



**Student Code of Conduct, K-12  
2020-2021**

**STUDENT BEHAVIOR CODE**  
**Board Policy Descriptor Code: JCDA**  
**McIntosh Board of Education**

The McIntosh County Board of Education strives to operate each school in an orderly manner that provides for the welfare and safety of all students. Therefore, the Board of Education has adopted a policy that requires students to conduct themselves at all times according to established behavioral standards. These standards for behavior require students to respect each other and school district employees, to obey student behavior policies adopted by the Board and to obey student behavior rules established at each school in the district.

The school's primary goal is to educate, not to punish; however, when a student's behavior comes in conflict with the rights of others, corrective actions may be necessary for the benefit of that individual and the school. Accordingly, students shall be governed by policies, regulations and rules set forth in the Student Behavior Code. The degree of discipline imposed will be in accordance with the progressive discipline process unless otherwise stated.

The Student Behavior Code is effective during the following times and in the following places:

- En route to and from school or on school property at any time;
- Off school grounds at any school-related activity, function or event and while traveling to and from such events; and
- On school buses and at school bus stops.

Major offenses including, but not limited to, drug and weapon offenses can lead to schools being named as an Unsafe School according to the provisions of State Board Rule 160-4-8-.16, UNSAFE SCHOOL CHOICE OPTIONS.

Parents/guardian are expected to familiarize themselves with the Student Behavior Code and to be supportive of it in their daily communication with their children and others in the community.

**STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR: ACCOUNTABILITY AND SUPPORT**

All members of the school community – students, staff and parents/guardian – must know and understand the standards of behavior that are expected of all students and the consequences if these standards are not met. The McIntosh County School System Student Behavior Code provides a comprehensive description of expected behavior as well as unacceptable behavior, including incidents involving drugs or weapons. It includes the range of permissible disciplinary and intervention measures that may be used when students engage in such misbehavior. This Student Behavior Code applies to all students, including those with disabilities. Students with disabilities are entitled to additional due process protections as afforded to them under federal law.

Students in the McIntosh County School System have a responsibility to:

1. Attend school regularly and punctually and make every effort to achieve in all areas of their education;
2. Be prepared for class with appropriate materials and properly maintain textbooks and other equipment; if there are difficulties acquiring appropriate materials, the student or parent may contact any teacher, counselor, or social worker for assistance;
3. Follow school regulations regarding entering and leaving the classroom and school building;
4. Help maintain a school environment free of weapons, illegal drugs, controlled substances and alcohol;
5. Behave in a manner that contributes to a safe learning environment and which does not violate other students' right to learn;
6. Share information with school officials regarding matters which may endanger the health and welfare of members of the school community;
7. Respect the dignity and equality of others and refrain from conduct which denies or impinges on the rights of others;
8. Show respect for school property and respect the property of others, both private and public;

9. Be polite, courteous and respectful toward others regardless of actual or perceived age, race, creed, color, gender, gender identity, gender expression, religion, national origin, citizenship/immigration status, sexual orientation, physical and/or emotional condition, disability, marital status and political beliefs, and refrain from making slurs based on these criteria;
10. Behave in a polite, truthful and cooperative manner toward students, teachers and other school staff;
11. Promote good human relations and build bridges of understanding among the members of the school community;
12. Use non-confrontational methods to resolve conflicts;
13. Observe ethical codes of responsible journalism;
14. Refrain from obscene and defamatory communication in speech, writing and other modes of expression in their interactions with the school community;
15. Express themselves in a manner that promotes cooperation and does not interfere with the educational process;
16. Assemble in a peaceful manner and respect the decision of students who do not wish to participate;
17. Bring to school only those personal possessions which are safe and do not interfere with the learning environment;
18. Adhere to the guidelines established for dress, including in the school gymnasium, physical education classes, laboratories and shops;
19. Be familiar with the school Student Behavior Code and abide by school rules; and
20. Use all forms of technology in a responsible manner that supports the standards of behavior expected of all students.

### **AUTHORITY OF THE PRINCIPAL**

The principal is the designated leader of the school and, in concert with the staff, is responsible for the orderly operation of the school. In cases of disruptive, disorderly or dangerous conduct not covered in this code, the principal may undertake corrective measures which he or she believes to be in the best interest of the student and the school, provided any such action does not violate school board policy or procedures.

### **AUTHORITY OF THE TEACHER**

The superintendent fully supports the authority of principals and teachers in the school system to remove a student from the classroom pursuant to provisions of state law.

Each teacher shall comply with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-737 which requires the filing of a report by a teacher who has knowledge that a student has exhibited behavior that repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in his or her class or with the ability of such student's classmates to learn, where such behavior is in violation of the Student Behavior Code. Such report shall be filed with the principal/designee within one school day of the most recent occurrence of such behavior, shall not exceed one page, and shall describe the behavior. Within one school day after receiving such a report from a teacher, the principal/designee shall send to the student's parents/guardian a copy of the report and information regarding how the student's parents/guardian may contact the principal or designee.

The principal/designee shall notify in writing the teacher and the student's parents/guardian of the discipline or student support services that have occurred as a result of the teacher's report within one school day from the imposition of discipline or the utilization of the support services. The principal/designee shall make a reasonable attempt to confirm that the student's parents/guardian have received the written notification, including information as to how the parents/guardian may contact the principal/designee.

### **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

This Student Behavior Code is based on the expectation that parents/guardian, teachers and school administrators will work together to improve and enhance student behavior and academic performance and will communicate freely their concerns about, and actions in response to, student behavior that detracts from the learning environment. School administrators recognize that two-way communication, through personal contacts, is extremely valuable; therefore, they provide information to parents as well as on-going opportunities for school personnel to hear parents' concerns and comments.

The Student Behavior Code specifies within its standards of behavior various violations of the code which may result in a school staff member's request that a parent/guardian come to the school for a conference. Parents/guardian are encouraged to visit the schools regularly and are expected to be actively involved in the behavior support processes designed to promote positive choices and behavior.

Georgia law mandates that any time a teacher or principal identifies a student as a chronic disciplinary problem, the principal shall notify by telephone call and by mail the student's parent or guardian of the disciplinary problem, invite the parent/guardian to observe the student in a classroom situation, and request at least one parent/guardian to attend a conference to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan.

Georgia law also states that before any chronic disciplinary problem student is permitted to return to school from a suspension or expulsion, the school shall request by telephone call and by mail at least one parent or guardian to schedule and attend a conference to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan.

The law allows a local board of education to petition the juvenile court to require a parent/guardian to attend a school conference. If the court finds that the parent/guardian has willfully and unreasonably failed to attend the conference requested by the principal pursuant to the laws cited above, the court may order the parent/guardian to attend such a conference, order the parent/guardian to participate in such programs or such treatment as the court deems appropriate to improve the student's behavior, or both. After notice and opportunity for hearing, the court may impose a fine, not to exceed \$500, on a parent/guardian who willfully disobeys an order of the court under this law.

Parents/guardian are encouraged to inform their children about the consequences, including potential criminal penalties, of underage sexual conduct and crimes for which a minor can be tried as an adult. Parents may seek assistance from the school counselor.

Parents/guardian and students should contact the principal of the school if specific questions arise related to the Student Behavior Code.

### **PROMOTING POSITIVE STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

The Board of Education supports improving student academic and behavior outcomes by ensuring all students have access to the most effective and accurately implemented instructional and behavioral practices and interventions possible through the operational framework of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. Additionally, a Behavior Intervention Plan may be implemented for students who engage in inappropriate behaviors that interfere with their learning or the learning of others. Teachers and support personnel are available at every school in the district to assist in developing this plan and utilizing a problem-solving model designed to prevent inappropriate behavior through teaching and reinforcing appropriate behaviors.

### **STUDENT SUPPORT PROCESSES**

The Board of Education provides a variety of resources that are available at every school in the district to help address student behavioral problems. The school discipline process will include appropriate consideration of support processes to help students resolve such problems. These resources include Student Support Teams, school counselors and chronic disciplinary problem student plans.

### **PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES**

When it is necessary to impose discipline, school administrators and teachers will follow a progressive discipline process. The degree of discipline to be imposed by each school official will be in proportion to the severity and/or frequency of the behavior of a particular student and will take into account the student's intent, discipline history, the age of the student and other relevant factors.

The Student Behavior Code provides a systematic process of behavioral correction in which inappropriate behaviors are followed by consequences. Disciplinary actions are designed to teach students self-discipline and to help them substitute inappropriate behaviors with those that are consistent with the character traits from Georgia's Character Education Program.

The maximum punishment for an offense may include alternative placement, long-term suspension or expulsion, including permanent expulsion, but those punishments will be determined only by a disciplinary tribunal as outlined in Board of Education policy JCEB. Parents of students who have been assigned to alternative placement or suspended from school for more than 10 days by a tribunal panel have the right to appeal such decision. They may do so by writing a letter to the superintendent of schools within 20 calendar days of the tribunal decision stating why the decision is being appealed.

Parents/guardian or students may elect not to contest whether a student has violated the Student Behavior Code or the appropriate discipline, and in such cases, an agreement may be negotiated that would include the parents/guardian or students waiving a right to a hearing before a disciplinary tribunal. Such an agreement and waiver must also be approved by the disciplinary tribunal or hearing officer in accordance with local board policy.

Before a student is suspended for 10 days or less, the principal/designee will inform the student of the offense for which the student is charged and allow the student to explain his or her behavior. If the student is suspended, the student's parents/guardian will be notified if possible. School officials may involve law enforcement officials when evidence surrounding a situation necessitates their involvement or when there is a legal requirement that an incident be reported.

School officials may search a student if there is reasonable suspicion that the student is in possession of an item that is illegal or against school rules. A student's vehicle brought on campus, or personal belongings (including but not limited to student book bags and/or handbags) as well as school property (including but not limited to school lockers, desks, etc.) are subject to inspection and search by school authorities at any time without further notice to students or parents. Cell phones/multimedia/electronic devices taken from students due to possession and/or use in violation of school rules are subject to having their contents searched. Students are required to cooperate if searched. At the discretion of administrators, metal detectors and drug- or weapon-sniffing dogs may be utilized at school or at any school function, including activities which occur outside normal school hours or off the school campus.

### **Suspension or Expulsion from School**

All In-School Suspension (ISS), Out-of-School Suspension (OSS), or Expulsion from any McIntosh County School shall also include a prohibition for the student from participating in all regular school activities, extracurricular school activities, athletic events, and other school events for the period of time assigned the respective consequence by administration for the student.

Students who receive OSS or Expulsion are not allowed on any school grounds belonging to the McIntosh County School System during the assigned period.

Students assigned to the McIntosh County Alternative Learning Center or other approved alternative placements due to disciplinary reasons are prohibited from attending any and all events held on school grounds belonging to the McIntosh County School System, other than the Alternative Learning Center building and property, for the duration of time they are assigned to the alternative school.

Students who are permanently expelled from McIntosh County Schools are not allowed on any school grounds belonging to the McIntosh County School System until one year after the student's expected cohort graduation date.

Any exceptions to this policy must be approved in writing by the principal of the respective school and the superintendent or his designee.

## **BEHAVIOR THAT WILL RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

*The enumerated infractions are not all-inclusive. Students who engage in misconduct that is not listed are subject to appropriate disciplinary measures by the teacher or the administrator. Behaviors are listed alphabetically, not according to severity.*

**SC-32 Academic Dishonesty:** Receiving or providing unauthorized assistance on classroom projects, assignments or exams. Includes but is not limited to failure to cite sources, intentional dishonesty, cheating on exams, falsification of school record, or forgery.

**SC01- Alcohol:** Violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession or use of intoxicating alcoholic beverages or substances represented as alcohol. Students under the influence of alcohol may be included if it results in disciplinary action.

**SC02- Arson:** Unlawful and intentional damage or attempt to damage any real or personal property by fire or incendiary device. Examples include the use of firecrackers, fireworks, and trash can fires if they are contributing factors to a damaging fire. (Note: Possession of fireworks or incendiary devices must be reported as "Possession of Unapproved Items"; use of such items is reported as Arson.)

**SC03- Battery:** Intentional touching or striking of another person to intentionally causing bodily harm to an individual. (Note: The key difference between battery and fighting is that fighting involves mutual participation.)

**SC04-Breaking & Entering – Burglary:** Unlawful or unauthorized forceful entry into a school building, or vehicle (with or without the intent to commit theft). (Note: The key difference between Trespassing and Breaking and Entering is that Trespassing does not include forceful entry into the school building.)

**SC-29 Bullying:** An act that is (1) any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent and present ability to do so; (2) any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; or (3) any intentional written, verbal or physical act which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass or intimidate that (A) causes another person substantial physical harm within the meaning of Code Section 16-5-23.1 or visible bodily harm as such term is defined in Code Section 16-5-23.1; (B) has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education; (C) is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it create an intimidating educational environment; or (D) has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school. Bullying applies to acts which occur on school property, on school vehicle, at designated school bus stops, or at school-related function or activities, or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network or other electronic technology of a local school system. Bullying also applies to acts of cyberbullying which occur through the use of electronic communication, whether or not the electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic communication (1) is directed specifically at students or school personnel, (2) is maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school, and (3) creates a reasonable fear of harm to the student's or school personnel's person or property or has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose. Electronic communication includes but is not limited to any transfer of signs, signals, writings, images, sounds, data or intelligence or any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system. (Note: Georgia law mandates that upon a tribunal finding that a student in grades 6-12 has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, the student shall be assigned to an alternative school. This includes extortion or attempted extortion.)

**SC05 – Computer Trespass:** Use of a school computer for anything other than instructional purposes or unauthorized use of a computer or computer network with the intention of deleting, obstructing, interrupting, altering, damaging or in any way causing the malfunction of the computer, network, program(s) or data.

**SC00- Continuation of Incident:** An event with multiple actions for a single incident has occurred.

**SC06- Disorderly Conduct:** Any act that substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of a school function, substantially disrupts the orderly learning environment, or poses a threat to the health, safety and/or welfare of students, staff or others. This includes disruptive behaviors on a school bus.

**SC-07 Drugs, Except Alcohol and Tobacco:** Unlawful use, cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, possession, transportation or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance, or equipment or devices (paraphernalia) used for preparing or using drugs or narcotics; under the influence of any controlled drug, narcotic substance, or any mind-altering substance or intoxicant (illegal or legal); or medication prescribed to a student or purchased over-the-counter and not brought to the office upon arrival to the school, specifically including any product with CBD, whether hemp or cannabis and regardless of the amount of THC in the product or the extent to which it is legal or illegal under state law. (Note: This does not include epinephrine as properly administered pursuant to O.C.G.A 20-2-776).

**SC-42 Electronic Smoking Device:** Possession, use, distribution or sale of any device or product used to deliver nicotine or any other substance designed to simulate the use of tobacco or inhale smoke/vapor on school grounds, at school-sponsored events and on transportation to and from school. Any device that is determined by administration that is used to inhale or ingest any substance or intoxicant (illegal or legal) that may be intended for the purpose of bringing about a state of exhilaration, euphoria, and/or that alters the individual's mental state is prohibited and may be considered as drug paraphernalia in violation of SC -07 Drugs, Except Alcohol and Tobacco.

**SC-08 Fighting:** Mutual participation in a fight involving physical violence where there is no one main offender and intent to harm, and the individual is not acting in self-defense of self or others. The burden of proof for self-defense is upon the individual student charged with this offense. (Note: The key difference between fighting and battery is that fighting involves mutual participation.)

**SC-35 Gang-related Behavior:** Any group of three or more students with a common name or common identifying signs, symbols, tattoos, graffiti or attire which engage in criminal gang activity pursuant to O.C.G.A. 16-15-3. In determining whether the behavior is gang related, school administrators may consult with school resource officers or other law enforcement officers. Includes but is not limited to gang-related clothing, jewelry, emblems, badges, symbols, signs or using colors to convey gang membership or affiliation, gestures, handshakes, slogans, drawings, etc. to convey membership or affiliation as well as committing any illegal act in connection with gang-related activity.

**SC-09 Homicide:** Killing of one human being by another.

**SC-10 Kidnapping:** The unlawful and forceful abduction, transportation and/or detention of a person against his or her will.

**SC-11 Larceny/Theft:** The unlawful taking of property belonging to another person or entity (e.g., school) without threat, violence or bodily harm. This includes the intentional possession, use, sale, purchase, transfer, barter, receipt, or exchange of any counterfeit money. (Note: The key difference between Larceny/Theft and robbery is that the threat of physical harm or actual physical harm is involved in robbery.)

**SC-12 Motor Vehicle Theft:** Theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle (includes but is not limited to cars, trucks, ATVs, golf carts, etc.).

**SC-30 Other- Attendance Related:** Repeated or excessive unexcused absences or tardies; including failure to report to class, skipping class, leaving school without authorization or failure to comply with disciplinary sanctions.

**SC-31 Other - Dress Code Violation:** Violation of the school dress code that includes standards for appropriate school attire.

**SC-28 Other- Firearms:** Firearms other than handguns, rifles or shotguns as defined in 18 USC 921. Includes any weapon (including starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of any explosive; the frame or receiver of any weapon described above; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; any destructive device, which includes any explosive, incendiary or poison gas (i.e. bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine or similar device);

any weapon which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter; any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described above, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled. (Note: This does not include toy guns, cap guns, BB guns, pellet guns or Class-C common fireworks.) (Pursuant to Gun-Free Schools Act – Public Law 107-110, Section 4141.)

**SC-24 Other Incident for a State-Reported Discipline Action:** Any other discipline incident for which a student is administered in-school suspension, administrative action, detention, suspended from riding the bus, referred to court of juvenile system authorities, or removed from class at the teacher's request (pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-738). Includes but is not limited to community misconduct and gambling activity). Community misconduct includes off-campus behavior or off-school hours behavior that involves:

- Willful or malicious damage to real or personal property of the school or to personal property of any person legitimately at the school.
- Marking, defacing, or destroying school property.
- Falsifying, misrepresenting, omitting, or erroneously reporting information regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator, or other school employee toward a student.
- Any off-campus behavior of a student which could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony and which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process.

**SC-40 Other Non-disciplinary Incident:** This code is used exclusively for the reporting of Physical Restraint.

**SC-34 Other - Possession of Unapproved Items:** The use or possession of any unauthorized item disruptive to the school environment or items that can be construed as dangerous or harmful to the learning environment. Includes but is not limited to the possession of toys, toy guns, mobile devices, gadgets, personal items, gum, candy, matches, lighters, pepper spray, incendiary devices or fireworks. The use of matches, lighters, pepper spray, incendiary devices or fireworks should be coded as Arson.

**SC-33 Other - Student Incivility:** Insubordination or disrespect to staff members or other students; includes but is not limited to refusal to follow school staff member instructions, use of vulgar or inappropriate language, misrepresentation of the truth, general disrespect for school staff or students; profanity, issuing false reports on other students and/or insubordination.

**SC-36 Repeated Offenses:** Collection of offenses not previously assigned a state reportable action that occurs on a single or across multiple school days that leads to a state reportable disciplinary action.

**SC-13 Robbery:** The taking, or attempting to take, anything of value that is owned by another person or organization, under confrontational circumstance by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear. (Note: The key difference between Robbery and Larceny/Theft is that the threat of physical harm or actual physical harm is involved in a robbery.)

**SC-27 Serious Bodily Injury:** Bodily injury that involves a substantial risk of death, protracted and obvious disfigurement; or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ or mental faculty. Behavior that dismembers, disfigures, causes permanent loss of a limb or function of an organ and causes substantial risk of death.

**SC-16 Sex Offenses:** Unlawful sexual behavior, sexual contact without force or threat of force, or possession of sexually explicit images; can be consensual (including from public groping or inappropriate bodily contact to sexting, lewd behavior, possession of pornographic material, and simulated sex acts to oral, anal or vaginal penetration, pimping, prostitution, and indecent exposure of private body parts.

**SC-14 Sexual Battery:** Oral, anal or vaginal penetration against the person's will or where the victim did not or is incapable of giving consent; touching of private body parts of another person either through human contact or using an object forcibly or against the person's will or where the victim did not or is incapable of giving consent (includes but is not limited to rape, fondling, child molestation, indecent liberties and sodomy).

**SC-15 Sexual Harassment:** Non-physical and unwelcome sexual advances, lewd gestures or verbal conduct or communication of a sexual nature; requests for sexual favors; possession of sexually explicit images; gender-based harassment that creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational or work environment (includes but is not limited to insensitive or sexually suggestive comments or jokes).

**SC-17 Threat/Intimidation:** Any threat through written or verbal language or act which creates a fear of harm and/or conveys a serious expression of intent to harm, or violence without displaying a weapon and without subjecting the victim to actual physical attack (includes physical, verbal or electronic threats and includes but is not limited to bomb threats or unauthorized pulling of the fire alarm).

**SC-18 Tobacco:** Possession, use, distribution or sale of tobacco products on school grounds, at school-sponsored events and on transportation to and from school. This does not include electronic smoking/vaping devices – those items are covered under State Code 42 (Electronic Smoking Device).

**SC-19 Trespassing:** Entering or remaining on a public school campus or school board facility without authorization or invitation and with no lawful purpose for entry. (Note: The key difference between Trespassing and Breaking & Entering-Burglary is that Trespassing does not include forceful entry into the school building.)

**SC-20 Vandalism:** The willful and/or malicious destruction, damage or defacement of public or private property, real or personal, without consent.

**SC-44 Violence Against a Teacher (Includes physical violence as defined in O.C.G.A. 20-2-751.6 and includes physical violence against a teacher, school bus driver, or other school personnel):** (1) Immediate suspension and automatic referral to the disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed an act of physical violence against a teacher or other school personnel: Expulsion for the remainder of the student's eligibility to attend public schools for acts of physical violence found by a tribunal to have intentionally made physical contact which causes physical harm to another unless such physical contact or physical harm was in defense of himself or herself, as provided in Code Section 16-3-21; or the Board may authorize the student to attend alternative school for the period of the expulsion; provided, however, that if such student is in kindergarten through grade six, then the Board upon the recommendation of the tribunal may permit the student to re-enroll in regular programs for grades 9 through 12; and provided further that if the Board does not operate an alternative education program for grades kindergarten through grade six, then the Board may permit the student in kindergarten through grade six who commits such an act to re-enroll in the public school system. The student shall be referred to juvenile court with a request for a petition alleging delinquent behavior. (2) Possible punishments may include expulsion, long-term suspension, or short-term suspension for students found by a tribunal to have intentionally made physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person of another.

**SC-25 Weapons – Handgun:** Possession of a firearm that has a short stock and is designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand (pistols or revolvers); and any combination of parts from which a firearm described above can be assembled. (Note: This definition does not apply to items such as toy guns, cap guns, BB guns and pellet guns (pursuant to Gun-Free Schools Act – Public Law 107-110, Section 4141).

**SC-22 Weapons – Knife:** The possession, use or intention to use any type of knife or knife-like item.

**SC-23 Weapons – Other:** The possession, use or intention to use any instrument or object that is used or intended to be used in a manner that may inflict bodily harm (does not include knives or firearms).

**SC-26 Weapons – Rifle/Shotgun:** The term “rifle” means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of an explosive to fire only a single projectile through a rifled bore for each single pull of the trigger. The term “shotgun” means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of an explosive to fire through a smooth-bore barrel either a number of ball shot or a single projectile for each single pull of the trigger. (Pursuant to Gun-Free Schools Act – Public Law 107-110, Section 4141.)

### **Bus Misbehavior**

The following specific provisions shall govern student conduct and safety on all school buses:

- 1) All provisions of the Student Behavior Code apply to behavior on the school bus, including but not limited to, acts of physical violence as defined by Code Section 20-2-751.6, bullying as defined by subsection (a) of the Code Section 20-2-751.4, physical assault or battery of other persons on the school bus verbal assault of other persons on the school bus, disrespectful conduct toward the school bus driver or other persons on the school bus, and other unruly behavior;
- 2) A meeting of the parent or guardian of the student and appropriate school district officials must be held to form a school bus behavior contract whenever:
  - A student is found to have engaged in bullying; or
  - A student is found to have engaged in physical assault or battery of another person on the school bus.

The school bus behavior contract shall provide for age-appropriate discipline, penalties and restrictions for student misconduct on the bus. Provisions may include, but are not limited to, assigned seating, ongoing parental involvement and suspension from riding the bus. These provisions regarding use of a bus behavior contract are not to be construed to limit the instances when other Student Behavior Code violations may require use of a student bus behavior contract.

- 3) Students shall be prohibited from using any electronic devices during the operation of a school bus, including but not limited to cell phones, pagers, audible radios, tape or compact disc players, or any other electronic device in a manner that might interfere with the school bus communication equipment or the school bus driver’s operation of the school bus; and
- 4) Students shall be prohibited from using mirrors, lasers, flash cameras or any other lights or reflective devices in a manner that might interfere with the school bus driver’s operation of the school bus.

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Bus Suspension:** The student is suspended from the bus for a specified period of time by the local school administrator. The student is expected to attend school, but the parents are responsible for providing transportation to school.

**Detention:** A requirement that the student report to a specified school location and to a designated teacher or school official. Detention may require the student's attendance before school or after school. Students are given one day's notice so that arrangements for transportation can be made by the parents or guardians.

**Disciplinary Probation:** A student found guilty of certain offenses may be placed on probation by the local school and/or the Disciplinary Tribunal Panel. Probation is a trial period during which a student violating school and/or school system rules is subject to further disciplinary action.

**Disciplinary Tribunal Panel:** A panel composed of administrators or other professional staff from schools other than the one a student attends who hear evidence presented by the school system, the student and parents when a student is referred by the local school principal or his/her designee. The Panel has the authority to make decisions ranging from returning the student to the local school to recommending permanent expulsion of the student.

**Due Process:** A student is afforded written notice of the charges against him/her and is given an opportunity for a review, hearing or other procedural rights in accordance with state and federal laws.

**Extortion:** Obtaining money or goods from another student by violence, threats or misuse of authority.

**Expulsion:** Suspension of a student from a public school beyond 10 days, for the current school semester, and permanent suspension. Such action may be taken only by a disciplinary tribunal.

**Fireworks:** Any combustible or explosive composition or any substance or combination of substances or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration or detonation, as well as articles containing any explosive or flammable compound and tablets and other devices containing an explosive substance.

**Hazardous Object:** Any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any instrument of like kind, any nonlethal air gun, and any stun gun or taser. Such term shall not include any of these instruments used for classroom work authorized by the teacher. The consequences for possession of a Hazardous Object are outlined in McIntosh County Board of Education Policy JCDAE - Weapons.

**In-School Suspension:** Removal of a student from the regular school program to a designated location and a designated teacher. During the period of removal, the student continues to pursue the regular education program. Students served by Special Education may continue to receive services. During the time assigned to In-School Suspension, the student is excluded from all school-sponsored activities including practices, as well as competitive events and/or activities sponsored by the school or its employees.

**Suspension:** Removal of a student from the regular school program for a period not to exceed 10 days (short-term) or for a period greater than 10 days (long-term, which may be imposed only by a disciplinary tribunal). During the period of suspension, the student is excluded from all school-sponsored activities including practices, as well as competitive events and/or activities sponsored by the school or its employees.

**Truancy:** Any child subject to compulsory attendance who during the school calendar year has more than five days of unexcused absences shall be deemed truant. According to state law, the consequences for truancy may include the possible denial of a driver's license, or the filing of charges in court against the student and/or parents/guardians.

**Waiver:** A waiver is an agreement not to contest whether a student has committed an infraction of the Student Behavior Code and the acceptance of consequences in lieu of a hearing before a disciplinary tribunal.

**Weapon:** Any handgun, firearm, rifle, shotgun or similar weapon; any explosive compound or incendiary device; or, any other dangerous weapon as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-121, including a rocket launcher, bazooka, recoilless rifle, mortar, or hand grenade. The consequences for possession of a weapon are outlined in McIntosh County Board of Education Policy JCDAE - Weapons.