sold one hour prior to or during the lunch or breakfast period and may not be taken into the cafeteria during lunch. Groups wishing to furnish food should do so after the end of the lunch period.
3. Students may purchase milk, or water without purchasing a meal. No other single items may be purchased.
4. A variety of choices are offered at mealtime. Students make their choice as they go through the line. Students are not allowed to go back through the line for additional items or things they forgot.
5. Children not enrolled in the Tate County School District approved to visit and eat meals in TCSD cafeterias must pay the adult price.

The school meal program is closely supervised and meets the requirements established by the state and federal regulators. Students are expected to exercise proper table manners at all times. Throwing or playing with food and loud talking are prohibited. Students are allowed to talk quietly. If the noise becomes a problem, students are asked not to talk during meals.

Federal regulations prevent schools from allowing students to charge meals. Students and adults are allowed to pay in advance, eliminating the problem of forgetting money for their meals. Adults are not allowed to charge meals.

Students may pay for meals on a weekly or monthly basis. Money is to be taken to the cashier in the cafeteria before school. Students may also pay on a daily basis as they go through the line. Form of payments are cash, checks, or electronic payments. All returned checks will be charged a \$10.00 fee.

Electronic payments to your child's account may be done at MyPaymnetsPlus.com.

Free and reduced meal applications are available to students at each school and the Central Office. Students must be directly certified by an assistance program or have an approved application on file in order to receive a free or reduced price meal.

MEAL PRICES

• Breakfast	\$1.00
• Lunch	\$2.50
• Reduced Price	
Breakfast	.30
Lunch	.40

LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTERS

Use of the school library is important for students to form valuable habits in reading for pleasure and utilizing library resources for academic research. Libraries are open before and after school to give pupils opportunity to make use of its facilities where scheduling permits. The Tate County School District maintains a library/ media center at each school site in compliance with state accreditation standards. Each library/media center-

1. Provides an organized collection of materials and equipment that represents a broad range of current learning media, including instructional technology.

2. Offers an organized program of service to students and staff by providing access to the materials and equipment, by providing training/instruction in the use of the materials/equipment, and by working with teachers and other staff members to design/provide learning activities for the students.

All students are entitled to and encouraged to use the library/media centers regularly. The following standards apply to library usage:

1. Reference books such as encyclopedias and dictionaries are to be used only in the media center.
2. Books on reserve may be checked out for one period or after school, in which case they must be returned the next morning before school starts.
3. Other books may be checked out for a period of two weeks. Books may be returned and re- checked once.
4. The student must have the book with him/her when he/she wishes to renew it.
5. Students will pay for lost books and fines on books that have been damaged.
6. No book may be taken from the media center unless it is checked out to the borrower.
7. Students studying in the library media center are subject to book checks.

COPYRIGHT

In compliance with PL 94-553, the copyright laws of the United States (Title 17, United States Code), copyrighted materials may not be duplicated in violation of the exclusive rights of the holders of the copyright. The building librarian/media specialist is available as a resource person to offer advice and support regarding guidelines pertaining to copyright laws and uses that may be made of materials without violating the law.

GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT

It is the aim of the Tate County School District to help students profit as much as possible from their school program experiences and to assist them in planning for employment or further educational study. Principals and teachers are available to discuss with students and/or their parents any problems or questions that arise relative to student life. Teachers are available after school most days for conferences with students or parents. Teachers can be reached by contacting the principal's office. See Section X-Home-Community Relations.

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING

Guidance counselors are available for students in Grades 9-12. The counseling office is open before or after school Monday through Friday. Students desiring a conference with the counselor need to make an appointment in advance. Students may be referred to the counselor by teachers or advisors as the need arises. Students who plan to withdraw from school or transfer to another school should report to the guidance counselor to obtain the proper withdrawal forms.

The counselor is available to:

1. Select and outline a program of study
2. Participate fully in the school program
3. Identify abilities, interests, and special aptitudes
4. Improve social and academic adjustments
5. Maintain good attendance at school
6. Explore employment opportunities
7. Obtain information on college entrance requirements, scholarships, grants, loans, and other financial aid for college. See Appendix

K-8 SCHOOL-BASED COUNSELOR

Elementary/Jr. High school-based counseling is provided for all students. Each school is made aware of the counselor's schedule.

Students may be referred by self, teachers, administrators, or parents/guardian. If a student needs to see the counselor on a regular basis, a permission form will be sent home with the student for parent's

signature. Any class time missed must be made up.

TITLE 1

The Tate County School District implements programs, including remediation for disadvantaged students, in compliance with state and federal guidelines set forth in the Improving America's Schools Act: Title 1, 2, 4, and 6, and successive reauthorization legislation. The goal of the Title 1 program is to help every child attain a high-quality education. This help is provided through smaller classes, additional teachers, and tutoring, more training for school staff, extra instructional time in key subject areas, and a variety of teaching methods, materials, and the latest cutting-edge technology. See *Section II—Academics* and *Appendix*.

RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION (RTI) TEACHER SUPPORT TEAM (TST)

As required by the Mississippi Department of Education an instructional model designed to meet the needs of every student will be implemented in the Tate County School District. The model shall consist of three tiers of instruction.

Tier 1: Quality classroom instruction based on MS Curriculum Frameworks

Tier 2: Focused supplemental instruction

Tier 3: Intensive interventions specifically designed to meet the individual needs of students

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special education services are offered based on identified and approved student needs. Classes are provided for children with disabilities who have been evaluated and determined eligible for placement in a program. Services are provided in the Tate County School District under the direction of trained and certified teachers of exceptional children. See *Section II—Academics*.

FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION (FAPE)

Free appropriate public education is offered for students with disabilities ages 3-21 who are residing within the jurisdiction and enrolled in the district, excluding those in private or home schools.

FULL SERVICES GOAL FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities are defined as students with a disability who, by reason thereof, need special education and related services as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 2004, Part B (IDEA) and state regulations. These services are provided at no cost to the parents and in conformity with an individualized education program (IEP) that meets the requirements of state rules and regulations.

LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT

The school district, to the maximum extent appropriate, educates each child with a disability with their nondisabled peers, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities. No special classes, separate schools, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs unless the nature of severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. Children with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities. The IEP committee determines the placement of each child with a disability. Decisions regarding children's educational placements in their least restrictive environment will be made in conformity with this policy and the procedures contained in the state regulations.

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP)

The school district initiates and conducts meetings to develop and review annually the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) of a child with a disability residing within its jurisdiction and is provided special education and related services (excluding students placed by parents in private schools or home schooled children). Procedures for developing, implementing, reviewing, maintaining, and revising an IEP are implemented in accordance with the procedures contained in state rules and regulations. Educational placement decisions are determined by the IEP committee in accordance with the procedures contained in state regulations.

PROTECTION IN EVALUATION

Following a referral by the Teacher Support Team, a comprehensive assessment is completed at no cost to the parent(s). The district conducts a full and individual initial evaluation in accordance with the procedures contained in the state rules and regulations before the initial provision of special education and related services to a child with a disability. A reevaluation is conducted of each child with a disability every three years in accordance with the procedures specified in state rules and regulations.

All testing and evaluation materials and procedures used by district personnel for assessment and placement are, to the maximum extent possible (with the current state of the art), selected and administered so as not to be racially or culturally discriminatory.

CHILD FIND

The Tate County School District participates in the effort to identify and evaluate children age birth to 21 who have disabilities. Anyone who knows a child who may have a physical, mental, language, and/or emotional disability, may contact the Director of Special Services, Kristie Foster, 107 Court St. Senatobia, MS, 38668, 662-562-5861.

TECHNOLOGY

Advances in technology are bringing about changes that have an increasing impact on the way information is obtained, processed, evaluated and used. All students are entitled to have equitable opportunities to employ a variety of technological tools that will enhance the learning process and assist them in attaining educational and employability goals.

INSTRUCTIONAL TELEVISION

The Tate County School District instructional staff may show programs listed in the ETV (MPB) guide or programs that have been purchased for use with the curriculum. The viewing of any other materials live or taped must be approved by the principal or his/her designee. The television is not used for entertainment purposes unless approved by the principal. Grades 9-12 utilize IVN classes.

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE

The Tate County School District is pleased to be able to offer its students access to computers and the Internet. It is important to consider, however, that the Internet is a fluid, global environment in which information is constantly changing, thereby making it impossible to predict with certainty what information students might locate. Availability of information to students on the Internet does not imply endorsement by the school district. Access to the Internet and E-mail enables students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with Internet users throughout the world. The Tate County School District believes that the benefits to students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources, and opportunities for collaboration, exceed any disadvantages. Ultimately, however, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end, the district supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access by reading and signing the Internet Acceptable Use Policy.

TELEPHONE

Office telephones are for business use only. Students are not allowed to use the office phone. School secretaries are authorized to make phone calls for students in cases of emergency. Students are not called from class for telephone calls.

See *Section V—Student Conduct and Discipline*.

TEXTBOOKS

Teachers issue district-owned textbooks to students each year. The school, pursuant to MS Code §37-7301, assesses the condition of the book issued to a student at the beginning of the school year and again at the close of session. Fines are assessed for unnecessary wear.

If a textbook is lost, the list price of the book must be paid. The number of years the book has been in service is used to determine the list price.

DAMAGE

Writing/drawing/scribbling in book
 Excess wear/damage but still usable book
 Cover of book damaged book
 Spine damaged book
 Water damaged but still usable book
 Water damaged, not usable
 Pages missing, not usable
 Obscene writing or drawing on or in the book
 Non-returned book

FINE

\$1.00 per page
 10% of cost of the book
 25% of cost of the book
 25% of cost of the book
 25% of cost of the book
 Cost of the book
 Cost of the book
 Cost of the book

Students and parents assume full responsibility for the books and their proper care until they have been returned to the school.

TEXTBOOK SELECTION

Selection of all instructional materials is completed through a process involving the professional staff. The principal is responsible for the administration and supervision of the curriculum within his/her school, including the coordination, selection, and distribution of textbooks.

TRANSPORTATION

Tate County School District provides transportation for all students. In addition, parents may provide transportation.

SCHOOL BUS/DISTRICT VEHICLES

School bus drivers are required by law to observe state laws and regulations to safeguard the lives of their passengers. Schools have the right to refuse to transport any student who is guilty of misconduct.

Parents are encouraged to support the safe transport of all students by:

1. Cooperating with school officials and bus drivers in promoting safe and efficient pupil transportation. See *Section V-Student Conduct and Discipline and Section VII-Safety and Security*.
2. Understanding that buses cannot operate on roads that are not properly maintained or on roads where adequate places for turning around are not provided.
3. Making sure that children are ready at the bus stop at the time designated for the bus to arrive.
4. Helping monitor bus stops and encouraging students not to play in the road or cross the road until the bus arrives.
5. Making sure that their children cooperate with bus drivers
6. Understanding that all passengers on a school bus must obey all regulations and that consequences for misbehavior include being suspended or expelled from the transportation program (bus)

Students are picked up and left off at approved stops. Bus students are expected to be ready and waiting for the bus when it arrives. Seats on a bus are assigned for safety purposes. On rainy days, drivers pick up and drop students as close to their homes as possible. Buses operate on a strict schedule. However, it can be expected that occasionally buses may be late picking up students or getting them home due to mechanical or other problems.

All students are required to conduct themselves properly at all times while on the school bus or at a bus stop. The district discipline plan and all its rules and regulations are in effect and enforced on school buses. Students are disciplined according to the nature and frequency of infractions according the district discipline ladder. Students suspended from riding a bus are not allowed to ride another bus with the exception of the bus to ISS or OLC. See *Section V-Student Conduct & Discipline and Section VII-Safety & Security*.

Written instructions from a student's parent must be presented to the principal before a student is permitted to ride a bus other than his/her regular bus. The note may be sent with the student but must be received in the office by 9 A.M. to provide time for verification. Please note that while emergencies do arise, all buses are usually full, allowing for little or no courtesy rides. No large groups are approved. See *Section V-Student Conduct & Discipline, Section VI-Student Records & Release, and Section VII-Safety & Security*.

INTERFERENCE WITH SCHOOL BUSES

It is unlawful for any individual other than a member of the public school administration or faculty or a law enforcement official to interfere in any way with the operation of a school bus. State law prohibits unauthorized boarding of school buses or interference with passenger boarding or leaving, under penalties of fine and/or imprisonment.

PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES (JGFF)**Student Parking**

Students who provide their own transportation to and from school must observe the same regulations as students who ride a bus. Bringing an automobile or other motorized vehicle on campus is a privilege that may be revoked. Students who bring a vehicle to school must adhere to these regulations:

1. The driver must have a valid driver's license.
2. The driver is required to purchase a parking decal from the school. Failure to purchase a parking decal will result in forfeiting the student's privilege to park and drive on campus.
3. The driver must observe all safety rules on campus, including the speed limit in school zones and on campus. Quick starts and/or speeding are not tolerated in school zones or in school parking areas. Violations of these regulations result in severe disciplinary action and possible loss of privileges to drive a motor vehicle to school.
4. Other students are not permitted to ride on the outside of the vehicle.
5. Students are not allowed to sit in school buses or vehicles during the school day. Upon arriving at school, students are to park their vehicles, lock them, and leave the parking lot immediately. Students are not to loiter in the parking lot before or during the school day. When a student is ready to leave school for the day, he/she is to go directly to the car and leave school grounds.
6. Students must have permission from the principal, or designee, to go to their cars during the school day.
7. Once on campus, the student may not leave without permission from the principal or designee.
8. Each vehicle must have a current valid car tag.
9. Parents must certify that liability insurance is and will be maintained on the vehicle during the school year.
10. Parking is to be in designated areas on the school campus only. No off-campus parking is permitted for student drivers. Students are not permitted to park in the faculty/visitor parking areas.
11. Vehicles must enter and exit the school grounds in the manner prescribed by the traffic flow diagrams issued to student drivers.

Tate County School District is not responsible for automobiles or contents damaged or lost while on school campus.

Student Drop Off & Pick Up

Each school establishes times for drop off and pick up. Students who do not ride a bus should be let out and picked up in designated areas. See *Section VII-Safety and Security: Visitors and Section VIII-School Day*.

Visitor/Employee Parking

Visitors and employees are asked to park in designated areas as an extra measure of safety. See *Section VI/Safety & Security: Visitors, and Section VIII-School Day*.

HOME-COMMUNITY RELATIONS

COMMUNITY MEMBERS AS RESOURCES

The use of resource persons from the community in the classroom can be a valuable educational instrument. All requests to use resource persons must be cleared with the principal of the school. See *Section I/-Academics*.

Community participation in the affairs of the schools is an important facet of achieving improved quality of education for the students. Therefore, the Tate County School District makes every effort to identify the concerns, needs, and desires of the community in its decision making and to be responsive to those expressions. The advice of the public is carefully considered and evaluated with the total educational program as it affects students as its primary concern. Citizens of the district are encouraged to express their ideas, concerns, and judgments about the schools through the following avenues:

1. Dialog with teachers, principals, and other administrators
2. Written suggestions or proposals
3. Presentations and comments at hearings, PTO meetings, etc.
4. Responses to surveys made through interviews, written instruments
5. Service on advisory committees

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The Tate County School District believes many benefits come from a strong partnership between home and school and that the partnership between home and school is strengthened by recognizing that parents of students have special rights and responsibilities to be informed as to the day-to-day operation of the schools and to participate in improving the educational system. The district is committed to keeping parents and the community informed about and seeking input into its operation.

In accordance with the Tate County School District Board of Education belief that parental involvement is vital to the success of the school system, the district's Title 1 program will include, but not be limited to, the following components:

1. Jointly develop with, and distribute to, parents of participating students a written parental involvement policy, agreed upon by the parents.
2. Schedule annual public meetings to be held at individual schools. All parents of eligible children will be invited. The purposes of these meetings are to discuss with parents the programs and activities carried out with Title 1 funds, inform parents of their right to consult in the design and implementation of the project, solicit parental input, and provide parents an opportunity to establish mechanisms for maintaining on-going communication.
3. Notify parents that their child has been selected to participate in Title 1 programs.
4. Schedule conferences between individual parents and teachers to discuss student's progress.
5. Assist parents to promote the education of their child at home.
6. Provide parents with a school performance profile, inform them about the state system of standards and assessment, and inform them about the National Education Goals.
7. Develop a school-parent compact, setting out the respective responsibilities of the children, the school, and the parents regarding their child's education.

PARENT CENTERS

To promote a high level of interest and participation among its parents, the district provides parent centers in each school. The centers offer parents information, consultations, checkout materials and equipment, and other resources that will help them help their children.

PTO/PTA

The Tate County District recognizes the constructive role that parent-teacher groups play in the school system. The effective leadership provided by these organizations is valuable to the improvement of educational programs and community support of the schools. The parent-teacher groups in Tate County schools are regarded as partners who are sincerely interested in and staunch supporters of public education. Much is accomplished for the students through its efforts. All parents are encouraged to become active members. School employees are also encouraged to join PTO and to participate actively in their programs. Notices of meetings and activities are sent home by students. The district endorses the following purposes of the PTO:

1. To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, church and community.
2. To raise the standards of home life.
3. To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
4. To bring into close relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the training of the child.
5. To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for every child the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.

PRESCHOOL TRANSITION

The Tate County School District engages in a partnership with preschool programs to make the transition from preschool to school attendance as comprehensive and as comfortable as possible for students and parents. The partnership provides the foundation for dialog as well as workshops, preschool roundups, and other activities that help preschoolers make a successful transition into school, socially, academically, and emotionally.

PARENT CONFERENCES

Parents are encouraged to maintain close contact with classroom teachers throughout the school term. The parents or the classroom teacher may initiate parent conferences. Conferences should be well planned and nonthreatening for all parties involved. Much of the responsibility for the productivity of parent-teacher conferences rests with the expectation and agreement between teachers and parents for a positive, professional, productive conference. This can be achieved by making a list of things to be discussed and materials to be shared. Parents are encouraged to share things that will help the teacher understand the child better--special problems, interests, feelings, relationships.

Conferences should be arranged by appointment during the time set aside each day following the close of school, during the teacher's planning period, or during other mutually agreeable times when the teacher is not involved in supervision or instructional duties.

GRIEVANCES

Constructive criticism of the school system is welcome whenever it is motivated by a sincere desire to improve the quality of the educational program or to equip the schools to accomplish their tasks more effectively. Complaints and grievances shall be resolved, whenever possible, as close to their origin as possible. The district advises the public that the proper channeling of complaints involving instruction, discipline, or learning materials should observe the following tier:

1. Teacher
2. Principal and/or program director/coordinator
3. Assistant superintendent
4. Superintendent
5. School board

Complaints about school personnel are investigated by the administration

The school board does not consider nor act on complaints that have not been explored at the appropriate administrative level. Matters referred to the board must be in writing and the complaint should be specifically stated.

PUBLIC INFORMATION/ MEDIA RELATIONS

The Tate County School District encourages a policy of sound, responsive relations with the press and other communication media. The superintendent and/or his/ her designee is the official spokesperson for the district. As the district spokesperson, the superintendent or designee is responsible for informing the public about the school system through periodic releases to the communication media.

Publications issued by and in the name of the school district are required to be of high quality; address the issues squarely and simply, avoiding education jargon; and include a complete address and telephone number, the appropriate school contacts, and the date of the publication.

Representatives of the radio and television stations and the athletics director make arrangements for broadcasting and/or filming of games. The district adheres to regulations set forth by the Mississippi High School Activities Association for coverage by broadcasting and/or filming of games and/or practices.

Appendix A

STUDENTS COMPLAINTS OF SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT -- TITLE IX PROCEDURES

Students in the Tate County School District are protected from sexual discrimination, including sexual harassment, by Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972 to the Civil Rights Act. It is the intent of the Board to maintain an environment free from sexual harassment of any kind. Therefore, unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature amounting to or constituting harassment are prohibited.

This complaint procedure shall provide a process for filing, processing and resolving complaints on such matters. Adherence to these procedures is mandatory. The failure of any person to follow these procedures will constitute a waiver of the right to pursue a complaint at any level, including review by the Board.

I. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Sexual harassment" exists when unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature meets one of the following criteria:
 - 1. QUID PRO QUO HARASSMENT: Submission to such conduct is made, either implicitly or explicitly, a term or condition for a student's assignment of grades, promotion or other school-related benefit.
 - 2. QUID PRO QUO HARASSMENT: Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for decisions affecting that individual.
 - 3. HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT HARASSMENT: Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the student's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive teaching or learning environment.
- B. A "complaint" is a report by any student, a parent, legal guardian or custodian of a student or any employee which alleges that a policy or practice of the District or a practice or act of any of its employees or students has discriminated against a student on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment.
- C. The "complainant" is the student or parent, legal guardian or custodian of a student or employee who submits a complaint.
- D. The "respondent" is the person alleged to be responsible for the violation alleged in a complaint. The term may be used to designate persons with responsibility for a particular action or those persons with supervisory responsibility for procedures and policies in those areas covered in the complaint.
- E. The "Title IX Coordinator" is the person(s) designated to coordinate the District's efforts to comply with and carry out responsibilities under Title IX and other state and federal laws addressing equal educational opportunity.
- F. A "day" means a working day and does not include holidays and/or weekends.

II. GENERAL RULES

- A. Since it is important that complaints be filed and processed as rapidly as possible, the number of days indicated at each step are considered to be maximum and every effort will be made to expedite the process. At any step in the complaint procedure, the time limits may be extended only when necessary under the circumstances. In no event shall these procedures be extended for more than a 90 day period.
- B. If a review is not requested at any step within the time allotted and if the decision at the prior step found a reasonable basis to believe that an employee has engaged in any sexual misconduct or involvement with any student under the age of 18, the Title IX Coordinator shall, immediately upon the expiration of the allotted time, submit such information to the superintendent. The superintendent shall make such information available to the appropriate District Attorney as required by District policy and Mississippi law.
- C. Facts elicited during the complaint procedure are confidential and do not become part of a student's permanent record. A copy of documents, communications and records dealing with the processing of a complaint will be filed in a separate file as designated by the superintendent.
- D. Facts elicited during the complaint procedure that result in adverse disciplinary action against an employee become part of that employee's personnel file.
- E. The failure of a complainant to proceed from one step to the next within the set time limits, without being granted an extension of time by the Title IX Coordinator, shall be deemed to be an acceptance of the decision previously rendered and shall eliminate any future review concerning that particular complaint.
- F. The failure of the reviewing officer(s) to communicate his decision to the complainant or respondent within the time limits shall permit the complainant or respondent to proceed to the next step.
- G. The complainant may withdraw his complaint at any step without reprisal. However, a complainant shall not be permitted to refile the same complaint once withdrawn unless it is within the initial time period.
- H. No reprisal shall be invoked against the complainant for filing a complaint or against any person for participation in any way in this procedure.
- I. If the complaint is against the student's principal, the complainant may go directly to the Title IX Coordinator.

III. PROCEDURES FOR PROCESSING A COMPLAINT

<u>Party/Parties Involved</u>	<u>Action Required</u>
A. Complainant	Within 5 days from the time a complaint becomes known, the complainant must complete and submit to the Title IX Coordinator a written "Title IX Report" form. The report must state the respondent's name, the nature and date of the alleged violation, the names of any witnesses to such alleged violation and requested action. Forms shall be available from all principals' offices and from the Title IX Coordinator.
B. Title IX Coordinator	Within 2 days from receipt of the written complaint, the Title IX Coordinator shall notify the respondent.
C. Respondent	Within 5 days, the respondent shall be required to respond in writing to the Title IX Coordinator, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Confirm or deny the facts as alleged;2. Indicate acceptance or rejection of the complainant's requested action; or3. Outline alternative actions.
D. Title IX Coordinator	Within 5 days from receipt of the respondent's response, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide an

	initial response to the complainant and respondent, stating initial conclusions of fact and proposed action, if any.
E. Complainant or Respondent	Within 5 days of receiving the initial response, the complainant or respondent may request, complainant or respondent may request, in writing, a hearing on the matter.
F. Title IX Coordinator	Upon receipt of a written request for hearing, the Title IX Coordinator shall schedule a hearing to be held within 5-10 days before an unbiased panel of 3-5 district employees. The Title IX Coordinator shall give written notice of such hearing to the complainant, respondent, student's principal or employee's supervisor, superintendent and other appropriate witnesses, if applicable.
G. Title IX Coordinator, Grievant, Respondent, Title IX Hearing Panel	<p>Within 5-10 days of the receipt of the written request for a hearing by the Title IX Coordinator, a hearing shall be before an unbiased panel of 3-5 District employees. The Title IX Coordinator shall facilitate the hearing, at which the following rules shall apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The hearing shall be informal and the legal rules of evidence and procedure shall not apply. 2. The complainant and respondent shall be permitted to submit written evidence and to bring witnesses before the panel. 3. The Title IX Hearing Panel members may question any witnesses brought before them. 4. The complainant and respondent shall be permitted to make a statement before the panel and may be permitted to examine their witnesses and to cross-examine witnesses actually presented by the other parties. 5. Representation of the complainant or respondent by other individuals shall not be permitted. 6. The Title IX Coordinator shall create and maintain a record of the hearing which shall include the names of all witnesses, all investigation reports, a summary of all witness testimony and all documentary evidence.
H. Title IX Hearing Panel	Within 5 days after the hearing, the Title IX Hearing Panel shall issue a written decision which shall include findings of fact and recommended action.
I. Title IX Coordinator	Upon receipt of the decision of the Title IX Hearing Panel, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide a copy of such decision to the complainant, respondent, principal or supervisor and superintendent.
J. Complainant or Respondent	If the complainant or respondent is not satisfied with the decision, he/she may request a review by the superintendent. The request for such review must be made in writing to the Title IX Coordinator within 5 days of receipt of the Panel's decision.
K. Title IX Coordinator	Upon receipt of a request for review by the superintendent, the Title IX Coordinator shall notify the superintendent of such request and submit to the superintendent the record of the hearing, the Panel decision and all related documents.
L. Superintendent	Within 10 days of notice of request for review, the superintendent shall review the record and Panel decision and shall issue a decision. The superintendent may concur in the findings and recommendations of the Panel or may make alternate findings and recommendations. The superintendent shall have his decision provided to the Title IX Coordinator, complainant, respondent and the principal or supervisor within the 10 day period.
M. Complainant or Respondent	Within 5 days of the receipt of the superintendent's decision, if dissatisfied with the decision, the complainant or respondent must submit written request for review by the school board to the Title IX Coordinator.
N. Title IX Coordinator	Upon receipt of the request for review, the Title IX Coordinator must schedule a review before the governing school board to be held at the Board's next regular or special meeting, but in no event more than 30 days from such request. The Title IX Coordinator shall provide the board members with copies of the hearing record, all investigation reports, the Panel decision, the superintendent's decision and all related documents.
O. School Board, Title IX Coordinator, Complainant, Respondent	Within 30 days of the request for review, the board shall review the hearing record, all investigation, all reports, the Panel decision, the superintendent's decision and all related records. The review is not a hearing no party has the right to present further witnesses or other evidence or to examine any witness or party. However, the board may, in its discretion, permit statements of limited duration from the complainant or his representative and the respondent or his representative. All usual rules of board procedure shall apply. Furthermore, the board may, in its discretion, require that the review be conducted in closed or executive session.
P. School Board	Within 10 days of the review, the board shall issue a final written decision. The board may concur in the findings of the superintendent and direct that the recommended actions be taken or may make alternate findings and direct appropriate actions be taken by the superintendent or other appropriate administrator. The decision of the board is final.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
STANDARD 14

DISTRICT OPTION

Note: This option may be offered by districts, but it is not required.

Each student graduating from a secondary school in an accredited school district will have earned the required Carnegie units as specified in the following table. Contents of each required and elective course must include the core objectives identified in the Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks. Course titles and identification numbers must appear in the current edition of the Approved Courses for Secondary Schools of Mississippi. (See SB Policies 2902 and 2903.) Enrollment in online and correspondence courses must have prior approval granted by the principal. No more than one (1) of the minimum required number of units may be earned through completion of an approved correspondence course.

Any student who completes the minimum graduation requirements as specified below and has achieved a passing score on each of the required high school exit examinations is eligible to receive a high school diploma. The local school district may establish additional local requirements approved by the local school board as authorized under MS Code 37-16-7.

CURRICULUM AREA	CARNEGIE UNITS	REQUIRED SUBJECTS
ENGLISH	4 ¹	English I English II
MATHEMATICS	4 ²	Algebra I or Integrated Math I
SCIENCE	3 ³	Biology I
SOCIAL STUDIES	3	1 World History ⁴ 1 U.S. History ⁴ ½ U.S. Government ½ Mississippi Studies ⁵
HEALTH	½ ^{6&7}	Contemporary Health ¹⁰
BUSINESS and TECHNOLOGY	1 ⁸	1 Information and Communication Technology (ICT) II or 1 Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) or 1 Technology Foundations or ½ Keyboarding and ½ Computer Applications ¹¹
THE ARTS	1	Any approved 500.000 course
ELECTIVES	4½ ⁹	
TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED	21	

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
STANDARD 14
DISTRICT OPTION

¹Compensatory English, Compensatory Reading, and Compensatory Writing may not be included in the four (4) English courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the four and one-half (4½) general electives required for graduation. Beginning school year 2014-2015, Compensatory English may only be taken if a credit-bearing English course is taken in the same school year. MYP-English I and MYP English II are accepted in lieu of the English I and English II requirements for students enrolled in the IB program.

²Compensatory Mathematics and any developmental mathematics course may not be included in the four (4) mathematics courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the four and one-half (4½) general electives required for graduation. Beginning school year 2014-2015, Compensatory Mathematics may only be taken if a credit-bearing Math course is taken in the same school year. Beginning school year 2004-2005 for all entering eighth graders, at least one (1) of the four (4) required mathematics courses must be higher than Algebra I or Integrated Math I. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I are: Geometry, Integrated Math II, Algebra II, Integrated Math III, CCSS Advanced Math Plus, Algebra III, SREB Math Ready, Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, and AP Statistics. Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Discrete Mathematics, and Statistics meet this requirement if taken prior to the 2015-2016 school year. One (1) of the four (4) required mathematics units may be in Architecture & Drafting if the student completes the two-course sequence for Architecture & Drafting I & II. Effective with the eighth graders of 2004-2005, Pre-Algebra, Transition to Algebra, and Algebra I, may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit. Pre-Algebra and Transition to Algebra are no longer available after the 2013-2014 school year. Carnegie units may be earned by seventh and eighth graders effective with school year 2014-2015 for the following courses: CCSS Compacted Math Grade 7, CCSS Math Grade 8, CCSS Compacted Math Grade 8 (with Integrated Math I), and CCSS Math Grade 8 (with Algebra I/Traditional). MYP Geometry, MYP Algebra II, IB-DP Mathematics I, IB-DP Mathematics II, IB-DP Mathematical Studies I, IB-DP Mathematical Studies II are allowable mathematics courses higher than Algebra I for IB students.

³One (1) unit may be in Concepts of Agriscience or Introduction to Agriscience, and a second unit may be earned by completing two (2) of the following three (3) courses: Science of Agricultural Plants, Science of Agricultural Animals, or Science of Agricultural Environment. Two (2) units may be in the following courses if the student completes the required course sequence ending with Healthcare & Clinical Services II, Aquaculture II, Forestry II, Robotics/Engineering II, Polymer Science II or Careers in Polymer Science, Horticulture II or Horticulture Landscape and Turf grass, Engineering II or Applied Engineering Concepts, Health Sciences II or Workplace and Employment Skills in Health Sciences. The allowable lab-based physical science courses are Physical Science, Chemistry, AP Chemistry, Physics, AP Physics B, AP Physics C – Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C – Mechanics, Polymer Science II, and Robotics/Engineering II. IB-DP Physics I, IB-DP Physics II, MYP Chemistry, and IB-DP Chemistry may be accepted as allowable lab-based physical science courses for students enrolled in the IB program. MYP Biology and IB-DP Biology I may be accepted in lieu of the Biology I requirement for students enrolled in an IB program. Effective with school year 2013-14, up to two (2) of the three (3) required science units (excluding Biology I) may be earned by completing Agriculture and Natural Resources I & II. One (1) credit allowed shall be awarded for Biology II, and one-half (½) credit shall be awarded for Botany, and one-half (½) credit shall be awarded for Field Experiences in Science. Effective with eighth graders of school year 2013-14, Introduction to Agriscience may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit.

⁴Based on the **2011 Mississippi Social Studies Framework**, A.P. World History can be accepted in lieu of the required World History from the Age of Enlightenment to Present course. A.P. United States History can be accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History from Post-reconstruction to Present course. A.P. Government and Politics: United States can be accepted in lieu of the required United States Government course. IB-DP History of the Americas I is accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History course for students enrolled in the IB program. IB-DP History of the Americas II is accepted in lieu of the required Mississippi Studies, Economics, and/or U.S. Government courses for students enrolled in the IB program. MYP U.S. Government is accepted in lieu of the required Government course for students enrolled in the IB program.

⁵The credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student who enters after the sophomore year can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies or Mississippi State and Local Government. If the transfer student took a State/Local Government course in a grade level that did not award Carnegie unit credit, then any other one-half (½) unit social studies course may be accepted. An out-of-state student who transfers after the junior year may substitute any other one-half (½) unit social studies course. Effective with eighth graders of school year 2013-14, Mississippi Studies and Geography may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit.

⁶Credit earned in Healthcare & Clinical Services I/Health Science I may be accepted in lieu of Contemporary Health to meet the graduation requirement for one-half (½) Carnegie unit in Health.

⁷Successful completion of JROTC I and JROTC II may be accepted in lieu of Contemporary Health to meet the graduation requirement for one-half (½) Carnegie unit in Health beginning in the 2010-2011 school year and thereafter, when instruction includes all health components in the JROTC curriculum.

⁸Evidence of proficiency in Keyboarding and Computer Applications is accepted in lieu of the required courses if the student earns one (1) unit in any of the courses listed in the *Business and Technology Framework* (academic and vocational). Information & Computer Technology (ICT) II may be accepted in lieu of Computer Discovery. A Carnegie unit earned for Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics (STEM) in the 8th or 9th grade meets this graduation requirement. Technology Foundations replaces Computer Discovery, Keyboarding and Computer Applications and meets this graduation requirement when taken in grades 8-12. MYP Computer Discovery may be accepted in lieu of Computer Discovery for students enrolled in an IB program.

⁹Elective units in physical education include participation in interscholastic athletic activities, band, performance choral, dance and JROTC that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association.

¹⁰Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health meet this requirement if taken prior to the 2014-2015 school year.

¹¹Computer Discovery meets this requirement if taken prior to the 2012-2013 school year.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
STANDARD 14
SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012 (and thereafter)
(Entering ninth graders in 2008-2009 and thereafter)

Each student graduating from a secondary school in an accredited school district will have earned the required Carnegie units as specified in the following table. Contents of each required and elective course must include the core objectives identified in the *Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks*. Course titles and identification numbers must appear in the current edition of the *Approved Courses for Secondary Schools of Mississippi*. (See SB Policies 2902 and 2903) Enrollment in online and correspondence courses must have prior approval granted by the principal. No more than one (1) of the minimum required number of units may be earned through completion of an approved correspondence course.

Any student who completes the minimum graduation requirements as specified below and has achieved a passing score on each of the required high school exit examinations is eligible to receive a high school diploma. The local school district may establish additional local requirements approved by the local school board as authorized under MS Code 37-16-7.

Beginning school year 2008-2009 and thereafter, all entering ninth graders (seniors of school year 2011-2012 and later) will be required to have a minimum of 24 Carnegie units as specified below, unless their parent/guardian requests to opt the student out of Appendix A-2 requirements in accordance with local school board policy. Any student who is taken out of these requirements of Appendix A-2 will be required to complete the graduation requirements as specified in Appendix A-1 (District Option). The local school district may establish additional local requirements approved by the local school board as authorized under MS Code 37-16-7.

CURRICULUM AREA	CARNEGIE UNITS	REQUIRED SUBJECTS
ENGLISH	4¹	English I English II
MATHEMATICS	4²	Algebra I or Integrated Math I
SCIENCE	4³	Biology I
SOCIAL STUDIES	4	1 World History⁴ 1 U.S. History⁴ ½ Geography⁴ ½ U.S. Government ½ Economics⁵ ½ Mississippi Studies⁴
HEALTH and PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1^{7&8}	½ Contemporary Health and ½ Physical Education^{9&11}
BUSINESS and TECHNOLOGY	1¹⁰	1 Information and Communication Technology (ICT) II or 1 Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) or 1 Technology Foundations or ½ Keyboarding and ½ Computer Applications¹⁰
THE ARTS	1	Any approved 500.000 course
ELECTIVES	5¹¹	
TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED	24	

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
STANDARD 14
SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012 (Entering ninth
graders in 2008-2009 and thereafter)

¹Compensatory English, Compensatory Reading, and Compensatory Writing may not be included in the four (4) English courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the five (5) general electives required for graduation. Beginning school year 2014-2015, Compensatory English may only be taken if a credit-bearing English course is taken in the same school year. Accelerated English 9 can be accepted in lieu of English I. Accelerated English 10 and AP English Language Composition can be accepted in lieu of English II. Beginning school year 2010-2011 for all entering ninth graders, English I is a required prerequisite course for English II. English I may not be taken after a student completes English II.

²Compensatory Mathematics, Introduction to Engineering, and any developmental mathematics course may not be included in the four (4) mathematics courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the five (5) general electives required for graduation. Beginning school year 2014-2015, Compensatory Mathematics may only be taken if a credit-bearing Math course is taken in the same school year. Math 8 cannot be taken after Algebra I or Integrated Math I. Beginning school year 2007-2008 for all entering eighth graders, at least two (2) of the four (4) required mathematics courses must be higher than Algebra I or Integrated Math I. Effective with ninth graders of 2010-2011, Survey of Mathematical Topics may not be included in the two (2) math courses higher than Algebra I. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I or Integrated Math I are: Geometry, Integrated Math II, Algebra II, Integrated Math III, CCSS Advanced Math Plus, Algebra III, SREB Math Ready, Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, and AP Statistics. Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Discrete Mathematics, and Statistics meet this requirement if taken prior to the 2015-2016 school year. MYP Geometry, MYP Algebra II, IB-DP Mathematics I, IB-DP Mathematics II, IB-DP Mathematical Studies I, and IB-DP Mathematical Studies II are allowable mathematics courses higher than Algebra I for IB students. One (1) of the four (4) required mathematics units may be in Architecture & Drafting if the student completes the two-course sequence for Architecture & Drafting I & II. One (1) of the four (4) required mathematics units may be in Survey of Mathematical Topics; however, this course does not meet the mathematics requirement for admission to institutions of higher learning. Effective with the eighth graders of 2004-2005, Pre-Algebra, Transition to Algebra, and Algebra I may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit. Pre-Algebra, Transition to Algebra, and Survey of Mathematical Topics are no longer available after the 2013-2014 school year. Carnegie units may be earned by seventh and eighth graders effective with school year 2014-2015 for the following courses: CCSS Compacted Math Grade 7, CCSS Math Grade 8, CCSS Compacted Math Grade 8 (with Integrated Math I), and CCSS Math Grade 8(with Algebra I/Traditional). Effective with the eighth graders of 2008-2009, Geometry may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit. Effective with 7th graders of 2012-13, Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Biology I, ICT II (Information & Communication Technology), and first-year Foreign Language may be taken in the 7th grade for Carnegie unit credit provided the course content is the same as the high school course. Effective with 8th graders of 2012-2013, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics) and second-year Foreign Language may be taken in the 8th grade for Carnegie unit credit provided the course content is the same as the high school course. Effective with 8th graders of 2013-2014, Introduction to Agriscience may be taken for Carnegie unit credit provided the course content is the same as the high school course.

³One (1) unit may be in Concepts of Agriscience or Introduction to Agriscience, and a second unit may be earned by completing two (2) of the following three (3) courses: Science of Agriculture Plants, Science of Agriculture Animals, and Science of Agricultural Environment. Two (2) units may be in the following courses if the student completes the required course sequence ending with Healthcare & Clinical Services II, Aquaculture II, Forestry II, Robotics/Engineering II, Polymer Science II or Careers in Polymer Science, Horticulture II or Horticulture Landscape and Turf grass, Engineering II or Applied Engineering Concepts, Health Sciences II or Workplace and Employment Skills in Health Sciences. Beginning school year 2008-2009 for all entering eighth graders, one (1) unit must be a lab-

based physical science. The allowable lab-based physical science courses are Physical Science, Chemistry, AP Chemistry, Physics, AP Physics B, AP Physics C – Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C – Mechanics, Polymer Science II, and Robotics/Engineering II. IB-DP Physics I, IB-DP Physics II, MYP Chemistry, and IB-DP Chemistry may be accepted as allowable lab-based physical science courses for students enrolled in the IB program. MYP Biology and IB-DP Biology I may be accepted in lieu of the Biology I requirement for students enrolled in an IB program. Effective with school year 2013-14, up to two (2) of the four (4) required science units (excluding Biology I) may be earned by completing Agriculture and Natural Resources I & II. One (1) credit allowed shall be awarded for Biology II, one-half (½) credit shall be awarded for Botany, and one-half (½) credit shall be awarded for Field Experiences in Science. Effective with eighth graders of school year 2013-14, Introduction to Agriscience may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit.

⁴Based on the **2011 Mississippi Social Studies Framework**, A.P. World History can be accepted in lieu of the required World History from the Age of Enlightenment to Present course. A.P. United States History can be accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History from Post-reconstruction to Present course. A.P. Government and Politics: United States can be accepted in lieu of the required United States Government course. A.P. Macroeconomics or A.P. Microeconomics can be taken in lieu of the required Economics course. A.P. Human Geography can be accepted in lieu of the required Geography course. MYP World Geography is accepted in lieu of the required Geography course for students enrolled in the IB program. IB-DP History of the Americas I is accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History course for students enrolled in the IB program. IB-DP History of the Americas II is accepted in lieu of the required Mississippi Studies, Economics, and/or U.S. Government courses for students enrolled in the IB program. MYP U.S. Government is accepted in lieu of the required Government course for students enrolled in the IB program. Effective with eighth graders of school year 2013-14, Mississippi Studies and Geography may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit.

⁵Credit earned for Business Fundamentals or Business Fundamentals II may be accepted in lieu of one-half (½) unit in Economics.

⁶The credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student who enters after the sophomore year can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies or Mississippi State and Local Government. If the transfer student took a State/Local Government course in a grade level that did not award Carnegie unit credit, then any other one-half (½) unit social studies course may be accepted. An out-of-state student who transfers after the junior year may substitute any other one-half (½) unit social studies course.

⁷Credit earned in Healthcare & Clinical Services I, Health Sciences I, or Theory and Application of Health Sciences I may be accepted in lieu of Contemporary Health to meet the graduation requirement for one-half (½) Carnegie unit in Health.

⁸Successful completion of JROTC I and JROTC II may be accepted in lieu of Contemporary Health to meet the graduation requirement for one-half (½) Carnegie unit in Health beginning in the 2010-2011 school year and thereafter.

⁹Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health meet the health requirement if taken prior to the 2014-2015 school year. The graduation requirement for one-half (½) unit in physical education may include participation in interscholastic athletic activities, band, dance and JROTC that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association.

¹⁰Evidence of proficiency in technology is accepted in lieu of the required courses if the student earns one (1) unit in a technology-rich academic or career technical course related to their program of study. Effective with school year 2012-2013, a Carnegie unit credit for ICT II (Information & Communication Technology) may be awarded to 7th grade students. Effective with school year 2012-2013, a Carnegie unit credit for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics) may be awarded to 8th grade students. ICT II may be accepted in lieu of Computer Discovery. A Carnegie unit earned for STEM in the 8th or 9th grade meets this graduation requirement. Technology Foundations

replaces Computer Discovery, Keyboarding, and Computer Applications, and meets this graduation requirement when taken in grades 8-12. MYP Computer Discovery may be accepted in lieu of Computer Discovery for students enrolled in an IB program. Computer Discovery meets this requirement if taken prior to the 2012-2013 school year.

¹¹Only one (1) elective unit in physical education including participation in interscholastic athletic activities, band, performance choral, dance or JROTC that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association may be applied each year to the minimum 24 required state units. If a local district has graduation requirements above the state requirements, they may award additional credits as outlined in the local Board policy.

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
STANDARD 14**

**CAREER PATHWAY OPTION
SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012(and thereafter)
(Entering eleventh graders in 2010-2011 and thereafter)**

In 2010, Mississippi state policymakers passed legislation to create multiple pathways to a standard diploma. The 2010 legislative actions created a career pathway to a standard diploma, with the goal of improving Mississippi graduation rates and providing students with career and technical training that prepares students for postsecondary credential or certification programs and employable workplace skills. This legislative change created Section 37-16-17, *Mississippi Code of 1972*, as amended, to provide for high school career option programs and career track curricula for students not wishing to pursue a baccalaureate degree.

Enrollment in online and correspondence courses must have prior approval granted by the principal. No more than one (1) of the minimum required number of units may be earned through completion of an approved correspondence course.

CURRICULUM AREA	CARNEGIE UNITS	REQUIRED SUBJECTS
ENGLISH	4¹	English I English II
MATHEMATICS	3²	Algebra I or Integrated Math I
SCIENCE	3³	Biology I
SOCIAL STUDIES	3^{4, 5}	1 U.S. History ½ U.S. Government ½ Mississippi Studies
HEALTH or PHYSICAL EDUCATION	½⁶	½ Contemporary Health or ½ Physical Education¹⁰
CAREER and TECHNICAL	4⁷	(Selected from Student’s Program of Study)
BUSINESS and TECHNOLOGY	1⁸	Technology Foundations, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) II, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), or Computer Applications and Keyboarding
ELECTIVES	2½⁹	Courses selected from the student’s approved program of study
TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED	21	

NOTE: Mississippi’s Institutions of Higher Learning requirements differ from minimum graduation requirements for this diploma pathway.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
STANDARD 14
CAREER PATHWAY OPTION
SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012 (and thereafter)
(Entering eleventh graders 2010-2011 and thereafter)

¹Compensatory English, Compensatory Reading, and Compensatory Writing shall not be included in the four (4) English courses required for graduation. Beginning school year 2014-2015, Compensatory English may only be taken if a credit-bearing English course is taken in the same school year. The two (2) additional English credits must be from the student's program of study which includes Technical Writing, Creative Writing, English III, English IV, or any college-level dual credit courses.

²Compensatory Mathematics may not be included in the three (3) mathematics courses required for graduation. Beginning school year 2014-2015, Compensatory Mathematics may only be taken if a credit-bearing Math course is taken in the same school year. Math 8 cannot be taken after Algebra I or Integrated Math I. For students pursuing the Career Pathway Graduation Option, at least one (1) of the required mathematics courses must be above Algebra I or Integrated Math I and selected from the student's program of study. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I or Integrated Math I are: Geometry, Integrated Math II, Algebra II, Integrated Math III, CCSS Advanced Math Plus, Algebra III, SREB Math Ready, Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, and AP Statistics, or any college-level dual credit courses. Survey of Mathematical Topics, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Discrete Mathematics, and Statistics meet this requirement if taken prior to the 2015-2016 school year. Effective with the eighth graders of 2004-2005, Pre-Algebra, Transition to Algebra, and Algebra I may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit. Effective with the eighth graders of 2008-2009, Geometry may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit. Pre-Algebra and Transition to Algebra are no longer available after the 2013-2014 school year. Carnegie units may be earned by seventh and eighth graders effective with school year 2014-2015 for the following courses: CCSS Compacted Math Grade 7, CCSS Math Grade 8, CCSS Compacted Math Grade 8(with Integrated Math I), and CCSS Math Grade 8(with Algebra I/Traditional).

³For students pursuing the Career Pathway Graduation Option, at least one (1) of the required science courses must be above Biology I and selected from the student's program of study. If a student's program of study allows, one (1) unit may be in Concepts of Agriscience (AEST). A second science unit may be earned by completing a two-course sequence selected from the following options: Science of Agricultural Animals, Science of Agricultural Plants, or Science of Agricultural Environment. Two (2) units may be in the following courses if the student completes the two-course sequence: Healthcare & Clinical Services I & II, Health Science I & II; Aquaculture I & II; Forestry I & II; Horticulture I & II; Polymer Science I & II; and Engineering I & II. Effective with school year 2013-14, up to two (2) of the three (3) required science units (excluding Biology I) may be earned by completing Agriculture and Natural Resources I & II. One (1) credit allowed shall be awarded for Biology II, and one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) credit shall be awarded for Botany, and one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) credit shall be awarded for Field Experiences in Science. Effective with eighth graders of school year 2013-14, Introduction to Agriscience may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit.

⁴AP U.S. History is accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History Post-reconstruction to Present. The third social studies credit should be selected based on the student's program of study.

⁵The credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student who enters after the sophomore year can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies or Mississippi State and Local Government. If the transfer student took a State/Local Government course in a grade level that did not award Carnegie unit credit, then any other one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit social studies course may be accepted. An out-of-state student who transfers after the junior year may substitute any other one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit social studies course.

Credit earned for Business Fundamentals or Business Fundamentals II may be accepted in lieu of one-half (½) unit in Economics. Effective with eighth graders of school year 2013-14, Mississippi Studies, Geography and Introduction to Agriscience may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit.

⁶Credit earned in Healthcare & Clinical Services I/Health Science I may be accepted in lieu of Contemporary Health to meet the graduation requirement for one-half (½) Carnegie unit in Health. Interscholastic athletic activities, band, and ROTC, if they meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework*, may also be accepted.

⁷Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses must be based on the student's program of study and should include dual credit/dual enrollment options as found in Section 37-15-38 of the *Mississippi Code of 1972*.

⁸Evidence of proficiency in technology is accepted in lieu of the required courses if the student earns one (1) unit in a technology-rich academic or career technical course related to their program of study.

⁹Electives must be selected from courses related to the student's program of study. Credits earned not approved for that student's program of study will not be counted toward graduation requirements.

¹⁰Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health meet the health requirement if taken prior to the 2014-2015 school year.

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
STANDARD 14**

**MISSISSIPPI EARLY EXIT DIPLOMA
SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2013-2014 (and thereafter)
(Entering ninth graders in 2011-2012 and thereafter)**

Qualification for a Mississippi Early Exit Diploma signifies to students that they are ready to do college-level work without remediation and opens up a variety of education and career pathways within and beyond high school.

In order to qualify for a Mississippi Early Exit Diploma, in addition to earning the Carnegie units listed below, students must meet college and career qualification scores in all core content areas on a series of end-of-course exams and/or the required benchmarks for college readiness on the ACT (18 in English Composition; 22 in Mathematics; 22 in Reading; 23 in Science) or Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) approved college entrance exam.

Enrollment in online and correspondence courses must have prior approval granted by the principal. No more than one (1) of the minimum required number of units may be earned through completion of an approved correspondence course.

CURRICULUM AREA	CARNEGIE UNITS	REQUIRED SUBJECTS
ENGLISH	2	English II (equivalent Course)
MATHEMATICS	3	Algebra I (Equivalent Course)
SCIENCE	2	Biology I (Equivalent Course)
SOCIAL STUDIES	2½	1 World History 1 U.S. History (Equivalent Courses) ½ Mississippi Studies
HEALTH and PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1	Any combination of Health and Physical Education
BUSINESS and TECHNOLOGY	1	Technology Foundations; Information and Communication Technology (ICT) II; or Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
THE ARTS	1	Any approved 500.000 course
ELECTIVES	5	(Should focus on college admission or national certification requirements)
TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED	17½	

**TATE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
PARENT-STUDENT POLICY & PROCEDURES AGREEMENT**

Student's Name _____ School _____

By my signature below, I attest that I have been given the opportunity to review all rules and regulations published in this edition of the Tate County School District Parent-Student Handbook.

I understand and consent to the responsibilities rules, regulations, and procedures presented. I also understand and agree that my child will be held accountable for the behavior and consequences set forth at school during the regular school day, at any school-related activity regardless of time or location, and while being transported on district provided transportation.

I further understand that should my child violate the Student Code of Conduct contained herein, he/she shall be subject to disciplinary action, including restitution where applicable, and up to and including expulsion from school and/or referral to law enforcement officials for violations of the law.

ANY PARENT OR STUDENT WHO HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING DISTRICT AND SCHOOL POLICIES, RULES, PROCEDURES, AND REGULATIONS MAY CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

STUDENT

Signed: _____ Date _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN

Signed: _____ Date _____

Required
Please Sign And Return To School