

**Superintendent of Education
Delesicia M. Martin, Ed.D.**

Hinds County School Board
Rod Jones - District 1
Robbie Anderson – District 2
(President) Dr. Linda Laws– District 3
Kayla Banger - District 4
Carolyn Samuel– District 5

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that I welcome you to another fantastic year of learning, growth and development in the Hinds County School District. As I am sure you are aware, we have been making some tremendous strides and changes over the past few years, and we believe we are poised to make even more progress on our collective journey to excellence during this academic year. Our faculty and staff have been working diligently throughout the summer months to ensure every student receives quality instruction and has the opportunity to express their creativity and individuality in a safe, welcoming learning environment.

This brief version of the *Hinds County School District Parent/Student Handbook* is designed to be an easily accessible source of information for students, parents and guardians. The information featured in this version of the handbook is based on the questions we frequently receive as well as the information we believe all students, parents, and guardians should know about the district, including attendance and graduation requirements, emergency procedures and guidelines regarding participation in extracurricular activities.

Should you need more detailed information about any topic in this handbook, you can access and unabridged version on our website at <http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us>. This abbreviated version includes information about many of the Hinds County School District Board of Trustee’s policies, which are also available on the district website. If you are unable to find the information you are seeking in this version of the handbook or online, I encourage you to contact a faculty or staff member at your child’s school or at the district central office.

We are privileged and humbled that you have entrusted your child’s education to us, and we take our commitment to educating and supporting your child seriously. Your active participation in your child’s education is one of the most important ways to assure their success in the classroom, so we hope you will stay engaged with us throughout the year as we travel on this journey to excellence together.

Yours in Education,

Delesicia M. Martin
Superintendent

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTORY6
 BOARD OF EDUCATION6
 DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPPORT STAFF6
 SCHOOL DIRECTORY7
 DISTRICT MISSION.....8
 DISTRICT VISION STATEMENT.....8
 DISTRICT GOALS8
 PROJECTED OUTCOMES8
 GENERAL INFORMATION AND REGULATIONS10
 MS Compulsory Attendance Law10
 ENROLLMENT INFORMATION.....10
 Documents Required for Enrollment.....10
 Birth Certificates (Board Policy JBC)10
 Age Requirements (Board Policy JBB)10
 Immunization Compliance (Board Policy JBC)10
 EntryRecords11
 Social Security Numbers (Board Policy JBC).....11
 Parent/Legal Guardian Communications.....11
 Verification of Residence (Board Policy JBC).....11
 Enrollment of Suspended/Expelled Students (MS Code Ann. § 37-15-13)12
 Late Enrollees (Board Policy JBC)12
 Transfers (Board Policies JBCCA, JBCD, JBCD-F, JBAB)12
 Transfers from Home Schooling or Non-accredited Institutions (Board Policy JBAB).....13
 Enrolling in Home School (MS Code Ann. § 37-13-91, 3c)13
 ATTENDANCE INFORMATION13
 Excused Absences, Tardies, Or Early Dismissals14
 Early Dismissals14
 Allowable Credit For Excused Absences15
 Absences and Extra-Curricular Activities15
 Make Up Work (All Schools).....15
 Make Up Work (High Schools).....15
 Make Up Work (Elementary and Middle Schools)15
 Withdrawal Information15
 EMERGENCIES/ILLNESS16
 Illness/Injuries (Board Policies JGCD, JGCD-F2).....16
 Pick up of Sick Children.....16
 Insurance16
 Telephone16
 Prescription and Non-Prescription Medicines (Board Policies JGCD, JGCD-F).....16
 Asthma/Epi Pen Medications17
 Head Lice17
 Communicable Diseases (Board Policy JBC, JGCC).....17
 Emergency Drills (Board Policy EBBC).....18
 Emergency Closings (Board Policy EBBC).....18
 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION18
 Durham Transportation Services (601.857.5562).....18
 Interference with Operations of School Buses (MS Code Ann. § 37-41-2)18
 Arrival and Departure of Students.....18
 Bus Transportation and Bus Stops (Board Policy JCDAD)19
 Vehicles (Board Policy JGFF).....19
 Day Care and After School Program Bus Pick Up.....19
 CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM19
 Current Prices20
 Prepaid Purchases.....20

Student Meal Eligibility-Applications for Free/Reduced Price Meals	20
Special Diets.....	20
Cafeteria Behavior.....	20
Policy on Competitive Foods and Extra Food Sales	20
Field Trips	21
STUDENT FEES, FINES, AND CHARGES	21
Check Recovery Policy	21
Textbooks (Board Policy JS).....	21
Library.....	21
Lab/Workbook Fees (Board Policy JS).....	21
Financial Hardship Waiver (Board Policy JS, JS-F)	21
Solicitations.....	21
Student Activity Funds.....	21
PROPERTY	22
Care of School Property ((Board Policy EBCA).....	22
Lockers/Care of Personal Property.....	22
Lost and Found.....	22
Receiving Gifts at School.....	22
IDEA SERVICES AND CHILD FIND.....	22
Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA)	22
Child Find.....	23
SECTION 504.....	23
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)	23
English Language Learner (ELL) Services	23
Dyslexia Screener.....	23
GENERAL ACADEMIC INFORMATION.....	24
Honor Roll.....	24
Grading Scale and Letter Codes (Board Policy IHA)	24
Grading Letter Codes	24
Grade and Subject Classification (Board Policy IHE, JBAB).....	24
PROGRESS REPORTS AND REPORT CARDS	24
Reporting Progress (see calendar on inside back cover)	24
Procedure for Determining Grades.....	25
Exemption Procedures.....	25
ELL (English Language Learner) Grading.....	25
Academic Dishonesty and Cheating.....	25
PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES AND VISITATION.....	26
Parent Conferences.....	26
Visitations (Board Policy KM).....	26
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	26
Promotion and Retention of Students (Board Policy IHE).....	26
End of Summer Retesting.....	27
3 rd Grade Benchmark Testing (Board Policy IHE).....	27
MIDDLE SCHOOLS	27
Promotion and Retention of Students (Board Policy IHE).....	27
HIGH SCHOOLS	28
Change of Schedule.....	28
Senior Academic and Graduation Information.....	28
High School Promotion and Retention of Students (Board Policy IHE).....	29
IDEA Students.....	29
Subject Choice Sheet.....	29
Summer School (Board Policy IDCA)	30
Correspondence Courses	30
Online Courses	30
Testing (Board Policy II).....	30

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	31
ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	35
Rules For Students Participating In Activities:	35
Middle School	35
Senior High	35
Middle School Students and High School Sports	35
Citizenship	36
Athletic Requirements	36
Elimination of Sports	36
Athletics	36
NCAA Qualifying Standards	36
Extracurricular Activities	36
Honor Societies	37
Student Council	37
Clubs	37
Quest (Intellectually Gifted Students)	37
Main Street RESTART Program	38
Hinds County Career and Technical Center	38
CODE OF CONDUCT	38
INTRODUCTION	38
District Wide Student Programs	39
Security Surveillance Camera Procedure	39
STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT	40
Gun-Free Schools Act/ Possession of Weapons on Educational Property	40
Possession of Illegal Drugs, Tobacco on Educational Property	40
Discipline Overview	40
School Safety Act of 2001	41
Student Dress Code	41
Student Uniforms	42
The Following Items Are Not Allowed At School Or On The Bus:	42
Cell Phone/ Electronic Device Policy:	42
Bullying:	43
Bus Discipline	44
STUDENT DISCIPLINE PLAN	44
Class I Behaviors	45
Class II Behaviors	45
Class III Behaviors	45
Class IV Behaviors	46
Class V Behaviors	48
Class VI Behaviors	49
IDEA Students (§ 300.520 Authority of School Personnel)	49
SCHOOL VIOLENCE	50
Automatic Expulsion	50
Parental Responsibilities	50
Reporting Requirements for Unlawful Activity	50
Release of Law Enforcement Records	50
MHSAA Hazing/Harassment Policy	50
DUE PROCESS	51
Student’s Right to a Hearing	51
Suspension Reentry Conference	51
Grievance Procedure	51
Organization of Fraternities, Sororities and Secret Societies in the School	51
Sexual Harassment	51
FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS	52
Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)	52
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)	52

Annual Notification (Board Policy JRAB).....	52
Notice of Non-Discrimination.....	52
Parental Involvement (Board Policy (LLA).....	53
Asbestos Notice—Annual Notification.....	53
CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT.....	53
ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES (BOARD POLICY JTA).....	54
HANDBOOK UPDATES AND REVISIONS.....	56
WEB PAGE.....	56
PARENT RESOURCES.....	56
STATE AND DISTRICT REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS.....	56
EARLY GRADUATION.....	57
SENIOR EARLY RELEASE.....	57
COVID PROCEDURES.....	58
STUDENT SOCIAL MEDIA AGREEMENT.....	63
PARENT AUTHORIZATION AND AGREEMENT FORM.....	65

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTORY

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Linda Laws.....President, District 3
Mr. Rod Jones.....District 1
Ms. Robbie Anderson.....Secretary, District 2
Ms. Kayla Banger.....District 4
Ms. Carolyn Samuel..... Vice President, District 5

Dr. Delesicia M. Martin, Superintendent

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPPORT STAFF

Ms. Michelle RayAssistant Superintendent
Dr. Robert SandersAssistant Superintendent
Ms. Regenia Sulton.....Executive Director of Business Services/CFO
Mr. Ivan Smith Sr.Executive Director of Facilities & Maintenance
Ms. Chasedy Gilford.....Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Ms. Lisa JonesDirector of Technology
Ms. Sandra Kyles.....Director of Teaching and Learning
Dr. Kyseta Warner..... Director of Exceptional Services
Ms. Beverly Hay.....Coordinator of Human Resources
Ms. Tiffany LanierAsst. Sped. Director/Coordinator of State and Federal Programs
Ms. Linda Little.....Coordinator of Child Nutrition
Ms. Renee Myers..... District Test Coordinator
Ms. Kimberly Peterman.....District MTSS Instructional Coordinator
Ms. Talmadge Smith.....Coordinator of Student Behavior Health Services
Ms. Nancy TillmanEnglish Learner Coordinator
Mr. Tonie Crisler.....Innovative Project/Community Relations Specialist
Durham Transportation Services Manager Office: 601.857.5553

Hinds County School District Administrative Office

13192 Highways 18

Raymond, MS 39154

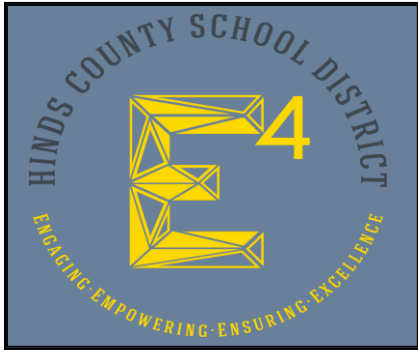
Phone: 601.857.5222

Fax: 601.857.8548

www.hinds.k12.ms.us

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Schools/Grades/Principals/Assistant Principals	Phone (601)	Address/Web Page	Cafeteria
Bolton-Edwards Elementary/Middle School (K-8) Ms. Lashurn Williams Principal Mr. George Jones, Assistant Principal	(Elementary) Phone: 866.2522 Fax: 866.2524 (Middle) Phone: 866.2163	9700 I-20 Bolton, MS 39041	866.4314
Byram Middle School (6-8) Ms. Brenda Singleton, Principal Dr. Eboney Brown, Assistant Principal/ Instructional Specialist Chandra Holet, Assistant Principal Mr. Rodney Phillips, Assistant Principal	Phone: 372.4597 Fax: 346.2383	2009 Byram Bulldog Blvd. Terry, MS 39170 www.byrammiddleschool.com	373.7943
Main Street Restart/Life Skills Academy Carver Middle (8th Grade only) Ms. Daffonie Moore, Principal	Phone: 857.5006 Fax: 857.4935	560 Port Gibson Street Raymond, MS 39272	857.8192
Gary Road Elementary School (K-2) Mrs. Jenetha Lampkin, Principal Ms. Markeeta Carson, Assistant Principal Ms. Cartessia Angrum/ Instructional Specialist	Phone: 373.1319 Fax: 346.4165	7241 Gary Road Byram, MS 39272	373.3003
Gary Road Intermediate School (3-5) Dr. Arthur Jones, Principal Mrs. Ashley White, Assistant Principal Ms. Tiffany Cline, Instructional Specialist	Phone: 372.8150 Fax: 372.5028	7255 Gary Road Byram, MS 39272	372.1065
Hinds County Career Technical Center Dr. Aimee Brown, Director Ms. Meagan Arender, Assistant Director	Phone: 857.3680 Fax: 857.2212	14020 Highway 18 Raymond, MS 39154	
Raymond Elementary School (K-5) Carver Middle (6-7) Ms. Roshonda Clark, Principal Mr. Walter McLeod, Assistant Principal	Phone: 857.0213 Fax: 857.4156	417 Palestine Road Raymond, MS 39154 www.raymondelementary.com	857.5570
Raymond High School (10-12) Mr. Lorenzo Grimes, Principal Mr. Charles Willis, Assistant Principal Mr. Tony Tadlock, Assistant Principal	Phone: 857.8016 Fax: 857.2007	14050 Highway 18 Raymond, MS 39154 www.raymondhighschool.org/	857.8865
Terry High School (9-12) Mr. Matthew Scott, Principal Ms. LaTasha Ball, Assistant Principal/Instructional Specialist Mr. Tori Harris, Assistant Principal Mr. Calvin Hudson, Assistant Principal Dr. Cindy Thames, Assistant Principal/Sped. Specialist	Phone: 878.5905 Fax: 878.2782	235 W. Beasley Street Terry, MS 39170 www.terryhs.com/	878.2369
Utica Elementary/Middle School (K-8) Mr. Jimmy Tullos, Principal Dr. Clancy Freeman, Assistant Principal/Instructional Specialist	(Elementary) Phone: 885.8765 Fax: 885.2083 (Middle) Phone: 885.2058	260 Highway 18 & 27 Utica, MS 39175	885.6095



Mission: Providing an engaging and empowering environment that ensures excellence

Vision: HCS D is a collaborative environment where we explore the world, experience authentic learning, enhance our character, envision our dreams, pursue excellence and celebrate success.

Goal 1: All Students are Proficient and Show Growth in ALL Assessed Areas

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

- Increase the percentage of students scoring proficient on ALL assessments
- Increase the percentage of students showing growth in all assessed areas

STRATEGIES

Train, monitor and evaluate professional development on content area reading strategies based upon assessment data	Provide high quality early childhood programs monitored through the MKAS ² Readiness Assessment	Provide formative/summative assessments to monitor student growth	Set student growth targets based upon assessment screeners
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Goal 2: Every Student Graduates High School and is Ready for College and Career

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

- Increase enrollment for Dual Credit and Career Center courses
- Increase Advanced Placement offerings, enrollments, and students scoring a 3 or above on AP Exams
- Increase the number of students graduating College and Career Ready as evident in increased ACT scores /sub-scores

STRATEGIES

Increase academic and extracurricular course offerings	Schedule counselor sessions to plan realistic graduation pathways for middle and high school students	All students in grades 8 – 11 will take ACT mastery tests to measure ACT readiness
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Goal 3: Schools are Safe and Secure Environments

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

- Decrease the number of student suspensions and Discovery Center Placement
- Decrease the number of students sent to Main Street RESTART Center for disciplinary reasons
- Increase the percentage of students, staff, parents, and community stakeholders satisfied with the school environment

STRATEGIES

Conduct surveys two times per year to assess school climate	Assure staff is knowledgeable of safety procedures and practices through quality safety training	PBIS is established in all schools, and all schools develop plans to celebrate positive behavior	Monitor discipline reports to identify areas of improvement	District/Schools provide mentoring programs for at-risk students	Provide transitional support for students from MSRC once each quarter
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Goal 4: HCSD Actively Recruits, Retains, and Develops Highly Competent, Caring and Student-Focused Staff (teachers, administrators, and support staff)

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

- Conduct a survey once a year to assess school climate
- Implement a new teacher induction program to develop and retain teachers
- Increase focused Professional Development offerings based upon outcome of evaluations and surveys

STRATEGIES

District/Schools provide quality and interactive mentoring programs that build teacher capacity and confidence	District/Schools develop programs to celebrate and show appreciation to all staff	All teachers participate in Renaissance-U in Kindergarten – 8 th grade	All Professional Development is systemic, ongoing and evaluated	Each school establishes Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) that are data-driven and meet individual school needs
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Goal 5: Parents and Community Members will have a Positive Perception of the School District

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

- Increase number of parents/community members feeling the school/district is an asset to the community
- Increase number of parents/community members believing the School Board acts in the best interest of students
- Increase numbers of parents/community members indicating they feel welcome to visit the schools or school sponsored events
- Stakeholders have a positive perception of the school district
- Provide a diverse curriculum

STRATEGIES

Schools establish a plan to enhance positive teacher/student relationships	Provide opportunities for community service and showcase positive information	Provide parent academies to focus on data, curriculum, literacy, math, and child development	Increase communication through print, social and multi-media	District/Schools establish an active and effective advisory committee of all stakeholders	All stakeholders are knowledgeable of the vision, mission and goals of the school district
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NOTE: THIS IS AN ABRIDGED VERSION OF THE PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK. A FULL VERSION MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS, THE CENTRAL OFFICE, OR BY ACCESSING THE DISTRICT WEB SITE AT [HTTP://WWW.HINDS.K12.MS.US](http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us)

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REGULATIONS

MS Compulsory Attendance Law

The Mississippi State Code of 1972, Section 97-5-39 states that Compulsory-school-age in Mississippi describes any child who is (6) years old on or before September 1 of the calendar year and who has not reached the age of seventeen (17) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year.

When a parent enrolls a child in kindergarten, the child is subject to the regular compulsory school attendance laws. Hinds County School District has the authority to retain children in kindergarten for an additional year if the district deems that placement of the student in the first grade would not be the most appropriate educational placement of the child.

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Documents Required for Enrollment

The following items are necessary for enrollment: birth certificate; immunization certificate; previous school withdrawal and discipline records; social security number; and residency documentation.

Birth Certificates (Board Policy JBC)

All pupils new to the Hinds County School District shall submit a certified birth certificate ([Long Form Version](#)) upon enrollment.

Application for a birth certificate may be made to the Division of Public Health Statistics, State Board of Health located at 222 East Marketridge Drive (phone: 601.206.8200).

Age Requirements (Board Policy JBB)

Students must be four (4) years old on or before September 1 to enter PreK, five (5) years old on or before September 1 to enter kindergarten and six (6) years old on or before September 1 to register for first grade.

Immunization Compliance (Board Policy JBC)

Students enrolling in the Hinds County School District must present a Mississippi Certificate of Compliance regarding vaccinations. Students enrolling for the first time or enrolling by transfer from an out-of-state school must present the certificate at the time of enrollment. Students enrolling by transfer from a school within the State of Mississippi may be temporarily enrolled for a period not to exceed 60 days until the cumulative folder is received. No student will be allowed to enroll permanently without a valid immunization certificate. The Hinds County Health Department may be contacted at 601.364.2666.

The Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) vaccination will be required for ALL students entering the 7th grade. In order to enter school, all students entering the seventh grade must have documentation from a physician verifying that they have received a recent Tdap vaccination (at age seven or later). This includes new students, current students and transfer students from both public and private schools.

Entry Records

1. When a new student enrolls in school, the parent must provide the discipline record as well as the withdrawal form with grades from the last school attended. The previous school may fax these records to the school office.
2. If a parent can/will not provide a discipline record, or the discipline record meets certain guidelines, the child may be assigned to the Main Street RESTART Center by Central Office administration for observation. The criteria are outlined in the unabridged form of this handbook and are available upon request or at the HCSD web site.
3. The length of a student's stay at the RESTART Center will be determined by the student's behavior while there.

Social Security Numbers (Board Policy JBC)

All students are asked to present their original social security card when enrolling in the Hinds County School District. Disclosure of the student's social security number is voluntary, and failure to disclose the requested information will have no adverse effect on the student. If no social security number is made available, the student's assigned Mississippi Student Information System (MSIS) number will be used to identify and track the student.

Parent/Legal Guardian Communications

School personnel are able to discuss a student's enrollment, disciplinary record or academic status only with a parent or legal guardian. In unusual guardianship situations, the parent or legal guardian shall provide the school a copy of any valid court documentation regarding restricted rights of certain individuals.

Verification of Residence (Board Policy JBC)

The Mississippi State Board of Education passed a Verification of Residence policy on April 20, 1990. This policy requires that all public school districts in Mississippi verify the residency of students attending the district. School personnel may make calls or home visits to confirm residency.

Parents, legal guardians, or custodial adults seeking to enroll students in the Hinds County School District for the first time must provide documentation verifying that the student resides in the school district. However, transfer requests from other districts or within the district from one school to another must be completed on an annual basis prior to July 1st, additionally; verification of residency is required in all grades. Students who are repeating these grades are still required to provide proof of residency as outlined above.

Upon enrollment, any parent seeking to enroll a student must verify full-time residency by submitting filed Homestead Exemption for the current year, mortgage payment documentation, property deed of trust for the family's residence, or an apartment/home lease **AND** a current utility bill. If the parent is unable to provide the items listed above, the parent must provide **TWO** pieces of business or government correspondence (dated within the last 30 days). HCSD does not accept affidavits, drivers' licenses/Mississippi state identification cards, or voter registration cards as proof of residence.

If an individual other than the mother or father listed on the birth certificate attempts to enroll a child, a copy of the filed petition for guardianship if pending and final decree when granted will be required. (No legal guardianship for educational purposes is allowed.)

Students who change schools during the school year due to a change of address must present proof of residency before they can be enrolled in their new school zone. If a change of address or home telephone number occurs at any time during the school year, the parent should report such change immediately to the school and provide the appropriate residency documentation.

Enrollment of Suspended/Expelled Students (MS Code Ann. § 37-15-13)

When any student applies for admission to or enrollment in any public school, the parent, guardian, or student must indicate on the school registration form if the student has been expelled from any public or private school or is currently a party to an expulsion proceeding. This criterion is outlined in the unabridged form of this handbook and is available upon request or at the HCSD web site.

The school board has the authority and power to designate or assign the particular school or attendance center of the school district in which the student should be enrolled and attend.

Late Enrollees (Board Policy JBC)

Once school has begun, students who enroll in the Hinds County School District must provide documentation of school attendance prior to that date in accordance with the Mississippi compulsory attendance laws. If a parent cannot verify the attendance of his/her child in a recognized school program, the child will be counted absent for each day from the beginning of school in Hinds County School District until the student's enrollment. Each absence will count as an unexcused absence, and the student will be subject to the provision of the attendance policy as outlined in the handbook. In the event of extraordinary circumstances such as a student's moving into the district from out of state, the superintendent or his/her designated representative may excuse these absences as an exception to the policy. However, all work must be made up during the time frame outlined in the "Attendance Information" portion of this handbook.

Transfers (Board Policies JBCCA, JBCE, JBAB)

Assignment of Pupils

The district recognizes transfers for a variety of situations outlined below. All transfers are contingent upon space being available at the requested school and the student's demonstrating appropriate discipline and attendance. If a student enrolls in the HCSD and was administratively transferred from one grade to the next in the prior school without spending a full year in the grade from which he or she was transferred, the student will be placed back in the grade to spend an entire year at that grade level.

In District Transfers

Normally, students must attend the school in the attendance zone in which the parents/guardians are actually residing. Special criteria for full-time employees of the Hinds County School District and Hinds Community College are available. This criterion is outlined in the unabridged form of this handbook and is available upon request or at the HCSD web site. Transportation for students enrolled under these special criteria shall be the responsibility of the parent.

Majority to Minority Transfers

Any student attending a district school in which his/her race is in the majority, may, where space is available, transfer to another school in the district where his/her race is the minority. (*United States of America vs Hinds County Board of Education, et al*) This criterion is outlined in the unabridged form of this handbook and is available upon request or at the HCSD web site. Transportation for students enrolled under this special criterion shall be the responsibility of the parent.

IDEA

IDEA transfers are granted due to a lack of an IDEA program in the student's home school. The transfer is granted to the school nearest the student's home. The transfer is valid as long as the student is enrolled in the IDEA Program at that school or until an IDEA program is available at the home school. These students are assigned through the Exceptional Services Office in accordance with their IEPs and are transported in accordance with district policies.

Assignment of Grades for Transfer Students

1. When a student transfers from another school system that does not use a numerical grading scale, grades earned at the previous school will be converted to the numerical values of this district and entered into the classroom record book with a transfer notation. Weighted grades will only be issued for those courses that Hinds County School District gives weighted credit.. For schools using a 100-point numerical scale, no conversions will be made regardless of the previous district’s grading scale. If the previous school does not send grades for a student, the student’s grades will be calculated based upon the work he or she completes while in the district in accordance with all other district policies. If the school system’s conversion scale is not included, the following scale shall be used:

A – 90	A - 4.0
B – 80	B - 3.9 - 3.0
C – 70	C - 2.9-2.0
D – 65	D - 1.9-1.0
F – 64 – below	F - 0.9 – below

2. These numerical values are to be added to those earned in the district and the composite grade will be used to compute the final grade.

Transfers from Home Schooling or Non-accredited Institutions (Board Policy JBAB)

The Hinds County School District’s Board of Education affirms the rights of parents/guardians to educate their children as they choose. Board Policy JBAB provides the procedure for testing home-schooled and/or transfer students from non-accredited institutions. These policies are applicable only to students who are eligible, by residence or other Board-approved requirements, to attend schools in the Hinds County School District. This policy pertains to all students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Specific criteria are outlined in the unabridged form of this handbook and are available upon request or at the HCSD web site.

Enrolling in Home School (MS Code Ann. § 37-13-91, 3c)

Parents and guardians have the right to home school their child(ren). State law requires that parents and guardians register their intent to home school their child(ren) with the attendance officer. If you have any questions regarding this process, please call the district attendance officer with the Mississippi Department of Education’s Office of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement at 601.359.2892.

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

The Board recognizes that regular attendance is important if students are to obtain maximum benefits from the educational process and develop good work habits that carry over into their adult life. Parents and students are expected to abide by the Compulsory School Attendance Law. When absences do occur, school personnel will classify the absence as excused or unexcused. According to Mississippi Law, a student shall be counted present for average daily attendance record keeping purposes if he/she is present for 63% of the regular school day in grades K – 12. Specific criteria for each area (a through g) are outlined in the unabridged form of this handbook and are available upon request or at the HCSD web site.

- a. Tardies. Three unexcused tardies and/or three unexcused early dismissals will count as an unexcused absence in the class.
- b. Late Enrollees. When students are late in enrolling and have not attended another school, they will be reported to the Attendance Officer for lack of compliance with the compulsory attendance law.
- c. Perfect Attendance. Perfect Attendance is defined as being present for 100% of the time that school is in session while the student is enrolled in the district.

- d. Reports to the School Attendance/Truancy Officer. In accordance with state legislation, any student who has five (5) unexcused absences will be reported to the Hinds County Attendance/Truancy Officer.
- e. Kindergarten Students. Once a parent enrolls a child in kindergarten, the child is subject to the regular compulsory school attendance laws.
- f. Exceptions to Policy. The superintendent or his/her designee has discretionary power to make exceptions to this policy as deemed appropriate in extraordinary individual circumstances. As a minimum, the parent must make a written request stating the reasons why the exception should be considered.
- g. Average Daily Attendance (ADA) Calculation. For the purpose of determining ADA, a compulsory school-age child who is absent more than 37% of the instructional day as set by the HCSD Board must be considered absent for the entire day.

Excused Absences, Tardies, or Early Dismissals

The following will constitute a valid excuse for temporary non-attendance of a compulsory school age student enrolled in school, provided satisfactory evidence of the excuse is provided to the principal of the school:

1. Personal illness; or
2. Special circumstances, such as a court summons, or other legal situation that is governed by the Code of Conduct; or
3. Any condition sufficient to warrant nonattendance as demonstrated to the satisfaction of the superintendent or his or her designee.
4. Upon presentation to the superintendent by the Extension Agent or High School Agricultural Instructor/FFA Advisor, students may be excused for up to five days for participation in official organized events sponsored by the 4-H or Future Farmers of America (FFA).
5. Students who are officially being employed to serve as a page at the State Capitol for the Mississippi House of Representatives or Senate.
6. Special permission of the principal (**obtained in ADVANCE IN PERSON BY THE PARENT OR THE LEGAL GUARDIAN**).

Excused absences are granted once the Excused Absence Parental Verification (EAPV) Form from parent/guardians, or medical/dental doctor's excuses are received by the school. The EAPV forms or doctor's excuses must be brought **within forty-eight (48) hours** upon return to school from the absence. **After five (5) excused absences per semester based on parental notes, a doctor's excuse will be required for excusing an absence.** No internet-based physician excuses are accepted. School personnel may verify the validity of an excuse with the indicated physician. The excuse must include the specific dates the child was seen and the expected duration of the illness. Blanket excuses for extended absences over ten days are not allowed.

Early Dismissals

Due to safety precautions for students, no student dismissals will be allowed during the last 30 minutes of the school day. Three unexcused early dismissals will count as an unexcused absence in the class. Additionally, students will not be dismissed during a district or state testing period in order to avoid distractions and potential test security violations.

Allowable Credit for Excused Absences

Excused absences, tardies, or dismissals will allow 100 percent credit for work required by the teacher, provided that work is requested by the student and/or parent, completed and submitted within a time period that is directly proportional to the days the student missed (for example, if two days are missed, two days are allowed to make arrangements with the teacher to submit the work). Teachers may make exceptions and extend deadlines as circumstances dictate with the approval of the building principal.

Absences and Extra-Curricular Activities

Students must be present 63% of a day in order to participate in any extra-curricular activities that day.

Make Up Work (All Schools)

1. Any scheduled test or work assigned prior to any absence must be submitted or completed on the day the student returns to school.
2. It is the student's responsibility to obtain make-up work upon returning to school.
3. When an unexcused absence, unexcused tardy, unexcused dismissal, or suspension causes a student to miss class time, that student shall be given the opportunity to make up work. Make-up work must be completed within a time period that is directly proportional to the days the student missed (for example, if two days are missed, two days are allowed to make arrangements with the teacher to submit the work).
4. A student who is expelled shall not be permitted to make up missed work. However, enrollment at Main Street RESTART Center will allow students to continue schoolwork within the limitations of that program.
5. Students who miss any nine weeks tests or semester exams will be limited to a maximum grade of sixty-five (65-D) on the tests unless a doctor's or legal excuse is provided.
6. Students will be limited to a maximum grade of sixty-five (65-D) for any assignment, work, test, or exam if not completed by the assigned due date.
7. Students may not take a nine weeks test or semester exam early in order to go on vacation.
8. Doctor's excuses/legal excuses must include an original signature and be brought in **within forty-eight (48) hours** upon return to school from the absence.

Make Up Work (High Schools)

Once a student exceeds the maximum days for absences with a parent note (**five absences per semester based on parental notes**), the student may not be allowed to make up any work missed during an unexcused absence. Students may receive a 0 for all tests, homework, class grades, etc., if the work is not submitted by a final date determined by the principal.

Make Up Work (Elementary and Middle Schools)

Sixty-five (65-D) is the highest possible grade for each make-up assignment/test that a student can earn once the maximum five (5) days absences per semester based on parental notes are exceeded.

Withdrawal Information

Students who change schools due to a change of address or by legal transfer must first withdraw from the old school. All textbooks and library books shall be returned before withdrawal can be completed.

EMERGENCIES/ILLNESS

Illness/Injuries (Board Policies JGCD, JGCD-F2)

A student who is injured or becomes ill during the school day will be sent or assisted to the **clinic** or the principal's office and the parent/guardian will be notified. Students must notify their teacher or principal immediately after they are injured at any school activity.

Pick up of Sick Children

When a student is seriously ill and a parent or guardian either does not pick up the student within a reasonable time or refuses to pick up the student, the school will call for emergency medical service. To ensure that the student is properly cared for, the school will call the Department of Human Services and/or an emergency medical service will be called AT THE FAMILY'S EXPENSE.

Insurance

A group accident insurance policy is available to all members of the student body at a nominal cost when school activities begin each fall. All students who participate in or try out for interscholastic sports or cheerleading are required to provide proof of insurance along with parental consent in order to try out or participate in any sport. For more information parents may contact the school office or coach where appropriate.

The Hinds County School District will not be responsible for any bills or balances not covered under the student's insurance.

Telephone

The telephone in the school office is to be used for school business and emergencies only. A student may use the telephone if he/she first secures permission from the appropriate staff.

Emergency Contact Information

The school must be able to contact parents/guardians or a designated adult. **PARENTS MUST PROVIDE THE SCHOOL OFFICE WITH CORRECT, UP-TO-DATE TELEPHONE NUMBERS upon enrollment each year.** Any changes in emergency contact names and telephone numbers must be updated throughout the year. Only simple first aid is administered at school.

Prescription and Non-Prescription Medicines (Board Policies JGCD, JGCD-F)

Hinds County School District recognizes that some students may require the administration of medication during school hours. All medication, both prescription and over the counter, will be administered by the school nurse/authorized personnel. The only exception to this rule is for self-administered asthma or emergency (EPI-PEN) medication by your child.

In order for your child to receive medication at school the following guidelines must be met:

1. Your child's physician must complete a medication authorization form
2. Your child must have parental permission to be seen by the clinic.
3. Parent must sign the parent authorization and indemnity agreement for prescription medicines on the enrollment card and the handbook Parent Authorization and Agreement Form
4. Medication must be in the original labeled container as dispensed
5. Medication label must contain the student's name, name of medication, date, dosage, route, times, and frequency

6. Medication orders must be renewed in writing every school year
7. Any dosage changes or discontinuation orders must be in writing

Physicians will need to fill out a separate form for each prescription or over the counter medication given at school. Please feel free to contact your child's school if you have any questions.

Parents may come to school to administer medicine to their child if needed during the day.

Asthma/Epi Pen Medications

The Hinds County School District requires that each child with asthma have a current Asthma Action Plan (AAP) on file at the child's school, for use by the school nurse, teachers, and staff. Parents and guardians of the child with asthma are to have the child's AAP developed and signed by the child's health care provider. The AAP should include the child's asthma severity classification, current asthma medication and emergency contact information. The AAP must be updated annually. Students are permitted to self-administer asthma/Epi Pen medications with written consent from the parent and a statement from the health care provider outlining the proper process to administer the medication.

Head Lice

Students who show evidence of NITS or live head lice will be removed from the classroom. Parents will be called to pick up the student immediately. Students who show evidence of nits will receive office notification in writing for needed treatment. As soon as the student has been treated with an approved lice-killing product, he or she may return to school. To be readmitted to school the student must:

1. Bring the empty treatment bottle the following day, with the label on it, to the office, OR bring a note from the parent, to the office, stating the name of the product used and the date of use, AND
2. Be re-checked for nits or live lice in the office before readmission to the classroom.
3. If the parent returns the student to school after treatment, the parent must follow the above procedure and wait until the student has been re-checked for live lice.

If a public school student has head lice on three separate occasions during any school year or if school officials have notified the student's parent/guardian that the student has head lice on three separate occasions during any school year, the principal shall notify the Hinds County Health Department of the recurring problem. The Health Department will instruct the student's parents or guardians on how to treat head lice, eliminate head lice from household items, and prevent the recurrence of head lice. The Health Department will charge the parent or guardian a fee to recover the cost of providing treatment and counseling. The school principal will not allow the student to attend school until proof of treatment is obtained.

The school is concerned about instructional time the student loses by being removed from the classroom; however, the school must also take measures to prevent the spread of head lice. If a student must be removed from the class setting and misses instructional time on five (5) occasions, a report will be made to the attendance officer.

Communicable Diseases (Board Policy JBC, JGCC)

Mississippi law states that "it shall be unlawful for any child to attend any school, kindergarten, or similar type facility intended for the instruction of children, either public or private, unless they shall first have been vaccinated against those diseases specified by the State Health Officer." To comply with this law, all Hinds County School District students must present to the school of enrollment a **Certificate of Compliance** regarding vaccinations. Enforcement of this law will require removal of children from classes if they are not adequately immunized.

A student with a communicable disease (chicken pox, measles, pink eye, etc.) shall remain at home until the disease is no longer a threat to that student or others. Principals should report to the health department any cases

of communicable diseases that might pose a threat to the health of the school or community. While concerned with assisting and resolving individual cases, the welfare of all students is the prime consideration of the district and the Mississippi State Department of Health. In keeping with this concern, ringworm and impetigo sites must be covered to reduce possibility of spreading.

A student who is absent from school due to the presence or suspicion of a communicable disease MUST present, upon return to school, a statement from a physician or the health officer certifying that the student is not/ no longer contagious. No student is allowed to return to the classroom without this statement. Parents must notify the school by phone when it is determined that their child has a contagious disease.

Decisions regarding an HIV infected student shall be made on an individual basis with regard to the behavior, neurological development, physical condition of the student, and the expected type of interaction with others in that setting. These decisions shall be made using a team approach including the student's physician, public health personnel, the student's parent or guardian, and personnel associated with the educational setting. In each case, risks and benefits to both the infected student and to others in the setting shall be weighed. As conditions change, cases may be reevaluated.

Emergency Drills (Board Policy EBBC)

Principals and teachers will instruct students in the methods of fire drills and other emergency drills and will practice the drills with the pupils until they are familiar with the methods of evacuating the buildings or moving to safe areas.

Emergency Closings (Board Policy EBBC)

When any emergency necessitates the closing of a school, parents should monitor the local radio, television stations, and social media for information regarding the status of their child's school.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Durham Education Services (601.857.5562)

Parents should direct all questions regarding bus transportation, bus routes, time, etc. to Durham Services at 601-857-5562. Any concerns regarding safety, discipline, etc. should first be addressed at the school level, then, if necessary, to the Assistant Superintendent at 601-857-5223.

Interference with Operations of School Buses (MS Code Ann. § 37-41-2)

Only authorized students and school district personnel may ride or enter a school bus. It is unlawful for any person to abuse or interfere with any bus driver or district employee in the performance of their duties. Violations of these state laws are a misdemeanor offense and are subject to punishment of up to six (6) months in prison and/or a fine of up to \$500.

Arrival and Departure of Students

Students should arrive at school no earlier than the time designated by the student's building principal. Students who do not ride the bus and are not involved in an official after school sponsored activity must depart campus no later than 15 minutes after the final dismissal time/bell in the afternoon. Students staying for before/after-school must be picked up promptly at the time designated by the school or teacher. Parents will be notified prior to any student's staying for before/after-school.

Parents or guardians who drop off their children before the designated student drop off time indicated in this Handbook will be referred to the Department of Human Services and/or local law enforcement officials for child neglect.

Parents or guardians who fail to pick up their child at the end of the school day will be referred to the Department of Human Services and/or local law enforcement officials for child neglect.

Supervision is the parent's responsibility when buses drop off students in the afternoon.

Bus Transportation and Bus Stops (Board Policy JCDAD)

Students who reside one mile or more from the school to which they are assigned may ride a school bus. Generally, bus stops are located within 6/10 of a mile from all students' residences. If some extenuating situation (such as a family emergency) dictates that a child temporarily (1-3 days) ride home on a bus other than his/her originally scheduled bus, parents must make this request in writing with a contact phone number included to the appropriate Assistant Principal by 10:00 a.m. In case of an emergency, telephone notification will be accepted when possible. An attempt will be made to accommodate all reasonable requests if doing so will not overcrowd a bus.

Once a student is en route to school, he/she becomes the responsibility of the school district. Therefore, the same appropriate behavior required in the classroom is also required while a student is waiting at a bus stop and is en route to and from school. The district tolerates no students distracting bus drivers from transporting students safely. Students are expected to board and exit at their designated bus stops, to obey the bus driver and any other personnel assigned to bus duty, and to ride the regularly scheduled bus unless directed to do otherwise by the principal or assistant principal. Transportation is a privilege and may be revoked. Students are not allowed to board a bus with balloons or any other large objects that may impede the vision of the bus driver.

Vehicles (Board Policy JGFF)

Once on campus, students are required to park their vehicles only in the designated areas and proceed directly to the building. No students may leave the campus during the school day for any reason unless the principal has consulted the parent/guardian. Only high school students in grades 10-12 may drive to school. All student vehicles on school campuses are subject to search and inspection at any time. Anyone who brings a vehicle on school grounds assumes full personal liability for that vehicle and its contents.

Day Care and After School Program Bus Pick Up

The district does allow day care centers and after school programs to pick up children at the school as a privilege. Each of these service providers must comply with the above board policy in order to pick up students on campus. Parents and guardians are required to provide written approval that their child may ride this bus or van. If any service provider does not comply with these requirements, **pick up privileges will be withdrawn.**

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

The goal of the Child Nutrition Program in Hinds County School District is to meet the nutritional needs of the students by offering healthy food choices. Parents may review the philosophy of the HCSD concerning healthy meals in the unabridged version of this handbook or by visiting the web site at <http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us>.

Students electing to bring their own lunches may eat in the lunchroom. The following suggestions are made:

- a. Parents are requested to send single servings of items that do not require heating.
 - b. No glass containers are allowed in the cafeteria.
 - c. Nutritious drinks are recommended in the place of soft drinks.
 - d. Milk and milk products are available to purchase for students who bring their lunch.
- ❖ The cafeteria staff is not allowed to handle personal food items.

Any parent or guardian, who does not want their child to purchase any extra items out of their account, will need to notify the manager in writing and the child’s account will be flagged.

Current Prices

	<u>Paid Student</u>	<u>Reduced Student</u>	<u>Adult/Guests</u>
Breakfast	1.75	.30	2.75
Lunch	2.75	.40	3.85

Prepaid Purchases

All students in the district are encouraged to pay for meals in advance. Students are requested to bring their lunch money on Mondays to pay for their meals for the week (or longer) in the envelope provided by the school. The money is put into the student’s account; and as the student eats, the amount is deducted from the account balance. Parents may request a printed history of their child’s account activity from the Office of Child Nutrition at (601) 857-5222. Checks cannot be accepted, and no meals can be charged. If students have money left in their accounts when withdrawing from school or at the end of the year, request for a refund must be made in writing to the cafeteria manager. Requests for refunds must be made by five (5) school days prior to the last day of school. Any money left in students’ accounts at the end of the year will be in their accounts at the beginning of the next school year wherever they are enrolled in school in Hinds County School District.

Parents may also put money in their child’s account by going to www.myschoolbucks.com. Accounts can be monitored by parents to see when more money needs to be added or if the student is purchasing extra food items.

Student Meal Eligibility-Applications for Free/Reduced Price Meals

Family applications for free and reduced price meals will be distributed the first day of school to each student. **Parents need to complete a new application each year. Each household is to complete one application with all students listed.** Students will eat on last year’s status for 30 days from the first day of school. If a new application is not on file at the end of 30 days, the meal status will automatically be **PAID**. Families who participate in the SNAPS program will be notified by letter prior to start of school that their status is free due to direct certification from the Department of Human Services. These families **DO NOT** need to complete the lunch application given to all students the first day of school.

PARENTS CAN COMPLETE LUNCH APPLICATIONS ON-LINE. MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT <http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us>

Special Diets

Special dietary requirements for students can be met by providing specific written instructions from the student’s physician at the beginning of each year. These instructions stay on file in the district Child Nutrition Office and the Cafeteria Manager’s Office. Students who cannot drink milk must have a letter on file from their doctor stating they cannot tolerate milk. Parents may submit request in writing for lactose free milk.

Cafeteria Behavior

While students’ behavior in the cafeteria is the responsibility of the principal’s designee, it is beneficial to all to maintain orderly behavior in the cafeteria.

Policy on Competitive Foods and Extra Food Sales

No food is to be sold, served, or made available on the school campus for one (1) hour before breakfast or one hour before lunch and until the end of either serving period.

Field Trips

Nutritious sack lunches are provided for field trips when requested in advance by the teacher. Students receive their sack lunch at the same status/price as lunches eaten in the cafeteria.

STUDENT FEES, FINES, AND CHARGES

Check Acceptance Policy

The Hinds County School District does not accept personal checks.

Textbooks (Board Policy JS)

Textbooks are issued at the beginning of the school year, when appropriate for the course. Students are urged not to abuse or misuse them as fines will be assessed on books showing improper care. If a book is lost or damaged beyond use, the following schedule will be used to assess the cost of replacement. Schools will determine assessments for minor damages to textbooks. Students will not be issued further textbooks if payment is not received for lost or damaged books.

0-1 year	Full replacement value
1-2 years	80% of cost of new textbook
2-3 years	60% of cost of new textbook
3-4 years	40% of cost of new textbook
Over 4 years	20% of cost of new textbook

Library

Students may go to the library before, during, and after the school day to check out library materials with teacher permission. Fines may be charged for lost or damaged library materials.

Lab/Extra-Curricular/Workbook/Technology Fees (Board Policy JS)

Certain schools may require students to pay for specific workbooks, extra-curricular participation and/or lab fees. The technology fee is assessed in every school throughout the district.

Financial Hardship Waiver (Board Policy JS, JS-F)

Parents of students eligible to receive free or reduced lunch and are unable to pay for supplementary instructional materials, and authorized instructional fees, may complete an application for Waiver of School Fees/Hardship Status. Applications may be obtained from the Executive Director of Business Services/CFO at the Central Office. This waiver applies to instructional materials, not extra-curricular fees.

Solicitations

Solicitation of students for funds for any cause is only permitted when the Superintendent has given prior permission.

Student Activity Funds

In compliance with Board Policies DK, DK-R, all money collected by any class, club, or other school organization is handled according to school board policy.

PROPERTY

Care of School Property (Board Policy EBCA)

Students responsible for vandalism will be required to pay for the damages. Note: Equipment includes, but is not limited to, computers, all technology, and musical instruments.

Lockers/Care of Personal Property

Lockers may be provided to high school students. School authorities may conduct periodic general inspections at any time for any reason related to school administration. Inspection of individual lockers or desks may occur when there is a reasonable basis to do so, and in those cases, the student or a third party may be present. (Board Policy JCDA)

Valuable property should not be brought to school. Under no circumstances should an excessive amount of money be brought to school. The school district can accept no responsibility for the theft of or loss of property and/or money.

Lost and Found

All items found about the building should be taken immediately to the principal's office. Inquiries about lost items should be made in the principal's office. All unclaimed items will be disposed of at the end of each grading period.

Receiving Gifts at School

The delivery of candy, flowers, balloons, and other types of gifts to a school from an individual to a student will not be allowed.

IDEA SERVICES AND CHILD FIND

Additional specific criteria concerning IDEA and Section 504 are outlined in the unabridged form of this handbook and are available upon request or at the HCS D web site at <http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us>. The following is provided as a summary only.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA)

Hinds County School District participates in an ongoing effort to identify, locate, and evaluate children birth through age twenty-one who are in need of special education and related services under IDEA and who reside in the Hinds County School District. The purposes of this effort are:

1. To ensure that all children with disabilities ages three through 21 have available to them a free appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living;
2. To ensure that the rights of children with disabilities and parents of such children are protected;
3. To assist states, localities, educational service agencies, and Federal agencies to provide for the education of all children with disabilities;
4. To assist states in the implementation of a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, interagency system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families;
5. To ensure that educators and parents have the necessary tools to improve educational results for children with disabilities by supporting system improvement activities; coordinated research and personnel

preparation; coordinated technical assistance, dissemination, and support; and technology development and media services; and to assess and ensure the effectiveness of efforts to educate children with disabilities;

6. To ensure children with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extra-curricular services and activities.

Written parental consent must be obtained before initial evaluations are conducted and before the initial provision of special education and related services. An Individual Education Program (IEP) is in effect before special education and related services are provided. To the maximum extent possible, each student with a disability is educated with children in his/her age range who have no disability.

The IEP Team determines the placement of each student with a disability. When the IEP Team determines placement, considerations must be given to the possible effect of inclusion of a student with a disability on the education of other children in the class. Consideration must also be given to the educational benefits available to the student in the regular education environment with appropriate supplementary aids and services, as compared to the benefits in a special education classroom or other separate environment.

Child Find

The Exceptional Services Director is the contact for Child Find referrals and questions. You may contact this office at 601.857.5222.

SECTION 504

The Hinds County School District Board of Education adheres to a policy of non-discrimination in educational programs, activities, and employment and strives to provide equal opportunity for all as required by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination against the handicapped.

If parents disagree with any of the decisions made concerning the identification, evaluation, placement of their child, or the provision of the free, appropriate public education for their child, they can contact the Director of Exceptional Services at 601.857.5222.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The district complies with the regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act which prohibits public and private entities from discriminating against an "otherwise qualified individual with a disability." All students and personnel with disabilities will have "access" to programs, activities, employment, and physical structures. The Director of Exceptional Education is the contact person for questions and comments regarding ADA.

English Learner (EL) Services

The Hinds County School District provides services to English Language Learners (formerly English as a Second Language or ESL). For information regarding this program, contact the State and Federal Programs Director at 601.857.5222. For all state and district testing, the Hinds County School District follows the state guidelines for ELL students.

Dyslexia Screening

Hinds County School District shall screen all students for the following dyslexia components in the spring of Kindergarten and the fall of Grade 1: Phonological Awareness and phonemic awareness, sound symbol recognition, alphabet knowledge, decoding skills, encoding skills, and rapid naming.

If a student fails the screener, the parent or legal guardian will be notified of the results of the screener. Subsequent dyslexia evaluations may be administered by licensed professionals in accordance with applicable law. (HB 1031)

GENERAL ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Honor Roll

The following criteria will be used to determine a student's honor roll classification:

- Principal's List – A student must be on grade level in all subjects. All numerical grades on the Report Card will be 90 or higher. The Report Card for that term will not have any I's (Incomplete), U's (Unsatisfactory) or N's (Non-mastery) in any subject or course.
- Honor Roll – The student must be on grade level in all subjects. All numerical grades on the Report Card will be 80 or higher. The Report Card for that term will not have any I's (Incomplete), U's (Unsatisfactory) or N's (Non-mastery) in any subject or course.

Grading Letter Codes for Grades K-3 (Board Policy IHA)

The following grading letter codes and corresponding numerical scale will be used in the Hinds County School District for classes and courses where such grade indicators are necessary and expected for **students in grades K-3**:

A	Advanced	100-93
M	Mastery	92-80
P	Progressing	79-75
N	Non-mastery	74-Below

***Students scoring non-mastery (N) will not be promoted to the next grade.**

Grading Scale for Grades 4-12 (Board Policy IHA)

The following letter grades and corresponding numerical scale will be used in the Hinds County School District for classes and courses where such grade indicators are necessary and expected for **students in grades 4-12**:

A	100-90
B	89-80
C	79-70
D	69-65
F	64-Below

Grade and Subject Classification (Board Policy IHE, JBAB)

Principals shall be governed by the regulations of the Mississippi Accreditation Commission in accepting students in grade and subject classification from accredited and non-accredited schools. Refer to the Enrollment section of this handbook for additional information.

PROGRESS REPORTS AND REPORT CARDS

Reporting Progress (see calendar on back cover)

1. Progress Reports —Parents should expect to receive a Progress Report approximately halfway through each nine-week grading term on the dates indicated on the School Calendar at the front of this handbook. Teachers may require the return of the report with the signature of the parent.
2. Distribution of Report Cards —Teachers may require that parents sign and return the report card.

Procedure for Determining Grades

A record of all grades shall be maintained by teachers in order to determine the term and final grades. Teachers will maintain a minimum of **8 daily grades and 4 test grades each term.**

1. Core Courses. In grades 3-12 in the core courses, the formula outlined below will be used in computing grades. Core courses are English/language arts, math, science, social studies, and reading.
2. Term Grade Computation. A numerical term grade will be determined by weighing the average of all test scores at a rate of 50%; weighing the average of all daily grades at a rate of 25%; and weighing the average of the 9 weeks or semester exam grades for K-12 at a rate of 25%.
3. Participation/Daily Grades. The teacher determines participation/daily grades and these may include, but are not limited to the following items: daily assignments in class, projects, class participation, and/or homework.
4. Term Grades. To determine the term grade: Average all test scores for the term. Round the average to the nearest whole number to determine the test average. Average all daily grades for the term. Round the average to the nearest whole number to determine the assignment or daily average. Calculate 50% of the test grade, 25% of the daily grade, and 25% of the 9 weeks or semester exam. Add the three weighted values together, and round to the nearest whole number to determine the term average. This average will be recorded on the Report Card.
5. Final Grade Computation. The final grade will be determined by averaging the numerical values of the term grades. The numerical value (rounded to the nearest whole number) shall be recorded on the Report Card as the final grade for the subjects for which numerical term grades are recorded.
6. Make-up work grades are subject to the limitations outlined earlier in the Attendance Policy portion of this handbook.
7. Exemptions. Only graduating seniors during the spring semester may be exempt from semester exams. **Additional criteria may be established by the building principal.**
8. Nine weeks tests and semester exams. Special projects or other academic activities may be substituted for a comprehensive nine weeks or semester exam **with approval of the Superintendent.**

Note: With the conversion to MS College and Career Readiness standards in grades K-12, there will be some adjustments to the current grading scale. Parents will be notified of these changes as necessary.

Exemption Procedures

Students classified as seniors who meet the exemption requirements will not be required to take semester examinations at the end of second semester in year-long courses.

ELL (English Language Learner) Grading

English Language Learners (ELL) should be assigned to an age-appropriate grade, unless a different grade is identified on the student's cumulative records. ELL students should be given a pass/fail grade until an accurate assessment of achievement can be made.

Academic Dishonesty and Cheating

Students who cheat on any academic work are subject to punishment as deemed appropriate by the school principal. Typically, these offenses are handled as both an academic and character issue. The school

administrator will take into account the nature of the offense, the child's age, and the child's maturity in addressing the incident(s).

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES AND VISITATION

Parent Conferences

Several parent/teacher conference days are scheduled for the school year. Parents may refer to the school/district calendar for these dates. Parents may make arrangements for additional conferences by calling the school or by sending a note to the teacher. These conferences will be scheduled during times that will not interfere with supervision or instruction of students.

Visitations (Board Policy KM)

Parents and interested community members are both welcome and encouraged to visit district schools. However, all visitors must report to the office to obtain permission from the principal or designee before going to any other part of the building. For safety and security concerns, parents and visitors are not allowed to visit students at school during recess, nap times, or other times as identified as inappropriate by the principal. Only Parents or Legal Guardians may visit classrooms during instructional time. Classroom visitors are required to have an administrator present during the visit which is limited to thirty minutes per visit.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Promotion and Retention of Students (Board Policy IHE)

The Hinds County School District follows an established board policy that defines criteria for the academic promotion/progression of students from one grade or level to the next. Promotion and retention shall be based upon the mastery of grade level objectives for grades K, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

In accordance with the Mississippi Literacy-Based Promotion Act (SB2397) beginning with the 2014-15 school year, a student scoring at **level 2 or below in reading on the established state assessment for 3rd grade will not be promoted to 4th grade unless the student meets the good cause exemptions for promotion.**

Kindergarten: Hinds County School District has the authority to retain children in kindergarten for an additional year if the district deems that placement of the student in the first grade would not be the most appropriate educational placement of the student. Determination will be based on a complete profile of the student's performance on each standard addressed in the class.

Elementary Grades K, 1, 2 and 3: A student must have a fourth term average of 75% on performance of required work on grade level in each core subject (reading/language arts, integrated language arts, math, science, and social studies) to be promoted to the next grade.

Grade 3 students must score at or above grade level on the Grade 3 state assessment reading assessment to be promoted to the next grade.

Elementary Grades 4 and 5: A student must have a yearly average of 65% on performance of required work on grade level in each core subject (reading/language arts, integrated language arts, math, science, and social studies) to be promoted to the next grade.

End of Summer Retesting

If a student fails only one subject in elementary grades, he/she will be allowed the opportunity to demonstrate at the end of the summer that he/she has mastered the competencies that were failed. Your child's principal will let you know the exact time and location. Please note that students must score 75 or higher on the test, and they will only be allowed to take the test once. This retesting opportunity will be provided for those students who participate in an official summer school or summer instructional program. If a tutor is to be used, the parent must be sure to give a written plan for that instruction, when and where it will take place, how often, and what instructional materials will be used, etc. Parents will be required to provide the school a detailed Summer Program Instructional Log prior to their child being tested. Please note that this must be a structured program of instruction, and all summer programs must be pre-approved by the principal in writing or the retesting opportunity will not be available. This written notice is due to your principal within ten calendar days of the last student school day.

3rd Grade MAAP Minimal (Board Policy IHE)

Students who fail the MAAP Test will be referred to the Teacher Support Team (TST) and receive an Individual Reading Plans (IRP) for interventions within the first twenty days of school as specified in guidelines developed by the Mississippi Department of Education. Interventions will be designed to address the deficit areas; research based; implemented as designed by the TST; and supported by data regarding the effectiveness of interventions. State Board Policy 4300, Rev. 5/18/07

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Promotion and Retention of Students (Board Policy IHE)

In order to be eligible for promotion to the next grade, students must meet one of the following criteria:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in all core academic subjects. Middle School core subjects are math, science, social studies, and language arts. Students are not allowed to fail any core subject more than one time during grades 6-8 under this option. **or**
2. If a student fails two or fewer subjects in middle school, he/she will be allowed the opportunity to participate in the Hinds County School District summer program (Edmentum). A student who fails the same core subject in consecutive years will not be eligible to take that summer school course for promotion.

Note: Middle school students recover up to two (2) courses that do not earn high school credit in grades 6 – 8 during the current academic year/summer. In grades 7 and 8, CCSS Compacted Math Grade 7 and CCSS Math Grade 8, carry high school credit, so only one course may be taken. Algebra I is a SATP course and may not be taken during the summer.

For each semester taken through the Course/Credit Recovery Program, the student must make a grade of at least 70 on all work attempted. No partial credit will be given for work that is below the minimum requirement of 70.

The final average recorded for a semester/final grade on a transcript for a course completed through Course/Credit Recovery will be 70. No grade will be recorded or credit given for not completing the course successfully in the specified time frame.

HIGH SCHOOLS

Change of Schedule

If a student and his/her parent(s) feel that a change in schedule should be made, the parent(s) must submit a written request for a schedule change within the first five days of school. Whether a change is made or not is the decision of the building principal.

Senior Academic and Graduation Information

1. Academic Rank: When class rank is computed, all grades from all subjects for which any Carnegie unit credit is given are used, regardless of the year credit is earned. This policy applies to both whole units and fractional units of credit. When class rank is computed, it is computed for only those students who will complete graduation requirements for a General Education or College Preparatory diploma the current school year. **Only credits earned through the third nine-week period will be used to determine academic rank.** Students are ranked at the end of the third nine weeks of the senior year to determine their final standing. The following system, based on quality of achievement, shall be used in computing rank in class average for each student:

Grade	Numeric Scale	Regular Class Unit Value	Advanced (Honors) Classes Unit Value	AP/Dual Credit Classes Unit Value
A	100 – 89.5	4	4.5	5.0
B	89.4 – 79.5	3	3.5	4.0
C	79.4 – 69.5	2	2.5	3.0
D	69.4 – 64.5	1	1.5	2.0
F	64.4 – 0	0	0	0

Note: For one-half unit courses the unit value is one-half the amount shown.

2. Graduation with Special Recognition: Seniors graduating with: (1) a four-year average of 3.5 or more, (2) completing courses that meet the MS IHL College Prep Curriculum (3) have ACT subscores of 18 in English and 22 in Math or the SAT equivalency subscore (4) Earn a total of 28 Carnegie Units and (5) Complete one AP course with a B or higher and take the AP exam or complete one Diploma Program IB course with a B or higher or complete one academic dual credit course with a B or higher, will graduate with "Distinguished Honors." **Students whose averages range from 3.1-3.4 will graduate with "Honors." Students' averages within two calendar weeks prior to graduation will be used in determining these awards.**
3. Special Awards for Graduating Seniors: The senior graduating with a General Education or College Preparatory diploma who maintains the highest GPA in scholarship will be named Valedictorian. The student maintaining the second highest GPA in scholarship will be named Salutatorian. This GPA will be determined at the end of the third term of the senior year. To be eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian, a student must complete the last six semesters of course work at the school from which he/she is graduating. In the event of a tie for these special awards, students with the highest overall average in courses that earn a Carnegie Unit will receive the designations.
4. Subject Area Awards are awarded to the outstanding senior in all areas. Students' averages within two calendar weeks prior to graduation will be used in determining these subject area awards.
5. Transcripts: Upon request, students will be granted two transcripts that will be sent to any designated college, training institution or employment office without charge. Additional copies will cost \$3.00 each.

6. Fees/fines: A graduating senior must have all school fines and fees paid before receiving a diploma. It is the responsibility of the student to determine whether or not he/she has outstanding fines/fees.
7. Student Transfers during Senior Year. In order to earn a diploma from the Hinds County School District, students must attend a minimum of one semester at a Hinds County School District high school. Under extraordinary circumstances, the superintendent or her designated representative may waive this requirement.

High School Promotion and Retention of Students (Board Policy IHE)

High School Student Classification shall be as follows:

Freshman (9th Grade): Promoted from the eighth-grade level.

Sophomore (10th Grade): Successfully completed seven (7) units of credit. Must include English I.

Junior (11th Grade): Successfully completed thirteen (13) units of credit. Must include English II and Algebra I.

Senior (12th Grade): Able to meet all state and district graduation requirements at the end of the current school year (normally May).

IDEA Students

1. An IDEA student who is a candidate for a standard high school diploma shall follow the same criteria for mastery and promotion as any other student.
2. IDEA students who achieve twenty-three credits to earn an Occupational diploma will be awarded such. Carnegie credits may serve in lieu of occupational credits upon recommendation by a school counselor.
 - a. Algebra I course and SATP are required and will serve in lieu of one (1) Occupational Math credit.
 - b. English II course and SATP are required and will serve in lieu of one (1) Occupational English credit.
3. An IDEA student who is a candidate for an alternate diploma must participate in the MS Assessment by participating in the appropriate option listed below.
 - a. A student with a Significant Cognitive Disability (SCD) must participate in the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program- Alternate (MAAP-A).
4. An IDEA student, who will be 16 years of age by September 1, may be placed in high school by the Individual Education Program (IEP) Team. The sending principal must notify the receiving school principal of all such cases.
5. The IEP Team of an IDEA eligible student, who is three or more years older than grade peers and cannot meet the district requirements for a diploma or occupational diploma but is progressing successfully toward the IEP goals, may change the student's grade placement by one grade level, i.e., fourth grade to sixth grade each school year. The IEP Team must make the decision to change grade placements at the spring IEP meeting proceeding the next school year.
6. An IDEA student must meet all requirements for graduation by or before age 21 in order to receive a diploma or certificate. Services will be terminated at the close of the school year in which the IDEA student's 21st birthday occurs.

Subject Choice Sheet

Each student will receive a subject choice sheet on which he/she may indicate the choice of subjects for the coming school year. Seniors who have not passed state required tests forfeit early dismissal privileges because of the need for remediation on those tests.

Summer School (Board Policy IDCA)

Students in grades 6-12 are **not** allowed to take a summer school course in lieu of taking the course during the regular school year. Summer school high school courses are for remediation for Carnegie unit courses. No SATP tested-course may be taken in summer school by high school students. Principals must pre-approve any student's request to attend summer school to re-take a course failed during the regular school term. Hinds County School District only accepts credits from schools that are accredited by the Mississippi Department of Education.

Online Courses

Carnegie unit credits earned through online courses may be counted toward graduation but are limited to the following requirements:

1. The course must be listed in the Approved Courses for the Secondary Schools of Mississippi for the current school year by the Mississippi Department of Education.
2. The Principal must approve the request prior to enrollment after making a determination as to the student's probability for successful completion of online **coursework based upon prior academic work in high school**.
3. The student must have adequate access to online resources and the technical skills to use them.
4. Typically online courses may be used for remediation/credit recovery for minimum graduation requirements. Otherwise, these courses are to be used for extended learning opportunities, and the credit may count towards the minimum graduation requirements outlined by the Hinds County School District.
5. The student assumes full responsibility for all costs associated with the course.

Testing (Board Policy II)

Each student who is granted a standard high school graduation diploma from the HCSD must have:

1. Satisfied graduation requirements that have been established by the Hinds County School Board of Education, including the requirement of Carnegie units that exceed the state minimum.
2. Achieved a passing score on the four academic end-of-course tests in Algebra I, English II, Biology I and U.S. History.

All students enrolled in AP courses in the district are required to take the corresponding exam for each AP course taken in order to receive weighted GPA credit.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 9TH GRADE BEFORE THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

Area	Traditional Diploma (Replaces Mississippi Occupational Diploma for 9 th grade students of 2016-17)	Traditional Diploma with Career & Technical Endorsement (9 th grade students of 2017-18)	Traditional Diploma with Distinguished Academic Endorsement (9 th grade students of 2017-18) College Preparatory Curriculum Institutions of Higher Learning Admission Requirements Recommendations
English	4 units: English I, II, III, IV	4 units: English I, II, III, IV (See Note 1)	4 units: English I, II, III, IV
Math	4 units which must include Algebra I and at least one math higher than Algebra I	4 units which must include: Algebra I (See Note 2)	4 units which must include: Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II and any one Carnegie unit of comparable rigor and content
Science	4 units which must include Biology I	4 units which must include: Biology I (See Note 3)	4 units which must include: Biology I, Chemistry I and any two units of comparable rigor (See Note 3)
Social Studies	3 ½ units 1 US History 1 World History ½ US Government ½ Mississippi Studies ½ Economics	3 ½ units 1 US History 1 World History ½ US Government ½ Mississippi Studies ½ Economics	4 units (See Note 4): 1 World History 1 US History ½ World Geography ½ US Government ½ Economics ½ Mississippi Studies
Technology or Computer Science	1 unit Technology Foundations, ICT II, STEM, or Computer Applications (See Note 5)	1 unit: Technology Foundations, ICT II, STEM, or Computer Applications (See Note 5)	1 unit Technology Foundations, ICT II, STEM, or Computer Applications (See Note 5)
The Arts	1 unit (Any visual and/or performing arts course(s), meeting graduation requirements.)	1 unit (Any visual and/or performing arts course(s), meeting graduation requirements.)	1 unit (Any visual and/or performing arts course(s), meeting graduation requirements.)
Health/PE	1 unit: ½ Health and ½ Physical Education (See Note 6)	1 unit: ½ Health and ½ Physical Education (See Note 6)	1 unit: ½ Health and ½ Physical Education (See Note 6)
College & Career Readiness	1 unit (within one semester of graduation)	1 unit (within one semester of graduation)	1 unit (within one semester of graduation)
Electives	5½ units	4 units CTE Electives (Must complete a 4-course sequential program of study to be a completer in CTE) 2 ½ units: Additional Electives : Must meet the advanced elective requirements of IHL College Prep Curriculum	2 units: Advanced Electives (One of the two must be Foreign Language I and II or Foreign Language I and Advanced World Geography or a 4 th year lab-based Science or 4 th year Mathematics course) 6 units: Additional Electives : Must meet elective requirements of IHL College Prep Curriculum (See Note 7)
TOTAL	25 UNITS	26 UNITS	28 UNITS

- Note 1: Compensatory English, Compensatory Reading and Compensatory Writing may not be included in the four English courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the five general electives required for graduation. Beginning school year 2014-2015, Compensatory English may only be taken if a credit-bearing English course is taken in the same school year. English I is a prerequisite course for English II. English I may not be taken after a student completes English II.
- Note 2: Compensatory Mathematics, Intro to Engineering, and any developmental mathematics course may not be included in the four mathematics courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the general electives required for graduation. Beginning school year 2014-2015, Compensatory Mathematics may only be taken if a credit-bearing course is taken the same year. The allowable mathematics courses that are higher than Algebra I are: Geometry, Algebra II, CCSS Advanced Math Plus, Algebra III, SREB Math Ready, Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, and AP Statistics. Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Discrete Mathematics, and Statistics meet this requirement if taken prior to the 2015-2016 school year. One of the four required mathematics units may be in Drafting if the student completes the 2-course sequence for Drafting I & II. Effective with the 7th graders of 2012-13, Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Biology I, ICT II, and First Year Foreign Language may be taken in the seventh grade for Carnegie Unit credit provided the course is the same as the high school course. Effective with the 8th graders of 2012-13, second year Foreign Language and STEM may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie Unit credit provided the course content is the same as the high school course. Carnegie units may be earned by 7th and 8th graders effective with school year 2014-2015 for the following courses: CCSS Compacted Math Grade 7, CCSS Math Grade 8, and CCSS Compacted Math Grade 8 (with Algebra I).
- Note 3: Beginning school year 2008-2009 for all entering eighth graders, one unit must be a lab-based physical science. The allowable lab-based physical science courses are Physical Science, Chemistry, AP Chemistry, Physics, AP Physics B, AP Physics C – Electricity and Magnetism, and AP Physics C – Mechanics, Polymer Science II, and Robotics/Engineering II. For Career Pathway students, one unit may be in Concepts of Agriscience, and a second unit may be in completing two of the following three courses: Science of Agriculture Plants, Science of Agriculture Animals, and Science of Agricultural Environment. Two units may be in the following courses if the student completes the required course sequence ending with Agriscience II, Allied Health II, Polymer Science, Horticulture II or Horticulture Landscape and Turfgrass, Engineering II or Applied Engineering Concepts, Health Sciences II or Workplace and Employment Skills in Health Sciences. Effective with school year 2013-2014, up to two of the four required science units (excluding Biology I) may be earned by completing Agriculture and Natural Resources I and II. One credit allowed shall be awarded for Biology II and $\frac{1}{2}$ credit for Botany and $\frac{1}{2}$ for Field Experiences in Science.
- Note 4: Credit earned for Business Fundamentals I or II may be accepted in lieu of $\frac{1}{2}$ unit in Economics in the Career Pathway option. Credit earned for State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student who enters after the sophomore year can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies or Mississippi State and Local Government. If the transfer student took a State/Local Government course in a grade level that did not award Carnegie unit credit, then any other $\frac{1}{2}$ unit social studies course may be accepted. An out-of-state student who transfers after their junior year may substitute any other $\frac{1}{2}$ unit social studies course.
- Note 5: Evidence of proficiency in technology is accepted in lieu of the required courses if the student earns one unit in a technology-rich academic or career technical course related to their program of study. Technology Foundations replaces Computer Discovery, Keyboarding and Computer Applications and meet this graduation requirement when taken in grades 8-12.
- Note 6: Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health meets the requirement if taken prior to the 2014-2015 school year. Carnegie units in physical education may be received from participation in interscholastic athletic activities, band, and ROTC if they meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework*. Interscholastic athletic activities used for Carnegie unit credit must be sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association. Credit earned in Allied Health I/Health Science I or Theory and Application of Health Sciences I, may be accepted in lieu of Contemporary Health to meet the $\frac{1}{2}$ unit in Health. Successful completion of JROTC I and JROTC II may be accepted in lieu of Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health.

Note 7: Limited exception to high school unit requirements may be available. For more information, contact the Office of Admissions. Admission requirements are subject to change without notice at the direction of the Board of Trustees of the Institutions of Higher Learning

Begins with Incoming Freshmen of 2018-2019

Mississippi has two diploma options: The Traditional Diploma and the Alternate Diploma. **Mississippi Diploma Options Mississippi Diploma Options**

The Traditional Diploma is for all students. The Alternate Diploma is an option for students with a Significant Cognitive Disability (SCD).

CAREER AND TECHNICAL ENDORSEMENT			ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT			DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT		
Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects	Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects	Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	English I, English II	English	4	English I, English II	English	4	English I, English II
Mathematics	4	Algebra I	Mathematics	4	Algebra I + two math courses above Algebra I	Mathematics	4	Algebra I + two math courses above Algebra I
Science	3	Biology I	Science	3	Biology I + two science courses above Biology I	Science	4	Biology I + two science courses above Biology I
Social Studies	3 ½	1 World History 1 U.S. History ½ U.S. Government ½ Economics ½ Mississippi Studies	Social Studies	3 ½	1 World History 1 U.S. History ½ U.S. Government ½ Economics ½ Mississippi Studies	Social Studies	4	1 World History 1 U.S. History ½ U.S. Government ½ Economics ½ Mississippi Studies
Physical Education	½		Physical Education	½		Physical Education	½	
Health	½		Health	½		Health	½	
Art	1		Art	1		Art	1	
College & Career Readiness	1	Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student complete of a 4-year sequence	College & Career Readiness	1	Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student complete of a 4-year sequence	College & Career Readiness	1	Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student complete of a 4-year sequence
Technology or Computer Science	1		Technology or Computer Science	1		Technology or Computer Science	1	
CTE Electives	4	Must complete a four-course sequential program of study	Additional Electives	7 ½	Must meet CPC requirements for MS IHLs	Additional Electives	8	Must meet CPC requirements for MS IHLs
Additional Electives	3 ½		Total Units Required	26		Total Units Required	28	
Total Units Required	26		Additional Requirements			Additional Requirements		
Additional Requirements			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earn an overall GPA of 2.5 Courses must meet MS IHL College Prep Curriculum Requirements Earn MS IHL and Community College readiness benchmarks (ACT subscores 17 English and 19 Math as approved by postsecondary for non-remediation at most community college and IHL college-ready courses in senior year or the SAT equivalency subscore) Earn two additional Carnegie Units for a total of 26 Must successfully complete one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One AP course with a C or higher and take the appropriate AP exam One Diploma Program-IB course with a C or higher and take the appropriate IB exams One academic dual credit course with a C or higher in the course 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earn an overall GPA of 3.0 Courses must meet MS IHL College Prep Curriculum Requirements Earn national college readiness benchmarks (ACT subscores 18 English and 22 Math as approved by postsecondary for non-remediation at most community college and IHL college-ready courses in senior year or the SAT equivalency subscore) Earn four additional Carnegie Units for a total of 28 Must successfully complete one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One AP course with a B or higher and take the appropriate AP exam One Diploma Program-IB course with a B or higher and take the appropriate IB exams One academic dual credit course with a B or higher in the course 		

Begins with Incoming Freshmen of 2018-2019

Mississippi has two diploma options: The Traditional Diploma and the Alternate Diploma. **Mississippi Diploma Options Mississippi Diploma Options**

The Traditional Diploma is for all students. The Alternate Diploma is an option for students with a Significant Cognitive Disability (SCD).

TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA OPTION			ALTERNATE DIPLOMA OPTION		
Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects	Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	English I, English II	English	4	Alternate English Elements I-IV
Mathematics	4	Algebra I	Mathematics	4	Alternate Math Elements I-III Alternate Algebra Elements
Science	3	Biology I	Science	2	Alternate Biology Elements Alternate Science Elements II
Social Studies	3 ½	1 World History 1 U.S. History ½ U.S. Government ½ Economics ½ Mississippi Studies	Social Studies	2	Alternate History Elements (Strands: U.S. History and World History) Alternate Social Studies Elements (Strands: Economics and U.S. Government)
Physical Education	½		Physical Education	½	
Health	½		Health	½	Alternate Health Elements
Art	1		Art	1	
College & Career Readiness	1	Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence	Career Readiness	4	Career Readiness I-IV (Strands: Technology, Systems, Employability and Social)
Technology or Computer Science	1		Life Skills Development	4	Life Skills Development I-IV (Strands: Technology, Systems, Personal Care and Social)
Additional Electives	5 ½		Additional Electives	2	
Total Units Required	24		Total Units Required	24	
Requirements			Requirements		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must identify an endorsement area prior to entering 9th grade. Endorsement requirements can only be changed with parental permission. • For early release, students must have met College or Career Readiness Benchmarks (ACT subscores 17 English and 19 Math or earned a Silver level on ACT WorkKeys or SAT equivalency subscores). Alternately, a student must have met ALL of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have a 2.5 GPA ○ Passed or met all MAAP requirements for graduation ○ On track to meet diploma requirements ○ Concurrently enrolled in Essentials for College Math or Essentials for College Literacy 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Alternate Diploma is not equivalent to a traditional high school diploma and is not recognized by postsecondary entities that require a traditional high school diploma. • All students are required to participate in the Mississippi Assessment Program – Alternate Assessment (MAAP-A) with a score TBD. • Students who have met the criteria on their IEP for having a Significant Cognitive Disability (SCD) may participate in a program of study to earn the Alternate Diploma. 		
Recommendations					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For early graduation, a student should successfully complete an area of endorsement. • A student should take math or math equivalent course the senior year. 					

ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Rules for Students Participating In Activities:

Middle School (7th and 8th graders)

To be eligible **only** for middle/junior high activities, a student must have passed any four courses (that meet the equivalent of 250 minutes per week and meet MDE requirements) with a 2.0 (70 - HCSD) average for the preceding semester (computed numerically). The year-end average for the spring semester will be used to compute averages for the fall semester. Students must be on track to be promoted to be eligible.

To be eligible for high school activities, the middle/junior high school student must have passed the four core courses (English, math, science, and social studies) with a 2.0 (70 - HCSD) average for the preceding semester (computed numerically). The year-end average for the spring semester will be used to compute averages for the fall semester. Students must be on track to be promoted to be eligible.

Pupils in the 7th and 8th grade participating in high school extra-curricular activities that are governed by the MHSAA must pass their grade level by achieving at least an average of a 2.0 (70 - HCSD) in the four core courses of math, science, English and social studies the previous year in order to be eligible to participate during the present year.

Summer school or extended school year grades will replace the grade for a failed course in the spring semester GPA.

Senior High (9th – 12th graders)

To be eligible for athletics and activities, beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, along with the additional academic eligibility requirements of the MHSAA, all students on a regular educational track must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 for all courses taken during the prior semester.

A student athlete must pass all courses taken each semester which earns credits toward graduation with a cumulative GPA of 2.0. The cumulative GPA will be determined by adding the final grade in each course taken during the semester that counts towards the cardigan units needed for graduation. The overall average must be 2.0 or higher in order to maintain eligibility. In the Hinds County School District, a 70 is equivalent to a 2.0 GPA. This will be done on a semester basis.

A student athlete may become eligible for the second semester only once during his/her high school career if he/she fails the last semester of the previous year, by passing all courses taken which earns Carnegie units towards graduation with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 the first semester of the current year. This will be done in order to keep the student on track for graduation.

The only change for students on the block schedule will be that students participating in athletics and activities will have to have an overall 2.0 or higher average, rather than a 75 average as in the past.

NOTE: Special education students, defined as not on track for a regular diploma, will be academically eligible if they are making satisfactory progress according to the committees reviewing their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Middle School Students and High School Sports

Middle school students may not “play up” on high school teams if the sport is offered at the middle school. High school principals may approve an exception to this restriction if the student is too old to participate in middle school sports. For sports not offered at the middle school, 8th grade students may participate on a space availability basis at the high school. Transportation will not be provided to and from practice by the district for

these students. Participating on a high school team as a middle student does not impact a student's four years of high school eligibility.

Citizenship

To be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, a student must exhibit acceptable conduct and citizenship standards.

Athletic Requirements

All students participating in athletics and cheerleading are required to have the following on file with the school prior to participating:

1. written parent consent
2. proof of medical/health insurance
3. liability waiver signed by parent/legal guardian
4. medical screening by a licensed physician
5. media consent form
6. receipt of payment for any applicable activity fees

The Hinds County School District will not be responsible for any bills or balances not covered under the student's insurance.

Elimination of Sport

Certain interscholastic sports may be eliminated due to lack of student participation, lack of a qualified coach, or financial hardships by the district.

Athletic Awards

Athletic letters are awarded to all students (male and female) who qualify in any of the varsity athletics.

Athletics / Extra Curricular Eligibility

MHSAA Policies take precedence and govern the minimum standards related to student eligibility.

NCAA Qualifying Standards

The NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse, located in Iowa City, Iowa, is the organization that handles **ALL** inquiries regarding an individual's initial eligibility status. The Clearinghouse operates a Website at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net, which maintains and processes all of the initial-eligibility certifications. More information regarding qualifying standards can be found on the NCAA web site at www.ncaa.org.

Extracurricular Activities

All students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities which are designed to foster interests and talents of students, to develop good character traits and personality, to stimulate the growth of the individual in association with the group, and to afford the student a greater understanding and appreciation of experiences that are results of extracurricular activities.

Principals or counselors have additional information regarding student participation in extracurricular activities.

Honor Societies

1. Membership in these chapters shall be based upon scholarship, character, leadership, citizenship, and service as demonstrated through student involvement in extracurricular activities and faculty recommendation.
2. To be eligible for membership in Honor Societies, the candidate must have been in attendance in the Hinds County School District for at least one semester.
3. Candidates eligible for membership in Honor Societies must meet the academic requirements as set forth in the constitution and by-laws of the Honor Society.
4. Membership dismissal procedures established by an Honor Society will be used if and when necessary.

Student Council

The Student Council is composed of a student president elected by the student body, a faculty sponsor, and representatives from each grade. Student council organizations may have additional officers in the individual schools, and may not be present in the lower grades.

Clubs

Clubs are designed to foster interests and talents of students, to develop good character traits and personality, to stimulate the growth of the individual in association with the group, and to have a greater understanding and appreciation of experiences that are outgrowths of club activities.

Quest (Intellectually Gifted Students)

Intellectually gifted children shall mean those children and youth who are found to have an exceptionally high degree of intelligence as documented through the identification process. A student may be referred by a teacher, parent, counselor, administrator, peer, self or anyone else having reason to believe that the student might be intellectually gifted. The person initiating the referral shall sign and date the referral form.

Referral:

During the second semester, all first grade students are mass screened. Once the student is referred, district personnel shall collect data to satisfy referral criteria. Students shall satisfy three criteria before moving forward to the LSC review of referral data.

LSC Review of Referral Data/Assessment

Once the referral data have been collected, the Local Survey Committee (LSC) shall review all data and make a recommendation. Written parental permission for testing shall be obtained prior to administration of the individual intelligence test. A student must score at the 91st percentile in order to satisfy eligibility criteria.

LSC Eligibility Determination

Once the assessment report is finalized, the Local Survey Committee shall review all data to determine if eligibility criteria have or have not been satisfied and notify in writing the parents about the assessment results and their rights under FERPA. After a student is ruled eligible, written parental permission for placement shall be obtained before the student is placed in the program.

Programming

Students in grades 2-6 are provided services in a self-contained class for a minimum of 240 minutes per week. Gifted students may not be required to make up class work missed when they are scheduled to be in the gifted classroom, but shall be accountable for demonstrating mastery of concepts and information on regularly scheduled tests

Main Street RESTART Program

Students who enroll at the Main Street RESTART (Restructured Education with Strategic Training and Academically Relevant Teaching) Center will be provided with the program guidelines and procedures used at this school.

Hinds County Career Technical Center

The Hinds County Career Technical Center provides career, academic, and technical skills through career and technical pathways, work-based learning experiences, and dual credit course offerings. Students wishing to enroll in a program at the Career and Technical Center must meet the prerequisites for the course. Upon completion of the program, students are prepared for: (1) entry level employment, (2) to continue technical education at a post-secondary institution at advanced standing or (3) to enroll at a four-year institution in which to continue academic training in a related area. Course offerings are provided to students and parents yearly.

Students that are sent to the Restart Center for more than 10 days are immediately removed from the Career Center roster and student will not receive credit.

CODE OF CONDUCT

INTRODUCTION

Students have a responsibility to know and to respect the rules and regulations of the school. Students are responsible for conducting themselves in an appropriate manner at all times. Persons who obstruct any teaching, administrative, or extracurricular activity shall be subject to such disciplinary procedures as set forth in this document.

To assist students, parents, and staff in maintaining such an environment, this *Student Code of Conduct* has been developed.

Corporal punishment **is not permitted as a disciplinary action in** the Hinds County School District. (Policy JDB, JDB-F).

Schools offer a variety of student detention plans for certain misbehaviors. Students may be assigned either to in-school, before/after-school, or Saturday detention depending upon what options the student's school may offer.

This book includes a plan for disciplinary action. While it covers many offenses, it is recognized that the plan is not all-inclusive. After careful review of the facts and other pertinent information in each case, the principal will take appropriate action.

A copy of this handbook is provided to each student enrolled in this district and his/her parent/legal guardian. At the time of a student's enrollment, a parent or guardian must acknowledge receipt of a handbook.

District Wide Student Programs

As you are aware Hinds County School District prides itself on providing quality educative experiences for all of our students, as well as being an innovative district whose goals are to exceed expectations in all areas relating to your son/daughter's educational growth and development. In our ongoing effort to support all students in our district, we will implement three district wide programs.

The second program is the Bully Free program. This progressive program will be implemented in all grades, kindergarten through twelfth. The Bully Free program is the most comprehensive school-wide anti-bullying program being adopted by schools and districts around the world. It is based on research and includes administrative strategies, teacher strategies, lesson plans for each grade level, classroom meetings, student involvement, and bystander empowerment. Additional information about this very important program can be found at <http://www.bullyfree.com>.

The third program involves the administration of behavioral and emotional screening assessments. Research shows that academic problems, along with problems associated with developing and maintaining positive relationships with others, can be the result of underlying behavioral and emotional deficits. When those deficits are caught early, they can often be effectively addressed before they have a negative impact on the child or adolescent.

In the event that your child scores in the evaluated range, they will then participate in Phase 2 of this state-of-the-art program. Phase 2 involves participation in a short-term social skills counseling initiative. This program is designed to build leaders and provide support to students in the areas of bullying, peer pressure, assertiveness, and social interaction. Lasting six weeks, it is felt that your child will learn critical social skills that foster the social and academic success necessary for developing and maintaining the positive relationships necessary for success in school, and eventually the workplace.

We are very excited about the upcoming school year and the programs that will be in place to support your son/daughter. As always, should you have any questions please don't hesitate to call upon us as your child's educational future is our number one priority.

Security Surveillance Camera Procedure

The Hinds County School District uses security surveillance cameras in buildings, on buses, and other selected areas. The video captured by these cameras is used in the investigation of incidents that may occur. Because all video contains confidential student information in the form of images of actions by other students, the videos are not available for viewing except by school administrators, the HCS D Board members, law enforcement officials involved in an official investigation, or by parents/guardians where behavior by their child may have consequences that would result in a long-term suspension from school (more than ten days).

If you do not agree with the decision of an administrator, you may request that a representative from the Superintendent's office review the discipline action. To do this, you must request a surveillance review form from the Central Office within 48 hours of the incident. Video will only be reviewed for infractions resulting in 10 or more days of suspension.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Gun-Free Schools Act/Possession of Weapons on Educational Property

The Hinds County School District operates in compliance with the Gun-Free Schools Act, Title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Therefore, all policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Education which affect the conduct and/or discipline of students are supplemented by the requirements of this act. **The details of this act may be found in the unabridged version of this handbook or at the district web site at <http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us>.** A summary of key details are as follows:

FIREARMS PROHIBITED

No student is permitted to bring or possess a firearm on school property.

DEFINITIONS

The definitions of a firearm and what constitutes school property are in the unabridged version as noted above.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

A student who is charged with bringing or possessing a firearm on school property shall be subject to expulsion from the Hinds County School District at the discretion of the school board, as outlined in policies JBCH and JCDAE.

The Hinds County School District has submitted assurance of compliance to the Mississippi Department of Education that all guidelines and policies of the Gun-Free Schools Act (GFSA, 1994) are addressed and followed.

Possession of Illegal Drugs, Tobacco on Educational Property

In compliance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and its amendments, the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance by students or employees of the Hinds County School District is expressly forbidden. Students may be suspended or expelled from school. Under this policy, alcohol is considered a controlled substance. In addition, no tobacco or **Vaping product possession** or use is permitted on the premises of any Hinds County School District facility by students or any other person. Electronic cigarettes are prohibited. (Board Policies GBRL, GBRM, GBRM-2)

Discipline Overview

1. According to state law, a parent, legal guardian or custodian of a compulsory school-age child enrolled in a public school district shall be responsible financially for his or her minor child's destructive acts against school property or persons. MS Code Ann. § 37-11-19 (1996)
2. A parent, guardian, or custodian of a compulsory school-age child enrolled in a public school district may be requested to appear at school by the school attendance officer or an appropriate school official for a conference regarding acts of the child specified in paragraph 1 of this subsection. MS Code § 37-11-53
3. Any parent, guardian, or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a public school district who refuses or willfully fails to attend such discipline conference as specified in paragraph 2 of this subsection may be summoned by proper notification by the superintendent of schools or the school attendance officer and be required to attend such discipline conference. MS Code § 37-11-53
4. A parent, guardian, or custodian of a compulsory school-age child enrolled in a public school district shall be responsible for any criminal fines brought against such student for unlawful activity occurring on school grounds or buses.

In addition to the rules in this handbook, each local school or building principal may develop additional rules and regulations that govern student behavior and discipline at the school site. However, these campus rules and procedures must be consistent with policies and procedures established by the Board and the Superintendent.

A person who obstructs any teaching, administrative, or extracurricular activity shall be subject to such disciplinary procedures as set forth in this document or as otherwise authorized by law.

School Safety Act of 2001

The School Safety Act of 2001 is cumulative and in addition to the school district's existing authority regarding discipline of students. Pursuant to the Act, the school district has adopted policies that recognize the teacher as the authority in classroom matters regarding the school district's written discipline code of conduct, and the right of the teacher to remove from the classroom any student who, in the professional judgment of the teacher, is disrupting the learning environment, subject to the immediate review of the principal or assistant principal.

Student Dress Code

Proper attire is to be worn by all students to foster the best environment for learning. Teachers are to refer students who are in violation of the dress code to the principal or designee for appropriate disciplinary action. The principal will use his/her discretion in determining what constitutes proper attire. Students may not wear any attire or jewelry that the principal deems inappropriate and disruptive to the learning process, even if that attire is not covered in the following rules. To ensure that students observe basic rules of personal hygiene and dress in a manner that would not disrupt the educational process, the following dress code shall apply:

1. Students are prohibited from wearing hair curlers or other hair grooming aids or implements.
2. Students shall not wear suggestive or revealing attire that would divert attention from the learning process. Such attire includes, but is not limited to, excessively low-cut blouses; see-through clothing, spaghetti straps; shirts or dresses, and sleeveless shirts or blouses with large armholes.
3. Tank tops, halters, or tops with spaghetti straps shall not be worn. Shirts or blouses tied at the midriff, clothing not properly fastened, or any item of clothing which exposes the midriff is not to be worn. A good test is for a student to extend the arms above the head to see if the midriff is exposed. If the midriff is exposed, the clothing is not acceptable.
4. Primary (K-3) students may wear shorts; students in grades 4-12 may wear shorts and skirts/dresses, which have **hemlines and/or slits that do not exceed two inches above the top of the knee**. A good test to determine the appropriate length of an article of clothing is for students to kneel on the floor and the hemline should be within two inches of the floor. Gym shorts are appropriate only for the physical education program and are not to be worn to attend other classes.
5. **Hoodies**, Caps, hats, bandannas, "do rags," sweatbands, headbands, hair picks, rat-tail type combs or other head coverings are not to be worn in the school building or on the school bus.
6. Shoes deemed by the principal as inappropriate or unsafe for school shall not be worn. This exclusion includes "roller skate" shoes and house shoes/slippers.
7. Students are not to wear sunglasses or designer contact lenses in the school building unless a doctor's permit to this effect is on file at the school.
8. Clothing, jewelry, buttons, patches, or any other items with words, phrases, symbols, pictures, or signs which use indecent, profane, suggestive, or inflammatory words, or promote drugs, alcohol, or tobacco or clothing indicative of a non-school-sponsored activity are not to be worn.
9. Pants and trousers should be worn appropriately fastened and in close proximity to the normal waistline. Sagging pants will not be permitted. Pants will not be worn below the hips.
10. Oversized clothing should not be worn.

11. For the health and safety of all students, ornate and/or expensive jewelry, such as medallions and gold chains, are not to be worn by students while on school property or at school-sponsored activities. Such items may be misconstrued as gang-related apparel or may place students in danger of being injured, assaulted, or robbed.
12. Students will not wear clothing that is clearly inappropriate for the season of the year. For example, wearing a trench coat or overcoat during the early fall or spring is not allowed.
13. Pajama pants may not be worn to school.

Student Uniforms

Typically, each school will make a determination of whether there will be a uniform policy. Each school will provide detailed information to parents.

The Following Items Are Not Allowed At School Or On The Bus:

1. Electronic Devices: radios, TVs, tape players, 2-way radios, music compact discs/ players (CD), video games or recorders, pagers, tapes, laser pointers, MP3 player, iPod, PDA, toys (unless specified by the teacher) etc.
2. Candy, raffle tickets, food items, or other non-school sponsored money-making items should not be brought to school to sell or exchange.
3. Weapons (real, toy or look-a-like), mace, pepper spray, finger shields, spiked jewelry, chains, knives, and brass knuckles are considered weapons in the Hinds County School District and should not be brought to school.
4. Laser lights. Students who bring these lights and are instrumental in causing injury to others will be subject to disciplinary action, including expulsion.
5. Any other items that will be disruptive to the learning process are prohibited. These items include trading and playing cards, dice and other gambling paraphernalia, cigarettes or tobacco products, matches, and lighters, and large sums of money not designated for school activities; and, any illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia.
6. Sharp pointed scissors. Rounded-edged scissors or safety scissors are allowable if scissors are required as a supply item.
7. Rolling Book Bags. These type book bags have become a serious problem in our schools due to safety, noise, and floor damage concerns. Medical exemptions are allowed with appropriate documentation from a child's physician.

Students should bring only school supplies. The teacher or principal will contact parents if students are to bring other items. The parent or legal guardian must pick up items confiscated by the school within 48 hours, or they forfeit the illegal items to the school.

Cell Phone/Electronic Devices Policy:

1. Cell phones and all **mobile devices shall be TURNED OFF** when entering school campus. Cell phones and all personal mobile devices shall be kept in a student's backpack, bag, purse, or clothing pockets. Cell phones and all personal mobile devices are not allowed to be used in a classroom, library, common areas, or restrooms.
2. First offense. The phone or personal electronic device is kept for 15 school days. OR the parent can pay a \$30 fee to the school student activity fund and receive the phone earlier. Parents may pick up cell phones or personal electronic devices the next school day after either the fee is paid or the 15 days has passed.

3. Second offense. The phone or personal electronic device is kept for 30 school days OR the parent can pay a fee of \$50 to the school student activity fund and receive the phone or electronic device. Parents may pick up cell phones or personal electronic devices the next school day after either the fee is paid or the 30 days has passed.
4. Third offense. The student will no longer be able to bring a phone or personal electronic device on campus. Consequences may include: discovery placement and RESTART placement.
5. The parent or legal guardian must pick up confiscated cell phones or personal electronic device at the school within 15 days after the 30-day policy ends, or they forfeit the phone or the personal electronic device to the school.

***This does not apply to students who use their device to commit offenses that violate the District's Social Media Agreement.

Student Bullying

The Hinds County School District does not condone and will not tolerate bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that (a) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, or (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits. A "hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior will not be condoned or tolerated when it takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus, or when it takes place off school property when such conduct, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders the offending person's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole.

The Hinds County School District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no student or school employee is subjected to bullying or harassing behavior by other school employees or students. Likewise, the District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no person engages in any act of reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness or a person with reliable information about an act of bullying or harassing behavior. The District encourages anyone who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or school employee has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior to report the incident to the appropriate school official.

Any student or school employee who feels he/she has been a victim of bullying or harassing behavior shall have the fundamental right to defend by reporting such conduct to the principal. The report shall be made promptly but no later than five (5) calendar days after the alleged act or acts occurred.

Ref: SB 2015; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-301(e)

Bus Discipline

Appropriate bus behavior is required of all students. Bus disciplinary offenses include:

1. Failure to follow directions the first time that they are given.
2. Failure to stay in assigned seat and keep hands and feet in the bus (no hanging any part of the body out of the window).
3. Exiting the school bus when it stops at another school or bus stop.
4. Failure to refrain from eating, drinking, or smoking.
5. Failure to refrain from throwing any type of object either on the bus or from the bus.
6. Failure to refrain from engaging in any physical contact.
7. Failure to refrain from loud or profane talking.
8. Failure to refrain from defacing or vandalizing the bus.
9. Failure to refrain from harassing or bothering other students.
10. Failure to refrain from fighting.
11. Failure to refrain from littering.
12. Failure to refrain from disrespecting the driver.

The nature and severity of individual student actions will determine the level of disciplinary action and may result in suspension from the bus and the school. Students receiving referrals for failure to observe the bus behavior described above will be disciplined as follows **for students in grades K-5:**

1st Referral	Three (3) days suspension from riding the bus
2 nd Referral	Five (5) days suspension from riding the bus
3 rd Referral	Ten (10) day suspension from riding the bus
4 th Referral	Thirty (30) day suspension from riding the bus
5 th Referral	Expulsion from the bus for the remainder of the year

Students receiving referrals for failure to observe the bus behavior described above will be disciplined as follows **for students in grades 6-12:**

1 st Referral	Five (5) days suspension from riding the bus
2 nd Referral	Ten (10) days suspension from riding the bus
3 rd Referral	Thirty (30) day suspension from riding the bus
4 th Referral	Expulsion from the bus for the remainder of the year

STUDENT DISCIPLINE PLAN

It is the philosophy of the Hinds County School District that all employees and students have the right to work in a safe environment; that all school employees have the right to carry out their job responsibilities in an environment free from undue disruption and/or intimidation; and that all students have a right to a school and bus environment conducive to learning and free from distractions, disruptions, and intimidation. Students who violate the law (fighting, drugs, weapons, etc.) will be arrested and taken to the Hinds County Detention Center. If the school is unable to reach the parent or guardian by telephone, law enforcement will contact the parent.

Class I Behaviors

1. Distractions or disruptions of normal classroom operations
2. Violating student dress code as outlined in the student dress code section
3. Absences or tardiness
4. Inappropriate public display of affection
5. Bullying
6. Personal contact such as pushing and shoving
7. Inappropriate bus conduct or violating bus rules
8. Any other offense which the principal may reasonably judge to fall within this category

Class II Behaviors

1. Habitual violations of Class I behaviors (three or more violations)
2. Using and/or possessing matches or lighters
3. Defacing or destruction of school property (Ex: writing on desks, walls, etc.)
4. Stealing – under \$10.00 in value
5. Bullying
6. Cutting class
7. Inappropriate bus conduct or violating bus rules
8. Any other offense which the principal may reasonably judge to fall within this category

Class III Behaviors

1. Habitual violations of Class II Behaviors (three or more violations are considered habitual violations)
2. Bullying
3. Vandalizing school property (non-gang related)
4. Personal contact such as pushing and shoving (severe)
5. Out of assigned area
6. Ammunition, possession or use of
7. Using vulgar, abusive, or profane language, acts, and/or gestures
8. Stealing – over \$10.00 in value
9. Failure to identify self or intentionally providing false information to any school employee or member of the school board
10. Conspiring to or creating a disturbance in the classroom, on the bus, on school property, or at any school function, or verbally threatening such a disturbance
11. Written or verbal proposition to engage in a sexual act
12. Habitually leaving school without permission, cutting classes, or not following proper procedures in leaving campus
13. Refusing to surrender any item not allowed at school
14. Insubordination, disrespect for authority, willful disobedience

15. Failure to serve detention
16. Membership in fraternities, sororities, or secret societies
17. Inappropriate bus conduct or violating bus rules
18. Any other offense which the principal may reasonably judge to fall within this category
19. Electronic or social media threats that create a disruption to the school day.
20. Violation of the terms listed in the Student Social Media Agreement.

****Disciplinary Options for Class I, II, and III Behaviors. The severity of the discipline increases as the Class level increases.***

1. Habitual violators of Class I, II or III behaviors may receive up to 10 days' suspension.
2. Administrative, student, parent, and teacher(s) conference
3. Contact parents. Parents are financially liable for a child's destructive acts toward school property or persons; and if the school requests, the parents will be required to attend a disciplinary conference. Parents who willfully fail to attend a properly noticed conference may be guilty of a misdemeanor. Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-53.
4. Loss of privileges to all school activities (Ex: field trips, assemblies, class parties, etc.)
5. Total restitution for any injury to others requiring medical attention, or for items stolen or damaged
6. Detention – Failure to report for Detention may result in out-of-school suspension.
7. In-school detention
8. Bus - See Bus Discipline Policy
9. Out of school suspension
10. Discovery Center Placement
11. Long-term suspension with recommendation of placement at the RESTART Center
12. Other appropriate action deemed necessary by the principal
13. Mandatory four (4) weeks of counseling using Positive Action or Social Skills Improvement System
14. Students who are involved in any criminal or violent behavior may be arrested by law enforcement and transported to the Hinds County Detention Center.

* All of these disciplinary actions are available to deal with student offenses. The nature and severity of individual student actions will determine any final disciplinary action.

Class IV Behaviors

1. Habitual violations of Class III Behaviors (three or more violations)
2. Bullying
3. Burglarizing or unlawful possession of school property
4. Possession of or use of fireworks
5. Extortion
6. Gambling

7. Trespassing
8. Fighting/verbal or physical assault
9. Indecent Exposure
10. Using abusive language or abusive behavior to district personnel or students
11. Intimidation by placing someone in fear of his/her safety
12. Vandalizing school property (gang related, gang graffiti, etc)
13. Stealing of items over \$100
14. Sexual harassment: written, verbal, or suggestive
15. Use and/or possessing tobacco, vaping, smokeless tobacco and tobacco-related products
16. Possession, distribution, or Internet viewing of pornographic materials
17. Participating in the production of pornographic images/materials
18. Possession of or distribution of non-prescription medications
19. Possession of any vaping device, oils or inserts
20. Display of a reasonable suspicion of being under the influence of narcotics, controlled substances and/or alcohol. Note that parents or guardians may provide an appropriate drug or alcohol test within 4 hours to demonstrate that no such impairment exists. If an appropriate drug or alcohol test is not provided to show no such impairment exists, school administration will move forward with disciplinary action.
21. Inappropriate bus conduct or violating bus rules
22. Display of inappropriate touching (sexual)
23. Distractions or disruptions of normal classroom operations (Severe)
24. Any other offense which the principal may reasonably judge to fall within this category.
25. Violation of the terms listed in the Student Social Media Agreement.

****Disciplinary Actions for Class IV Behaviors***

1. Habitual violations of certain Class I, II, and III behaviors may result in alternative school placement
2. Up to ten (10) or more days of suspension
3. Bus Discipline- See Bus Discipline Policy
4. Discovery Center Placement.
5. Long-term suspension with recommendation of placement at the RESTART Center
6. Total restitution for any injury to others requiring medical attention, or for items stolen or damaged
7. Other appropriate action deemed necessary by the principal
8. Mandatory four (4) weeks of counseling using Positive Action or Social Skills Improvement System
9. Students who are involved in any criminal or violent behavior may be arrested by law enforcement and transported to the Hinds County Detention Center.

* All of these disciplinary actions are available to deal with student offenses. The nature and severity of individual student actions will determine any final disciplinary action.

Class V Behaviors

1. Habitual violations of Class IV Behaviors (three or more violations)
2. Intimidation by placing someone in fear or his/her safety (severe)
3. Burglarizing a district facility or district /personal automobile
4. Unlawful possession of school property
5. Possession, use, sale, or distribution of alcohol
6. Possession of any item that has the shape, form, or appearance of or intended use as a weapon
7. Physical and/or verbal assault of teachers, administrators, visitors, other staff members or student
8. Verbal or written threat toward self or others
9. Participating in or causing a disturbance at school or school-related activities – riot, group/gang-fights, fights, or similar disturbances
10. Engaging in or the appearance of engaging in a sexual act
11. Robbery
12. Mace or pepper spray-type device, possession or use of
13. Arson
14. Bomb threats/setting off fire alarm/vocalizing a false fire alarm
15. Inappropriate bus conduct or violating bus rules
16. Any other offense which the principal may reasonably judge to fall within this category
17. Indecent Exposure.
18. Electronic or social media threats that create a major disruption to the school day.
19. Violation of the terms listed in the Student Social Media Agreement.

****Disciplinary Actions for Class V Behaviors***

1. Expulsion – For Class V behaviors, reported violations of the Code of Conduct. **EXPULSION IS DEFINED AS THE COMPLETE LOSS OF ALL PRIVILEGES IN THE K-12 PROGRAM.**
2. While on expelled or suspended status, a student is not allowed to enter the campus or building of any Hinds County school during or outside of school hours, nor may the student attend any school-related activity on or off school property. To do so may make the student liable for arrest on grounds of trespassing as well as jeopardizing future chance of readmission to the school district.
3. Students who meet the entrance requirements for the RESTART Center program may be assigned to that program.
4. Students who are involved in any criminal or violent behavior may be arrested by law enforcement and transported to the Hinds County Detention Center.
5. Any compulsory school-age child who becomes involved in any criminal or violent behavior shall be removed from such RESTART Center program, and with probable cause, the case will be referred to Youth Court.
6. Bus suspension
7. Mandatory four (4) weeks of counseling using Positive Action or Social Skills Improvement System
8. Other appropriate action deemed necessary by the principal

Class VI Behaviors

1. Possession or use of a deadly weapon
2. Possession, sale, or use of any controlled substance, prescription drug or “look alike” drug
3. Possession of any dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine, or powerful explosive
4. Bullying
5. Assault resulting in serious physical injury or simple verbal or physical assault on any school employee or student
6. Sexual assault or sexual battery as defined under Mississippi law
7. Rape
8. Kidnapping
9. Indecent liberties with a minor as defined in Miss. Code Ann. § 97-5-23
10. Assault involving the use of a weapon
11. Possession of a firearm in violation of the law
12. Murder

NOTE: A weapon is any gun, BB gun, air rifle, air pistol, Bowie knife, dirk, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, tasers, switchblade knife, blackjack, Gerber knife, **metallic or brass knuckles**, razors and razor blades, and any sharp-pointed or edged instrument except for those used as instructional supplies, unaltered nail files, and clips and tools used solely for food preparation, instruction, and maintenance on educational property. Miss. Code Ann. § 97-37-14.

****Disciplinary Actions for Class VI Behaviors***

Students in any school who possess any controlled substance in violation of the Uniform Control Substance Law, a knife, handgun or other firearm, or any other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm or who commit a violent act on school property as defined in Miss. Code Ann. § 97-37-17, shall be subject to automatic expulsion for one calendar year by the superintendent or principal from such school. Such expulsion shall take effect immediately subject to the constitutional rights of due process. Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-18.

The superintendent or his/her designee must immediately report to law enforcement agencies when there is a reasonable belief that an unlawful activity has occurred on school property or during a school activity. Students who are involved in any criminal or violent behavior may be arrested by law enforcement and transported to the Hinds County Detention Center. The superintendent or his/her designee may be fined up to \$1,000.00, jailed for six months, or both, for failure to report. When a report is received, law enforcement must immediately dispatch an officer; and an arrest may be made if there is probable cause. Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-29. (Board Policy JCBE)

IDEA Students (§ 300.520 Authority of School Personnel)

School personnel may order the removal of a student for not more than ten (10) consecutive school days to the extent that such removals would be applied to children without a disability for the same offense or when the student’s behavior is deemed to be dangerous behavior. More specific information may be found in the unabridged version of this handbook or at the district web site at <http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us>.

SCHOOL VIOLENCE

In an effort to prevent the escalation of school violence, the legislature passed several new laws that severely impact the responsibilities of both parents and students. This portion of the Student Code of Conduct and Discipline Plan is designed to highlight these laws. Specific information may be found in the unabridged version of this handbook or at the district web site at <http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us>.

Automatic Expulsion

Any student in any school who possesses any controlled substance in violation of the Uniform Control Substances Law, a knife, handgun, other firearm, or any other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm or who commits a violent act on school property shall be subject to automatic expulsion for one calendar year by the superintendent from such school. However, the superintendent may modify the period of time on a case-by-case basis. Such expulsion shall take effect immediately subject to the constitutional rights of due process. MS Code Ann. § 37-11-18. (Board Policies JCBH, JCDAE)

Parental Responsibility

It is the parent or guardians' responsibility to provide appropriate emergency contact phone numbers where they can be reached. It is also the parent or guardian's responsibility to check their children's book bags and person each morning before children leave home for school for the presence of any items that are not allowed at school.

A parent may be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined up to \$1,000.00, imprisoned for six (6) months, or both for knowingly allowing a student under the age of 18 to have, own, or carry a concealed weapon unless otherwise exempted by law. MS Code Ann. § 97-37-15.

A parent, guardian, or custodian of a compulsory school-age child enrolled in a public school district shall be responsible for any criminal fines brought against the student for unlawful activity as defined in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-29 occurring on school grounds.

A public school district is entitled to recover damages in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 plus necessary court costs from the parents of any student between the ages of 7 and 17 who maliciously and willfully damages or destroys property belonging to that school district. However, this section does not apply to parents whose parental control of such student has been removed by court order or decree. These damages are in addition to any other recovery.

Reporting Requirements for Unlawful Activity

Any school employee who has knowledge of any unlawful activity which occurred or may have occurred on educational property or during a school-related activity must report such activity to the superintendent or his/her designee who shall notify the appropriate law enforcement officials.

Release of Law Enforcement Records

Law enforcement records of students taken into custody for committing a felony or offense involving the use or possession of a dangerous weapon may be released to appropriate school officials without a court order upon written request.

References: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-19, 37-11-53, 97-37-1, 97-3-7, 37-11-29, 37-11-59.

MHSAA Hazing/Harassment Policy

Hinds County School District forbids hazing. Hazing can be defined as any act or ceremony which can create the risk of harm to a student. Students who participate in such activity will be subject to punishment and may be expelled.

Students should report incidents of hazing to the school guidance counselor and/or other administrative personnel.

DUE PROCESS

The Due Process procedure provides the following in instances of serious misconduct which may result in a suspension, Discovery, RESTRART Placement or expulsion: (a) adequate notice of the charge against a student, (b) an opportunity for a hearing and to present evidence, and (c) a decision supported by the evidence. (Board Policy JCAA)

Student's Right to a Hearing

Whenever a student is suspended, school authorities shall make every reasonable effort to notify the parents or legal guardian. Each student who has been suspended for more than ten (10) consecutive days, or who has been recommended for expulsion or RESTART placement, is automatically given notice of right to a hearing before the School Appeals Committee. Failure of the student, parent, and/or legal counsel to appear at the proper time and place shall waive the rights to attend a formal hearing.

Suspension Reentry Conference

Whenever a student is suspended or placed at the RESTART Center, the parents or legal guardian may be required by the principal to bring the student back to school for a mandatory parent conference before the suspension ends. A student whose parent or guardian fails to accompany him/her for this conference will not be allowed to come back to school.

Grievance Procedure

Students' complaints and grievances shall be resolved through orderly processes and at the lowest possible level. In the event that a resolution is not obtained at the school level, further appeal may be made following Board Policy JCE which is posted on the district's web site at <http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us>.

Anyone having any complaints alleging discrimination on the basis of sex or any inquiries on the application of Title IX may contact the Human Resource Coordinator.

The Hinds County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, religion, or national origin.

Organization of Fraternities, Sororities and Secret Societies in the School

Students in the Hinds County School District are prohibited by state law and district policy from belonging to or participating in any activities of any high school fraternity, sorority, or secret society as defined in MS CODE 37-11-37. Any participation by students in fraternities, sororities, or secret organizations will result in suspension and/or expulsion from the Hinds County School District. (Board Policy JHCAA).

Sexual Harassment

Board Policies GACN and JB forbid discrimination against any employee, applicant for employment, or student on the basis of sex. These policies may be found on the district web site at <http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us>.

FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) 2015

The district fully complies with the federal legislation outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act. Parents and/or legal guardians of a student in the Hinds County School District have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers and paraprofessionals who instruct their child. Therefore, the Hinds County School District makes available to all of our parents and/or legal guardians, upon request, information regarding the qualifications of their child's teacher(s). The information we will provide will include the following: 1) whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas taught; 2) whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status; 3) The baccalaureate degree of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree; and 4) whether any assistant teacher providing instructional services to the student has met the required qualifications.

If you are interested in receiving this information, please submit your written request to the Director of State and Federal Programs, Hinds County School District, 13192 Highway 18, Raymond, MS 39154.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The school district will not, except for "directory information," disclose personally identifiable information from the education records of a student without prior written consent from the parent or the eligible student. Prior consent of the parent or eligible student is not required when the school releases such information to other school officials (including teachers), officials of another school district in which the student seeks to enroll, or other federal, state and educational agencies as enumerated in Public Law 93-579.

The schools in the district will upon occasion use/publish personally identifiable information including honor rolls, student work, school annuals, athletic rosters, class rolls, audio-visual and photographic representations, and school-sponsored club and activity rosters. The Hinds County School District also utilizes a Multi-Channel School-to-Parent Notification system. Parents who wish their children excluded from these practices must advise the principal of the school, in writing, no later than fourteen (14) days after the student's enrollment or receipt of this handbook, whichever is later. Appeals regarding the decisions of school principals concerning educational records may be made to the Superintendent of Education at the administrative office address listed in this publication. Parents of eligible students have the following rights under FERPA:

- The right to inspect and review the student's education records
- The right to seek the amendment of the education records
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information.
- The right to file a complaint concerning alleged failures to comply with FERPA

Specific information may be found in the unabridged version of this handbook or at the district web site at <http://www.hinds.k12.ms.us>.

Annual Notification (Board Policy JRAB)

Students and parents will have access to their school records. Parents/students may contact the individual school for procedures to obtain these records.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

The Hinds County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion or age in the admission to and provision of educational programs, activities and services or employment opportunities and benefits. The following office has been designated to handle inquiries and complaints regarding the non-discrimination policies of the district.

Beverly Hay, Human Resources & Title IX Coordinator

Hinds County School District
13192 Highway 18
Raymond, MS 39154
601.857.5222

Parental Involvement (Board Policy LAA)

Under the auspices of the Every Student Succeeds Act, (ESSA) 2015, the Hinds County School District provides both school wide and targeted assisted services to eligible schools. The Hinds County School District seeks to engage in a relationship with the parents that will encourage parental involvement in all facets of the educational environment. The board also encourages every school to form an active and effective parent-teacher organization.

Asbestos Notice—Annual Notification

We are informing all parents and school employees of their option to review the asbestos management plan, which includes documentation of any changes of asbestos-containing materials in the schools. A copy of the re-inspection report has been filed with the Mississippi Department of Education. A copy of the surveillance report and a copy of the management plan are located in the principal's office at each school. A copy of all management plans for the district is maintained in the office of the Maintenance Supervisor at 13328 Highway 18, Raymond, Mississippi. Any interested party should feel free to go to any of these locations to review these reports.

CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT

Hinds County School District School District Internet Safety Policy

Introduction

It is the policy of **Hinds County School District** to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

Definitions

Key terms are as defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act.

Access to Inappropriate Material

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.

Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled for adults or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Inappropriate Network Usage

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the **Hinds County School District** online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

Specifically, as required by the Children’s Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called ‘hacking,’ and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

Education, Supervision and Monitoring

It shall be the responsibility of all members of the **Hinds County School District’s** staff to educate, supervise and monitor appropriate usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy, the Children’s Internet Protection Act, the Neighborhood Children’s Internet Protection Act, and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.

Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Technology Director or designated representatives. The **Hinds County School District** or designated representatives will provide age-appropriate training for students who use the **Hinds County School District** Internet facilities. The training provided will be designed to promote the **Hinds County School District’s** commitment to:

- I. The standards and acceptable use of Internet services as set forth in the Hinds County School District’s Internet Safety Policy;
- II. Student safety with regard to:
 - a. Safety on the Internet;
 - b. Appropriate behavior while online, on social networking Websites, and in chat rooms; and
 - c. Cyber bullying awareness and response.
- III. Compliance with the E-rate requirements of the Children’s Internet Protection Act (“CIPA”)

Following receipt of this training, the student will acknowledge that he/she received the training, understood it, and will follow the provisions of the District’s acceptable use policies.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES (BOARD POLICY JTA)

The Hinds County School District is pleased to offer students and staff access to a computer network for electronic mail (e-mail) and the Internet. To gain access to e-mail and the Internet, all students must obtain parental permission as verified by the signatures on the Internet/Technology Acceptance Use Policy Consent. Should a parent prefer that a student not have e-mail and Internet access, use of the computers is still possible for more traditional purposes such as word processing.

What is possible?

Access to e-mail and the Internet will enable users to explore thousands of libraries, databases, museums, and other repositories of information and to exchange personal communication with other Internet users around the world. Families should be aware that some material accessible via the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive. While the purpose is to provide Internet resources for constructive educational goals, users may find ways to access other materials. The Technology Department is

actively monitoring Internet usage for inappropriate content and blocking unwanted sites. We believe that the benefits to users from access to the Internet in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration exceed the disadvantages. But ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. Therefore, we support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

What is expected?

Users are responsible for appropriate behavior on the school's computer network just as they are in a classroom or on a school playground. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. It is expected that users will comply with district standards and the specific rules set forth below. The use of the network is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused. The user is personally responsible for his/her actions in accessing and utilizing the school's computer resources. The users are advised never to access, keep, or send anything that they would not want others to see.

What are the rules?

Privacy - Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. Technology administrators may review communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly.

Storage capacity - Users are expected to remain within allocated disk space and delete e-mail or other material which take up excessive storage space.

Illegal copying - Users should never download or install any commercial software, shareware, or freeware onto network drives or disks, unless they have written permission from the Technology Director. Nor should users copy other people's work or intrude into other people's files.

Inappropriate materials or language - Profane, abusive or impolite language should not be used to communicate nor should materials be accessed which are not in line with the rules of school behavior. A good rule to follow is never view, send, or access materials which you would not want others see. Should users encounter such material by accident, they should report it their teacher or principal immediately.

These are guidelines to follow to prevent the loss of network privileges.

1. Do not use a computer to harm other people or their work.
2. Do not damage the computer or the network in any way.
3. Do not interfere with the operation of the network by installing illegal software, shareware, or freeware.
4. Do not violate copyright laws.
5. Do not view, send, or display offensive messages or pictures.
6. Do not share your password with another person.
7. Do not waste limited resources such as disk space or printing capacity.
8. Do not trespass in another's folders, work, or files.
9. Do notify an adult immediately if by accident, you encounter materials which violate the rules of appropriate use.
10. Do install wireless access points, media devices, or personal laptops on the district network.
11. BE PREPARED to be held accountable for your actions and for the loss of privileges if the Rules of Appropriate Use are violated.

HANDBOOK UPDATES AND REVISIONS

This handbook is updated each school year to better serve the parents and students of Hinds County School District. If you have specific recommendations on how we can improve this publication to better serve you, please let us know. You may write to specific staff members listed in the front of this directory or contact Ms. Michelle Ray Assistant Superintendent, who will ensure that all suggestions are carefully reviewed each year for possible inclusion in next year's handbook. You may email your suggestions to her at mray@hinds.k12.ms.us or by regular mail at: Hinds County School District, 13192 Highway 18, Raymond, MS 39154.

WEB PAGE

In an effort to provide better information to parents and students, the district maintains a comprehensive web page with a wide variety of information. You may access this page at the following address: www.hinds.k12.ms.us. If you have recommendations for additions or revisions to the web page, please contact Mrs. Lisa Jones, Technology Director, via email at ljones@hinds.k12.ms.us or by telephone at 601.857.5222.

Parent Resources

In Hinds County School District, we are striving to keep parents connected. This section will guide you through two important aspects of our parent information page, Parent Livebinder and Testing. This information is available at www.hinds.k12.ms.us. The Livebinder is a tool we use to hold information and share documents. Parents are able to find the curriculum pacing for English Language Arts and Mathematics K-12, as well as other curriculum information. From the Testing link, you will find information regarding what state test are given for each grade level with a short summary of each test. You will also find the testing window, or testing dates for each test listed.

Hinds County School District State and District Required Assessments

MS Kindergarten Readiness.....	PreK-Kindergarten
3 rd Grade Reading Assessment.....	MAAP- Grade 3
MS Academic Assessment Program.....	MAAP- Grades 3-8
MS Academic Assessment Program.....	MAAP-EOC) End of Course, Grades 9-12
MS Academic Assessment Program.....	Science (MAAP Science) Grades 5&8
MS Academic Assessment Program Alternate.....	MAAP-A Exception <i>Education Only</i> Grades 3-12
MS Career Planning & Assessment System.....	MS CPAS2- Grades 10-12
ACT State Testing.....	Grade 11
English Language Proficiency Test.....	LAS Links- Grades K-12
STAR - Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP).....	Universal Screener Grades PK-1
I – Ready.....	Universal Screener Grades K-8

District Assessments

1. Bi-Weekly Test.....*Grades K-12*
2. Mid Term Assessments.....*Grades K-12*
3. Nine Weeks Assessments.....*Grades K-12*

Early Graduation

Students desiring to graduate one semester prior to their cohort graduation month of May must complete all graduation requirements of the following by May of their Junior year.

- Successfully meet all End of Course Assessment requirements
- Attain ACT benchmark Scores of:
 - English 18 or Reading 22
 - Math 19

Additionally, students must meet the following requirements to graduate in December of the Senior year:

- Meet all course requirements for graduation
- Attain a 2.5 GPA
- Complete one AP (take AP exam) or Dual Credit Course (B or higher)

Senior Early Release

Students classified as Seniors must complete the following requirements to participate in Senior Early Release:

- Students must have the required number of Carnegie units for graduation in May of their senior year
- Students must meet all End of Course Assessment graduation requirements
- Students must meet the ACT Benchmark Subscores:
 - English 17 or Reading 22
 - Math 19
- Students must have a 2.5 GPA
- Students must complete one AP (take AP exam) or Dual Credit Course (C or higher)
- Students must be on track for May graduation
- Students must have paid all Graduation Fees
- Students may be released following 3rd period classes.

Hinds County School District

An Overview for Redesigning Educational Delivery

SY 2022-2023

Introduction

During the 2020-2021 school year, the leadership of the Hinds County School District (HCSD) worked daily to develop plan what the return to school will look and feel like for our students, staff, and families. Ensuring the health and safety of our school community continues to be our top priority as we plan for a full return to in person learning 2022-2023 school year. With this in mind, HCSD's Task Force has thoroughly reviewed the current guidance from state and national public health officials.

We are committed to ensuring health and safety for all of our students, faculty, and staff.

Now that we understand more about COVID-19, our plans have evolved. We continue to be committed to these guiding principles:

- **Maintaining the health, wellness, and safety of the entire school community**
 - Compliance with recommendations from the CDC and MSDH
 - Preparedness for responding to local, state, and federal orders
- Committing to developing equitable and innovative approaches that meet the academic and social-emotional needs of all students
- Supporting all staff to adapt and respond to the instructional needs of all students
- Sustaining open communication with the HCSD community

As we continue to navigate these uncharted waters due to COVID-19, the district is taking additional steps to support our students, teachers, schools and community. The leadership of the Hinds County School District has outlined these five areas for planning:

- Operations (Encompasses MDE's Health and Safety)
- Academic Programming
- Student, Family, and Staff Support Plan (Encompasses MDE's Family and Community Support & Communications)
- Technology / Learning Management Systems
- Professional Development

Academic Calendar

We will begin the 2022-2023 school year on August 10, 2022 (See *Appendix A* for the board-approved district calendar). If we need to suspend classes due to health and safety conditions, teaching and learning will continue online. For the most updated information, please refer to our COVID-19 webpage on the district website. We look forward to welcoming students and families on the first day of school.

Instructional Continuity

We have included information about the District's communications platform of choice, Google Classroom,

which is provided through the HCSD's Google Accounts and accessible through the Clever portal. This technology enables teachers and students to communicate securely. We have also shared information about Zoom Video Conferencing, which will be used for video and audio conferencing. Teachers will use the District's Remind account as a private mobile messaging platform to help teachers, parents, students, and administrators communicate with the entire school community, small groups, or individuals. We have also started to use [Flip Grid](#), which is a tool teachers may use to send brief video messages to students and parents via Remind or Google Classroom.

The District will continue to offer teachers opportunities for professional development in alignment with needs as time, situations, and responses develop.

How will the 2022-2023 schedules look for students?

- **TRADITIONAL IN-PERSON SCHEDULE FOR PK – 12TH GRADE**
 - Attend school 5 full days per week
 - HCSD will follow public health guidelines for safety while students are together in school

How will instructional content be delivered?

Instruction will be provided in the following delivery methods.

TRADITIONAL TEACHER-DIRECTED INSTRUCTIONAL MODEL IN GRADEK PK – 12TH (Via collaboration and communication tools)

- Implementation of the HCSD Instructional Pacing Guides
- In-person instruction daily
- Utilization of Google Classroom as an instructional tool (grades K- 12)
- Use of teacher-selected materials (e.g., digital links, print materials, district-adopted textbooks)
- Instruction provided through district-licensed online content resources (e.g., i-Ready, Waterford, etc.)

What instructional pacing will be followed?

The HCSD Instructional Pacing Guides are written in the traditional face-to-face delivery mode.

Health Protocols

COVID-19 is a disease caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2. The virus is thought to be spread easily from person to person, mainly through respiratory droplets. Identifiable symptoms include cough, shortness of breath, fever, new loss of taste or smell, chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.

Our parameters and protocols are based upon recommended preventive measures issued from the public health community. Follow these [CDC guidelines](#) to protect yourself and others:

- Maintain safe distance from other people.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, even inside your home.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow and do not spit. Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- Be alert for symptoms. Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19

- Take your temperature if symptoms develop.

People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19—excluding people who have had COVID-19 within the past 3 months or who are fully vaccinated.

- People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms.
- People who develop symptoms again within 3 months of their first bout of COVID-19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms.
- People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they have been fully vaccinated against the disease and show no symptoms.

What counts as close contact?

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

If you are exposed and NOT up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations

- Stay home for 5 full days
- Get tested at least 5 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19

After stopping quarantine, you should:

- Watch for symptoms until 10 days after exposure.
- If you have symptoms, immediately self-isolate and contact your local public health authority or healthcare provider.

If you are exposed and are up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations

- No quarantine needed
- Get tested at least 5 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19

If you were exposed to COVID-19 and had confirmed COVID-19 within the past 90 days (you tested positive using a viral test)

- No quarantine
- Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19
- If symptoms develop isolate immediately and get tested

How will students/ staff be separated while in school if exhibiting symptoms?

Each school will have a room or space separate from the nurse’s office where students or employees who may have COVID-19 or another communicable disease will wait to be evaluated or for pickup.

What will happen when there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the school building?

When there is confirmation that a person infected with COVID-19 was in a school building, the building level administrator will notify Central Office immediately. The HCSD will notify parents, students, and employees

of close contacts to inform them of the confirmed case of COVID-19.

Are face masks required?

No, mask wearing is recommended but not required.

Parent Responsibilities

Practice and reinforce good prevention habits with your family

- Mask are recommended but not required.
- It is advised that parents take their children’s temperature before leaving home. School staff will meet students at their cars/buses in order to conduct temperature checks before allowing students to enter the building.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Keep your child at home if sick with any illness.

If your child is sick, keep them at home and contact your healthcare provider.

Safety Protocols

HCS D continues to focus on the health and safety of our school community. We are designing health and safety protocols to minimize the exposure and spread of COVID-19 to students and staff, such as managing student and staff arrivals at school, maintaining safe social distancing, and increasing other healthy habits while in school buildings.

What health and safety measures will be implemented in our schools?

- Jackson Hinds Comprehensive Health Center clinics on each campus - COVID testing is available for staff and students.
- Staff are trained on CDC guidance to reduce likelihood of COVID-19 transmission
- Conduct temperature checks and health screenings upon arrival for each student and staff daily
- Promote frequent 20-second hand washing practices among staff and students
- Hand sanitizer will be provided and frequently used in each classroom
- Disinfect commonly used surfaces and areas frequently
- Identify isolation space for students who do not pass arrival screenings and/or become ill with COVID-19-related symptoms and must wait for parent pick up
- Require students and staff to stay home if they, or anyone in their household, have tested positive for COVID-19 and/or are showing any symptoms
- Bipolar Ionization will be mounted inside the HVAC systems, which has been proven 99.4% effective against SARS-CoV2—the virus that causes COVID-19. This technology cleans the air and surfaces without the use of chemicals, heavy metals or mercury, and produces no harmful by- products such as ozone or ultra-violet light.

Transportation Safety Protocols

The current transportation protocols are outlined below:

- Transportation will be provided and buses will run at full capacity.

We will also work closely with local after school care programs who will pick up students from school at the end of each day to implement appropriate safety measures. However, it should be noted that all safety measures for children are the responsibility of those facilities after students leave the school campus.

School Health Services Protocol

Jackson Hinds Comprehensive Health Center will operate clinics at each school. Jackson Hinds is dedicated to meeting the health care needs of the school community and will continue serving students, faculty, and staff via in-person and virtual visits.

COVID-19 Testing

- Students, faculty, and staff who develop symptoms of COVID-19 or who have been exposed to someone suspected of or confirmed with COVID-19 should call Jackson Hinds Comprehensive Health Services at **601-362-5321** or contact their medical provider immediately. At Jackson Hinds Comprehensive Health Services, a provider will assess and determine if you need to be tested at the clinic.
- You will be asked to quarantine until you receive your test results from a Health Care provider. You will be given instructions for what to expect next along with CDC guidance for at home care.

Reporting COVID-19 Positive Cases

- Parents must report positive tests to principal.
- The anonymity and confidentiality of persons with COVID-19 will be protected, and their identity will not be disclosed publicly.

Communication Protocol

Throughout this process, hearing from multiple viewpoints has been a priority, and sustaining open communication with the HCS D community is one of our guiding principles. We have received valuable feedback from stakeholders through surveys, phone calls, and planning communities. We will continue to encourage parents, teachers, students, and community members to share their concerns and ideas with us throughout this process. We recognize as we learn more about COVID-19 and our guidelines from local, state and federal agencies change, so may our plans for the 2022-2023 school year.

Our Hotline will remain open to receive your questions and feedback. As the virus and guidelines change, we will adjust to keep our community safe. For the most updated information, please refer to our [COVID-19](#) webpage. We will continue to use the Remind app as a means of communicating two-way messages to parents as well as sending short videos and messages to students as warranted.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) / <http://www.cdc.gov>

Hinds County School District Student Social Media Agreement

As a student of Hinds County School District, I recognize I have a responsibility to support the efforts of my teachers, administrators, and fellow students to create a safe and welcoming learning environment free from threatening, harassing, or intimidating language. I understand my behavior online—including the content, images, and links I post and share on social media, websites, and other digital platforms—is an important part of whether my peers, teachers, administrators, and others feel safe and comfortable.

I also understand the Hinds County School District student handbook prohibits the use of sharing or accessing information or content that includes “profane, abusive, or impolite language ... not in line with the rules of school behavior.” I understand that if I encounter this type of material, I should report it to my principal immediately. In addition, I recognize that the following behaviors are prohibited and extend to my conduct online, including but not limited to:

- Using vulgar, abusive, or profane language, acts, and/or gestures
- Conspiring to or creating a disturbance in the classroom, on the bus, on school property, or at any school function, or verbally threatening such a disturbance
- Bullying
- Using abusive language or abusive behavior to district personnel or students
- The use of cell phones to acquire or distribute inappropriate video or photography
- The forwarding, posting, reposting, airdrop, and the sending of messages via text or messaging apps of inappropriate information on websites or blogs or sharing of social media content by any means.

Recognizing the above:

- I take responsibility for my online profiles, including my posts and any photos, videos, or other recordings posted by others in which I appear.
- I will not post or share any threatening, harassing, or intimidating content via social media, text message, messaging apps, or any other digital communication platform.
- I will refrain from sharing posts or text messages that contain threats, degrading messages, or content that can be construed as bullying towards my peers.
- I will immediately report any social media post, text message, or other digital content that contains an explicit or implied threat to the safety of my fellow students, faculty, staff, or member of the community.
- **It is my responsibility to report any inappropriate messages and/or post to my school administrator(s) and inform my parent or guardian immediately.**
- I understand and I will not forward, post, repost, airdrop, and send messages via text or messaging apps of inappropriate information on websites, blogs or other digital platforms.
- Consequences may include: ISD, OSS, discovery placement, restart placement, expulsion and/or arrest.

I understand my failure to do any of the above may result in disciplinary action or potential criminal charges.

Print Name

Signature

School

Date

Hinds County School District
Student Social Media Agreement

As a student of Hinds County School District, I recognize I have a responsibility to support the efforts of my teachers, administrators, and fellow students to create a safe and welcoming learning environment free from threatening, harassing, or intimidating language. I understand my behavior online—including the content, images, and links I post and share on social media, websites, and other digital platforms—is an important part of whether my peers, teachers, administrators, and others feel safe and comfortable.

I also understand the Hinds County School District student handbook prohibits the use of sharing or accessing information or content that includes “profane, abusive, or impolite language ... not in line with the rules of school behavior.” I understand that if I encounter this type of material, I should report it to my principal immediately. In addition, I recognize that the following behaviors are prohibited and extend to my conduct online, including but not limited to:

- Using vulgar, abusive, or profane language, acts, and/or gestures
- Conspiring to or creating a disturbance in the classroom, on the bus, on school property, or at any school function, or verbally threatening such a disturbance
- Bullying
- Using abusive language or abusive behavior to district personnel or students
- The use of cell phones to acquire or distribute inappropriate video or photography
- The forwarding, posting, reposting, airdrop, and the sending of messages via text or messaging apps of inappropriate information on websites or blogs or sharing of social media content by any means.

Recognizing the above:

- I take responsibility for my online profiles, including my posts and any photos, videos, or other recordings posted by others in which I appear.
- I will not post or share any threatening, harassing, or intimidating content via social media, text message, messaging apps, or any other digital communication platform.
- I will refrain from sharing posts or text messages that contain threats, degrading messages, or content that can be construed as bullying towards my peers.
- I will immediately report any social media post, text message, or other digital content that contains an explicit or implied threat to the safety of my fellow students, faculty, staff, or member of the community.
- **It is my responsibility to report any inappropriate messages and/or post to my school administrator(s) and inform my parent or guardian immediately.**
- I understand and I will not forward, post, repost, airdrop, and send messages via text or messaging apps of inappropriate information on websites, blogs or other digital platforms.
- Consequences may include: ISD, OSS, discovery placement, restart placement, expulsion and/or arrest.

I understand my failure to do any of the above may result in disciplinary action or potential criminal charges.

Print Name

Signature

School

Date

PARENT AUTHORIZATION AND AGREEMENT FORM

Off Campus Educational Experiences: I hereby request and **CONSENT / DO NOT CONSENT** (circle and initial your choice) that my child or ward be permitted to participate in any and all field trips this year. (You will be notified prior to each trip.) I understand that this trip is a part of the school's educational program and that my child or ward may be accompanied and transported by a teacher or other officials or volunteers of the school district. I agree that no teacher or other school district official or volunteer parent will be held responsible for any injuries or damages occurring on such trip. In the event a claim is made, I agree to limit such claim to my child's or ward's share of any insurance proceeds, if any, available on any policy held by the person against whom such claim is made.

Student/Parent Handbook: I HAVE / HAVE NOT RECEIVED (circle and initial as appropriate) a copy of the HCSD Student / Parent Handbook outlining the district's policies, discipline guidelines and code of conduct, and understand that it is my responsibility to read its contents and explain them to my child. I understand the attendance policy states that only doctor's excuses or legal excuses create an excused absence. I also understand that the district is not responsible for any medical bills or balances not covered under a student's insurance policy.

Parent Authorization and Indemnity Agreement Emergency Treatment: I, the undersigned parent/s or guardian/s of _____

, a minor child attending the HCSD, who is diabetic or potentially at risk for seizures, coma, or other such medical emergency request that the personnel of the Hinds County School District summon Emergency Medical Services ("EMS") personnel to treat my child and/or to transport said child to any medical facility in the event of such medical emergency. I/We forever release, discharge and covenant to hold harmless the Hinds County School District, its personnel and Board of Education from any all claims, demands, damages, expenses, loss of services and causes of action belonging to the minor child or to the undersigned arising out of or on account of any injury, sickness, disability, loss or damages of any kind resulting from the emergency treatment by said EMS or the transport of said child to any medical facility.

The undersigned agree to repay the school district, its personnel, or Board of Education any sum of money, expenses, or attorney's fees that any of them may be compelled to pay in defense of any action or on account of any such injury to the minor child as a result of the administration of emergency treatment. I/We have read the foregoing release and indemnity agreement and fully understand it.

Parent Authorization and Indemnity Agreement Prescription Medicines: I, the undersigned parent or guardian of _____, a minor child request that the personnel of the Hinds County School District administer prescription medicine to this student. This request has been made for my convenience as a substitute for parental administration of this medicine. It is understood that school personnel administering the medicine will not have to have medical or nursing training. I forever release, discharge, and covenant to hold harmless the Hinds County School District, its personnel and Board of Education from any and all claims, demands, damages, expenses, loss of services, and causes of action belonging to the minor child or to the undersigned arising out of or on account of any injury, sickness, disability, loss, or damages of any kind resulting from the administration of the prescription medicine.

The undersigned agree to repay the school district, its personnel or Board of Education any sum of money, expenses, or attorney's fees that any of them may be compelled to pay in defense of any action or on account of any such injury to the minor child as a result of the administration of medicine. I have read the foregoing release and indemnity agreement and fully understand it.

Behavior and Emotional Screening Social Skills Counseling Initiative: As a parent or guardian of a student in the Hinds County School District, I understand that my child may participate in a short-term social skills counseling initiative in the event that he or she scores in the elevated range when administered the behavioral and emotional screening assessment in accordance with the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act. See page 37 of this book for complete details.

Check your choice:

My child may participate in the short-term social skills counseling initiative as outlined above. _____

OR

I would prefer that my child not participate in the short-term social skills counseling initiative. _____

PARENT TECHNOLOGY PERMISSION FORM and INTERNET USER AGREEMENT: As a parent or guardian of a student in the Hinds County School, I have read the acceptable use policy that details information about the appropriate use of computers at the school and I understand this agreement will be kept on file at the school. **Questions should be directed to the principal for clarification.**

Check your choice:

My child may use e-mail and the Internet while at school according to the rules outlined. _____

OR

I would prefer that my child not use e-mail and the Internet while at school. _____

As a user of the School computer network, I agree to comply with the above stated rules and to use the network in a constructive manner.

Executed this the _____ day of _____, 20 _____.

Student Name (print): _____

Student Signature: _____

School: _____ **Grade:** _____

Parent Name (print): _____

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____

Parent or Guardian Witness: _____