

Collettsville School

4690 Collettsville School Drive
Collettsville, N.C. 28611
Telephone: (828) 754-6913

Jay McCarraher, Principal

School Purpose: Collettsville School will provide, in partnership with the community, a 21st century education. All students will have the opportunity to reach their full potential within a caring, secure learning environment.

School Direction: Collettsville School seeks to equip students with 21st century skills which will allow them to function in an increasingly global environment. It is our goal to create not only outstanding students but also lifelong learners with the capabilities to function in the world they will inherit.



This Student Planner belongs to:

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Grade _____

Homeroom _____

Dear Students and Parents:

On behalf of the faculty and staff, we want to welcome you all back for the 2017-2018 school year. We are extremely excited about the year ahead of us. We look forward to working closely with you and your child.

Please become acquainted with this handbook for it will help serve as a guide regarding our policies, rules, and expectations for not only you, the parents/guardians, but more importantly, the students and staff here at Collettsville School.

You are always welcome in our building and hope that you will get involved and continue to make the “Collettsville Family” second to none. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

This handbook/planner is an extremely important communication link between the school and your home. Please review the planner daily/nightly for homework assignments, projects, activities, field trips, and other important information.

Once again, we welcome and encourage you to be an active member within our school. We invite you all to join our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). You are always welcome to attend any of our School Improvement Team (S.I.T.) meetings and to also be a part of our Parent Involvement Plan. Your feedback is always critical to continue to help meet your child’s needs. If you are interested in these opportunities, please contact your child’s homeroom teacher.

We are happy to work together to make this “Collettsville Family” the best in the county.

Sincerely,

Collettsville School Staff

****2018/2019 Caldwell County Schools Calendar****

August 27.....	First Student Day
September 3.....	Labor Day Holiday
October 26.....	Early Release Day/End of 1 st 9-week Grading Period
November 12.....	Veterans Day Holiday
November 21, 22, 23.....	Thanksgiving Break
December 24 - January 4	Christmas Break/Vacation
January 18	End of 2 nd 9-week Grading Period
January 21	MLK Holiday
February 22	Professional Development/No School for Students
March 15	ER Day (11:45) / End of 3 rd 9-week Grading Period
April 19 - April 26	Spring Break/Vacation
May 27	Memorial Day Holiday
June 7	ER Day (11:45)/End of 4 th 9-week Grading Period

COLLETTSVILLE SCHOOL GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

All CCSB policies cannot be printed here in their entirety because of space limitations. A comprehensive and current listing of ALL Caldwell County School Board policies can be found online at: https://boardpolicyonline.com/bl/?b=caldwell_county and a hard copy of a particular policy can be provided by the school at the request of a parent or student during regular school hours.

All parents and students sign a form that acknowledges that they have read this entire handbook. All items contained within apply to all students, even if they fail to read the handbook. Any student that cannot afford a planner/handbook will be provided one.

Any parent or student with questions or concerns regarding Collettsville School guidelines, procedures, or policies should contact the principal.

ACADEMICS

All teachers use the North Carolina Standard Course of Study and Core and Essential Standards to guide their curriculum. Textbooks, resources, and other materials are used to provide quality instruction for all students. Students in grades K-2 receive pupil progress reports with achievement level descriptions of 1,2,3, or 4 each nine weeks grading period. Students in grades 3-8 receive report cards with letter grades of A,B,C,D, or F each nine weeks grading period. Grading scale for students in grades 3-8 will be on a 10 point scale (90 to 100 an A; 80 to 89 a B; 70 to 79 a C; 60 to 69 a D; 59 and below an F). End-of-Grade tests are administered in May or June for students in grades 3-8 in reading and math as well as grades 5 and 8 taking science. North Carolina Final Exams are administered to 6th & 7th graders in Science and to 6th, 7th, & 8th graders in Social Studies. Students in all grade levels receive specialty area instruction in PE, Music, Media, Career and Technical Education (6th – 8th only), and Computers. Band is offered for middle school students. Students in the 8th grade may elect to take a high school class from the Virtual Public School of NC and earn high school credit. Interested students should ask the school counselor or principal for more information Teachers are also available to students who qualify for Exceptional Children's programs, including Speech. Caldwell County Schools provide Academically/Intellectually Gifted services for students meeting eligibility criteria. Referrals for these programs or additional information may be acquired by contacting the Resource teacher or AIG Specialist at school.

ACCIDENTS AT SCHOOL

From time to time, accidents will happen at school. When an accident occurs it will be brought to the attention of designated personnel. Every possible effort will be made to contact parents/guardians to alert them of the accident. In the event the parents/guardians were not able to be notified, a note will be put in the child's planner. An accident report form will also be filled out and kept on file.

ATHLETICS

Students are required to maintain passing grades, maintain satisfactory attendance, and meet satisfactory behavior standards to participate in school sports. All athletes are required to have a copy of a current sports physical form on file at school before trying out for any school team. A physical is good for one year. The Caldwell County School System will purchase blanket athletic coverage for all middle school athletes. This coverage will apply to injuries resulting from athletics only. It will not cover other student accidents. Insurance is provided for students trying out for or participating in school athletics. Please contact the school office or the athletic director for information regarding coverage. If a student is injured, the school secretary must be notified in order to complete the school's portion of the claim form for processing. Sports schedules, tryout information, and practice schedules will be released early each year. Depending on the activity, students may have to participate at Gamewell Middle School and meet all of the athletic requirements of that school as well.

ATTENDANCE

The CCSB and Collettsville School staff seek full cooperation from parents and students in promoting good attendance and punctuality. The primary responsibility for school attendance rests primarily with students and parents. The principal of Collettsville School has appointed an Attendance Committee to promote regular student attendance and address attendance issues if they arise. Parents should carefully read the entire CCSB policy (4400) on attendance for both elementary and middle school students to make sure they are familiar with all requirements and laws.

Quality instructional time is a top priority for Caldwell County Schools. Regular attendance is a very important factor in student success. Work missed while a student is absent is difficult to make up as there is no substitute for quality instructional time, classroom discussion/activities, and interaction. Regular attendance is required by the Compulsory Attendance Law. Excessive unexcused absences may result in one or more of the following:

- An attendance contract that has specific requirements and listed consequences for failure to meet the school expectations for student attendance;
- The student being retained in the same grade at the end of the academic year;
- Notification of the appropriate county and state officials (i.e. District Attorney, Social Services, etc.); and/or,
- Other corrective action as deemed appropriate and necessary by the Attendance Committee and/or principal.

Parents should schedule all medical, dental, and other appointments after school hours or on teacher workdays. The school calendar for the academic year is provided well in advance for planning purposes. **The parent/guardian will provide the school with a written explanation concerning all student absences upon their return to school.** In some cases, a doctor's re-entry slip may be required by the school/Attendance Committee.

Parents may request assignments for absent students by 9:00 a.m. and pick them up in the office between 2:40-3:30 p.m. or have them sent home with the student's sibling. By law, parents will be notified at the third, sixth, and tenth unexcused absence. Students having more than ten (10) unexcused absences may not be promoted to the next grade level.

AWARDS

Collettsville School will honor students at Awards Day in June. The awards ceremony schedule will be announced in advance. Awards will be given in the following areas: Academics, A-team, Perfect Attendance, and Accelerated Reading as well as some other areas as announced.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Students who live in the Collettsville School district have the option of riding a school bus to and from school. Bus stops will only be made at a residence of a current student within the school district. **School bus transportation is a privilege that may be withdrawn for inappropriate behavior.**

Students residing in an area outside of the Collettsville district (attending Collettsville on an approved transfer) must provide his/her own transportation to school. For approved in-county student transfers, it is permissible for the students to ride a school bus, provided there is space available, from any normal bus stop within the Collettsville district once that student has provided his/her own transportation to the bus stop. Transfer students must get approval from the principal to ride the bus from a Collettsville resident's stop.

If you must make an **emergency** transportation change for your child, please contact the office as early in the day as possible. Lines may be very busy between 1:00pm and 2:30pm and you may be unable to get through in time. **Transportation changes should only be done when absolutely necessary and preferably in writing.** Moving a student to another bus will be done if space is available and at the principal's discretion, so please make those calls early enough for that review and approval.

Order is essential to keep students safe on school buses. All school rules apply on school buses and at or around school bus stops and will be strictly enforced. Students who do not follow the bus rules will have disciplinary action that may include assigned seats, administrative disciplinary action, or have their privilege to ride the bus suspended and/or revoked by the principal.

CAFETERIA

Collettsville participates in the breakfast in the classroom program. A letter will be sent home at the beginning of each school year for you to indicate whether you would like your child to participate or not. Lunch is served daily by our school cafeteria; therefore, students are encouraged to participate in the cafeteria program. Students are strongly encouraged to pay in advance for their meals, preferably when they arrive at school on Monday mornings. Just a reminder that students must be in their homeroom by 8:00 am to receive breakfast. We accept cash or a check made payable to the Collettsville Cafeteria. Occasionally a student may lose or forget their lunch money. ***If this occurs, they may charge their lunch for one day only.*** Otherwise, **lunch charges are not allowed.** Any student that has charges in the cafeteria will not be permitted to purchase supplemental sale items at lunch. **(Prices are subject to change.)**

Meal prices are as follows:	Breakfast:	Students K-5	\$1.00
		Students 6-8	\$1.25
	Lunch:	Students K-5	\$2.35
		Students 6-8	\$2.55
		Reduced	.40

CELL PHONE AND PERSONAL DEVICE USAGE

Students who have cell phones on school grounds must keep them turned OFF and out of sight during the school day (from 7:45 – 2:40) and may not use them without PRIOR permission of the principal or teacher. As new technologies emerge, they provide many positive educational benefits for classroom instruction. To enhance technology in the schools, students and staff may “Bring Your Own Technology” (B.Y.O.T). To encourage B.Y.O.T., Caldwell County Schools will allow use of personally owned devices on our guest network and school grounds for students and staff. At all times such use shall adhere to Board policies 3225/4312/7320, Technology Responsible Use, and 3226/4205, Internet Safety. Collettsville School shall not be liable for the loss, damage, misuse, or theft of any personally owned device brought on school system premises or for any charges to a student or staff member that may be incurred during approved school-related use. Students that bring devices to school do so at their own risk. Students are not permitted to use any electronic device to record audio or video media or take pictures of any student or staff member without their permission. The distribution of any unauthorized media may result in discipline including, but not limited to, suspension, criminal charges, and expulsion. A student may not use a cell phone or electronic device (such as iPods, etc.) at any time for any reason without permission including, but not limited to, checking the time, checking for messages, or texting. The first offense will result in the phone/device being confiscated and returned at the end of the day. Second offense will result in phone being turned into office and parents will have to come in and pick phone up.

CHILD CARE - BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL (WRAP-AROUND)

Collettsville School will have before/after school child care services available again this year for a charge. Before school care is available starting at 6:00 am. After school care is available from 2:50pm until 6:00pm. If interested in either of these services, please contact the school WrapAround Director (Katy Watson) at (828)754-6913 extension #308033.

CONFERENCES/PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents are important partners in the educational process and play a vital role in working with teachers to ensure that students meet high behavioral and academic standards. The principal of Collettsville School encourages all parents to be involved in their student’s school experience by sending notes, making notes in the student’s planner, calling the teacher, or conferencing with one or more teachers as needed.

Your child’s teacher will be happy to arrange a conference with you that can include your child’s regular core teacher(s), resource teachers, encore class teachers, and/or the principal. Please contact the school office between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to arrange a conference time that will be convenient for you. Please call as far in advance as possible in order to give staff members an opportunity to adjust and meet schedules.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

School safety is a top priority for school administration, faculty, and staff. The school district’s Crisis Management Plan addresses major crises, such as bad weather, armed intruders on campus, chemical spills, etc. It defines the steps that should be taken to ensure the safety of all children. Law enforcement and emergency agencies work closely with school administration to prevent or prepare for these incidents. As our culture and environment continue to change, crisis response is modified to meet the most current demands in society. Each year schools are required to conduct two lockdown drills in an effort to be prepared for an emergency. A fire safety drill is also conducted monthly. For more information, contact the Community Service Office, 728-8407 ext. 140142

DELIVERIES

The Caldwell County School Board decided to eliminate deliveries of flowers, balloons, pizza, etc. to the school. Therefore, we will not accept deliveries for students.

DRESS CODES
(CALDWELL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 4309 / A-2147)

Student dress and appearance are the responsibility of the parents. It is not the school's intention to interfere with the prerogatives of students or parents, yet in the learning environment it is felt that modesty, health, comfort, and the avoidance of distracting influences are vital. A student's appearance, mode of dress, or condition of personal hygiene shall not distract the learning environment or constitute a threat to the safety, health, or well-being of students and staff.

Disruptive hairstyles, clothing, accessories and other personal hygiene issues can include a large variety of things too numerous to list and will be decided by the principal as needed. Some basic guidelines (but the list is not complete or exhaustive) for Collettsville School are as follows:

- The shoulder width of female shirts or blouses must completely cover undergarments. Spaghetti strap tops, tube-tops, racerback tank tops, and halter-tops are not permitted.
- Shoes with Heelys are not permitted.
- Male students in grades 3-8 shall have shirts with sleeves.
- Net shirts, bare midriffs or other revealing attire are not acceptable for either sex.
- The length of dresses, skirts, and shorts shall reach mid-thigh or longer to be an appropriate length.
- No holes in jeans/pants above mid-thigh
- Pants, skirts, and shorts must be worn at the waistline. No underwear shall be revealed.
- No headgear, hats, hoods, bandanas, or sunglasses are to be worn inside school buildings or on yellow school buses.
- No pajamas except on designated "pajama days"
- No hairstyles that are distracting in class including extreme colors or haircuts to include Mohawks, razor cuts, etc.
- Leggings are not to be worn as pants. If leggings are worn, they are to be worn so that the bottom is covered by a longer shirt or sweater.
- No clothing, jewelry, or accessories with letters, initials, symbols or wording that is obscene, threatening, offensive, inflammatory, distractive, disruptive or detrimental to the instructional process is allowed. This includes body piercing (except pierced ears), tattoos, and clothing that displays alcoholic beverages, drugs, tobacco products, or promotes violence, hatred, or intolerance.
- Shoes must be worn at all times.
- Oversize jackets, trench coats, long coats, etc. shall not be worn during the school day except as authorized by the principal or designee.
- Fidget spinners/cubes are **only** permitted if written into child's Individualized Education Plan/504 Plan.

*Students may not wear attire that contain language, or other content, which is inflammatory, threatening, hateful, obscene, demeaning, or promoting disharmony. Violation of these provisions will result in strong penalties, including, but not limited to, out-of-school suspension.

School officials have the authority and responsibility to determine whether a student's appearance satisfies the intent of this policy. **Anything that disrupts the learning environment will be deemed unacceptable.** The administration will ask the student to change or adjust clothing as necessary. The administration has the final authority to deem attire as appropriate.

DRILLS: FIRE/TORNADO/LOCKDOWN

Fire drills, tornado drills, and lockdown drills are held periodically during the school year. Students will be instructed on procedures. Students need to be quiet during drills so they can hear instructions.

EARLY DISMISSAL TIME

For your child's protection, a student will not be permitted to leave school before the regular dismissal time unless a parent/guardian comes to the school and clears the dismissal with the office. If someone other than a parent/guardian is signing out a student, it will be necessary for the person picking up the child to have his/her name on file in the office and show I.D. Students will be charged with a day's absence if they report to school after 11:30am or leave before 11:30am. Parents are requested to schedule all medical and dental appointments for their children after the regular school day (2:40 pm). If appointments need to be made during the school day, the parents must submit a note to the teacher requesting an early dismissal. In order to assure uninterrupted class time and for your children's safety, parents and/or authorized persons must sign students out in the office. Students will not be released from the classroom unless the office has notified the teacher/assistant by way of intercom or note. Early dismissals will be coded as excused or unexcused and will follow the same guidelines as absences.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips will be closely tied to the curriculum. Notice of field trips will be given to parents by teachers as soon as the trip is scheduled. Permission notices will be sent home to be signed by the parent/guardian, returned to the school, and kept on file. Teachers may require several signed forms depending on the trip. All trips are kept as affordable as possible. Any parent with concerns or questions about a field trip or the costs should contact the teacher.

FINES/FEES

All fines or fees (including lost/damaged textbooks, unpaid cafeteria debt, lost/damaged library books, etc.) generated by a student are expected to be paid immediately. If a parent/guardian has a circumstance where it is difficult to pay fines/fees, the parent/guardian should contact the principal immediately to work out a suitable agreement.

Students with unpaid fines/fees may not be permitted to participate in special events, extracurricular activities or programs at the discretion of the principal. All fines/fees must be paid by the end of each academic school year.

HONOR ROLL

The purposes of the honor rolls are to recognize and encourage quality student performance. Educational goals include both academics and behavior, so both are reflected on the honor rolls.

Grades 3 – 8:

- A Honor Roll – No grade less than A, no grade of Unsatisfactory for a subject, no grade of D, E, or Unsatisfactory on conduct.
- B Honor Roll – No grade less than B, no grade of Unsatisfactory for a subject, no grade of D, E, or Unsatisfactory on conduct.

INSURANCE

School accident insurance will be available for all students who wish to purchase it. Enrollment forms, with price and coverage information, are available on our school website or may be picked up at the school office. Parents who choose to purchase student insurance should send the form and payment in within 14 days from the start of school. The insurance company will accept only checks or money orders, please do not mail cash. Do not send or make checks payable to the school. The basic school time coverage cost will be approximately \$10.00-\$15.00 for the 2017-2018 school year. More extensive coverage is available if parents desire to purchase.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (CCSB Policy 9205: Integrated Pest Management)

The Caldwell County School system utilizes an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach for controlling insects, rodents, and other pests. Parents have the right to be notified in advance of specific pesticide applications made at the school.

INTERNET USE

Students will have access to the internet while at school. All students must sign an internet use agreement explaining appropriate use of school technology and the internet. Failure to follow the agreement can result in disciplinary action including ISS, OSS, and loss of internet privileges.

LOST AND FOUND

Articles which have been found should be taken to the office. Lost articles can be claimed by proper identification. Parents are recommended to clearly mark students' property with permanent marker. This also discourages unauthorized borrowing. Periodically throughout the school year, all unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

MEDIA CENTER

Teachers, in cooperation with the Media Specialist, will go over specific procedures regarding the media center. Students who fail to abide by library rules and procedures will risk losing library privileges. All library fines must be paid before any books can be checked out. All library fines must be paid by the end of the school year. Behavioral expectations in the Media Center are high and students are expected to be respectful of others.

MEDICATION/ILLNESS AT SCHOOL

Students who become ill while at school must report to their teacher. Students that are running a fever may not remain at or attend school until they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medications. In the interest of the health of ALL students, parents should always keep sick children at home or seek the advice of a physician. Injuries requiring medical attention will be handled on an emergency basis and parents will be notified. If a student needs medication during school hours, a consent form must be signed by a medical doctor and kept on file. Parents must also give written instructions for giving the medication. Parents must transport the medication to school (with the medication form) to be signed in at school with the appropriate personnel. A specially trained person will administer all medications given to students. A Caldwell County Schools Medication Procedures brochure with appropriate consent forms and instructions are available in the office.

NONDISCRIMINATION CLAUSE

Programs, activities and facilities of the Caldwell County School System are available to all on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, handicap, or national origin. The school system is an equal access Equal Opportunity Employer. Questions pertaining to educational equity, equal opportunity, or equal access should be addressed to the Associate Superintendent of Human Resources, Dr. Bill Griffin, Title IX Coordinator, Caldwell County Schools, 1914 Hickory Blvd. SW, Lenoir, NC 28645; (828)728-8407.

NOTICE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Caldwell County School System follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) when disclosing any personally identifiable information from student education records. The school district may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent. This information, generally not considered harmful, such as student's name, address, participation in school activities and sports, weight and height of athletic team members, dates of attendance, awards, and the most recent previous school attended, may be utilized by the school district, individual schools or organizations, unless parents advise the Caldwell County Schools that they do not want their student's information disclosed. To prevent disclosure, parents or eligible students (one who is at least 18 years old or is married) must notify the school in writing within the first 20 calendar days of the school year. The Board of Education strongly discourages the release of directory information to outside organizations which have requested the information for their own purposes, including private, commercial or religious organizations.

The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Caldwell County Schools to include this type of information in certain school publications. Examples include: the school's yearbook, honor rolls or recognition lists, graduation /awards programs, and sports activity sheets.

PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Collettsville School's Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) will meet periodically during the school year. Meetings are held in the gym at 6:30 p.m. and dates will be announced well in advance. All parents are invited to join the P.T.O. and attend the meetings. The data is clear – the more involved parents/guardians are (regardless of the age of the student,) the more successful the student is. Children must remain with parents during PTO meetings. A contact page for PTO Board Members is on the Collettsville School webpage that includes email and phone information. The PTO Board Members serve terms of two years. Elections are in the spring. Please contact PTO Board Members with any questions.

PARKING

Parking in front of the school is reserved for parents and visitors. Parking at the rear of the school is reserved for buses and staff. Students (of Collettsville School as well as any other Caldwell County School) are not allowed to park on campus. No vehicles are permitted to be left parked on Collettsville's campus unless the occupants of the car are inside the school conducting official school business. Everyone's careful attention to these designated parking areas will improve the safety of our students.

PARTICIPATION IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Extra-curricular activities include membership in clubs and organizations (i.e. Battle of the Books, Beta Club, MathCounts, GEMS Club, Soap Box Derby, Sports Teams, etc.) and any event held on campus that is sponsored by the school (i.e. Fall Festival, Sports Events, Dances, etc.). To participate in those activities and events, students must be in good standing. Excessive absences and tardies, discipline referrals, academic failures, classroom behavioral issues, In-School Suspension (ISS), Out of School Suspension (OSS), and other inappropriate actions as determined by the principal will result in the student losing the privilege to participate in these activities and events.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (P.E.)

In accordance with the Healthy Active Children Policy, your child will get a minimum of 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity either through physical education class, recess, or daily physical activity provided by classroom teacher. Students are required to have appropriate tennis/walking shoes that cover the foot completely and stay on during physical activity. (Students may keep PE shoes in their assigned cubby/storage box at school.) This is for safety reasons as well as giving your child the ability to participate and earn their grade.

We want to know what we should or should not do to help take care of your child. When your child is sick, injured, or has any medical condition that requires them to sit out of P.E., please call and send us a note of explanation. We want the children to be safe, to learn, and to have fun in P.E. and on the playground.

PICTURES

Fall pictures are scheduled for October 18th. Spring pictures will be taken in March 7th. Notices will be sent home as a reminder before pictures are taken.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are issued four times a year, after each nine-week grading period. A report card is given to each student approximately ten calendar days after the end of the grading period. Parents are requested to sign the report card in the appropriate place and return it to school the day after it is issued.

ROLLING BOOKBAGS

Since lockers are not available for middle school students, rolling bags will be allowed, though parents are responsible for finding one that will not scuff the floor. A student using their bookbag inappropriately and/or scuffing the floor may lose the privilege of bringing one.

SCHOOL CLOSING

In the event of inclement weather or mechanical breakdown, the school may be closed, have its start time delayed, or students may be dismissed early. Any such circumstance will be announced over local radio and television stations and social media. You may also be notified through the Caldwell County Schools communications system, Blackboard Connect. If no report is heard, it may be assumed that school will operate on a regular schedule. Please do not call the school office, as we receive our information from the radio or school information line also. This will allow our school phone lines to remain open for emergency calls.

SCHOOL DAY

The school day begins at 8:00 a.m. Students should be in their homeroom by 7:55 a.m. Students arriving late must go by the office to receive a tardy slip. Bus students will be dismissed at 2:40 p.m., and it is the student's responsibility to quickly board the bus. Car riders will be dismissed after the buses depart which should be approximately 2:45 p.m. Students going home with each other, whether by bus or by car, must have a note from each student's parent stating their permission. These requests, and any change in the normal procedure of going home must be preceded by a note from home to the principal explaining the reason for the change. All notes must be approved in the office before 8am. A parent note indicating a change in buses (to go home with another student or be dropped off at an "alternate" location such as a grandparent, etc.) will be honored as space permits and at the discretion of the principal or the principal designee.

SCHOOL SAFETY

School safety is a top priority for school administration and teachers. Each school has a Crisis Management Plan that addresses major crises, such as bad weather, armed intruder on campus, chemical spill, etc., and defines the steps that should be taken to ensure the safety of children. Law enforcement and emergency agencies work closely with school administration to prevent or prepare for these incidents that would threaten the safety of students. As our culture and environment continue to change, crisis response is modified to meet the current demands in society. Each year, schools are required to conduct at lockdown drills every other month in an effort to be prepared for an emergency. For more information, contact the School-Community Relations Office, 728-8407, ext. 140142

SCREENINGS FOR HEARING AND SPEECH

Mass Speech / Language screenings are no longer being conducted in Caldwell County; however, individual screenings will be performed upon teacher referral and given parental permission or upon parental request. Mass hearing screenings will be conducted on all 1st, 3rd and 5th graders. Parents who do not wish to have their child's hearing screened should indicate this in writing to the school's Speech Pathologist within the first 2 weeks of the school year. Hearing screenings are available for children in other grades upon referral to the Speech Pathologist, given parental permission.

STUDENT CONDUCT

Students and parents should read CCSB policy “4309: Student Conduct” together. Teachers will go over this policy in detail during the first few days of school. All students will be held to the standards of behavior detailed in that policy. **Failure to meet behavioral expectations will result in appropriate consequences.** Teachers will handle many infractions within the classroom according to their class rules and will notify parents as necessary. The principal will notify parents of major infractions. Please make sure contact information is kept current for this reason, among others. The staff and principal appreciate the support of parents regarding consequences and students being responsible for their actions. Working together, the educational community can instill a sense of personal pride and responsibility in students that will prepare them for the real world and life in general.

Some guidelines specific to Collettsville School are listed below.

At Collettsville School, students are expected to:

- Respect themselves (in dress, manners, actions, language & conduct)
- Respect others (including peers and adults)
- Respect property (including the school, other’s property & their own)
- Respect time (by being on-time, staying on-task, & not wasting other’s time)
- Respect space (by keeping hands/feet to themselves)
- Respect education (by doing their very best at all times)

STUDENT RECORDS

It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to keep student records accurate and current. All medical records, including immunization records, must be updated regularly. The accurate legal residence will be the listed residence. Any changes, including phone numbers, cell phone numbers, e-mail addresses and any changes to residence, legal status, guardianship, etc. must be made immediately by the parent by contacting the main office and providing the appropriate documentation. The school will maintain the cumulative record of every student with information and updated according to procedure and policy.

It is imperative that phone numbers, addresses, and e-mail addresses be kept current at all times. Primary contact is often made by telephone. Often inclement weather alerts, announcements, deadlines, and other important information is delivered by Blackboard Connect, the Caldwell County Schools automated messaging system so the information provided by the parent is critical. It is the parent’s responsibility to change and update information by contacting or visiting the main office in a timely manner. One week is considered sufficient time to call in those changes.

SUPERVISION – MORNING/AFTERNOON

Students should be dropped off at school **no earlier** than 7:15 a.m. Students arriving at school should report directly to the cafeteria. Parents who transport their children should not bring them to school before 7:15 a.m. as we are unable to provide adequate staff for supervision of students and all students on campus must be adequately supervised. On days that school is delayed, the supervised time will be 30 minutes prior to the delayed start time. Students may not enter the main building before 7:45 a.m.

Parents may not enter the cafeteria, gym, or main building unless they first sign in at the front office and receive a visitor’s pass. Any student dropped off after 8:00 a.m. or picked up before 2:40 p.m. must be signed in/out in the front office by a parent/guardian.

Children will remain in their designated classroom until school is dismissed. First bus load students will be dismissed at **2:40** p.m. Walkers and car riders will be dismissed at approximately **2:50** p.m. Second bus load students will stay in designated rooms, under teacher supervision, until their bus load is dismissed. All second load buses are normally dismissed by 3:20 p.m. and all students must leave campus at those designated times unless they have specific permission to remain later from parent/guardian that has been approved by a staff member.

TARDY POLICY (AND EARLY DISMISSAL POLICY)

For your child’s protection, a student will not be permitted to leave school before the regular dismissal time unless a parent/guardian comes to the school and signs the student out in the main office. A student arriving late must have a parent/guardian come into the main office to sign them in. If someone other than a parent/guardian is signing in a student late or signing out a student early, it will be necessary for the person dropping off or picking up the child to have his/her name on file in the office. Students must always receive office approval before leaving school grounds. Students must be in attendance for one-half of the school day to be counted present for the day.

Excessive tardies and early dismissals (check-outs) – **a combined total of 10 or more** - are not permitted. Tardies and early dismissals disrupt a student’s access to instructional time and can also disrupt the classroom environment. Regardless of the number of absences a student has, students that have excessive tardies and or early dismissals will have any or all of the following:

- An attendance contract that has specific requirements and listed consequences for failure to meet the school expectations for student attendance;
- **Removal from any perfect attendance listing, ineligibility for any perfect attendance awards, designations, or reward activities;**
- Other corrective action as deemed appropriate and necessary by the Attendance Committee and/or principal.

Since bus transportation is provided as an option, the school's expectation is that students will be on time to school every day and will leave school at the scheduled time.

TELEPHONES

The telephones in the office and classrooms are for school business only. **Students will not be allowed to receive a telephone call.** If a parent must get an emergency message to the student, they will call the front office to leave it with a staff member to deliver. Classes will not be interrupted for incoming calls. **Never leave transportation information or changes on a voicemail as it may not be checked in time.** Students should never use the telephone without permission from a school official.

The number of incoming phone lines in any school, including Collettsville School, are limited. Please limit calls during school hours. The best time to call to reach staff members, leave messages for staff member, to make inquiries, or to set up appointments and conferences is from 2:45-4:00 pm. Staff can also be reached easily – 24 hours a day – via email through the website.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks issued to students are the property of the Caldwell County Board of Education. Textbooks should be used with care and returned in good condition. Students will be responsible for books which are lost, stolen, or damaged.

VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS

Visitors and volunteers are welcome and are required to report to the office to sign in and receive an ID badge upon arrival. Once signed in, the computer will generate a photo ID of the visitor or volunteer that must be worn in an easily visible place.

All parents and visitors must obtain permission of the administration before entering the classroom. Visitors are expected to leave promptly when their business is completed and sign out in the office. Visitors and volunteers should adhere to school and classroom policies to ensure that the normal routine of your child's education is interrupted as little as possible. Volunteers should coordinate activities with the classroom teacher prior to the date of service. Volunteer hours are tracked by the main office. All visitors and volunteers must wear the ID badge in a visible place and must sign out in the main office when leaving campus.

WEB PAGE

Collettsville School has a web page which is updated regularly. A current calendar that is updated daily is there for parents to see at any time. We recommend that you bookmark the website and visit it daily to keep updated on everything about the school. Parents can find useful information about the school in general as well as their child's specific class.

The school has a social networking site (Facebook). Upcoming activities, news, pictures, links, and other information can also be accessed through the official school web page. The web page can be accessed by going to the Caldwell County Schools website, choose "Schools", choose "K-8", and then "Collettsville School".

All programs, activities and facilities of the Caldwell County School system are available to all on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, handicap, or national origin. The school system is an equal access Equal Opportunity Employer. Questions pertaining to educational equity, equal opportunity, or equal access should be addressed to the Associate Superintendent of Human Resources.

Collettsville School Parent and Family Engagement Policy – Revised 6/7/17

Collettsville School staff hopes to build and maintain ties with children and their parents throughout their time at Collettsville. Parent involvement in school is an investment in your child's success. To that end, we welcome and encourage parent involvement through our Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy which includes:

- The Title I Plan will be discussed at the opening Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) meeting as well as in subsequent meetings as needed.
- Parent conferences are set-up with parent(s)/guardian(s) as needed
- Parents are invited to participate in the School Improvement Team (SIT), the PTO Executive Board, the PTO general membership, and the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) on a regular and ongoing basis to give feedback, ask questions, and participate in school leadership.
- Parents can volunteer to work inside the school tutoring students in reading and math to support the Title I plan. A letter will be sent home about this opportunity to help our students. Please consider volunteering when needed. Especially during fundraiser and End of Grade testing.
- Parents and students sign a Student-Parent-School Compact at the beginning of school that indicates a shared responsibility for high student academic achievement.
- At least one Title I Reading Night is scheduled every academic year to foster more reading success through parent involvement, as well as one Title I Steam Night to provide hands-on application of basic math skills.
- Information about curriculum, student activities, events, conferences, etc. are on the school's homepage as well as Collettsville School's Facebook Page.
- Every spring a Title I "No Child Left Behind" parent survey is sent home asking for parent input to help improve our services for students. We are always looking for 100% return rate.
- Rising kindergartners that have potential issues in reading and math are invited to participate in "Rising Stars," a summer program that helps give children a jump-start on education.
- Translators are available for language interpretation as specific needs arise.
- Blackboard (the automated phone message system) messages are sent home, in English and Spanish, to parents on a regular basis with information regarding academics, student activities, and opportunities.
- Other activities, programs, committees, volunteer opportunities, and information are offered by the staff or PTO / Volunteer Coordinator as appropriate throughout the year.

Information about Title I programs, services, and benefits to students can be obtained from school staff upon request. The Title I Plan is on file in the Principal's office. The Title I Plan is constructed in the spring at the time the Title I Parent Involvement Surveys are being returned from parents to the school. This process gives each parent an opportunity for input as the school wide plan is being developed. Parent surveys returned in Spring are an important part of developing our Title I Plan. Parent input is greatly appreciated for development of this plan.

The staff at Collettsville School remains committed to ensuring student success in partnership with parents and the community. Many opportunities to volunteer and offer input will be given to parents each academic year as they are encouraged to participate as fully as possible.

ATTENDANCE
Policy Code: 4400

Attendance in school and participation in class are integral parts of academic achievement and the teaching-learning process. Through regular attendance, students develop patterns of behavior essential to professional and personal success in life. Regular attendance by every student is mandatory. The State of North Carolina requires that every child in the State between the ages of 7 (or younger if enrolled) and 16 attend school. Parents and legal guardians are responsible for ensuring that students attend and remain at school daily.

A. ATTENDANCE RECORDS

School officials shall keep accurate records of attendance, including accurate attendance records in each class. Attendance records will be used to enforce the Compulsory Attendance Law of North Carolina.

B. EXCUSED ABSENCES

When a student misses school, a written excuse signed by a parent or guardian shall be provided to the student's teacher on the day the student returns after an absence. Absences due to extended illnesses may also require a statement from a physician. An absence may be excused for any of the following reasons:

1. personal illness or injury that makes the student physically unable to attend school.
2. isolation ordered by the State Board of Health.
3. death in the immediate family.
4. medical or dental appointment.
5. participation under subpoena as a witness in a court proceeding.
6. a minimum of two days each academic year for observance of an event required or suggested by the religion of the student or the student's parent(s).
7. participation in a valid educational opportunity, such as travel or service as a legislative or Governor's page, with prior approval from the principal.
8. pregnancy and related conditions or parenting, when medically necessary; or
9. visitation with the student's parent or legal guardian, at the discretion of the superintendent or designee, if the parent or legal guardian (a) is an active duty member of the uniformed services as defined by policy [4050](#), Children of Military Families, and (b) has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting.

In the case of excused absences, short-term out-of-school suspensions, and absences under [G.S. 130A-440](#) (for failure to submit a school health assessment form within 30 days of entering school) the student will be permitted to make up his or her work. (See also Board Policies [4110](#), Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission, and [4351](#), Short-Term Suspension.) The teacher will determine when work is to be made up. The student is responsible for finding out what assignments are due and completing them within the specified time period.

C. SCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITIES

All classroom activities are important and difficult, if not impossible, to replace if missed. Principals shall ensure that classes missed by students due to school-related activities are kept to an absolute minimum. The following school-related activities will not be counted as absences from either class or school:

1. field trips sponsored by the school;
2. job shadows and other work-based learning opportunities, as described in [G.S. 115C-47](#)(34a);
3. school-initiated and -scheduled activities;
4. athletic events that require early dismissal from school;
5. Career and Technical Education student organization activities approved in advance by the principal; and
6. in-school suspensions.

Assignments missed for these reasons are eligible for makeup by the student. The teacher will determine when work is to be made up. The student is responsible for finding out what assignments are due and completing them within the specified time period.

D. EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

Class attendance and participation are critical elements of the educational process and may be taken into account in assessing academic achievement. Students are expected to be at school on time and to be present at the scheduled starting time for each class.

The principal shall notify parents and take all other steps required by [G.S. 115C-378](#) for excessive absences.

Students in grades six through eight must be in attendance at least 170 school days. Students with more than 10 unexcused absences may not be promoted to the next grade level.

School attendance committees will review student absences at the end of the first three grading periods and in the middle of the last grading period. The committee shall submit to the principal or designee the names of students who are in danger of not being promoted due to excessive unexcused absences.

If a high school student is absent from any class for seven or more days, the principal or designee shall have the authority to determine whether the student will be permitted to make up missed work.

High school students who miss more than seven days in a semester course or 10 days in a yearlong course will not receive credit for the course unless the student achieves proficiency on an End of Course (EOC) exam or a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Post-Assessment or a "B" or above on the final exam in a non-EOC or non-CTE Post-Assessment class and earns a passing grade for the course. No Credit (NC) will be recorded if the student does not meet both stipulations.

Absences due to disability or for religious observance will not be included in determining the cumulative days absent in a course. All other absences, both excused and unexcused, will be combined to determine the cumulative days absent. Before a student is denied credit for a course due to excessive absences, the principal shall ensure that any absences due to disability or for religious observance are excluded from the calculation of cumulative absences.

Students with extenuating circumstances may file an appeal prior to the completion of the course as follows:

ALL attendance appeals are presented to the School Attendance Appeals Committee, which has sole responsibility for approving attendance appeals. Either the student or a teacher of the student may file an appeal.

Students with excused absences due to documented chronic health problems are exempt from this policy.

Excessive absences may impact eligibility for participation in interscholastic athletics. See policy [3620](#), Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations and policy [3621](#), Student Athletic Eligibility.

Legal References: [G.S. 115C-47](#), [-84.2](#), [-288\(a\)](#), [-375.5](#), [-378 through -383](#), [-390.2\(d\)](#), [-390.2\(1\)](#), [-390.5](#), [-407.5](#); [130A-440](#); [16 N.C.A.C. 6E .0102](#), [.0103](#); State Board of Education Policies [TCS-L-000 through -003](#) Cross References: Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations (policy [3620](#)), Student Athletic Eligibility (policy [3621](#)), Education for Pregnant and Parenting Students (policy [4023](#)), Children of Military Families (policy [4050](#)), Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission (policy [4110](#)), Short-Term Suspension (policy [4351](#))

Adopted: January 14, 2013

Revised: December 9, 2013; July 13, 2015; June 13, 20

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT
Policy Code: 4309

The Caldwell County Board of Education's Student Code of Conduct serves to notify students and their parents of expected behaviors, to provide a description of conduct subject to disciplinary action and to define the range of possible disciplinary consequences for misconduct. The term "parent" as referenced in student behavior policies includes legal guardian, legal custodian, or other adult caregiver authorized by statute.

The consequences for engaging in behavior prohibited by the Code of Student Conduct will be determined by the principal, in accordance with the school's Student Behavior Management Plan. Students may be subject to a range of consequences, up to and including long-term suspension or expulsion, based on the nature of the offense and whether it constitutes a minor or serious violation, as described in Section D of Board Policy [4300](#), Student Behavior Policies. As permitted by state law, students who engage in conduct prohibited under Section J of the Code of Student Conduct may be subject to a 365-day suspension.

A. INTEGRITY AND CIVILITY

All students are expected to demonstrate integrity, civility, responsibility and self-control. This expectation is directly related to the Board's educational objectives for students to learn to be responsible for and accept the consequences of their behavior and for students to respect cultural diversity and ideological differences. Integrity, civility, responsibility and self-control also are critical for establishing and maintaining a safe, orderly and inviting environment.

In addition to any standards or rules established by the schools, the following behaviors are in violation of the standards of integrity and civility and are specifically prohibited:

1. cheating, including the actual giving or receiving of any unauthorized assistance or the actual giving or receiving of an unfair advantage on any form of academic work;
2. plagiarizing, including copying the language, structure, idea and/or thought of another and representing it as one's own original work;
3. violating copyright laws, including the unauthorized reproduction, duplication and/or use of printed or electronic work, computer software, or other copyrighted material;
4. gambling or engaging in related games of chance involving payoffs of any kind;
5. cursing or using vulgar, abusive or demeaning language toward another person; and
6. playing abusive or dangerous tricks or otherwise subjecting a student or an employee to personal indignity.

B. DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

An orderly school environment is necessary for teachers to be able to teach and for students to be able to learn. Students are encouraged to participate in efforts to create a safe, orderly and inviting school environment. Students also are entitled to exercise their constitutional right to free speech as part of a stimulating, inviting educational environment. A student's right to free speech will not be infringed upon; however, school officials may place reasonable, constitutional restrictions on time, place and manner in order to preserve a safe, orderly environment.

Principals and teachers have full authority as provided by law to establish and enforce standards and rules as necessary to create orderly schools and classrooms.

Students are prohibited from disrupting teaching, the orderly conduct of school activities, or any other lawful function of the school or school system. The following conduct is illustrative of disruptive behavior and is prohibited:

1. intentional verbal or physical acts that result or have the potential to result in blocking access to school functions or facilities or preventing the convening or continuation of school-related functions, including false fire alarms;
2. appearance or clothing that (1) violates a reasonable dress code adopted and publicized by the school; (2) is substantially disruptive; (3) is provocative or obscene; or (4) endangers the health or safety of the student or others (see Section C);
3. possessing or distributing literature or illustrations that significantly disrupt the educational process or that are obscene or unlawful;

4. engaging in behavior that is immoral, indecent, lewd, disreputable or of an overly sexual nature in the school setting;
5. failing to observe established safety rules, standards and regulations, including on buses and in hallways; and
6. interfering with the operation of school buses, including delaying the bus schedule, getting off at an unauthorized stop, and willfully trespassing upon a school bus.

C. STUDENT DRESS

The Board believes the dress and personal appearance of students greatly affect their academic performance and their interaction with other students. The Board requests that parents outfit their children in clothing that is conducive to learning. Generally, dress and grooming standards as determined by the student and his or her parents will be deemed acceptable. However, the Board prohibits any appearance or clothing that does the following:

1. violates a reasonable dress code adopted and publicized by the school;
2. is substantially disruptive (for more information on gang-related attire, see Section G) ;
3. is provocative or obscene; or
4. endangers the health or safety of the student or others.

Before being punished, a student who is not in compliance with this policy or a school dress code will be given a reasonable period of time to make adjustments so he or she will be in compliance. Disciplinary consequences for a student who fails to comply after being offered this opportunity shall be consistent with Section D of policy [4300](#), Student Behavior Policies. The Superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violation of the dress code.

D. USE OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES

The Board recognizes that cellular phones and other wireless communication devices have become important tools through which parents communicate with their children. Therefore, students are permitted to possess such devices on school property so long as the devices are **not activated, used, displayed or visible during the instructional day** (beginning with the arrival at school until the dismissal bell) or as otherwise directed by school rules or school personnel. Wireless communication devices include, but are not limited to, cellular phones, electronic devices with internet capability, paging devices, two-way radios and similar devices.

1. Authorized Use

Administrators may authorize individual students to use wireless communication devices for personal purposes when there is a reasonable need for such communication. Teachers and administrators may authorize individual students to use the devices for instructional purposes, provided that students are supervised during such use.

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

2. Consequences for Unauthorized Use

School employees may **immediately confiscate any wireless communication devices that are on, used, displayed or visible in violation of this policy**. Absent compelling and unusual circumstances, confiscated wireless communication devices will be returned only to the student's parent, after a conference.

After a first offense, additional offenses may result in a range of approved consequences for minor infractions, including in-school or short-term out-of-school suspension, if warranted. More severe sanctions, including those reserved for major violations, may be imposed, based on consideration of the following factors: whether the wireless communication device was used (1) to reproduce images of tests, obtain unauthorized access to school information or assist students in any aspect of their instructional program in a manner that violates any Board policy, administrative regulation or school rule; (2) to bully or harass other students; (3) to send illicit text messages; (4) to take and/or send illicit photographs; or (5) in any other manner that would make more severe disciplinary consequences appropriate.

3. Search of Wireless Communication Devices

In accordance with Board Policy [4342](#), Student Searches, a student's wireless communication device and its contents, including, but not limited to, text messages and digital photos, may be searched whenever a school official has reason to believe the search will provide evidence that the student has violated or is violating a law, Board policy, the Code of Student Conduct or a school rule. The scope of such searches shall be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the nature of the suspected infraction.

4. Liability

Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their wireless communication devices. The school system is not responsible for the theft, loss or damage of a cellular phone or other personal wireless communication device.

E. TOBACCO PRODUCTS -- STUDENTS

The Board is committed to creating safe, orderly, clean and inviting schools for all students and staff. To this end, the Board supports state laws that prohibit the sale or distribution of tobacco products to minors and that prohibit the use of tobacco products by minors. The Board also supports state and federal laws that prohibit the use of tobacco products in school buildings, on school campuses, and in or on any other school property owned or operated by the Board. For the purposes of this policy, the term "tobacco product" means any product that contains or that is made or derived from tobacco and is intended for human consumption, including electronic cigarettes (including vaping devices, hookah pens, and related paraphernalia) and all lighted and smokeless tobacco products.

In support of the Board's commitments and state and federal law, students are prohibited from using or possessing any tobacco product (1) in any school building, on any school campus, and in or on any other school property owned or operated by the Board, including school vehicles; (2) at any school-related activity, including athletic events; or (3) at any time when the student is subject to the supervision of school personnel, including during school trips.

Nothing in this policy prohibits the use or possession of tobacco products for an instructional or research activity conducted in a school building, provided that the activity is conducted or supervised by a faculty member and that the activity does not include smoking, chewing or otherwise ingesting tobacco.

F. DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Unauthorized or illegal drugs and alcohol are a threat to safe and orderly schools and will not be tolerated. The Superintendent is responsible for ensuring this policy is consistently applied throughout the school system.

Students are prohibited from possessing, using, transmitting, selling or being under the influence of any of the following substances:

1. narcotic drugs;
2. hallucinogenic drugs;
3. amphetamines;
4. barbiturates;
5. marijuana or any other controlled substance;
6. synthetic stimulants, such as MDPV and mephedrone (e.g., "bath salts"), and synthetic cannabinoids (e.g., "Spice," "K2");
7. any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, fortified or unfortified wine or other intoxicating liquor; or
8. any chemicals, substances or products procured or used with the intention of bringing about a state of exhilaration or euphoria or of otherwise altering the student's mood or behavior.

Students also are prohibited from possessing, using, transmitting or selling drug paraphernalia or counterfeit (fake) drugs. Students may not participate in any way in the selling or transmitting of prohibited substances, regardless of whether the sale or transmission ultimately occurs on school property.

Possession or use of prescription and over-the-counter drugs is not in violation of this policy if such drugs are possessed and used in accordance with Board Policy [6125](#), Administering Medicines to Students. The principal may authorize other lawful uses of substances otherwise prohibited by this policy, such as for approved school projects.

G. GANG-RELATED ACTIVITY

The Board strives to create a safe, orderly, caring and inviting school environment. Gangs and gang-related activities have proven contrary to that mission and are prohibited within the schools. A gang is any ongoing organization, association or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of criminal acts and having a common name or common identifying sign, colors or symbols. The violence and crime that accompany gangs pose a serious threat to the safety of students and employees of the school system. Even absent acts of violence or crime, the existence of gang-related activity within the schools creates an atmosphere of fear and hostility that obstructs student learning and achievement. Thus, the Board condemns the existence of gangs and will not tolerate gang-related activity in the school system.

Gang-related activity is strictly prohibited within the schools. For the purposes of this policy, "gang-related activity" means: (1) any conduct that is prohibited by another Board policy and is engaged in by a student on behalf of an identified gang or as a result of the student's gang membership; or (2) any conduct engaged in by a student to perpetuate, proliferate or display the existence of any identified gang.

Conduct prohibited by this policy includes:

1. wearing, possessing, using, distributing, displaying or selling any clothing, jewelry, emblems, badges, symbols, signs or other items with the intent to convey membership or affiliation in a gang;
2. communicating either verbally or non-verbally (gestures, handshakes, slogans, drawings, etc.) with the intent to convey membership or affiliation in a gang;
3. tagging, or otherwise defacing school or personal property with symbols or slogans intended to convey membership or affiliation in a gang (see Section H);
4. requiring payment of protection, insurance or otherwise intimidating or threatening any person related to gang activity (see Section I);
5. inciting others to intimidate or to act with physical violence upon any other person related to gang activity (see Section I);
6. soliciting others for gang membership; and
7. committing any other illegal act or other violation of school system policies in connection with gang-related activity.

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly consult with law enforcement officials to maintain current examples of gang-related activities, including but not limited to gang names and particularized examples of potential gang indicators including symbols, hand signals, graffiti, clothing, accessories and behaviors.

The Board acknowledges that not all potential gang indicators denote actual membership in a gang.

Before being punished for a violation of subsection A.1 or A.2, above, a student shall receive an individualized warning as to what item or conduct is in violation of this policy and shall be permitted to immediately change or remove any prohibited items. A student may be punished only if he or she previously received notice that the specific item or conduct is prohibited.

Disciplinary consequences for violations of subsections A.1, A.2 and A.6, above, shall be consistent with Section D of policy [4300](#), Student Behavior Policies. The Superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violations of these subsections.

Violations of subsections A.3, A.4, A.5 and A.7, above, are violations of both this policy and other Board policies. Disciplinary consequences for such violations shall be consistent with Section D of policy [4300](#) and the specific range of consequences listed in the Code of Student Conduct for the other Board policy violated. That the violation was gang-related shall be an aggravating factor when determining the appropriate consequences.

In a situation where a student has violated this policy or is otherwise suspected of gang affiliation through other circumstantial evidence, the principal shall conduct an intervention involving the principal and/or assistant principal, the student and the student's parent. Such intervention also may include the school resource officer and others as appropriate. The purpose of an intervention is to

discuss school officials' observations and concerns and to offer the student and his or her parents information and an opportunity to ask questions or provide other information to the school officials.

This policy shall be applied in a non-discriminatory manner based on the objective characteristics of the student's conduct in light of the surrounding circumstances.

H. THEFT, TRESPASS, AND DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

The Board will not tolerate theft, trespass or damage to property by any student. Any student engaging in such behavior will be removed from the classroom or school environment for as long as is necessary to provide a safe and orderly environment for learning.

1. Theft

Students are prohibited from stealing or attempting to steal school or private property and/or from knowingly being in possession of stolen property.

2. Damage to Property

Students are prohibited from damaging, defacing, destroying, or altering the use of school property or private property or attempting to engage in such behavior.

3. Trespass

Students are prohibited from trespassing on school property. A student will be considered a trespasser and may be criminally prosecuted in any of the following circumstances:

- a. the student is on the campus of a school to which he or she is not assigned during the school day without the knowledge and consent of the officials of that school;
- b. the student is loitering at any school after the close of the school day without any specific need or supervision; or
- c. the student has been suspended from school but is on the property of any school during the suspension period without the express permission of the principal.

I. ASSAULTS, THREATS, AND HARASSMENT

The Board will not tolerate assaults, threats or harassment from any student. Any student engaging in such behavior will be removed from the classroom or school environment for as long as is necessary to provide a safe and orderly environment for learning.

1. Assault

Students are prohibited from assaulting, physically injuring, attempting to injure or intentionally behaving in such a way as could reasonably cause injury to any other person. Assault includes engaging in a fight.

2. Threatening Acts

Students are prohibited from directing toward any other person any language that threatens force, violence or **disruption**, or any sign or act that constitutes a threat of force, violence or **disruption**.

Bomb and terrorist threats are also addressed in policy 4333, Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats and Clear Threats to Safety.

3. Harassment

Students are prohibited from engaging in or encouraging any form of harassment, including bullying of students, employees or other individuals and cyber-bullying as described in [G.S. 14-458.2](#). Harassment is unwanted, unwelcome and uninvited behavior that demeans, threatens or offends the victim and results in a hostile environment for the victim. The hostile environment may be created through pervasive or persistent misbehavior or a single incident if sufficiently severe.

Harassment and bullying are further defined in policy [1710/4021/7230](#), Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying. Complaints of harassment will be investigated pursuant to policy [1720/4015/7225](#), Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Complaint Procedure. For incidents of misbehavior that do not rise to the level of harassment, see policy 4310, Integrity and Civility, which establishes the expectation that students will demonstrate civility and integrity in their interactions with others.

The disciplinary consequences for violations of this policy shall be consistent with Section D of policy [4300](#), Student Behavior Policies. The Superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violations of this policy.

A student who is long-term suspended or reassigned to alternative education services as a result of assaulting or injuring a teacher shall not return to that teacher's classroom without the teacher's consent.

A student who is convicted under [G.S. 14-458.2](#) of cyber-bullying a school employee will be transferred to another school. If there is no other appropriate school within the school system, the student will be transferred to a different class or assigned to a teacher who was not involved as a victim of the cyber-bullying. The Superintendent may modify, in writing, the required transfer of an individual student on a case-by-case basis.

J. WEAPONS, BOMB THREATS, TERRORIST THREATS, AND CLEAR THREATS TO SAFETY

The Board will not tolerate the presence of weapons or destructive devices, bomb or terrorist threats, or actions that constitute a clear threat to the safety of students or employees. Any student who violates this policy will be removed from the classroom or school environment for as long as is necessary to provide a safe and orderly environment for learning.

1. Weapons and Weapon-Like Items

Students are prohibited from possessing, handling, using or transmitting, whether concealed or open, any weapon or any instrument that reasonably looks like a weapon or could be used as a weapon. Weapons include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. loaded and unloaded firearms, including guns, pistols and rifles;
- b. destructive devices as described in subsection B.2 of this policy, including explosives, such as dynamite cartridges, bombs, grenades and mines;
- c. knives, including pocket knives, bowie knives, switchblades, dirks and daggers;
- d. slingshots and slungshots;
- e. leaded canes;
- f. blackjacks;
- g. metal knuckles;
- h. BB guns;
- i. air rifles and air pistols;
- j. stun guns and other electric shock weapons, such as tasers;
- k. icepicks;
- l. razors and razor blades (except those designed and used solely for personal shaving);
- m. fireworks;
- n. gun powder, ammunition, or bullets;

o. any sharp pointed or edged instruments except unaltered nail files and clips and tools used solely for preparation of food, instruction and maintenance; and

p. mace, pepper spray, and other personal defense sprays.

Examples of other objects that may be considered weapons are box cutters and other types of utility blades and blowguns.

No student may knowingly or willfully cause, encourage or aid another student to possess, handle or use any of the weapons or weapon-like items listed above. A student who finds a weapon or weapon-like item, who witnesses another student or other person with such an item, or who becomes aware that another student or other person intends to possess, handle or use such an item shall notify a teacher or the principal immediately.

This section does not apply to Board-approved and -authorized activities for which the Board has adopted appropriate safeguards to protect student safety.

2. Bomb Threats

Students are prohibited from making, aiding and/or abetting in making a bomb threat or perpetrating a bomb hoax against school system property by making a false report that a device designed to cause damage or destruction by explosion, blasting or burning is located on school property.

No student may knowingly or willfully cause, encourage or aid another student to make a bomb threat or perpetrate a bomb hoax. Any student who becomes aware that another student or other person intends to use a bomb, make a bomb threat or perpetrate a bomb hoax shall notify a teacher or the principal immediately.

3. Terrorist Threats

Students are prohibited from making, aiding, conspiring and/or abetting in making a terrorist threat or perpetrating a terrorist hoax against school system property by making a false report that a device, substance or material designed to cause harmful or life-threatening injury to another person is located on school property or at a school event.

No student may knowingly or willfully cause, encourage or aid another student to make a terrorist threat or perpetrate a terrorist hoax. Any student who becomes aware that another student or other person intends to use a device, substance or material designed to cause harmful or life-threatening illness or injury to another person, make a terrorist threat or perpetrate a terrorist hoax shall notify a teacher or the principal immediately.

4. Clear Threats to Student and Employee Safety

Students are prohibited from engaging in behavior that constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or employees. Behavior constituting a clear threat to the safety of others includes, but is not limited to:

- a. theft or attempted theft by a student from another person by using or threatening to use a weapon;
- b. the intentional and malicious burning of any structure or personal property, including any vehicle;
- c. an attack or threatened attack by a student against another person wherein the student uses a weapon or displays a weapon in a manner found threatening to that person;
- d. an attack by a student on any employee, adult volunteer or other student that does not result in serious injury but that is intended to cause or reasonably could cause serious injury;
- e. an attack by a student on another person whereby the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury, such as broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injuries, laceration requiring stitches, loss of consciousness, or significant bruising or pain; or whereby the victim requires hospitalization or treatment in a hospital emergency room as a result of the attack;
- f. any intentional, highly reckless or negligent act that results in the death of another person;
- g. confining, restraining or removing another person from one place to another, without the victim's consent or the consent of the victim's parent, for the purpose of committing a felony or for the purpose of holding the victim as a hostage, for ransom, or for use as a shield;

- h. the possession of a weapon on any school property, including in a vehicle, with the intent to use or transmit for another's use or possession in a reckless manner so that harm is reasonably foreseeable;
- i. taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody or control of another person or persons, by force, threat of force, or violence, or by putting the victim in fear;
- j. any unauthorized and unwanted intentional touching, or attempt to touch, by one person of the sex organ of another, including the breasts of the female and the genital areas of the male and female;
- k. the possession, manufacture, sale or delivery, or any attempted sale or delivery, of a controlled substance in violation of Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes;
- l. any behavior resulting in a felony conviction on a weapons, drug, assault or other charge that implicates the safety of other persons; and
- m. any other behavior that demonstrates a clear threat to the safety of others in the school environment.

5. Consequences

a. General Consequences

The disciplinary consequences for violations of this policy shall be consistent with Section D of policy [4300](#), Student Behavior Policies. The Superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violations of this policy.

b. Specific Consequences Mandated by Law

As required by law, a student who brings or possesses a firearm or destructive device on school property or at a school-sponsored event shall be suspended for 365 days, unless the Superintendent modifies, in writing, the required 365-day suspension for an individual student on a case-by-case basis. The Superintendent shall not impose a 365-day suspension if the Superintendent determines that the student (1) took or received the firearm or destructive device from another person at school or found the firearm or destructive device at school, (2) delivered or reported the firearm or destructive device as soon as practicable to a law enforcement officer or school personnel and (3) had no intent to use the firearm or destructive device in a harmful or threatening way.

For the purpose of this subsection, a firearm is (1) a weapon, including a starter gun that will, is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, (2) the frame or receiver of any such weapon or (3) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer. A firearm does not include an inoperable antique firearm, a BB gun, a stun gun, an air rifle or an air pistol. For the purposes of this subsection, a destructive device is an explosive, incendiary or poison gas (1) bomb, (2) grenade, (3) rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, (4) missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, (5) mine or (6) similar device.

A student may not be suspended for 365 days for a weapons violation except in accordance with this subsection.

K. CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

Criminal or other illegal behavior is prohibited. Any student who the principal reasonably believes has engaged in criminal behavior on school premises or at school activities will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, as stated in applicable Board policies, and also may be criminally prosecuted.

School officials shall cooperate fully with any criminal investigation and prosecution. School officials shall independently investigate any criminal behavior that also violates school rules or Board policy.

1. Students Charged With Or Convicted Of Criminal Behavior

If necessary, the Superintendent and principal may take reasonable measures to preserve a safe, orderly environment when a student has been charged with or convicted of a serious crime, regardless of whether the alleged offense was committed on school grounds or was related to school activities. Depending upon the circumstances, including the nature of the alleged crime, the child's age, and the publicity within the school community, reasonable efforts may include changing a student's classroom assignment or transferring the student to another school. Transfer to an alternative school may be made in accordance with the criteria established in policy [3470/4305](#), Alternative Learning Programs/Schools. The student will continue to be provided with

educational opportunities unless and until the student is found to have violated Board policy or school rules and is suspended or expelled in accordance with procedures established in Board policy.

2. Reporting Criminal Behavior

A school employee may report to law enforcement an assault by a student on a school employee, and principals or other supervisors shall not, by threats or in any other manner, intimidate or attempt to intimidate the school employee from doing so.

Principals shall immediately report to law enforcement the following acts when they have personal knowledge or actual notice from school personnel that such acts have occurred on school property, regardless of the age or grade of the perpetrator or victim: (1) assault resulting in serious personal injury; (2) sexual assault; (3) sexual offense; (4) rape; (5) kidnapping; (6) indecent liberties with a minor; (7) assault involving the use of a weapon; (8) possession of a firearm in violation of the law; (9) possession of a weapon in violation of the law; and (10) possession of a controlled substance in violation of the law. A principal who willfully fails to make a required report to law enforcement will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

The principal or designee shall notify the Superintendent or designee in writing or by e-mail of any report made by the principal to law enforcement. Such notice shall occur by the end of the workday in which the incident occurred, when reasonably possible, but not later than the end of the following workday. The Superintendent shall inform the Board of any such reports. In addition, the principal or designee shall notify the parents of students who are alleged to be victims of any reported offenses.

Certain crimes shall be reported to the State Board of Education in accordance with State Board of Education Policy [HRS-A-000](#).

Legal References: [17 U.S.C. 101](#), [102](#), [106](#), [107](#), [110](#), [117](#); [G.S. 115C-47](#), [-288](#), [-307](#), [-390.2](#)

Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy [3000](#)), Copyright Compliance (policy [3230/7330](#)), Student Behavior Policies (policy [4300](#))

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