

**THE LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
2009-2010**



Empowering Learners

HIGH SCHOOL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

**Baxterville
Oak Grove
Purvis
Sumrall**

**Lamar County Technical Center
Jefferson-Todd Educational Center**

*“Helping students prepare for the
challenges of tomorrow”*

MISSION OF THE DISTRICT

The mission of the Lamar County School District is to empower all students with the knowledge and skills to create their own futures; to become passionate, lifelong learners; and to contribute cooperatively to a diverse and changing world.

www.lamarcountyschools.org

Core Values

We believe that:

- *Each person is responsible for his/her actions.*
- *Each person has intrinsic value.*
- *Lifelong learning is vital to shaping one's future.*
- *Honesty and integrity are the foundation of mutual respect.*
- *A commitment to individual excellence is essential for personal success.*
- *Each person has something to contribute.*
- *A safe and secure environment is essential to learning.*

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**LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOLS
2009-2010 CALENDAR**

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| August 3 | Teachers Report |
| August 6 | Students' First Day |
| September 7 | LABOR DAY HOLIDAY |
| October 8 | End Term 1 (45 days) |
| October 9 | Conference/Prof. Dev. Day |
| October 12 | FALL BREAK |
| October 13 | HOLIDAY (Bad weather day if needed) |
| November 23-27 | THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS |
| December 22 | Noon Dismissal |
| | End Term 2 (45 days) |
| December 23-January 5 | CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS |
| January 6 | Teacher Work Day (Assistants do not work.) |
| January 7 | Classes resume |
| January 18 | MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY |
| February 15 | PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAY |
| March 12 | End Term 3 (45 days) |
| March 15-19 | SPRING VACATION |
| April 2 | GOOD FRIDAY |
| April 5 | HOLIDAY (Bad weather day if needed) |
| May 20 | Last day for seniors |
| May 21 or 22 | GRADUATION |
| May 25 | Last day for students (60% day) |
| May 26 | Teacher Work Day |
| May 27 | Teacher Work Day-Swap Day (Assistants do not work) |

180 Student Days/187 Teacher Days

| <u>Terms</u> | <u>Days</u> | <u>Ending</u> | <u>Progress Reports</u> | <u>Exam</u> |
|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| First Term | 45 days | Ending October 8, 2009 | September 8, 2009 | |
| Second Term | 45 days | Ending December 22, 2009 | November 13, 2009 | Dec. 21, 22, 2009 |
| Third Term | 45 days | Ending March 12, 2010 | February 8, 2010 | |
| Fourth Term | 45 days | Ending May 25, 2010 | April 21, 2010 | May 24, 25, 2010 |

Statewide Testing Dates

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Online SATP for retesters | September 21, 22, 23, 24, 2009 |
| English II Writing Retest | September 25, 2009 |
| English II Writing | October 15, 2009 |
| MS Career Planning & Assessment System | November 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 2009 |
| Subject Area (Eng. II, Bio. I, U.S. History, Alg. I) Tests & Retest | December 1, 2, 3, 4, 2009 |
| English II Writing Retest | December 7, 2009 |
| MS Science Test (Grades 5 & 8) | March 3, 2010 |
| MS Writing Test (Grades 4 & 7) | March 10, 2010 |
| MS Career Planning & Assessment System (CPAS) | March 22 – April 6, 2010 |
| English II Writing | March 24, 2010 |
| Online SATP for seniors & retesters | April 7, 8, 9, 12, 2010 |
| Subject Area (Eng. II, Bio. I, U.S. History, Alg. I) Tests | April 26, 27, 28, 29, 2010 |
| Grade Level (MCT2) (grades 3-8) | May 11, 12, 13, 2010 |

Emergency Closing Of School

The Superintendent of Education, with the approval of the Lamar County Board of Education, is authorized to close all schools in the system because of the death, resignation, or sickness of any employee or employees or because of any other emergency necessitating the closing of the schools. The Superintendent may close schools or dismiss them early in the event of hazardous weather or other emergencies which threaten the safety or health of students or employees of the schools. Make-up days due to unscheduled closure of the schools shall be set at the discretion of the Lamar County Board of Education in order to meet state requirements of days in session.

Lamar County School District Student/Parent Handbook 2009-2010

"Helping students prepare for the challenges of tomorrow"

This handbook is the property of _____

Violence, Threats of Violence, Hazing, Stalking, Gang Activity, or Other Activity That Disrupts the Educational Process, Etc.

Violence or threats of violence, hazing, stalking, gang activity, or any other activity that disrupts the educational process and/or threatens the health or general safety of other students or staff **will not be tolerated**. The administration and school staff will take threats of violence seriously, and violators will be dealt with swiftly and accordingly. Violent acts or threats of violent acts will not be viewed as pranks or "playing around" activities by students or others.

Further, students and staff have a duty to report any knowledge they may have regarding the threat of a violent act to school authorities. This includes, but is not limited to, reporting knowledge of verbal or written comments by an individual or group of individuals stating their intent to commit a violent act or knowledge that an individual is in possession of an item that is considered or could be considered a weapon.

The Lamar County School District will not tolerate anyone verbally abusing or threatening to harm any staff member. Persons who do so will be subject to criminal prosecution in the appropriate judicial system. Any student in violation of this policy can face administration disciplinary action and criminal referral. Section 37-11-21

Important Notice

Section 37-11-18, Mississippi Code of 1972, as Amended

"Any student in any school who possesses any controlled substance in violation of the Uniform Controlled 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 educational property as defined in Section 97-37-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be subject to automatic expulsion for a calendar year by the superintendent or principal of the school in which the student is enrolled; provided, however, that the superintendent of the school shall be authorized to modify the period of time for such expulsion on a case by case basis. Such expulsion shall take effect immediately subject to the student's right to appeal to the local school board."

Prohibition Of The Use Of Tobacco On School Property

(As Adopted by the MS Legislature General Session 2000)

The Mississippi Legislature acted during the 2000 Legislative Session to adopt and codify the following state law as recited under Sections 97-32-25, 97-32-27, and 97-32-29. In summary, these laws prohibit the use of tobacco by any person on certain educational property and prescribe fines for violations thereof, and for related purposes. Educational property under this law means any public school building or bus, public school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used, or operated by any local school board, school, or directors of any public educational institution or during a school-related activity.

Lamar County School District Police Force

The Lamar County School District operates its own police force in accordance with the requirements and regulations of the Mississippi Department of Law Enforcement Standards. The district employs certified law enforcement officers as school resource officers. These officers are certified by the State of Mississippi and are vested with the power to keep and preserve the peace on school property, including the power to make arrests, detain violators, and execute all the powers of a constable.

Notification Of Asbestos Re-inspection

In compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), in 1988 we performed inspections of each of our school buildings for asbestos-containing building materials. The inspection findings and asbestos management plans have been on file in each school administrative office since that time. The EPA requires us to perform re-inspection of the asbestos materials every three years and surveillance every six months. The last re-inspection was completed in 2007. The results of the re-inspection are on file in the management plan in the Lamar County Superintendent's Office in Purvis. The Asbestos program manager, Mr. Markel Knight, is available to answer any questions you may have about asbestos in our buildings at 794-1097.

Oath Of Allegiance To The United States Flag

Senate Bill 2321 states: "From and after July 1, 2002, the school boards of all public schools of this state shall require teachers to have all pupils repeat the oath of allegiance to the U. S. flag at the beginning of the first hour of class each day school is in session. Any student or teacher who objects to reciting the oath of allegiance shall be excused from participating without penalty.

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Organization Of The District/Grievances And Conflict Resolution

The Lamar County School District operates four school zones, one center for technical education, and an alternative school at Jefferson-Todd Education Center. Schools are under the direct supervision and control of the principal, who acts as final authority in all matters at the school. Parents/Guardians/Students who are aggrieved by a school decision or action should present their grievance in writing to the principal. Any parent further aggrieved may appeal, in writing, to the Lamar County School Board. The grievance must be set forth in writing so that there is clarity in managing the grievance and so that an appropriate response may be given. In cases where a grievance is submitted, the appropriate administrator shall provide a response and document such response in a timely manner.

AnComm Service Available to Middle and High School Students Grades 6-12

AnComm's Talk About It service is an encrypted web based messaging service that allows two-way-communication between students and school administrators. The system enables students to communicate anonymously with school officials to report problems or address personal issues that otherwise may go unresolved.

Students simply log on to any Internet-connected computer using their login information (USERID – Student ID number, PASSWORD – last name). This could be done from a residence, the library or even a computer at school. The student may decide whether to report the problem anonymously or whether to give his/her name. The student composes and sends a message much the same way as they would send an e-mail. A designated school official will receive the report, acknowledge and communicate back to the student and open a dialogue on how best to address the issue. Once apprised of the issues, specific teachers and other appropriate officials can be made aware of the problem, and steps will be taken to monitor and/or intervene.

Crime Prevention

The Lamar County School District is committed to providing a safe environment at our campuses for our students, staff, and visitors. Teens are the age group most vulnerable to crime. By putting into practice some basic crime prevention tips, you and your friends can avoid becoming the victims of crime. Preventing crimes is more successful when everyone works together. Our students, staff, and visitors can assist in preventing crimes by:

- Stay alert and tuned into your surroundings wherever you are---at school or the mall, on the street, waiting for a bus, or driving.
- Don't accept rides or gifts from someone you don't know well and trust---that includes people you've met on the internet.
- Trust your instincts. If someone or something makes you uneasy, avoid the person or situation and leave as soon as possible.
- Know the neighborhoods where you live, go to school, and work.
- Do not leave any valuables unattended in your purse, or backpack, such as cell phones, iPods, and cash.
- Always lock your vehicle and never leave valuables such as your wallet, purse, cell phone, iPod, or cash where they can be seen by someone looking into your vehicle.
- Act as role models, learn how to examine and find solutions to problems. Settle conflicts peaceably and manage anger without violence.
- Notify a teacher, administrator, parent, or trusted adult if you're worried about a bully or threat of violence by another student.
- Support school policies and rules that help create and sustain a safe place for all students to learn.

District Directory Information

District Directory Information Superintendent of Education

Ben Burnett, Ph.D., Superintendent
P. O. Box 609
Purvis, MS 39475
Office: 794-1030
Cell: 297-9345
Fax: 794-1012

Board of Education

Dr. Kyle Hill, Dist. A, **President**
35 Greenleaf Dr.
Hattiesburg, MS 39402
Home: 264-3824

Mr. Steve Lampton, Dist. B
60 Lampton Lane.
Purvis, MS 39475
Home: 264-8139

Mr. Mike Pruitt, Dist. D
7 Crossroad Drive
Hattiesburg, MS 39402
Home: 268-0669

Mr. Chris Ryals, Dist. C
29 Duke Avenue
Purvis, MS 39475
Home: 794-3101

Mr. Buddy Morris, Dist. E
759 N. Black Creek Rd.
Sumrall, MS 39482
Home: 601-758-3091

Central Office
P. O. Box 609
300 North Street
Purvis, MS 39475

Office of Academic Education

Carolyn L. Adams

Assistant Superintendent of Academic Education

794-5256

- Professional Development
- Personnel
- No Child Left Behind
- Secondary Curriculum/Programming

Betty Rose Breazeale

Deputy Superintendent

794-5256

- Assessment
- Assistant Teacher Program

Nan Sumrall

Director of Federal Programs

794-5256

- Elementary Curriculum/Programming
- Intervention Specialist

Terri Thomas

Director of Special Services

794-8121

District 504 Coordinator

June Songy

Director of Technology

794-1430

Rita Bush

Director of Vocational Education

794-8298

Stacey Pace

Gifted Program Coordinator

794-8121

Harry Breland

Parent Liaison

794-8518

Darlene Barron

Instructional Technology Specialist

794-5256

Sue Stevens

Drop Out Prevention Coordinator

794-5256

Markel Knight

Alternative Principal

794-1097

Office of Operations and Management

Johnny Downs

Assistant Superintendent of Operations

794-1030

- Facilities and Maintenance Management
- Title IX
- School Resource Officers
- Student Transfers
- Student Discipline/Attendance
- Superintendent's Office Staff

Keith Bounds

Transportation Director

264-9633

Becke Bounds

Director of Child Nutrition

794-8994

Pat Sandifer

16th Section Land Manager

543-9200

Steve Rosser

Chief of School Resource Officers

543-2461

District Website www.lamarcountyschools.org

School Directory

Baxterville School (K-8)
5531 Hwy. 13
Lumberton, MS 39455

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Martha Smith, Principal | (601) 796-4483 |
| Hilda Salmon, Counselor/Lead Teacher | Fax: (601) 796-5933 |
| Cafeteria | (601) 796-4494 |

Oak Grove High School (9-12)
5198 Old Hwy. 11
Hattiesburg, MS 39402

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Wayne Folkes, Principal | (601) 264-7232 |
| | Fax: (601) 264-0160 |
| Jeff Vanderheiden, Assistant Principal | (601) 264-8309 |
| Sheila Kribbs, Assistant Principal | (601) 264-9058 |
| Helen Price, Assistant Principal | (601) 264-7232 |
| Tim Heldt, Athletic Director | (601) 264-7232 |
| Cafeteria | (601) 264-8131 |

Oak Grove Middle School (6-8)
2543 Old Hwy. 24
Hattiesburg, MS 39402

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Terry Ingram, Principal | (601) 264-4634 |
| Candice Aycock, Ph.D., Assistant Principal | Fax: (601) 264-2822 |
| Tess Smith, Assistant Principal | (601) 264-4634 |
| Patrick Gray, Assistant Principal | (601) 264-4634 |
| Cafeteria | (601) 264-2279 |

Oak Grove Upper Elementary (4-5)
1760 Old Highway 24
Hattiesburg, MS 39402

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Debbie Dabbs, Principal | (601) 264-6724 |
| Ricky Owens, Assistant Principal | Fax: (601) 264-6771 |
| Donna Rigel, Assistant Principal | (601) 264-6724 |
| Cafeteria | (601) 264-6724 ext. 4869 |

Oak Grove Lower Elementary (2-3)
1762 Old Highway 24
Hattiesburg, MS 39402

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Teresa Jenny, Principal | (601) 268-3862 |
| Julie Ferrell, Assistant Principal | Fax: (601) 268-8852 |
| Wanda Boyles, Lead Teacher | (601) 268-3862 |
| Cafeteria | (601) 268-3862 ext. 4869 |

Oak Grove Primary (K-1)
70 Leaf Lane
Hattiesburg, MS 39402

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Dahlia Landers, Principal | (601) 264-9764 |
| Angela McCarty, Assistant Principal | Fax: (601) 261-3393 |
| Leslie Thompson, Ph. D., Lead Teacher | (601) 264-9764 |
| Cafeteria | (601) 264-3551 |

Purvis High School (9-12)
P.O. Box 1089 220 School Street
Purvis, MS 39475

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| C. H. Bryant, Principal | (601) 794-2708 |
| | Fax: (601) 794-1036 |
| Stacy Johnson, Assistant Principal | (601) 794-6221 |
| Tony Farlow, Athletic Director | (601) 794-2708 |
| Cafeteria | (601) 794-8919 |

Purvis Middle School (6-8)
P.O. Box 549 220 School Street
Purvis, MS 39475
Linda Greer, Principal (601) 794-1068
Fax: (601) 794-1069
Steven Engle, Assistant Principal (601) 794-1068
Cafeteria (601) 794-8919

Purvis Upper Elementary (3-5)
P.O. Box 1150 310 Mitchell Avenue
Purvis, MS 39475
Jennifer Moore, Principal (601) 794-2959
Jackie Cuevas, Lead Teacher Fax: (601) 794-1038
Cafeteria (601) 794-8919

Purvis Lower Elementary (K-2)
5976 U.S. Highway 11
Purvis, MS 39475
Rita Downs, Principal (601) 794-3302
Millicent Cuevas, Lead Teacher Fax: (601) 794-3317
Cafeteria (601) 794-3302 ext. 3011

Sumrall High School (9-12)
P.O. Box 187 Center Avenue
Sumrall, MS 39482
Jennifer Ward, Principal (601) 758-4730
Fax: (601) 758-0512
Rick Monk, Assistant Principal (601) 758-3076
Anita Sumrall, Athletic Director (601) 758-4289
Cafeteria (601) 758-4288

Sumrall Middle School (6-8)
1217 Highway 42
Sumrall, MS 39482
Jamie Jones, Principal (601) 758-4416
Fax: (601) 758-4148
Jarrod Bohannon, Assistant Principal
Cafeteria (601) 758-4288

Sumrall Elementary School (K-5)
198 Todd Road
Sumrall, MS 39482
Danny Sumrall, Principal (601) 758-4289
Fax: (601) 758-4203
Liz Dearman, Assistant Principal (601) 758-4289
Nell Henderson, Lead Teacher (601) 758-4289
Cafeteria (601) 758-4289 ext. 7559

Lamar County Center for Technical Education
P.O. Box 126 41 College Drive
Purvis, MS 39475
Rita Bush, Director (601) 794-8298
Fax: (601) 794-5475

Jefferson/Todd Alternative School
Martin Luther King Drive
Purvis, MS 39475
Markel Knight, Principal (601) 794-1097
Fax: (601) 794-1070

General District Information/Policies

The School Day for District Schools

The following school day times are followed at the schools in the school district in accordance with the varying class schedules and bus route plans for the centers:

| <u>School/Division</u> | <u>Classes begin</u> | <u>Classes End</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Oak Grove Primary | 7:40 a.m. | 2:05 p.m. |
| Oak Grove Lower Elementary | 7:40 a.m. | 2:20 p.m. |
| Oak Grove Upper Elementary | 7:40 a.m. | 2:25 p.m. |
| Oak Grove Middle | 8:25 a.m. | 3:25 p.m. |
| Oak Grove High | 8:15 a.m. | 3:35 p.m. |
| Purvis Lower Elementary | 8:00 a.m. | 2:55 p.m. |
| Purvis Upper Elementary | 7:52 a.m. | 3:00 p.m. |
| Purvis Middle School | 7:55 a.m. | 3:19 p.m. |
| Purvis High School | 7:55 a.m. | 3:19 p.m. |
| Sumrall Elementary | 7:55 a.m. | 3:10 p.m. |
| Sumrall Middle School | 7:52 a.m. | 3:23 p.m. |
| Sumrall High School | 7:52 a.m. | 3:23 p.m. |
| Baxterville School Grades K-8 | 7:25 a.m. | 2:45 p.m. |

Conferences/School Visitation

Parents and school patrons are encouraged to visit the schools; however, such visitation must be appropriate and properly scheduled. Teachers are allocated time to meet with parents, and parents should contact the counselor if they desire a conference.

When a parent is contacted for a conference pertaining to academic or discipline concerns, it is the parent’s responsibility to attend the conference in order to benefit the child’s progress. (Section 37-11-53)

Classroom visits by school-aged students shall not be allowed in any of the county's schools. Other persons wishing to visit a school or specific class MUST REPORT TO THE SCHOOL'S ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE UPON ARRIVAL AND RECEIVE PROPER CLEARANCE. Excessive visitation is discouraged.

Operation of the District on a Non-Discriminatory Basis

The Lamar County School District offers educational/vocational opportunities on a non-discriminatory basis in compliance with the requirements of the following federal civil rights legislation: Title VI, Title IX, the Vocational Amendments of 1976 and 1979, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Public Law 108-446 of 2004. Further, the Lamar County School District offers equal educational and employment opportunities to all persons without regard to sex, race, religion, color, national origin, age, or disability. Upon request, a copy of the Lamar County Board of Education's policy regarding compliance with these federal legislative mandates may be obtained from the Office of the Superintendent or any other school district administrative office.

The Lamar County School District will not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or employment in its programs and activities or in the treatment of the individual to the extent provided by law.

The Director of Special Services has been designated as the Section 504/Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator and will handle inquiries regarding the Lamar County School District's nondiscrimination policies, the filing of grievances, and the requests for copies of grievance procedures covering discrimination on the basis of disability; The Director may be reached at (601) 794-8121.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination against persons with a handicap in any program receiving federal financial assistance. No discrimination against any person with a disability will knowingly be permitted in any of the programs or practices of the school district. To ensure the district's compliance with Section 504 as it applies to students with handicaps, the district has adopted specific policies regarding procedures in the event an individual wishes to file a complaint or grievance. This established procedure is available to the public upon request and is posted in administrative offices.

Title IX

The Lamar County School District is committed to compliance with the *Title IX* of the *Education Amendments of 1972*. The School District’s *Title IX* Compliance Officer is Johnny Downs whose address is Lamar County School District, Post Office Box 609, Purvis, MS 39475-0609 and whose office is located at 300 North Street, Purvis, Mississippi. His telephone number is 601-794-1030. The School District has a Grievance Procedure which is used to report possible gender inequity in respect to the School District’s sports offerings.

Title IX Grievance Procedure

1. When any person believes his or her rights under *Title IX* have been violated, he or she must state "in writing" the nature of the complaint with the *Title IX* compliance officer who will respond to said complaint within ten (10) school days;
2. If the complaining party is not satisfied with the *Title IX* Compliance Officer's response, the complaining party may appeal "in writing" to the Superintendent of Education within ten (10) school days;
3. The Superintendent of Education will respond to the complaining party's appeal within ten (10) school days;
4. If the complaining party is not satisfied with the Superintendent of Education's response, the complaining party may appeal "in writing" to the Lamar County Board of Education within ten (10) school days;
5. The Lamar County Board of Education will make a final decision on the complaint at the next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting.

Enrollment of Students

In order for a child to enroll in the Lamar County School District, the student's parents/guardians must **annually** provide the information listed below. Upon receipt of this information, the school administration will make the appropriate classroom assignment.

1. Two proofs of the child's residence in accordance with the Student Verification of Residence Policy and state law.
2. A **CERTIFIED** birth certificate for the child.
3. A proper (Mississippi) immunization report issued through the family physician or through the health department.
4. A student not living with a parent must present official documentation as to guardianship status.

Failure to present the required documents at the time of registration will result in the student being denied enrollment.

A child must have reached the age of five (5) on or before September 1 of the year of enrollment in order to enroll in the district's kindergarten program. In order for any child to enroll in first grade, the child must have reached the age of six (6) on or before September 1 of the year of enrollment.

Residence with Legal Parent/Guardian Affidavit Required

Any new student entering the Lamar County School District **must reside with his/her natural parent(s) or a court-approved legal guardian who resides in the Lamar County School District** in order to be enrolled in any school in the Lamar County School District. Requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis; however, the District generally will not accept a new student who does not meet this requirement.

Verification of Student Residence Required

The Mississippi State Board of Education adopted a verification of student residence policy on April 20, 1990. The definition of student residence for school attendance purposes is that the student physically resides full time, weekdays/nights and weekends, at a place of abode located within the limits of the school district. **This policy requires that all school districts absolutely verify a student's residence for determination as to whether the student may legally attend a school in the district.** The Lamar County School District must verify residence on each student to be enrolled. Post office box numbers are not acceptable for verification purposes. A street address/name must be provided. **Two current proofs of residence are required. Proofs of residency must be original documents and will be authenticated before being accepted as proofs, these proofs must be dated within the past 30 days. Home visits may be made to verify residence by a Compliance Officer.** Documentation may include the following:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1.) Filed homestead exemption form | 5.) Mortgage documents |
| 2.) Lease agreements | 6.) Current utility bills (power, gas, water, cable & phone; no cell phone bills) |
| 3.) Driver's license | 7.) Voter Registration Card |
| 4.) Tax receipts | 8.) Other Official Documents (as approved by the School Administrator) |

Any student whose residence is not cleared through the district using the proper procedure as adopted by the state board will be denied enrollment. **When questions arise regarding a student's legal residence, the school may request additional confirmation of information in order to meet the requirements of state law.**

Beginning 2008-2009 the Lamar County School Board adopted a policy establishing a Residency Committee within each attendance zone. When a question arises concerning a residency, a parent/guardian will be **required** to attend a committee hearing to establish residency.

School Attendance Zones-Assignment of Students

1. The term "School Attendance Zone" or "Home School" in the LCSD shall be defined as the school area to which a child is assigned according to his/her residence and the bus route upon which the child lives, unless otherwise approved to transfer to an alternate attendance zone by the Board of Education.
2. School Attendance Zones in the LCSD shall be designated according to bus routes established in the district. If a bus from a particular school is assigned a route in an area, then that area will be part of that school's attendance zone. Bus routes will not be altered to accommodate transferred students. Routes shall be established by the superintendent and

administrative/transportation staff according to the regulations of the Mississippi State Department of Education in keeping with the most cost effective, reasonable assignment.

3. In situations where two or more buses overlap in routing or where lines separating attendance zones join, the superintendent is authorized to designate which attendance zone is applicable.
4. In regard to development of residential subdivisions in the LCSD, including Canebrake, Bridgefield, and Sandstone:
 - A. The above-named subdivisions are major developments that are platted in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Lamar County, Mississippi, as of January 1, 1999. The following shall apply:
 1. The Canebrake residential development as platted January 1, 1999, shall be considered to lie within the Oak Grove Schools' attendance zone, and bus transportation to Oak Grove will be provided.
 2. The Bridgefield and Sandstone residential developments, as platted January 1, 1999, shall be considered to lie within the Sumrall Schools' attendance zone, and transportation to Sumrall Schools will be provided; however, upon written request of the parent/guardians of students living in or moving into said subdivisions, the student will be allowed to attend Oak Grove Schools, with parent/guardians being responsible for transportation to and from Oak Grove Schools.
 3. All residents of the Big Bay Lake development shall attend Purvis Schools only.
 - B. Any subdivision platted for development and filed with the Chancery Clerk of Lamar County, Mississippi, after January 1, 1999, shall be considered to be part of the presently established school attendance zone as designated upon a map depicting the same, said map being available in the Office of the Superintendent. This same policy shall apply to other developments including mobile home parks, apartment complexes, or single-family dwellings.
5. In regard to Items 1-4 above, it shall be the policy of the Lamar County Board of Education that nothing expressed in Items 1-4 above shall preclude a student being allowed to remain at his/her school of attendance should he/she move into another attendance zone in the LCSD. The same shall apply for presently un-enrolled students who have siblings living in the household who attend a particular school out of the zone in which they reside.

Request for Transfer Between Attendance Zones

1. Effective August 21, 2006, all students must attend school by location as designated on the District's Attendance Zone Map.
2. The Superintendent, upon completion of the District's transfer request form submitted by the parent or guardian, may allow transfers from one school and assignment to another school within the Lamar County School District for the following reasons:
 - A. The student moves from one zone to another in the district and wishes to remain at the school where he/she was attending previous to the move.
 - B. Medically fragile students who have serious medical problems necessitating ready-access to specific medical facilities. Such medically fragile situations must be substantiated, in writing, by the family's physician and such substantiation must be made part of the written request to transfer.
 - C. Other reasons as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent and Board of Education based on special educational needs or to protect a student.
3. Students Previously Approved for Transfer Between Zones: Students who were approved prior to August 21, 2006, to attend a school in a zone different from his/her residence may continue to attend the approved school. Also, siblings living in the same household as the previously approved student are entitled, upon written request of the parent/guardian, to attend the same school.
4. If approved for transfer from one zone to another, transportation to and from the new school of assignment shall be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Student Transfers Into the District

Any student transferring into the district must provide sufficient proof of residence in accordance with the Student Verification of Residence Policy. Additionally, students must meet the requirements of state law as they pertain to transfers. All transfers from out of the district must be approved by both the Lamar County School Board and by the school board of the student's home district according to law.

The district does not accept students from schools or programs (including tutorial, home-study, or correspondence) that are not accredited by the state or regional agency without first administering standardized tests and/or special tests to determine proper placement of students and/or the validity of Carnegie units being presented for graduation. The district office should be contacted regarding transferring students and the appropriate Application for Transfer must be completed.

The district does not accept students who have been expelled from another school/school district until such time as the expulsion period assigned by the other school/district has ended. Any student transferring into the LCSD who was in an alternative school program in the transferring district will automatically be placed in the LCSD alternative program until such time as LCSD personnel can make a decision as to proper placement.

If the Lamar County School District's Board of Education acts to accept an out-of-district student when properly released from the resident district, such approval shall be with the stipulation that the parent/guardian shall be responsible for transportation of the student to and from the school of attendance in Lamar County.

The tuition payment requirement shall not apply to those students who live out of the district but who attend a Lamar County School and whose parent(s) are employed as either certified or non-certified personnel and who have been approved to attend a Lamar County school under the provisions of Section 37-15-31 (Subsection 1 a & b) Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated as amended.

Transfers and Proper Withdrawal from School of Attendance

When a student transfers either from or within the district, **he/she must properly withdraw from the school he/she is leaving**. Withdrawal shall be processed through the principal's office, and all books, fines, or other obligations that the student has with the transferor school must be cleared before the student will be considered properly withdrawn.

Student Change of Address or Other Personal Information

The importance of emergency information of each student cannot be over-emphasized. The school must have accurate access to a student's home address, names of responsible parties, and telephone numbers where those parties may be reached at any time when the student is at school. Parents must notify the school when there is a change of address or any change in the above-stated information.

School Records

Transcripts or student records will be released to other agencies if students or parents sign a written request for such release to be made and/or according to state law and/or federal regulations. A student or his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may view his/her personal school record upon request made to the appropriate school principal. Any corrections needing to be addressed may be presented to the principal in writing and will be considered for correction. In the event of student transfer, a student's transcripts or records will be forwarded to the receiving school upon receipt of a proper request from the receiving school.

Section 9528 of the ESEA, 20 U.S.C § 7908, as amended by the NCLB, and 10 U.S.C. 503, as amended by § 544 of the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002* (Pub.L. No. 107-107), require LEAs to

- ◆ Give military recruiters the same access to secondary school students as provided to postsecondary institutions or to prospective employers, and
- ◆ Provide students' names, addresses, and telephone listings to military recruiters when requested, unless a parent has opted out of providing such information. (Military Recruiter Guidance is on FPCO Web site.)

A student and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) have the right to file a complaint with the U. S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School District to comply with the requirements of Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA areas follows:

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

Copies of School Records

The schools of Lamar County shall furnish one free copy of school records/transcripts to graduates. Thereafter, an administrative fee of \$1.00 per copy of official records may be charged.

Special Programs and Services in the District

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM – APPLICATIONS AND OPERATIONS

The Goals of the Child Nutrition Program:

- To provide high quality, nutritious meals to all students in accordance with the Lamar County School District Wellness Policy adopted April, 2006.
- To keep the meal price as low as possible for paying students
- To create menus which provide students with approximately one-third of the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) which includes a variety of offerings students will like and eat.

Special Diet Requirements:

- Regulations permit substitutions for children with special needs.
- A statement from a physician supporting a student's condition and prescribed substitution **must** be submitted to the Child Nutrition Department as soon as diagnosed.
- A medical statement for food allergies is **required** for each school year.

FYI for Parents on Free or Reduced Meals:

- Any family currently on Free or Reduced benefits will automatically receive an application and a self-addressed envelope in the mail after July 1st of each year.
- Due to the large influx of applications received at the start-up of school, participating in the summer mail out will allow more time for your child's application to be processed.
- By returning your family's school lunch form in July or early August, you **will not** have to fill out the form sent home with all students on the first day of school.
- Your benefits will start for the current year when you receive a confirmation letter from the Child Nutrition Office.
- Families choosing not to participate in the mail out **must** fill out a lunch form sent home on the first day of school.
- Your children will eat on last year's meal application status of free/reduced for a grace period of the first ten days of school.
- After this period benefits will be **discontinued**, and you will be expected to pay for your child's meals.

FYI for New Families:

We encourage every family to take advantage of the Free and Reduced lunch form which is made available for you.

Requirements for Students eligible for Free or Reduced Meals:

- Fill out only **ONE application per family!** This means **all** children in your home on only one application! List each student on the application.
- Return your form to the school cafeteria.
- Include your mailing address and phone number.
- Applications **must** be available throughout the **entire** school year at all District and School offices and cafeterias for any family who has a change of income or who did not apply at school start-up and wishes to do so at a later date.

Students who wish to purchase more than one lunch or breakfast tray will be required to pay the adult price for the second tray. USDA allows one meal per student for reimbursement. Meal prices are as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Breakfast | \$1.50 |
| Reduced Breakfast | \$.30 |
| Adult Breakfast | \$1.75 |
| Student Lunch | \$2.25 |
| Reduced Lunch | \$.40 |
| Adult Lunch | \$3.00 |

BOARD POLICY

The Lamar County School District, in compliance with USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) regulations and Wellness Policy standards has adopted the following policies in connection with the Child Nutrition Program:

1. **CLOSED CAMPUS – Students are not allowed to leave during their lunch break, nor are they allowed to send for other purchased food items during lunch. This includes any food related events held prior to 1:00 p. m.**
2. **In accordance with the Wellness Policy, NO CARBONATED beverages (packaged in any form) are allowed in the cafeterias under any circumstances by student or adult.**
3. **Any extra sales offered from the Child Nutrition Department as defined by USDA include any food items which are nutrient dense, or a part of the daily menu requirement.**
 - **Milk/milk products (ice cream) must meet USDA standards and are the only extra sales items sold to students without the purchase of a school meal in middle and high school only.**
 - **The only extra sales items available to elementary students will be menu components.**
 - **Extra sales for middle/high school students are allowed only after a meal is purchased (in accordance with USDA standards). All extra sales items which are not part of the meal must be nutrient dense.**
 - USDA regulations require all secondary schools to implement the "offer versus serve" provision in which five (5) meal components are offered. Students can choose all 5 of the meal components but must choose a minimum of three (3) meal components in order for it to be considered a reimbursable meal. Students who purchase a tray are allowed to purchase extra items. Students who bring their lunches are allowed to purchase milk and ice cream **ONLY**. Note: Ice cream will be sold **only** to middle and high school students.
 - All Faculty/Adults who purchase a meal and choose to add an extra entrée **will be charged** for an additional entrée.
 - Students/Adults may pay cash on a daily basis or payment may be made in advance by the week, month, or year. Balances for unused meals will rollover until funds have been used.

Charges are not allowed for adults and only for students who have misplaced or lost lunch money or parent failed to send. A Charge Policy has been developed and will be strictly enforced by all school sites. It is parental responsibility to take care of your child's daily needs at school. One of the most important needs is supplying funds for them to eat breakfast and lunch. *You can't teach a hungry child.*

• Charge Policy:

1. The students will report to the school office immediately following morning roll call and acknowledging that he/she has no lunch money. In the case of younger students, a teacher or assistant may intervene.
2. Parents will receive written notification from the school office of money owed and are expected to repay to the cafeteria within the week.
3. If a pattern develops, parents will be encouraged to seek Federal assistance as soon as possible.
4. When charges reach the amount of one week of lunches, a letter will be sent home from the principal; at \$20.00 charges are considered excessive. At this point, the Lamar County School District will send a letter and a possible visit from the social worker.
5. If parents still refuse to pay and are capable of paying then a letter will be sent to Department of Human Services.
6. All debts must be paid by the end of the year.

THE FOLLOWING POLICIES ARE STRICTLY ENFORCED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT WELLNESS POLICY:

1. All class celebrations are to be held after breakfast and one hour prior to lunch and after the last lunch period is over.
2. Healthy (nutrient dense) food selections are strongly encouraged for snacks, party food, fundraisers, and all food sales.
3. The sale of candy is discouraged, since it is unhealthy.
4. All food sold must be nutrient dense. (See Wellness Policy for guidance.)

PAYMENT PROCEDURES:

- Personal checks cannot be cashed.
- Checks will be accepted for breakfast and lunch sales only.
- Student ID numbers should be written on each check submitted.
- One check for each child is required.
- Advanced pay methods in addition to daily payment are offered.

Please check your calendar for school days before paying weekly, monthly, or yearly!

| | <u>LUNCH</u> | | <u>BREAKFAST</u> | |
|--------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| | <u>Full-Pay</u> | <u>Reduced Pay</u> | <u>Full-Pay</u> | <u>Reduced Pay</u> |
| Daily | \$2.25 | \$.40 | \$1.50 | \$.30 |
| Weekly | \$11.25 | \$2.00 | \$7.50 | \$1.50 |

NOTE:

- It is the parents' responsibility to track their child's pre-pay lunch account balance. Money not utilized during the school year for lunch **"WILL ROLLOVER"** into the student's account for the next academic year. Note this is an annual rollover policy.
- Please check with your principal for breakfast serving times, **WHICH** will be strictly enforced.
- All lunch accounts will be open, allowing extra sales to be pulled from a student's account. Parents may request to close the open account for breakfast and lunch only by completing the Closing General Account Form and submitting it to the Child Nutrition Department.
- Funds can be transferred from one child's account to another by submitting the Transfer of Funds Form.
- ***PRE-PAYMENTS** are refundable only in the event the student withdraws from school and if the account balance is **\$5.00 or more**. The parent or guardian **MUST** complete the Request for Refund from Child Nutrition Department Form. The request and a self-addressed stamped envelope for payment must be submitted to the Child Nutrition Office. Payment will be made pending approval at the next regularly scheduled school board meeting according to State Audit regulations.
- The Child Nutrition Department accepts personal checks for payment of meals; if a check is returned from the bank for any reason, the check will be re-deposited **one** time only.
- All second returned checks will result in loss of checking privileges.
- All NSF checks must be cleared in a timely fashion or the check will be turned over to the bad check unit of the District Attorney's Office.
- Checks will not be accepted in the cafeteria the last two (2) weeks of school.

AUTOMATIC PRE-PAY – MYNUTRIKIDS.COM

Paying for school lunch is now easy and convenient. You may now choose to make automatic prepayments to your child's meal account via internet. Simply log on and use a credit card or check to fund your child's meal account. For your convenience:

- ◆ Prepay with your Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or a check
- ◆ A convenience fee of \$1.75 per deposit.
- ◆ Available 24/7
- ◆ Easy access to your child's account balance
- ◆ No more lost or stolen money
- ◆ Quick, easy, and secure
- ◆ E-mail notification when account balance is low
- ◆ No more handing out cash or checks to children
- ◆ Students never have to worry about having money to eat with prepay
- ◆ Rollover balance

HOW TO USE THIS SYSTEM:

1. Simply log on to www.mynutrikids.com
2. Register child into the prepay system with student ID# (NOT LUNCH NUMBER)
3. Make your payment!
4. You may also check your child's lunch status and eating history.

Guidance Programs

The district's guidance program is part of the total educational process. School counselors hold the philosophy that all individuals are important, that they are responsible for their own behavior, and that they can plan for their future when given specific assistance. Guidance services are available in each school in the Lamar County School District. Counselors may help students with personal, educational, or vocational problems. Information is kept in confidence.

Parent Involvement

The goal of the Lamar County School District is to assure that parents, families, and schools work together to ensure each student is a successful and a productive citizen in today's world. The Lamar County School District affirms and assures the opportunity for parents and teachers to participate in the design and implementation of its educational programs. To encourage public input, the school district's school-community activities include the following strategies:

1. Parent/guardian conferences to provide information and solicit input regarding student services, programs, and progress.
2. Timely response to recommendations made by the public.
3. Input through surveys and public meetings.
4. Informational programs at PTO meetings to explain the various educational programs.
5. Parent notice regarding their child's participation in special education programs.
6. Parental assistance for promoting education of their child at home.
7. A school performance profile informing parents about the school's performance on statewide assessments under NCLB.
8. A school-parent compact setting out the respective responsibilities of the children, the school, and the parents regarding their child's education.
9. Opportunity for parents/guardians and teachers to provide input regarding program implementation.

Specific strategies include the following:

1. Report progress of the student's achievement to parents on a regular basis.
2. Establish a local parent advisory council.
3. Consult with parents regarding methods for achieving program objectives.
4. Solicit parents' suggestions relating to the planning, development, and operation of the programs.
5. Respond timely to parent recommendations.

In order to involve parents in decision-making for the district's Title I program, all Title I schools will do the following:

1. Jointly develop with, and distribute to, parents written parental involvement policy, agreed upon by the parents.
2. Report information concerning the Title I programs plans and evaluations to parents prior to implementation.
3. Schedule annual public meetings to be held at individual schools. All parents of eligible children will be invited. The purposes of these meetings are to discuss with parents the programs and activities carried out with Title I funds,

inform parents of their right to consult in the design and implementation of the project, solicit parental input, and provide parents an opportunity to establish mechanisms for maintaining on-going communication.

4. Schedule conferences between individual parents and teachers to discuss student's progress.
5. Assist parents to promote the education of their child at home.
6. Provide parents with a school performance profile, inform them about the state system of standards and assessment, and inform them about their right to information under NCLB.
7. Develop a school-parent compact, setting out the respective responsibilities of the children, the school, and the parents regarding their child's education.

Library Services

Library services are available at each school for student research and study. Teachers and students are encouraged to make use of the school libraries. Arrangements for special use of library materials should be made with the librarian in charge of the library area.

Students with Disabilities Programs

In accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (I.D.E.I.A., 2004), programs for students with disabilities are based on the philosophy that every child be provided the opportunity to participate in a program that is planned, adopted, and conducted with the training and opportunity needed to assume a meaningful place in society. Special programs are designed to equip each student with the attitudes, skills, abilities, and knowledge that make it possible for students to develop individually. In keeping with this philosophy, the following placements are offered:

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Regular classroom | Resource classroom | Full-time special class | Community-based services |
| Special school | Residential facility | Home/hospital placement | |

Under federal and state regulations, students may be assessed for eligibility under one of the following eligibility categories only:

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Mental Retardation | Emotional Disability | Multi-Disability | Orthopedic Impaired |
| Hearing Impaired | Visually Impaired | Developmentally Delayed | |
| Specific Learning Disability | Other Health Impaired | Speech Language Impaired | |
| Traumatic Brain Injury | Autism | Deaf-Blind | |

The Lamar County School District Pre-School Program serves children ages 3-5 who qualify as developmentally delayed in two of the following four areas: cognitive, language, motor, social, emotional and self-help. This program follows the same calendar as the regular school program, operates on one-half days, and is located at Oak Grove, Purvis, and Sumrall. Questions regarding this program should be directed to the Special Services Director at 794-8121.

Special and related services are also offered to infants and toddlers who are developmentally delayed. Services are provided in the child's home, daycare center, or other community settings.

ESL Program (English as a Second Language)

Lamar County offers the English as a Second Language program (ESL) in grades K-12 to meet the needs of students whose home or first language is other than English. The goal of the ESL program is to increase student access to quality education while providing guidance and support to other professionals within the school community who are involved in the education of Limited English Proficient (LEP) students.

In order to determine students' eligibility for the ESL program, all students complete a Home Language Survey when they enter the Lamar county School District. If this survey indicates use of a language other than English, the students are given an English proficiency test prescribed by the MS Department of Education. When the test indicates that students are less than proficient in English, they are scheduled into the ESL program unless the parents choose that they not participate.

Due to the linguistic diversity in Lamar County's LEP students, the ESL program uses English as the language of instruction. In the elementary grades the ESL program utilizes a pull-out model where students attend ESL class for approximately one hour per day. All ESL classes are taught by certified teachers who have additional training in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. While in their mainstream classes, students work toward mastery of grade level skills through modifications and accommodations from the mainstream teacher who receives guidance from the ESL Specialists regarding appropriate accommodations. In middle and high school, LEP students are scheduled into an ESL class as a period in their regular day. They spend the rest of their day in mainstream classes where the ESL Specialist offers support and guidance to the teachers.

Students in the ESL program are evaluated for proficiency annually. Once the evaluation indicates that the students have attained English proficiency, they transition out of the ESL class but continue to be monitored by the ESL Specialists for two years to assure that the students are being academically successful.

Title I Services

Title I funds provide schools with extra resources to help improve instruction and to ensure that poor and minority children have the same opportunity as other children to meet challenging state academic standards. Lamar County Schools that

receive Title I funds are Baxterville, Oak Grove Primary, Oak Grove Lower Elementary, Oak Grove Upper Elementary, Purvis Lower Elementary, Purvis Upper Elementary, Sumrall Elementary.

TECH-PREP Vocational-Career Path Programs

All schools in the district have implemented the Mississippi Tech Prep Initiative. This program is designed to offer students less lecture and more "hands-on" classroom experiences. The mission of the tech prep program is to allow students to discover the link between the school and workplace. Tech Prep provides learning experiences that allow for immediate application of learning and the integration of curriculum across all subject areas. Courses presently being offered include Information and Communication Technology I (ICT I), Information and Communication Technology II (ICT II), and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Supplemental materials are provided to be used in all subject areas. The structure and teaching/learning strategies in Tech Prep are supported by modern technology. Teachers are trained in professional development programs that assure quality instruction.

Alternative School Programs

The district offers an Alternative School Program in compliance with Section 37-13-92 of the Mississippi Code of 1972. In accordance with state law, a student may be assigned to the alternative school program for a variety of reasons as set forth in said code section. Any compulsory-school-age child whose presence in the classroom, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, is a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interests and welfare of the students and teacher of such class as a whole may be placed in the alternative school program. A student may be placed in the alternative school by mutual agreement by parent, principal and alternative principal or through a disciplinary referral process. A student placed in alternative school cannot participate in extra-curricular activities. **Any senior who is assigned to the alternative school on the last day of student attendance for the school year will not be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies.** Students will be searched daily before entering the instructional area.

Parents as Teachers (PAT)

Parents as Teachers is a family education and support program that begins prenatally and extends to age 5. In PAT, the parents are supported by a certified parent educator who uses the Born to Learn curriculum that translates scientific information on early brain development into concrete suggestions on ways to teach and nurture your child. The program involves the parent in parent-child activities that encourage language development, intellectual growth, social development and motor skills, and strengthens the parent-child relationship. The PAT philosophy is that the parent is the child's first and most important teacher.

PAT families receive personal visits from the parent educator on a monthly basis; attend group meetings that allow parents to meet together to gain new insights, share experiences, and discuss parenting topics; benefit from periodic screenings that assess children's overall development as well as health, hearing, and vision; and connect with community resources that link the family to services that are beyond the scope of PAT.

The PAT program is funded by LCSD and Title I and is provided free to families residing in the school district. For information contact Becky Hurston at 601-794-5982.

Textbooks

Through taxation, textbooks are furnished for student use. Books are issued at the beginning of the school year and are to be returned at the end of the school year. Parents assume full responsibility for issued textbooks, including the proper care of these books. Book covers should be used in order to protect books from damage. Additionally, books transported in book bags where students carry water bottles or any form of liquid, must be placed in a sealed plastic bag. Students who have books that become wet during the school year will be fined according to the damage of the book. Any book with mold, more than half of the pages wet, or the cover damaged by water, will be fined as if the book is unusable. Students are strongly discouraged from abusing books. Fines are assessed for damaged books and lost books must be paid for according to the adjusted list price based on the age of the lost book. ALL BOOK FINES MUST BE PAID BEFORE A STUDENT CAN RECEIVE TEXTBOOKS THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

FINES:

1. Lost Books:
 - a. New full price
 - b. 1 year old 90% of original cost
 - c. 2 years old 80% of original cost
 - d. 3 years old 70% of original cost
 - e. 4 years old 60% of original cost
 - f. 5 years old or older 50% of original cost
2. Fines
 - a. If pages are torn out, charge as if the book were lost. The book with pages missing is no good to the next student.

- b. Cover missing – charge as if the book were lost.
- c. Writing in the book – charge ½ of the schedule above unless there are vulgar words or pictures in the book or words marked through with ink. In these cases charge as a lost book.

All textbooks issued to students are the property of the Lamar County School District.

Health and Immunization Policies

It is imperative that the schools insure that each student is provided with a healthy and wholesome environment for learning. Any student with a communicable illness or infection must be kept at home until the family doctor or health department officer certifies that the student is completely recovered. All students enrolling in kindergarten or 1st grade must present an immunization report issued through a family physician or the health department.

School Clinics

Through grants from the Mississippi State Department of Health and the John Bower Foundation, the district has seven (7) school-based, certified Medicaid clinics, staffed by a nurse who will provide Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment examinations. In addition to conducting the examinations, the nurse will provide health-promotion programs, refer students to the appropriate healthcare provider or agency, and provide Medicaid CHIPS enrollment information and assistance. Our High Schools do not have Medicaid Clinics but do have nurses on campus or available for emergencies. There will be no charge for the nurse's services.

Student Medications at School

Note: As used in this handbook, the term medication shall mean prescription drugs, "over-the-counter" drugs, and supplements not requiring a doctor's prescription

It is the Lamar County School District's goal to help keep your child healthy and safe during the school year. School nurses are now in place in most of our Lamar County Schools to help meet any health care needs that may arise with your child. General first aid will be provided along with medication administration when necessary.

If it is necessary that a medication be given during school hours, the guidelines for medication administration, listed below, must be followed to work within the realm of the Lamar County School District's drug policy. This is for the safety of your child and others.

Absolutely no medication shall be transported by a child to or from school. It must be transported by a parent/guardian only and registered with the school nurse or school personnel in the absence of a school nurse.

1. For prescription, over-the-counter, and supplemental medication, the parent/guardian must bring the medication to the school and register it with the school nurse. If your school does not have a school nurse, it must be registered with school personnel and will be administered by school personnel who have completed a medication self-administration curriculum. The medication must be in the original container with the appropriate label intact before it will be administered (Ask the pharmacy for an original bottle for school).
2. No prescription medication will be given unless the physician completes and signs the appropriate form (provided by the school nurse or school personnel). This can usually be faxed to your physician for your convenience. For medications that are to be dispensed on a long-term basis, parents/guardians may send up to a 30 day supply. Prescription medication will be counted in the presence of the parent and parent/guardian signature received. School nurse/school personnel will not deviate from the prescribing doctor's dosage and dosage schedule as written on the prescription bottle.
3. Additional parent/physician signed forms will be necessary if the medication dosage is changed.
4. Any controlled medications (narcotics, i.e. lortab, etc.) administered at school must be approved by the school nurse and the site administrator. A note from the physician giving permission to attend school while taking a controlled medication will be necessary.
5. For legal purposes, all prescription medications must be picked up by an adult on or before the last day of school. All remaining medications will be destroyed.

If your school does have a school nurse, a limited supply of over-the-counter medications will be available to your child upon appropriate health history information and parent/guardian signature received (ex. Tylenol). It will be administered by the school nurse or trained school personnel in the absence of the school nurse.

Lamar County School District Extra-Curricular and Voluntary Drug Testing Policies

Student athletes and students participating in other extra-curricular activities will be subject to drug screening to test for illegal substances.

Drug Screening – The drug screening shall consist of the collection of a urine sample from the student by any assistant(s) from the contracting biomedical laboratory under the supervision of the Athletic Director/Principal, coaching

staff/directors, and/or other school employees. Each specimen shall be analyzed for the presence of drugs by the contracting agency which has been approved by the Board of Education of the Lamar County School District.

The outside agency shall report all test results to the office of the Superintendent. The principal will be notified of any positive tests. For purposes of this program, a positive result shall mean a test result which indicates the presence of one or more of the listed drugs in the student athlete's urine sample. A test will not be determined positive until it is double checked and validated by a confirmatory test. The student and their parent/legal guardian shall be notified in writing if and when a student tests positive.

Random testing will be performed for athletes beginning with the second scheduled testing and continue through each subsequent testing during the school year. Random testing for all other students involved in extracurricular activities will begin with the first scheduled testing and continue through each subsequent testing during the school year. Random testing will account for approximately ten percent (10%) of all students being selected for each random testing. Also included in random testing will be any student(s) who have tested positive at an earlier date during their high school career.

EFFECTS OF POSITIVE RESULTS

- A. **First Positive:** The individual's sample will be re-tested immediately to assure no error has occurred. If the positive result is verified and confirmed, the principal will take the following steps:
1. The student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) will be advised of the results.
 2. The Student Assistance Coordinator and Athletic Director will be advised of the results.
 3. The student will be required to attend drug counseling.
 4. Counseling for students in extracurricular activities who have tested positive will be provided through the Student Assistance Program and the Employee Assistance Program at Wesley. The counseling provided by the School District will be for four (4) hours and will include an initial assessment, and two one (1) hour follow-up sessions. If there are any recommendations for additional treatment and/or counseling, the cost shall be borne by the student and/or parent.
 5. A student who has tested positive will forfeit participation in interscholastic competition according to the following schedule:
 - a. **First Violation:** The student will be denied participation from competitions (with required practices) beginning with the first scheduled competition following the offense and concluding after 20% of that season's competitions have taken place. (Example: 2 of 10 football games or 4 of 20 basketball games)
 - b. **Second Violation:** Dismissal from that sport season without gaining letter awards or recognition.
 - c. **Third Violation:** The student will be denied participation in all extracurricular activities and programs for the calendar year.
 - d. **Fourth Violation:** The student will be indefinitely barred from participating in any event or activity and all extracurricular activities in the Lamar County School District.

NOTE: The student who participates in more than one sport/activity will forfeit participation in interscholastic contests in only the activity that is currently in season or the next sport/activity in season after the positive test. If an infraction occurs where there is an overlap in activities, the suspension from activities for the designated period will begin immediately, even though it may affect both activities.

6. Students who test positive for drugs will forfeit certain team and individual awards as determined by the head coach/director.

The student will be re-tested after the suspension period and prior to being allowed to participate in the activity again.

- B. **Second Positive:** After reinstatement and later in the academic year, the student will be re-tested. If the test is positive, the individual student will be re-tested immediately to assure no error has occurred. If the positive result is verified and confirmed, the Principal, the Student Assistance Coordinator, the Athletic Director, and the student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) will be immediately notified. A conference will then be scheduled promptly with the student, parent(s)/legal guardian(s), Principal, appropriate head coach/director, and designated counselor present. The student will immediately be suspended from participating in practice and interscholastic competition for the remaining sports season or scheduled events for the activity. The student will be re-tested after the suspension period. If the student's test is negative the student will be reinstated to participate in athletics/extracurricular activities provided the student and the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) sign a release form releasing the LCSO from liability. Another positive will result in the student athlete being suspended from the team indefinitely.
- C. **Third Positive:** After reinstatement and later in the academic year, the student will be re-tested. If the test is positive, the Principal, the Student Assistance Coordinator, the Athletic Director, and head coach/director shall be immediately

notified: A letter will be mailed to the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) from the Principal notifying them that the student has been suspended from the team/program immediately for the academic year.

Reinstatement of the student to participate cannot take place for one calendar year and then only after the provision of proof of the successful completion of a Drug Rehabilitation Program and negative testing prevails. If the student is suspended, the student has the right to appeal the decision to the Lamar County School District Board of Education for a formal determination. The student shall have the right to have counsel present at the student's own expense.

NOTE: Each positive test occurring after a student begins high school activities will be counted as a violation through the student's high school years.

Voluntary Participation

All students in grades 9-12 are eligible to **voluntarily participate** in the drug testing program upon submission of a consent form. Students who sign a consent form shall be tested at the next random testing, shall remain eligible for drug testing throughout the entire school year, and shall become part of the testing pool subject to random drug testing pursuant to the extracurricular activity drug screening policy. The LCSD will test no more than 10% of the total number of students in the testing pool annually. Students will be tested for the substances set forth in the Extracurricular Activity Drug Screening Policy. Remedial Action Resulting from Positive Test of Students Who Voluntarily Consent to Drug Screening:

1. Students who voluntarily consent and are already in the program as a result of extracurricular activity participation are subject to the forfeit provisions of the Extracurricular Drug Screening Policy.
2. Other students who voluntarily participate shall be subject to the following:
 - a. First Violation: Counseling under the auspices of the Coordinator of the Student Assistance Program through the Employee Assistance Program at Wesley Medical Center. The counseling will be for four (4) hours and will include an initial assessment and two one (1) hour follow-up sessions. The school district will pay the cost of the counseling required as a result of the First Violation. All cost of additional treatment and/or counseling shall be borne by the student and/or parent.
 - b. Second Violation: A minimum of ten counseling sessions through the Employee Assistance programs at Wesley Medical Center.

VIOLATION of OTHER POLICIES

Any student violating other school district policies shall remain subject to discipline in accordance with the school district's policies. Students shall also abide by additional rules and regulations presented normally to all team members or members of the activity of a particular sport or activity by the coaches or activity leader.

Self-Administration of Asthma Medication

1. According to the MS Code, the Lamar County School Board shall permit the self-administration of medication by a student if the student's parent or guardian complies with the following stipulations:
 - a. Provides written authorization for self-administration to the school; and
 - b. Provides a written statement from the student's health care practitioner that the student has asthma and has been instructed in self-administration of asthma medications. The statement shall also contain the following information:
 - i. The name and purpose of the medications;
 - ii. The prescribed dosage;
 - iii. The time or times the medications are to be regularly administered and under what additional special circumstances the medications are to be administered; and
 - iv. The length of time for which the medications are prescribed.
2. The statements required in subsection (1) of this section shall be kept on file in the office of the school nurse or school administrator.
3. The parent or guardian of the student shall sign a statement acknowledging that the school shall incur no liability and the parent or guardian shall indemnify and hold harmless the school and its employees against any claims relating to the self-administration of asthma medications.
4. The permission for self-administration of medications shall be effective for the school year in which it is granted and shall be renewed each following year upon fulfilling the requirements of subsections (1) through (3) of this section.
5. Upon fulfilling the requirements of this section, a student with asthma may possess and use asthma medications when at school, at a school-sponsored activity, under the supervision of school personnel, or before and after normal school activities while on school properties including school-sponsored child care or after-school programs.

Head Lice

The school district's registered nurse and other school personnel routinely screen students for head lice. If a student is found to have head lice, the parent/guardian will be contacted and notified to come to the school and pick the student up to be taken home. An informative letter will be given at that time with instructions for treatment. Parents will be required to furnish evidence of treatment and, upon the child's return to school he/she will be checked prior to being allowed to return to the classroom of assignment. The third time the child shows evidence of head lice infestation (including the presence of nits in the child's hair), the child will not be allowed to return to class and the parent/guardian will be required to bring a note from the Health Department. It is imperative that parents/guardians follow instructions for treatment promptly in order that the student may quickly return to school. If evidence exists that the student continues to be infested with head lice, then the student will be removed from the class to prevent spreading the lice to others, and the parent/guardian will be notified.

Compliance With Compulsory School Attendance Law

In all respects, the district shall comply with the requirements of the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law (hereinafter called MCSAL as set forth in Section 37-13-91 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 and the reporting requirements contained therein. When violations of the MCSAL occur, reports are made to the various county school attendance officers, who are employees of the State Department of Education. The attendance officers are:

Mr. Charles Berry for Purvis and Baxterville (796-2609)

Ms. Pam Graves for Oak Grove and Sumrall (758-0539)

The Lamar County School District is committed to preparing its students to be successful in the 21st Century. In addition to providing opportunities for basic and advanced content skills, schools have the responsibility to guide students in the development of many other skills needed in today's society and workplace: problem-solving, communication and collaboration, critical thinking, use of technology tools, self direction, and initiative and creative thinking.

In order for students to complete the coursework described above, skills must be measured by many types of assessments of which a paper and pencil test is only one; therefore, good attendance is a requirement for success. Many grades may come from teacher observation of student participation in and interaction with both the curriculum and others. Often concepts missed when a student is absent can never be recovered. **Therefore the Lamar County School District has established criteria for the maximum allowable number of absences for a course. After that point, too much of the curriculum will have been lost without special tutoring, which may be obtained through credit recovery during the school year or in summer school at the student's expense.**

Lamar County School Board Attendance Criteria for Receiving Course Credit

All students attending a Lamar County School must attend a minimum of 84 days in a one credit course and 42 days in a ½ credit course out of the total scheduled days in order for that student to be eligible to receive academic credit for the school year. All absences other than school activities, those accompanied by a doctor's excuse, or those due to out of school suspension are counted in the total number of absences allowed. High School absences are counted for EACH class period, and the student must not miss more than one-half of the class to be counted present. Please note that all excused absences with the exceptions noted above for full credit courses will count toward the 6 allowable absences, and for half credit courses, 3 allowable absences.

An absence is **excused** when

- the absence results from illness or injury which prevents the compulsory-school-age child from being physically able to attend school.
- isolation of a compulsory-school age child is ordered by the county health officer, by the State Board of Medical Health or appropriate school official.
- it results from the death or serious illness of a member of the immediate family. Immediate family shall include children, spouse, grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters, or stepbrothers/stepsisters.
- when it results from the attendance of the compulsory-school-age child at the proceedings of a court or an administrative tribunal if such child is a party to the action or under subpoena as a witness.
- it results from a medical or dental appointment of a compulsory-school-age child where an approval of the superintendent or designee is gained prior to the absence, except in the case of an emergency.

Further, an absence may be excused and work may be made up, but it will count toward the allowable absences 6 for full credit courses, and it will count toward the allowable absences 3 for half credit courses.

- if the religion to which the compulsory-school-age child or such child's parents adheres, requires or suggests the observance of a religious event. The approval of such absence is within the discretion of the superintendent or designee, but approval should be granted unless the religion's observance is of such duration as to interfere with the education of the child.
- when it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the superintendent of the school district or designee that the purpose of the absence is to take advantage of a valid educational opportunity such as travel including vacations or other family travel. Approval of such absence must be gained from the superintendent or designee prior to the absence but such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. **Parents Note: The days missed due to these absences could cause a**

student to lose semester exam exemption status. Completion of the Valid Educational Opportunity Form is required prior to the absence.

- h. when it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the superintendent of the school district or designee that conditions are sufficient to warrant the compulsory-school-age child's nonattendance.

Unexcused Absences

An absence is **unexcused** when any of the above excused absences is not applicable. School administrators are authorized to verify the excuses, written or otherwise, and may, in their discretion, determine that an absence is unexcused because the criterion for an excused absence is not present. The Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law as set forth in Section 37-13-91 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 defines an "unlawful absence" as an absence during a school day by a compulsory-school-age child, which absence is not due to a valid excuse for temporary nonattendance.

Out-of-school suspension as imposed by the school's administration for disciplinary reasons is considered an unexcused absence from classes. In order to make up work missed during an out-of-school suspension, the student must attend Saturday School, before or after school programs until all work is completed. The district's Saturday school program is designed to allow students the opportunity to make up work from suspension days, to allow an alternative disciplinary action, and to allow for special circumstances as assigned by the principals.

For purposes of attendance, the suspension days will not be counted towards the total days allowed prior to the student losing credit for the class under the district's attendance policy guidelines as set forth above.

For any absence, the student must bring a note from the parent/guardian or doctor to validate the absence and this note must be presented on the day of the student's return to school. This note must state the days missed, the reason for the absence and be signed by the parent/guardian with a telephone number where the parent/guardian can be contacted for verification. **All notes should be presented to the office within five (5) school days of the absence or the absence will be considered unexcused. Any note presented after the allowed 5 days must be turned into the school principal for consideration.**

General Procedures

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

Once the student exceeds the allowable days (6 days in full credit courses, 3 days in ½ credit courses), the principal shall be responsible for timely written notification to the student/parent/legal guardian that the student has excessive absences and has lost academic credit. Even after such notification, the student/parent/guardian will continue to be responsible for presenting the required notes for any further absences incurred and such notes will be placed on file to be considered by the District Review Committee should the student/parent/guardian seek a ruling (exception) from the committee.

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

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

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

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

Make-Up Work-When Students Have Been Absent from Classes

It is the student's responsibility upon return to school to request of teachers a list of all work assignments missed during the absence. Students must turn in work within the described limits or receive a zero (0) for the work. Work shall be made up within a reasonable time as agreed upon by the teacher and student but must be completed before the end of the grading period. The length of the absence, the reason for the absence, and the length of the assignments to be made up will all be considered in determining the time allowed to make up the work missed. The ultimate goal is to have the student successfully complete missed assignments within a time that is both fair to that particular student and fair to other students who were in attendance and have completed the assignments within the regularly specified time. Students with disabilities (under I.D.E.I.A.) must follow the same guidelines for make-up work as other students, unless stipulated on the student's individualized educational plan.

Assignments may be given prior to the child's return to school if the absence is an extended one or in other special circumstances as determined appropriate by the principal.

NOTE: All make-up work must be complete prior to the end of each grading period exams in each course. Seniors must also complete all make-up work for the last grading period prior to final exams.

| Make up Work | Excused Absence | Unexcused Absence |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Make up class work | May be made up at home | May be made up in Saturday School or Before/After School Program |
| Make up exams/tests | May be made up before school, after school, in Saturday School, or in the Before/After School Program | May be made up in Saturday School or Before/After School Program |

Absences and Participation in School Sponsored Activities

It shall be the policy of the Lamar County School Board that students who are not present for the entire school day on the day of a school sponsored activity shall not be allowed to participate in that activity occurring on the day and night of the absence. The principal may consider special, extenuating circumstances (medical absences, death in the family, etc.). All circumstances must have approval in advance, when at all possible, to be considered. The decision of the school principal in this matter shall be final.

Early Dismissal of Students From School

Students will not leave the school campus or be absent from an assigned class without permission from the principal. Teachers are not authorized to dismiss students from class or from the campus without clearance of an administrator. Dismissal requests from parent/guardians should be presented to the appropriate school office by 8:30 a.m. on the day of the intended dismissal. The decision as to whether the dismissal from classes is excused or unexcused shall rest with the administrator issuing approval for the dismissal.

In order to avoid interruption of class activities (except in emergency situations), parent/guardians should not request dismissal prior to the end of the class period. Special situations or emergencies should be handled through the appropriate administrator's office. Photo Identification may be required.

Student Check-out Procedures

- ❖ Student must present parent note to school office by 8:30 a.m. to be verified (phone number on note).
- ❖ Parent or guardian may physically come and pick up student (no phone calls will be accepted).
- ❖ Photo identification may be required to check a student out.
- ❖ No lunch check-outs will be allowed unless a doctor's note is presented upon return.

Student Tardiness 9-12

In order to promote the concepts of timeliness and responsibility in students, the following policy shall be followed in regard to tardiness:

- Students are expected to be in classes promptly. Students are not allowed to be out of class without the permission of the principal/assistant principal.
- Students are allowed sufficient time to pass from one class to the next and should not be tardy except in cases of emergency. If an emergency should arise, the student must get an admittance slip from authorized office personnel. In the event the student needs more than the specified time, the student should report to their class first and obtain the permission of the teacher.
- An unexcused tardy from school will result in disciplinary action.
- Work missed due to an unexcused tardy may not be made up.
- A student is tardy to school if the student arrives any time after the tardy bell for first period or after the student's first class begins. Any student who is tardy to school **MUST** report to the appropriate administrative office **BEFORE** going to his/her assigned class.
- No student is permitted to enter a class after the tardy bell has rung without an appropriate admittance slip issued through the assistant principal's office.
- Tardiness due to personal illness, illness in the family, death in the family, or other emergencies may be approved if a written note or telephone call from the student's parent/guardian or the person responsible for bringing the student to school is presented at the time of arrival. Oversleeping, clock failure, missed rides, etc. will not be excused tardies. In all cases, the principal in charge of issuing the admittance slip may, in his/her absolute discretion, verify any such note or call.
- Students in attendance for less than one half a class period/day will be counted absent for that period/day.

School principals are authorized to determine appropriate management and disciplinary techniques to be used when students are tardy to school or classes. Such discipline may include placement of the student on the district discipline ladder.

Progress Reporting, Grading, Grade Reporting

A well-planned and competently administered evaluation program is an essential component of the instructional program and regular, informative reporting of student progress to parent/guardians is imperative. Parent/Guardians are strongly

encouraged to work with the school when questions arise regarding their child's progress. School personnel will make every effort to schedule appointments with parents/guardians to address such concerns.

Progress Reporting

Teachers make an effort to keep parents regularly informed of student progress. Primarily, this is accomplished by sending student work home for parent review, individual notes from teachers to parents, and conferences with parents. Teachers will send formal notification to parents at the end of the fourth (4th) week of each nine-week term, and a grade report at the end of each 9-week term. Parents are strongly urged to review any progress reports sent by teachers and to request a conference with the teacher if necessary.

Grading Determination

- A. A number of factors are used in determining a student's grade, including daily class work, homework, class participation, test grades, promptness in completing work, neatness in preparation of work, special project completion, portfolios, and other factors that allow the teacher to determine the student's level of performance. Many courses follow a class format which emphasizes skills that cannot be measured by paper and pencil work alone but require teacher observation (which includes participation in group work and discussions, following directions, answering questions correctly, being prepared and on time, etc.,) making attendance a factor (class participation graded daily).
- B. Grading Scale

| | | |
|---|----------|--------------------|
| A | 93-100 | Superior work |
| B | 84-92 | Above average work |
| C | 75-83 | Average work |
| D | 70-74 | Below average work |
| F | below 70 | Failing work |
| I | | Incomplete work |

- C. There shall be four reporting periods each academic year.
- D. All regular education students shall be assessed on the basis of on-grade level work.
- E. Term Exams
 - 1. Formal cumulative tests will be administered at the end of each term.
 - 2. Students must take each term test at its regularly scheduled time. In the case of emergency or illness, the student may take the test upon return to school. In the case of any other pre-approved absence, the student must take the test on the day of return. If a student must be absent during the final end of course tests in May, he/she must return the following week to take the tests missed.
 - 3. Term tests may be optional for students with disabilities according to the students' IEPs.

F. Grade Determination

Mid-Course Progress Reporting

50% of the student's grade will be based on student evaluation such as daily/weekly tests, unit tests, and special projects. 50% of the student's grade will be based on class work, homework, class participation, and other daily work.

Term/End of Course Reporting

The end of course grade will be based upon the cumulative average of the exam (20%), the first term grade (40%) and the second term grade (40%).

- G. Teachers will not assign grades based on student conduct.
- H. Tests may not be given early, unless special permission is given by the principal.
- I. During testing, review periods will count as absences toward the number allowed for exemption.
- J. Graded Assignments and Tests-Grading Across the Continuum:

Student assessment practices must afford students with opportunities to score at all levels of the grading continuum (A-F). Evaluation practices shall allow a sufficient number of items to permit a student to satisfy successive grading increments. For example, a test with only five items valued at 20 points each would not be acceptable (unless partial credit for one item was allowed) since the student could not score at all levels on the continuum (A-F).

Note: Grades awarded to students who have been ruled eligible for students with disabilities services and who are actively participating in the district's students with disabilities program(s) shall be based on the attainment of goals and objectives set forth in the student's IEP (Individual Education Plan). Students with disabilities who attend regular classes in order to attempt to receive Carnegie units and who also attend special education classes shall be required to meet the same minimum standards in the regular education classes attended as regular education students who are in the class. Accommodations and/or assistance devices may be used as appropriate.

All Schools and Homebound/Hospital Bound

Any student with a disability, who does not meet course requirements, even though adjustments have been made to accommodate the student's disability, may receive a failing grade (F). If it is obvious, however, that the student with a disability cannot function socially, emotionally, or educationally in a regular classroom program, then the student should be removed from the regular class and placed appropriately. The necessary revisions in the student's IEP (Individual Educational Plan) will be made accordingly.

It is important to note that it may be necessary to provide extra assistance to disabled students or make modifications in the regular program of instruction. Regular education teachers and special education teachers must work closely together to insure that all appropriate educational methods, accommodations and modifications, and supplementary aids and services are being used to assist the student with a disability, and the student is placed in his/her least restrictive environment.

Although these modifications may need to be made, the student should be judged to be successful (graded) in the regular classroom based on mastery of the same required content skills as non-disabled students in the class. Caution must be used to reflect mastery of content, not mastery of related skills (i.e. reading)

Alternate Grading, Accommodations, Modifications Policy for Students with Special Needs

In adopting this policy, it is important that all school staff, students, and parents understand the definitions of two important terms, as follows:

- A. **“Modifications** are changes in course content, teaching strategies, standards, test presentations, location, timing, scheduling, expectations, student responses, environmental structuring and/or other attributes which provide access for a student with a disability to participate in a course/standard/test which FUNDAMENTALLY alter or lower the standard or expectations of the course/standard/test” (Diana Browning Wright, Teaching and Learning, 2003. Any adaptation is allowed that does not change the course curriculum.
- B. **“Accommodations** are changes in course content, teaching strategies, standards, test presentation, location, timing, scheduling, expectations, student responses environmental structuring and/or other attributes which provide access for a student with/without a disability to participate in a course/standard/test, which DO NOT fundamentally alter or lower the standard or expectations of the course/standard/test” (Wright, 2003).

Standard #1: Modifications (changes to curriculum) should rarely be used for any student. If modifications are used for a student with a disability under Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (I.D.E. I.A. 2004), these should be included in the student’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Grade Reporting

- A. At the end of the nine-week term each student will be issued a report which indicates the student's level of performance. Parents are encouraged to review the grade report and to contact the school principal/assistant principal if there are questions and/or concerns.
- B. Copies of grade reports shall be kept on file at the school for the current year in which the student attends. Cumulative records shall be maintained from year-to-year in the manner required by the Mississippi Commission on School Accreditation, state and federal law, and Lamar County School Board policy.
- C. Students with disabilities will receive the same progress report as regular education students; however, grade level of performance/achievement will be indicated on the progress report. The grading code for self-contained students with disabilities will be the same as with regular education students.

Exemptions for Semester ExaminationsMembers of the Senior Class

Seniors shall be exempt from taking semester examinations in both semester and year-long courses in any subject being taken when the student holds at least an 85 average in the class in all work attempted during the class during the semester, with the exception of the semester exam grade. Additionally, the senior may not have been absent from the class for any reason except school business for more than two (2) days during a half-credit course and a total of four (4) total days for a full-credit course. School-business absences shall not be counted against the student. If the senior so desires, in order to attempt to improve his/her grade average in the class, he/she may elect to take the examination. If this option is elected, the semester test grade will be averaged into the final grade. The principal, at his/her discretion can give consideration for bereavement.

Students in Grades 9-11

Students in these grades will be exempt from taking the semester exam at the end of the course when the student holds at least an overall 90 average in the individual class at the end of the course. Further, in addition to the grade average required, the student cannot have been absent from the individual class for any reason except school business for more than two (2) days during the half-credit classes or four (4) days during full-credit classes. School business absences shall not be counted against the student. The principal, at his/her discretion can give consideration for bereavement.

NOTE: During testing, review periods will be counted as absences.

***The days missed due to these absences could cause a student to lose semester exam exemption status.**

Exemptions and Citizenship

Any student who meets the above exemption requirements shall automatically lose his/her right to exemption in all classes if the student reaches Step 5 or above on the District Discipline Ladder. If a student receives more than two (2) Office Disciplinary Referrals (not Teacher Misconduct Reports) from an individual teacher to the assistant principal/principal, that student **shall** automatically lose any right to exemption in that teacher's class.

Homework Policy Statement

The following shall be the district's policy on homework:

1. **Homework shall not be assigned on weekends and holidays** to avoid interfering with family, church, community, or recreational interests. However, students may use weekend time for long-range assignments or to make up work missed due to absences.
2. Teachers should make assignments according to the needs and interests of students where possible.
3. In order for homework to be meaningful, some form of teacher evaluation is mandatory.
4. Major or long-range assignments should be coordinated through the appropriate principal/assistant principal so as to avoid overloads and daily homework assignments should be reasonable and take into account other teachers' assignments or tests so as to not overload the student.
5. **Homework will not be assigned on the night preceding Statewide Testing Dates.**

Promotion and Retention

Promotion in grades 9-12 is based upon completion of the appropriate number of Carnegie units.

Requirements for Grade Level Classification

In order for a student to be classified in the following grades, the student must meet the following requirements:

Gr. 9 Promotion from Grade 8

Gr. 10 Have earned a minimum of 6 Carnegie units in Grades 8-9

Gr. 11 Have earned a minimum of 14 Carnegie units in Grades 8-10

Gr. 12 Have earned a minimum of 20 Carnegie units in Grades 8-11

Promotion/Retention for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities will be promoted based upon attainment of IEP objectives and/or placement in an age-appropriate setting as determined by the Students with Disabilities Local Survey Committee, the school's administration and in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations.

Subject Area Testing Program

The state of Mississippi requires students to pass subject area tests as a requirement for graduation. The tests that they must successfully complete are the following:

English II (Multiple Choice and Writing)
Algebra I
Biology
U. S. History

Lamar County School District SATP Remediation Program

The Lamar County School District has adopted the following policies based on State Board of Education Policy IHF-2, *Graduation Requirements*:

- **A student who passes the test but fails the course must repeat the course.**
- A student who passes the subject but fails the test must choose one of the following remediation paths:
 - A. Retake the test after taking the appropriate remediation course, chosen from the following:
 1. Learning Strategies (1 credit) and/or
 2. Individually developed In-School-Tutorial Plan
 - B. The student may also choose to be remediated through private tutoring (which must be documented) at the student's expense.
 - C. Students with a special education ruling may take an alternate assessment if eligible.

Preventative Measures Prior to SATP

Three-Tiered Intervention Process

In order to provide every student in the Lamar County School District with equitable opportunities, a Three-Tiered Intervention Process has been established at each school in the district. This process will provide an avenue to assist students who demonstrate difficulties within the school environment and is designed to intervene early before problems escalate. The final step is the Teacher Support Team (TST) where a student's needs are thoroughly analyzed and prescriptive steps are established. Administrators, counselors, teachers, parents, and students are all involved in the process. A detailed description is available in each school's principal's office and in The Office of Academic Education.

Entering Freshmen Placement Criteria

Algebra I

1. 80% or above on the Algebra I Readiness Exam
2. Advanced for the last two years on the MCT 2 Mathematics
3. Grade of 90 or better in Pre-Algebra

Transition to Algebra I/Algebra I (all year for 2 credits)

1. 50-79% on the Algebra I Readiness Exam
2. Proficient or better for two years on the MCT2 Mathematics
3. Grade of 85 or better in Pre-Algebra

Compensatory Math I/Compensatory Math II (all year for 2 credits)

1. Less than the Transition to Algebra/Algebra I criteria

Biology I

1. Proficient or better on the Mississippi Science Test
2. Grade of 85 or better in previous science

Science Skills and Reasoning/Introduction to Biology

1. Less than the Biology I criteria

Accelerated English I

1. Advanced score of 167 or above for 2 years on the MCT2 Language Arts
2. Grade of 90 or better in previous English

Honors English I

1. Proficient for two years on the MCT2 LA score of 159 to 166
2. Grade of 85 or better in previous English

English I

1. Proficient for two years on the MCT2 LA score of 150 to 158
2. Grade of 80 or better in previous English

Compensatory Writing/English I (all year for 2 credits)

1. Less than the English I criteria

Secondary Curriculum Program

The secondary curriculum offered in the Lamar County Schools is designed to meet the needs of both college preparatory and non-college preparatory students, including vocational-technical courses offered at the Technical Education Center in Purvis, MS. It is to be noted that not all schools in the district offer each and every course listed herein. Course offerings are based upon the ability of the district to obtain licensed teachers endorsed to teach the courses and also upon student demand. As a general rule, a course cannot be offered at a particular school unless at least fifteen (15) students can be enrolled in the course.

Students and parents are strongly encouraged to consult with the school counselor and/or high school principal in regard to course/program planning. **It is the student's responsibility to ascertain that he/she is taking the necessary coursework in order to meet graduation requirements and in order to take courses needed for enrollment at a post secondary institution.**

Scheduling Procedures

Drop a Course

A student may not drop a course under any circumstances during the year other than with a medical doctor's written statement to the effect that the particular subject is detrimental to the student's health. Any request for dropping a course must be submitted to and approved by the principal.

Schedule Changes

Students and parents are encouraged to take course selections in the spring very seriously. Teaching assignments and school schedules are developed based on the subjects selected during the spring. Therefore, courses chosen during spring course selection will remain on the students' schedules. This will ensure that students remain in required and appropriate courses and that instruction may begin on the very first day of school.

Schedules will be given out at designated times during the summer. Families will need to provide two proofs of residence (as stated in the handbook) to pick up their students' schedules. Only corrections due to incorrect scheduling will be made. The corrections will need to be made when the schedule is picked up, not after school has started. Corrections include the following:

- In a class that requires a prerequisite that you do not have.
- In the wrong level of a class
- Needing to add a senior requirement
- In the same class twice
- In a class for which you have already received credit

The administration may need to make changes in the master schedule and/or balance classes throughout the year based on the needs of the school. These administrative changes do not require parental approval or notification.

Teacher Selection

Neither parents nor students are allowed to request a particular teacher. Schedules are not allowed to be changed from one teacher to another teacher. Any personnel issues need to be directed to the principal in writing. Teacher selection is not allowed.

The Lamar County Center for Technical Education

The Lamar County Technical Education Center is located in Purvis, Mississippi. Students attend the center from their parent schools based on their desire to enroll in programs offered at the center.

First, and foremost, **ALL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AS SET FORTH BY THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION APPLY TO STUDENTS ATTENDING THE CENTER.** The district administration, the center director, and the parent school principals/assistant principals work jointly to develop day-to-day procedures that provide for an effective program for students. **All students who enroll in and attend programs offered at the Technical Education Center will be given a listing of center policies and regulations. These policies and regulations represent adopted School Board policy and serve as an extension of this handbook. Students who have been suspended or remanded to alternative school at their home school are not allowed on the Technical Center Campus during their suspension or alternative school time.**

Program and Career Planning

Secondary students should consult early with the principal and/or guidance counselor in planning a program of studies that will lead to the intended goals of the students. Parents should also feel free to consult with school personnel regarding this matter. These considerations should begin in the early junior high school years with a general course of direction planned upon entrance into grade 9.

Guidance counselors are trained to provide specific career guidance and are able to answer most questions concerning college entrance or entrance into vocational programs offered at the post secondary level.

College Entrance Planning

Students and their parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to discuss college entrance requirements with the high school counselors. A review of such requirements is highly desirable early in the students' high school program (9th grade) so that students meet the entrance requirements for the community college, college, or university of their choosing. School counselors can provide the latest information since most institutions of higher learning provide such information to them. **It is the students' responsibility to plan their programs so as to meet any entrance requirements set by the post secondary institution they would like to attend.**

Career Centers

Career Centers are located at each high school. The Career Center is designed to help students make more informed decisions regarding their futures after high school. The Career Center makes computers and printers available to help students and their parents to aid in career planning and accessing college information. The Career Center provides all services free to parents and students, and offers CHOICES, a multi-task computer program. The CHOICES program is a compilation of information on over 7,000 colleges and universities across the nation. All aspects of each college are included, and schools are

grouped in many different ways for easy access. Personal inventories for college searches as well as career choices are included in the program. Internet capabilities allow students to apply online for college admission as well as financial aid. The Center also offers an ACT review designed specifically for students by the ACT.

College catalogues, advisory books, and financial aid guides and listings are available in the Career Center as well. The Center distributes and announces all scholarship opportunities as well as admission and scholarship deadlines. This information is included in the daily announcements as well as being posted on the bulletin board outside the Career Center.

The Career Center is manned by a technician and is located next to the counselors' office. Hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Parents may contact the Career Center Technician by calling the counselors' office to schedule an appointment and are always welcome to use the resources provided by the Center.

Secondary Course Offerings

Agriculture

Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship
Technology
Concepts of Agriscience
Science of Agricultural Animals
Science of Agricultural Environment
Science of Agricultural Mechanization
Science of Agricultural Plants

Arts Programs

Choral Music I, II, III, IV
Art I-IV
Photography
General Music
Theatre Production
Theatre III
Drama Crit. & Perf.
Advanced Drama
Band I-IV
Music, Performing Arts

Business Education

Accounting I
Communications in Business
Keyboarding
Word Processing
Personal Finance
Marketing
Employability Skills
Career Directed Learning

Compensatory Ed.

Compen. Writing I,II
Compen. Reading I,II
Compen. Mathematics
Learning Strategies

Computer Education

Computer Applications
Programming I, II
Desk-Top Publishing
Information Processing
Telecommunications
Innovative Applications
ICT II (8th)
Graphic Design
Digital Photography
Intro to Programming
Beginning Programming
Web Page I and II
Multimedia Projects
IT Essentials

English/Writing/Lit.

English I, II, III, IV
Creative Writing
Intro. to Journalism
Accelerated. Eng. I-IV
Language & Comp. AP
Literature & Comp. AP
Research Using Tech.
Mississippi Writers
Short Stories
African American Literature
Mythology
Journalism Lab I, II, III
Minority Studies
Public Speaking
Oral Communications I and II
Debate I, II, III
Advanced Seminar

Foreign Language

French I-IV
Spanish I-IV
AP Spanish

Health/ Phys. Ed/Dr. Ed

Comprehensive Health
Physical Education
Driver Education

Family & Consumer Sci.

Child Care I,II
Fashion Design I, II
Family and Individual Health
Nutrition and Wellness
Personal Development
Child Development
Resource Management

Mathematics

Algebra I, II
AB Calculus (AP)
Geometry
Survey of Math Topics
Pre-Algebra
Pre-Calculus
Trigonometry
Transitional Algebra
AP Statistics
Introduction to Engineering
Mississippi Virtual School
Available courses and criteria
listed in counselors' office.

Technical Courses (Technical Center)

Two Year Programs

Automotive Service Tech. I, II
Business & Computer Tech. I, II
Electronics I, II
Metal Trades I, II
Building Trades I, II
Allied Health I, II

Science

Biology I
Advanced Biology
Aerospace Studies
Anatomy/Physiology
Physics
Marine/Aquatic Science
Physical Science
Environmental Science
AP Biology
Chemistry I, II
Chemistry (AP)
Science Skills & Reasoning
Sports Medicine
Zoology

Social Studies/Social Sciences

Astronomy/Field Experiences
Economics
AP Macro Economics
American Military Studies
Mississippi Studies
U.S. Government
U.S. History
World History
Psychology
Sociology
U.S. History (AP)
Intro. to World Geography
Law-Related Ed
US Govt. & Politics (AP)
Humanities I, II
Local Cultures
World History (AP)

Technology Education

STEM

NOTE: Only one unit earned through correspondence may be counted toward graduation. The principal must approve summer school, or correspondence courses *only* for credit recovery or make-up when behind original class. Approval is at the discretion of the administrator and will not be granted for English II, English III, English IV, Biology I, US History, Algebra I or any lab based science course. *The deadline for seniors wishing to use correspondence for graduation purposes is April 1.*

Traditional Diploma Graduation Requirements

Each student graduating from a secondary school in an accredited school district will have earned the required Carnegie units as specified in the following listings and will have met all other district requirements stated in this handbook. Contents of each required and elective course must include the core objectives identified in the Mississippi Curriculum Structure. Enrollment in on-line and correspondence courses must have prior approval granted by the principal. No more than one (1) of the minimum required number of units may be earned through completion of an approved correspondence course.

The Lamar County School District is an accredited school district. Therefore, course offerings and course content are in compliance with the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards. Further, the Lamar County School District requires above-the-minimum number of Carnegie units and other criteria (SEA, math in senior year, attendance) for graduation and/or participation in graduation exercises. Therefore, students must select additional elective programs and meet other criteria to complete Lamar County School District graduation requirements.

In addition to the following courses, the five state subject area tests must be passed, and beginning with the seniors of 2007-2008, the LCSD will require the completion of an Exhibition of Achievement (Senior Project).

| Seniors of School Year 2009-2010 & 2010-2011 (2006-2007 & 2007-2008 ninth graders) | | |
|--|----------------------|--|
| Curriculum Area | Units (4x4) Schedule | Required Subjects |
| English | 4 ¹ | Senior Exhibition of Achievement |
| Mathematics | 4 ² | Algebra 1 & Geometry |
| Science | 3 ³ | Biology I |
| Social Studies | 4 | 1 World History 1 U. S. History ½ U. S. Government ½ Mississippi Studies ⁴ ½ Economics ½ World Geography |
| Health | ½ | Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health |
| Business & Technology | 1 ⁵ | 1 Computer Discovery or ½ Keyboarding and ½ Computer Applications or 1 B & T Course |
| The Arts | 1 | Any approved 500.000 course or completion of the 2-course sequence Computer Graphics Technology I and II |
| Electives (year 2003) | 10 ½ ⁶ | Employability Skills ½ Public Speaking |
| Total | 28 ⁷ | |

- 1 Compensatory Reading and Writing may not be included in the four English courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the 10 ½ general electives required for graduation.
- 2 Pre-Algebra and Transition to Algebra, as well as Algebra I may be taken in eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit. Compensatory Mathematics 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 10 ½ general electives required for graduation. At least one of the four required mathematics courses must be higher than Algebra I. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I are Geometry, Algebra II, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Discrete Mathematics, Probability and Statistics, and AP Statistics.
- 3 One unit may be in Technology Applications or Introduction to Agriscience or Agriscience I or Concepts of Agriscience or Allied Health or Aquaculture.
- 4 The 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 State and Local Government.
- 5 One unit in Computer Discovery is accepted in lieu of the two ½ unit courses. Evidence of proficiency in Keyboarding and Computer Applications is accepted in lieu of the required courses if the student earns one unit in any of the courses listed in the Business and Technology Framework (academic and vocational).
- 6 Elective units in physical education include participation in interscholastic athletic activities that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association.
- 7 A completer of a 2-year program at the Lamar County Technical Center is eligible to graduate with 26 credits. All programs at the center award 2 credits per year.

Traditional Diploma Graduation Requirements

Each student graduating from a secondary school in an accredited school district will have earned the required Carnegie units as specified in the following listings and will have met all other district requirements stated in this handbook. Contents of each required and elective course must include the core objectives identified in the Mississippi Curriculum Structure. Enrollment in on-line and correspondence courses must have prior approval granted by the principal. No more than one (1) of the minimum required number of units may be earned through completion of an approved correspondence course.

The Lamar County School District is an accredited school district. Therefore, course offerings and course content are in compliance with the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards. Further, the Lamar County School District requires above-the-minimum number of Carnegie units and other criteria (SEA, math in senior year, attendance) for graduation and/or participation in graduation exercises. Therefore, students must select additional elective programs and meet other criteria to complete Lamar County School District graduation requirements.

In addition to the following courses, the five state subject area tests must be passed, and beginning with the seniors of 2007-2008, the LCSD will require the completion of an Exhibition of Achievement (Senior Project).

| SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012 (Entering ninth graders in 2008-2009) | | |
|---|----------------------|--|
| Curriculum Area | Units (4x4) Schedule | Required Subjects |
| English | 4 ¹ | Senior Exhibition of Achievement |
| Mathematics | 4 ² | 1 Algebra, Geometry, & Algebra II Must take a math every school year. |
| Science | 4 ³ | Biology I Chemistry I or Physical Science |
| Social Studies | 4 | 1 World History 1 U. S. History ½ U. S. Government ½ Mississippi Studies ⁴ ½ Economics ½ Geography |
| Health/PE | ½/½ ⁶ | ½ PE & ½ Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health |
| Business & Technology | 1 ⁵ | 1 Computer Discovery or ½ Keyboarding & ½ Computer Applications or 1 B & T Course |
| The Arts | 1 | Any approved 500.000 course or completion of the 2-course sequence Computer Graphics Technology I and II |
| Electives (year 2003) | 10 ½ | Employability Skills ½ Public Speaking |
| Total | 28 | |

- 1 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 10½ general electives required for graduation.
- 2 Pre-Algebra and Transition to Algebra, as well as Algebra I may be taken in eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit, Compensatory Mathematics 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 10 ½ general electives required for graduation. Beginning school year 2007-2008 for all entering eighth graders, at least two of the four required mathematics courses must be higher than Algebra I. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I are Geometry, Algebra II, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Discrete Mathematics, Probability and Statistics, and AP Statistics.
- 3 One unit may be in Introduction to Agriscience, Concepts of Agriscience, Science of Agricultural Plants, Science of Agricultural Animals, or Science of Agricultural Environment. Two units may be in the following courses if the student completes the 2-course sequence: Agriscience I & II; Allied Health I & II; Aquaculture I & II; Forestry I & II; Horticulture I & II; Plastics and Polymer Science I & II; and Technology Applications I & II. Two units may be earned by completing the AEST 3-course sequence: one unit in Concepts of Agriscience; one unit in Science of Agricultural Animals or Science of Agricultural Plants, or Science of Agricultural Environment; and one unit in Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship. 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 I, Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, Physics I, Physics II, AP Physics B, AP Physics C – Electricity and Magnetism, and AP Physics C – Mechanics.
- 4 The credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student who enters after the sophomore year can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies or Mississippi State and Local Government. If the transfer student took a State/Local Government course in a grade level that did not award Carnegie unit credit, then any other ½ unit social studies course may be accepted. An out-of-state student who transfers after the junior year may substitute any other ½ unit social studies course.
- 5 Evidence of proficiency in Keyboarding and Computer Applications is accepted in lieu of the required courses if the student earns one unit in any of the courses listed in the *Business and Technology Framework* (academic and vocational).
 - Elective units in physical education include participation in interscholastic athletic activities that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association.
 - A completer of a 2-year program at the Lamar County Technical Center is eligible to graduate with 26 credits. All programs at the center award 2 credits per year.

Other Important Information Regarding Graduation

1. A student seeking participation in graduation exercises and the earning of a standard high school diploma must make a passing score on any required subject area tests.
2. A student seeking participation in graduation exercises must complete all requirements (including the attendance criteria) by the day following the last senior exam day.
3. If a student classified as a senior transfers into the school district during the senior year and is unable to complete all graduation requirements, the high school shall make contact with the transfer school and attempt to arrange graduation for the student from the transfer school.
4. If a student classified as a senior who has been enrolled in the district for at least one (1) year transfers during the senior year and is unable to meet the receiving school's minimum units credit required for graduation, the Lamar County School District will award the diploma upon receipt of a transcript from the receiving school showing completion of the local school district's requirements for graduation and verifying that the student did not receive a diploma from the transfer school.
5. All seniors will be required to take a math course.
6. Seniors are required to produce an Exhibition of Achievement (a project in an area of interest that demonstrates research, writing, and oral presentation skills.)
7. **No high school in the Lamar County School District will deliver a diploma (signed or unsigned) to a student if he/she fails to meet all of the requirements set forth herein.** Further a student who fails to meet all stated requirements **is not permitted** to participate (walk or sit with the class) at graduation.
8. **Any senior who is assigned to the alternative school on the last day of student attendance for the school year will not be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies.**
9. Only students currently enrolled in a Lamar County School District high school in May will be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies.
10. The last year of attendance (regular or early graduation) will be considered the senior year and all senior requirements must be met.
11. All graduates will wear school stoles. Club and achievement pins may be worn on the stole at graduation. These pins may be purchased through the respective school sponsors.
12. Honors and Special Honors graduates will wear cords.
13. Mississippi Scholars will wear medallions provided by Mississippi Economic Commission.
14. Any senior failing to meet the attendance criteria will not participate in the graduation ceremony.

Full Day for Seniors

Seniors will be limited to one block per semester of early dismissal and will be allowed early dismissal **only** with the following:

- Dual enrollment
- Career Directed Learning
- School to Work (special services).

Policy for Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit

Seniors who wish to enroll in a college course **during regular high school hours** and juniors who wish to enroll in a college course after regular high school hours must meet the following requirements:

- ◆ Pre-register as a rising senior at the end of the junior year/rising junior after the sophomore year;
- ◆ Be pre-approved by the high school principal;
- ◆ Meet all requirements for dual enrollment for the institution in which enrolling;
- ◆ Meet with the high school counselor to determine if the course meeting times are compatible with the high school schedule);and
- ◆ Limit college courses to one per semester.

Dual credit may also be earned for these courses. For complete information, seniors/juniors should see the counselor at his/her high school.

Mississippi Virtual School – On-Line Courses

Available courses and criteria are listed in counselors' office.

Eligibility Criteria for Career Directed Learning

1. Must make application to the program by March of junior year
2. Must have a minimum of "C" (77+) grade average and be on track for graduation
3. Must have good citizenship
 - a. Must have 95% attendance or better for 9th, 10th, 11th grade years
 - b. Must have been punctual over 9th, 10th, 11th grade years with five or fewer tardies per year

- c. Must have good behavior record with no more than one office referral (excluding tardies) per year for 9th, 10th, 11th grade years.
- *4. Must have successfully completed the following in order to demonstrate a strong sense of career direction:
 - a. Selection of program of study
 - b. Development of 4 year education plan
 - c. Documentation of service learning in 9th, 10th, 11th grades
 - d. Public Speaking Course
 - e. Employability Skills Course
 - f. Identification of personal choice of a career cluster through processes/courses
 - g. Above portfolio documentation of (1)-(6) above
- 5. Must have two recommendations: one must be 11th Grade Advisor; the other must be the principal
- 6. Must sign a contract with internship teacher, parents, and employer outlining the responsibilities of each

Policy for Early Graduation

Using national standards of what high school graduates must know, the Lamar County School District has established minimum requirements for earning a diploma from the three high schools in the county. There cannot be deviation from or omission of these requirements if a standard diploma is to be awarded. If a student wishes to graduate early, the following guidelines apply:

1. Students must apply for early graduation no later than the end of their tenth grade year.
2. Students should use the district forms available in the high school counselor's office.
3. A minimum of 18 ACT composite score taken prior to application must be documented.
4. All courses must be taken in regular school sessions or through on-line courses through Mississippi Virtual Public School.
5. The last year of attendance is considered the senior year, and all senior requirements must be met (Senior Exhibition of Achievement).
6. Students completing at mid-year (December) are not eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

All high schools in the Lamar County School District shall apply the same procedure for the selection of Valedictorian and Salutatorian of the graduating class. Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and rank in class will be determined from those students earning a traditional diploma. The Valedictorian shall be that student who holds the highest overall grade point average (numerical average "including weighted") computed from Carnegie unit credits earned (see note below) from the time the student enters the eighth grade class through the fourth term progress report of the senior year. **In order for the student to be considered for Valedictorian and Salutatorian selection at the high school from which he/she plans to graduate, the student must have been in full-year attendance at that school during the 11th and 12th grades.**

NOTE: Carnegie unit courses will not include driver's education or physical education for the purpose of determining grade point average. Furthermore, only one credit is counted towards grade point average in the area of fine arts (which includes art, music, drama or band).

Traditional Diploma Honors and Special Honors

Seniors having an overall grade point average (numerical average "including weighted") of 95 and above shall be graduated with Special Honors and those having an overall grade point average (numerical average "including weighted") of 88-94 shall be graduated with Honors, both distinctions to be computed from Carnegie unit credits earned from the time the student enters the eighth grade class through the fourth term progress report of the senior year. **Selected advanced courses may be weighted. The student should consult with the administration of the particular school of attendance for detailed information regarding the weighted courses.**

Graduation Options for Students With Disabilities

Effective beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, Lamar County School District students with disabilities (under Public Law 105-17, Individuals with Disability Education Act) will have three graduation options, as follows:

1. Students with disabilities may enroll in an academic course of study aimed at obtaining a *Standard Lamar County School District High School Diploma*.
2. Students with disabilities may obtain a *Graduation Certificate of Completion* as specified in the Mississippi Code 837-16-11.
3. Students with disabilities may enroll in an occupational course of study aimed at obtaining a *Lamar County School District Occupational Diploma*. The student must have an approved portfolio, containing a collection of evidence of the student's knowledge, skills, and abilities, related to the occupational core curriculum. The primary postgraduate goal for students enrolled in the occupational course of study is competitive employment.

Requirements for Occupational Diploma

Effective for students with disabilities as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (Public Law 101-476) who begin the ninth grade in 2002-2003 school year, students must earn the course credits outlined and successfully complete an approved occupational portfolio in order to be awarded the Mississippi Occupational Diploma.

- English/Language Arts.....4 credits
 - 132135 Employment English I 1
 - 123136 Employment English II 1
 - 123137 Employment English III..... 1
 - 123138 Applied Employment English IV 1
- Mathematics.....4 credits
 - 132153 Job Skills Math I 1
 - 132154 Job Skills Math II 1
 - 132155 Job Skills Math III 1
 - 123136 Applied Job Skills Math IV 1
- Science.....4 credits
 - 132181 Life Skills Science I 1
 - 132182 Life Skills Science II..... 1
 - 132183 Life Skills Science III 1
 - 123184 Applied Life Skills Science IV 1
- Social Studies.....4 credits
 - 132170 Career Preparation I 1
 - 132171 Career Preparation II..... 1
 - 132172 Career Preparation III..... 1
 - 123173 Applied Career Preparation IV..... 1
- 132168 10th grade – School Based Work Assessment (Career Technical Education) 1 credit
- 132168 11th grade – Community Based Job Shadowing (Career Technical Education)..... 1 credit
- 132166 *540 work hours to be accomplished between grades 9 and 12.....2 credits
- Electives8 credits
 - Existing laws require LEAs to offer arts education, physical education, wellness education, career/technical education, and driver education as electives.

*Or completion of a two (2) year career technical (vocational) program

TOTAL 28 credits

Lamar County School District students with disabilities may change from one diploma type to another if the IEP committee deems it appropriate. However, this may require the student to attend school for additional semesters/years in order to complete the requirements for the diploma type that has been chosen for that student.

Occupational Diploma Honors and Special Honors

Seniors having an overall grade point average of 95 and above shall be graduated with special honors and those having an overall grade point average of 88-94 shall be graduated with honors, both distinctions to be computed from grades earned from the time the student enters the ninth grade through the fourth term progress report of the senior year.

NOTE: Academic courses will not include physical education or driver’s education for the purpose of determining grade point average. Furthermore, only one credit in art, music, drama, or band will be counted.

P.A.C.T. Program – Program for Academic and Career Training: A GED Option Program

Lamar County will provide a program of GED preparatory instruction as a part of the Alternative Education Program. The legislation mandates that students who are enrolled in an approved GED Program shall not be classified as dropouts and that the school district will continue to receive Minimum Program funding for the students while they are enrolled in the GED Program. Students placed in the GED Program shall not be eligible to participate in regular academic courses or other programmatic activities within the school district, including athletics, choir, band, or any other extra curricular activities except that a GED student may participate in existing job and skill development programs or in programs developed in conjunction with the GED Program and the Vocational Education Director.

Minimum Student Selection Guidelines

Recommendations for student participation in the GED Program will be made by a committee of school staff consisting of campus administrators, counselors, classroom teachers, and support staff. Written approval from the parent/guardian, principal, and superintendent is required for program participation. Documentation of the committee recommendation shall be maintained for each student. The criteria for student participation in the GED Program will consist of the following:

1. The student must be at least 17 years of age (16 with special circumstances and superintendent approval);
2. The student must be at least two (2) grade levels behind or have acquired fewer than four (4) Carnegie units;
3. The student must have taken every opportunity to continue to participate in course work leading to a regular high school diploma;
4. The student must attain the approved score on the TABE test;
5. The student has attempted 9th grade;
6. Students that have been referred to the Alternative Education Program for disciplinary reasons shall not be eligible for placement in the GED Program until behavioral modification goals for exiting the Alternative Education Program have been attained.

Student Dress Code 9-12

Students attending school in the Lamar County School District must wear clothing that is comfortable, clean, in good repair, and school-appropriate. Clothing, hair, and other items that students wear to school must not disrupt the educational process nor create any form of school disturbance (i.e. no spike Mohawks and off color hair).

- No student will be allowed to wear any type of clothing that, in the opinion of the administrator, is too revealing, suggestive, provocative or otherwise inappropriate. An example is clothing that reveals skin in the midriff area or cleavage.
- Appropriate undergarments for boys and girls must be worn at all times and may not be visible.
- Students who are dressed inappropriately may be given the opportunity to change clothes, or allowed to call the parent/guardian to bring a change of clothes that conforms to the dress code. If the parent/guardian cannot be contacted and the student does not wish to change clothes, the student will be removed from regular classes and be assigned to an alternative location until such time as the parent/guardian can be contacted. The student will be placed on the appropriate step of the discipline ladder.
- Students are required to wear garments as they are intended to be worn and in such a manner that is appropriate for school. Belts must be worn with pants that have belt loops and must be worn at the waist. **Under no circumstances will excessively baggy, low-riding pants or oversized shirts or sweatshirts be allowed (An oversized shirt is defined as – bottom of shirts cannot hang below the tip of the thumb). If the bottom of the shirt goes below the student's thumb tip, the shirt must be tucked in.**
- Students in grades 9-12 are allowed to wear walking shorts not to exceed five inches (5") above the top of the knee. All shorts must be hemmed. All other apparel will be no more than four inches (4") above the top of the knee. Slits in dresses and skirts must meet the four-inch requirement.
- Shoes must be worn at all times. Shower shoes and house shoes will not be allowed. If shoes are to be laced up with shoelaces, they must be worn and laced up at all times.
- Straps of overalls or suspenders must be worn over the shoulder.
- Earrings must be worn in the ear(s) only. For student safety, no other body piercing with rings or other jewelry is permitted. No tongue studs will be allowed.
- All inappropriate tattoos must be covered.
- Inappropriate clothing items include the following:
 - a. Any items symbolic of gang attire (students all dressing alike, i.e. white t-shirts, red-t-shirts, camouflage pants, etc.);
 - b. Clothing with logos or wording promoting/referring to alcohol, tobacco, or drugs;
 - c. **Clothing containing slogans or logos depicting vandalism, bigotry, violence, sexual connotations, suicide, fraternities, sororities, secret organizations, intimidation, harassment or those with double meaning;**
 - d. Any clothing that is too revealing for male or female students. Examples include tank tops, spaghetti strap tops, cut-off tops, tube tops, halter tops, bathing suits, sports bras or midriffs, muscle shirts, shirts or tops that are low at the underarm, etc.;
 - e. Sports shorts, biking shorts, sweat pants/shorts;
 - f. Spiked accessories, chains (including those attached to wallets and/or belt loops), jewelry, or other accessories/items;
 - g. Hats, bandanas, visors, sunglasses, hoods, or other headwear (inside or outside of the buildings);
 - h. Trench coats or other coat types that extend below the knee;
 - i. Oversized pants (e.g. Hobos, etc.);
 - j. Sleepwear or clothing patterned after sleepwear;
 - k. Tops or shirts that do not cover the midriff when arms are raised.
 - l. Clothes containing holes above the knee.

In all instances, the appropriateness or inappropriateness of school dress will be determined by school administrators, considering the style or manner in which the clothing is worn or it's fit.

Lamar County School District Disciplinary Policies and Procedures

Discipline Policy

It is the goal of the Lamar County School District to maintain a safe and orderly climate where all students feel secure in a positive learning environment. Every effort is made to develop and maintain harmonious relationships between students and school staff based upon mutual respect and understanding. The basic objectives of the Lamar County School District's discipline policy are as follows:

- (1) To establish conditions under which no student will be permitted to prevent any teacher from teaching or any student from learning,
- (2) To establish and maintain study conditions that are conducive to learning,
- (3) To develop, on the part of each student, the habits and skills that make him/her self-directive and to help him/her realize that he/she is responsible for his/her own behavior,
- (4) To guide students in learning how to make better behavioral choices based on decision-making skills that enable them to become self-disciplined.

As required by Mississippi law, any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a school district who refuses or willfully fails to attend a discipline conference specified in the discipline section may be summoned by proper notification by the superintendent or the school attendance officer and be required to attend such discipline conference.

Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child who (a) fails to attend a discipline or academic (Section 37-11-53) conference to which such parent, guardian or custodian has been summoned under the provisions of the discipline section, or (b) refuses or willfully fails to perform any other duties imposed upon him or her under the provisions of the discipline sections, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not to exceed \$250.00

Disciplinary measures/punishment may follow student failure to conform to accepted standards of behavior in the school. **Significant interruptions of the educational process resulting from overt disrespect shown by students to faculty members, unruly student behavior, and vulgar or otherwise discourteous actions will not be permitted.**

Disciplinary actions as outlined in the steps on the discipline ladder will be taken as a result of the following student misbehavior: (1) refusal to follow instructions from faculty members; (2) using profane language; (3) failing to identify oneself when asked to do so by a member of the faculty; (4) insolent, contemptuous, or belligerent behavior or remarks; (5) a violation of other disciplinary rules or regulations or other good cause. (6) **The Board has special concerns about harassment of students or teachers by other students and considers this an offense which may result in serious disciplinary action.** Monitoring devices (cameras) are placed in school buildings and in other school campus locations including classrooms to provide one source of observation for school officials to help with the maintenance of discipline and safety practices. School officials are authorized to utilize video/audio taping of school property to assist in the supervision for student conduct and safety.

Suspension Procedures

When a principal/assistant principal or other certified administrator determines that a suspension should be invoked against a student due to the student's misconduct, as authorized under Section 37-9-71 Mississippi Code of 1972, the following procedures/guidelines will be applicable. These guidelines are applicable to out-of-school suspension or suspension of bus riding privileges that remove the student from the school setting, deny such student from attending school or school activities during the normal school day, or deny the student to ride a school bus to and from school:

1. A principal/assistant principal may suspend a student for a period not to exceed five (5) school days.
2. A student may be suspended for more than five (5) school days if approved by the principal and the Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent.
3. If the student is to be suspended immediately during normal school hours, the parent/guardian will be contacted to pick their child up immediately.
4. For any suspension, the principal/assistant principal may require a re-admission conference with the parent/guardian prior to the student being re-admitted to school or school activities.
5. At the time the administrator invokes a suspension against a student, a written notice will be provided to the student/parent/guardian. A copy of the district's suspension form shall be mailed to the parent/guardian with 24 hours of the suspension action. The form will state the reason for the suspension, the duration/dates of the suspension, the student's action to deny or admit the infraction noted, and an explanation of the due process rights available to the student/parent/guardian.
6. The days missed during an out-of-school suspension period will be counted as unexcused absences. Students must attend Saturday school in order to make up major grades missed.
7. Suspended students are not permitted to enter upon school grounds or to attend any school activity during the time of the suspension.

Student Suspension from School

Section 37-9-71, Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated as amended, recites as follows:

The superintendent of schools and the principal of a school shall have the power to suspend a pupil for good cause, including misconduct in the school or on school property, as defined in Section 37-11-29, on the road to and from school, or at any school-related activity or event, or for conduct occurring on property other than school property or other than at a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil, in the determination of the superintendent or principal, renders that pupil's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole, or for any reason for which such pupil might be suspended, dismissed or expelled by the school board under state or federal law or any rule, regulation or policy of the local school district. However, such action of the superintendent or principal shall be subject to review by and approval or disapproval of the school board. If the parent, guardian, or other person having custody of any child shall feel aggrieved by the suspension or dismissal of that child, then such parent, guardian, or other person shall have the right to a due process hearing. The appropriate superintendent or principal shall advise the parent or guardian of the child of this right to a hearing and the proper form shall be provided for requesting such a hearing.

Suspension and Students with Disabilities

In accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA, 2004 amendment):

1. Students with disabilities must not receive serial (back-to-back) suspensions.
2. Suspensions totaling over 10 days per school year are considered a change in placement, and parents must be notified and a functional behavior plan must be completed by the district's positive behavior specialist.
3. Suspensions involving drugs or weapons or serious bodily harm/threat require the IEP committee to conduct a manifestation determination review to decide if the behavior was a manifestation of the child's disability.
4. In incidences involving student drug or weapon possession or serious bodily harm/threat, a student may be expelled from school or receive educational services through an Interim Alternative Placement for 45 school days.
5. Students suspended for more than 10 total school days are entitled to continued special educational services, regardless of his/her recommended placement.

Appeal of Suspension Decision/Due Process

If a student/parent/guardian is aggrieved by the suspension decision of the administrator, the student/parent/guardian may appeal the decision in accordance with the following guidelines approved by the Board of Education:

1. **For appeal of suspensions lasting from 1-5 school days as invoked by principals/assistant principals, the student/parent/guardian may appeal to the principal. The decision of the principal shall be final.**
2. For appeal of suspensions lasting from 6-10 days as invoked by a principal/assistant principal, approved by the principal and authorized by the District Office, the appeal may be made to the District Discipline Committee. The decision of the District Discipline Committee and the superintendent will be final.
3. For appeal of suspensions lasting more than 10 days, appeal may be made to the Board of Education.
4. All requests must be made in writing.
5. Failure to appear at the scheduled time without prior notification to the superintendent/assistant superintendent will represent a forfeiture of the review.
6. A student may be put in parent care or classroom until issue is resolved.
7. If the decision of the committee is to uphold the principal's decision, then the student will be required to fulfill said disciplinary action.

Due Process: Appeals of Disciplinary Actions

In order to preserve a student's rights and the protection of due process of law, any student shall be given the opportunity for a hearing before appropriate school district officials should he/she or his parent/guardian desire to have a hearing. (Differences, disputes, and conflicts between students and staff are usually civil matters and not criminal ones.) When a student and/or his/her parent/guardian are dissatisfied with a disciplinary decision imposed by school staff, then the student and/or his/her parent/guardian may appeal. There is a defined method and protocol to the appeals procedure. The following is the step-by-step procedure to be used for appealing decisions/actions of school district personnel:

1. If the appeal concerns an action by a teacher, the appeal is to first be made to the teacher's supervising principal.
2. If the appeal concerns an action by a principal, then the initial appeal should be made to that administrator.
3. If, after Step 2 no consensus is reached, the appeal may be made to the District Discipline Committee. The District Discipline Committee will render its decision in the matter and submit the same to the Superintendent. The Superintendent is authorized to accept, reject, and/or modify the decision of the Committee.
4. If, after Step 3 no consensus is reached, the student or his/her parent/guardian may make written request for appeal to the Board of Education. This request must be made through the use of the proper request form, which is available in the Office of the Superintendent. The Board, in its sole and absolute discretion, will determine whether or not the appeal has merit to be heard by the Board. If so, it will be heard in the form of documents and testimony from the

Discipline Hearing. If the Board determines that the Superintendent's decision and/or the decision of the Disciplinary Committee is final, then such appeal request will be denied and the student and/or his/her parent/guardian shall be notified in writing by the District Office.

District Discipline Committee

The District Discipline Committee is directed by the Assistant Superintendent of Operations or a designee, who shall organize, chair, and direct the procedural matters connected with the operation of the committee. This committee will be composed of individuals appointed by the Assistant Superintendent. The committee will meet in the District Office on a regular basis to hear student matters as necessary under the guidelines of the district's discipline plan and appeals procedures. Upon completion of the committee's responsibilities, the Assistant Superintendent shall notify the Superintendent of the committee's decision. The Superintendent shall have authority to accept, reject, and/or modify the decision of the committee based upon the report of the Assistant Superintendent or a designee.

Searches by School Officials

Use of Drug Dogs in the Schools by Law Enforcement

The threat of or the use, possession, and sale of illegal drugs must be prohibited at the schools of the district. The Board recognizes that law enforcement officials make use of specially trained canines to detect the presence of illegal drugs. This practice has its benefits when used in harmony with safe handling of the canines and within the scope of proper use.

1. No drug dogs will be used in the schools of the district without the specific approval of the Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent. All arrangements for the use of drug dogs will be coordinated through the Office of the Superintendent.
2. Contact for the coordination of using canines in the schools for drug searches will be made through the Office of the Superintendent. Contact with school principals/assistant principals will be made just prior to the arrival of the canines at the school.
3. The district may, at any time, utilize canines to search vehicles, possessions not on the student's person, desks, lockers and other school property, with or without reasonable suspicion. Canines utilized under the procedures of this policy will not be allowed to indiscriminately approach students or staff members.
4. Prior to entering a classroom to conduct a search using a canine, students will be instructed to leave the room.
5. A canine response indicating the presence of contraband constitutes reasonable suspicion and a more intrusive search may be conducted at the direction of the school administrators present.
6. In the event that a canine reacts during any search as herein set forth, the individual student will be summoned prior to any search of the property to which the canine issued a reaction (automobile, locker, desk, etc.). The student will be informed that the canine reacted and that a more intrusive search will be conducted in the presence of the student. In the event that the search produces evidence of illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, or other contraband, the student will be taken to the appropriate school office and the parent/guardian will be contacted to report to the school. Appropriate disciplinary action will be imposed pending presentation of the case to the Lamar County Board of Education.

Searches-Generally

The Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article 3, §23 of the Mississippi Constitution provide all people with the right to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches. However, circumstances will arise where searches of students' persons, possessions, lockers, desks, and vehicles will be necessary. Administrators have the authority and obligation to exercise discretion in the implementation of this policy, balancing the district's responsibility to maintain discipline, order, and a safe environment conducive to education with the students' legitimate expectation of privacy.

Searches Permitted

All searches must be pre-approved by the Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent, principal, assistant principal, or acting principal. No other district employee may authorize a search except where an emergency situation exists.

At least two (2) district employees must be present while a search is conducted. If, in the discretion of the administrator or employee conducting the search, the search is particularly intrusive, the person conducting the search and the witnesses, or at least one of them, should be the same sex as the student.

No student other than the student who is the subject of the search may be present during the search. All searches must be reasonable in scope. Searches are permitted as follows:

1. **Person, Possessions, Lockers**: Searches of a student's person, possessions or lockers may be conducted if a district employee has prior individualized reasonable suspicion that a student has violated or is violating a district policy, school rules or regulations or the law and that the search will result in discovery of evidence of such violation.
2. **Desks, Other School Property**: Searches of desks and other school property (except lockers) may be conducted at any time, with or without reasonable suspicion of a violation.
3. **Vehicles**: Searches of vehicles driven to school by or for students may be searched by visual inspection with or without reasonable suspicion of a violation. If a visual search results in individualized reasonable suspicion of a

violation, a more intrusive search of the vehicle may be conducted at the direction of the principal or other administrator present.

4. **Group Searches:** Caution shall be exercised when a search involving a number of students is conducted. In most instances, in order to justify a search, the district's reasonable suspicion must be particularized to an individual student. Exceptions to this requirement are appropriate only where the intrusiveness of the search is minimal, such as canine searches of lockers, desks or book bags, automobiles, etc.
5. **Strip Searches:** No student shall be subjected to a strip search except where an emergency situation exists and with pre-approval of the school principal. No student shall be asked to remove any article of clothing in the presence of a member of the opposite sex or of other students.
6. **Metal Detectors:** Use of metal detectors to minimize the risk of weapons on campus is determined to be a desirable technique for campus security purposes. No student or teacher should be subject to the dangers inherent in a firearm, knife or other potentially dangerous object being carried onto the campus by another person.
 - a. **Random Use of Detector:** Metal detectors may be used either at random without cause at times to be determined by the campus principal or as otherwise prescribed by the district or they may be used for minor reasonable suspicion on a selective basis. Selection of students for a random sweep shall be demonstrably according to chance.
 - b. **Avoidance of Detection Process:** When a detector is in use at a particular entrance of a school and a student approaches the detection site and then attempts to avoid using that doorway, it shall be considered sufficient cause to immediately detain and frisk the student, following which the student and the student's belongings shall be subjected to the device.
 - c. Nothing in this policy requires the use of a metal detector, even if readily available, in preference to any other type of search.
7. Anyone who leaves campus with or without permission upon returning will be subject to search along with their vehicle. Anyone found in an unauthorized area of a campus will be subject to search.

Definitions

1. "Reasonable in Scope" means that the degree of the intrusion must be consistent with the objective of the search. Factors to be considered in whether the scope of a search is reasonable include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. The student's age, maturity, and sex;
 - b. The nature or level of seriousness of the suspected violation; and
 - c. The intrusiveness of the search, e.g. a canine search is less intrusive than a locker search; a locker search is less intrusive than a "pat down" search; etc.
2. "Reasonable suspicion" refers to a flexible concept requiring the application of experience and common sense. Determinations of whether reasonable suspicion to support a search exists shall be made on a case-by-case basis with due consideration of all circumstances. In all cases, "reasonable suspicion" must be supported by articulable facts. Factors to be considered in making this determination include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. The reliability of the information indicating that evidence of a violation may be discovered;
 - b. The existence of reasonable suspicion that such evidence will be discovered;
 - c. The individualization of the suspicion toward the person to be the subject of the search;
 - d. The prevalence or seriousness of the problem to which the search is directed;
 - e. The exigency of the circumstances; and
 - f. In some circumstances, the student's history and record in school.
3. An "emergency situation" exists if the destruction of evidence or use of contraband is an immediate possibility. In such a case, an administrator must be notified immediately. However, if an emergency situation does not exist, employees should take steps to prevent the possible destruction of evidence or use of contraband while securing approval for a search.

Disciplinary Action

If a search reveals grounds for a reasonable belief that a violation of a district policy, school rules or regulations or the law has occurred, the student will be subject to disciplinary action as provided by district policy.

Police Searches

School officials are obligated to cooperate with law enforcement authorities who are validly carrying out their official duties. In such cases involving a student, the district shall make an immediate attempt to notify the student's parent, guardian, or custodian. The principal or the principal's designee shall attend the search if conducted on or about the school premises and shall take any disciplinary action necessary as a result of the search.

Legal Ref.: New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325 (1985)
Horton v. Goose Creek Independent School Dist., 690 F.2d 470 (5th Cir. 1982), cert. denied 103 S.Ct. 35 (1983)
Tarter v. Raybuck, 742 F.2d 977 (6th Cir. 1984), cert. denied 105 S.Ct. 1749 1985.

Interrogations by School Officials

School administrators and teachers have the right to question a student regarding his/her conduct or the conduct of others. School officials may question/interrogate a student regarding his/her conduct or the conduct of others **without the parent/guardian being present**. Principals are required by law to act in loco parentis.

Interrogations by Law Enforcement Officials

Law enforcement personnel are not permitted to interrogate students on the school campus regarding alleged activities of the student or others away from the school campus that have caused law enforcement to become involved until such time as the principal/assistant principal has obtained permission from the student's parent/guardian.

Felony Charges

Any student charged with a felony may not participate in any extra-curricular activities and could be assigned to the alternative school.

Unsafe School Choice Option

If the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) informs the Lamar County School District that a school within the district has been identified as a *persistently dangerous school* according to MDE guidelines, the Lamar County School District will implement the following actions:

1. Within 10 calendar days, notify the parents of each student attending the school that MDE has identified the school as persistently dangerous;
2. Offer students the opportunity to transfer to a safe public school within the Lamar County School District 14 calendar days prior to the opening of school;
 - a. The schools eligible to receive students will be determined by the school district based on available space;
 - b. Transfers will be limited to another Lamar County School;
 - c. Transportation by the district may be provided but is not required;
 - d. Transfers will remain in effect as long as the original school is identified as persistently dangerous. The transfer may be temporary or permanent at the discretion of the school district.
3. Those students who accept the transfer offer must complete the transfer within 20 calendar days.
4. Develop a corrective action plan within 20 calendar days of notification and implement the plan in a timely manner.
5. If a student becomes a victim of a violent criminal offense (as defined by MDE) while in school or on school grounds that the student attends, the Lamar County School District will offer to transfer the student to a safe school as outlined in section 2 within 14 days.

Upon completion of corrective action, the district will apply to MDE to remove the school from the list of persistently dangerous schools.

Lamar County School District Discipline Ladder

When a student misbehaves and/or demonstrates unacceptable behavior on school grounds or at a school event, the student may be placed upon the **Discipline Ladder**. The discipline ladder **does not** reflect a step-to-step approach. In other words, if a student commits a very serious infraction (e.g. making a bomb threat) and the student has not committed any other offenses during the year, the student **will not** begin at Step 1. In accordance with the step assignments listed herein, that student will be placed on the ladder at Steps 5-7. Further, the discipline ladder is a guide. Administrators have discretion to use their professional judgment in the management of discipline based upon the circumstances. A student will be subject to one or more of the alternatives at each step based upon the circumstances of the offense. Administrators have discretion as to when students will be placed on the discipline ladder. In some situations, it is appropriate to use pre-entry warnings that may include a conference with the student, contact with the parent/guardian, written warning, or other communications that let the student and/or parent know that the student's behavior is approaching a level that will result in the student being placed upon the ladder. **This pre-entry phase is not required.**

The Discipline Ladder**STEP 1**

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (may be written contact)
2. Student conference
3. Parent care assignment
4. Partial or all day assignment to IST
5. Assignment to detention
6. Saturday school assignment

7. Loss of privileges/performance of school service (temporary)
8. Removal from the ladder after 5 school days with no additional referrals

STEP 2

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (may be written contact)
2. Parent care assignment
3. Partial or all day assignment to IST
4. Assignment to detention
5. Saturday school assignment
6. Loss of privileges/performance of school service (temporary)
7. Removal from the ladder after 10 school days with no additional referrals

STEP 3

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (conduct phone or personal conference with dean of students, assistant principal and/or principal)
2. Parent care assignment
3. Detention assignment
4. Assignment to IST 1 – 3 days
5. Saturday school assignments
6. Loss of privileges/performance of school service (temporary or permanent removal)
7. Removal from the ladder after 15 school days with no additional referrals

STEP 4

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (conduct phone or personal conference with dean of students, assistant principal and/or principal)
2. Parent care assignment
3. Assignment to IST (In-School Tutorial) 1-3 days
4. Assignment to Saturday school(s)
5. Loss of privileges/performance of school service (temporary or permanent removal)
6. Parent may be requested to attend classes with the student by the administrator
7. Removal from the ladder after 20 school days with no additional referrals

STEP 5

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (conduct personal conference with dean of students, assistant principal and/or principal)
2. Parent care assignment
3. Assignment of OSS (Out-of-School Suspension) 1-5 days
4. Assignment to Saturday school(s)
5. Referral to the Superintendent's office (notice of student behavior problem) and intervention as determined by administration.
6. Loss of privileges/performance of school service (temporary or permanent removal)
7. Parent may be requested to attend classes with the student by the administrator
8. Removal from the ladder after 25 school days with no additional referrals

STEP 6

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (conduct personal conference with dean of students, assistant principal and/or principal)
2. Assignment of OSS for 6-10 days with district office approval
3. Referral to the District Discipline Committee for review and action, which may include placement of the student in the Alternative School Program (unless waived).
4. Loss of Privileges (temporary or permanent)
5. Parent may be requested to attend classes with the student by the administrator
6. Loss of exemptions in all classes (Automatic for remainder of the school year)
7. Removal from the ladder after 30 school days with no additional referrals

STEP 7

1. Contact parent/legal guardian (phone or personal conference with the principal)
2. Assignment of OSS 6-10+ days (approval from Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent required)
3. Referral to the District Discipline Committee for due process hearing-(parents notified by district office) The District Discipline Committee is authorized to determine a long-term placement in the Alternative School program (up to one (1) calendar year) or recommendation to expel made by principal to the Superintendent. If the principal recommends expulsion, the Superintendent may, in his discretion, direct the Assistant Superintendent to convene the District

Discipline Committee to review the case prior to the Superintendent making his decision. If the Superintendent concurs with the recommendation of the principal and/or the District Discipline Committee, the recommendation will be presented to the Board of Education.

4. Loss of privileges (temporary or permanent)
5. If the student returns to school after the expulsion period has expired or the long-term alternative school assignment has been completed, the student will be immediately assigned to disciplinary probation for 35 days and remain on Step 7 of the ladder. If the student ends the 35-day probationary period with no office referrals, the student may be removed from the ladder.

STEP 8

1. Action of the Board of Education to expel or other disciplinary action as assigned by the Board.

Other Important Information Regarding Discipline

1. No student will be placed at a given step on the discipline ladder more than two (2) times. The student will be escalated to the next higher step after his/her second placement on any step.
2. Any discipline/behavior problem resulting in the student's placement on the ladder at Steps 4-8 may be referred to appropriate law enforcement officials for action.
3. In accordance with the Mississippi Safety Act of 2000 for a student who causes a disruption in the classroom, on school property or vehicles, or at school-related activities during the school year, the principal, the reporting teacher, and the child's parent(s) will develop a Behavior Modification Plan (BMP).

Unacceptable Behaviors and Placement on the Discipline Ladder

The following chart reflects generalized unacceptable behavior and placement on the discipline ladder. This list is not all-inclusive, and other behaviors may occur that do not necessarily appear. Administrators are vested with the authority to use administrative judgment in regard to such behaviors.

| Unacceptable Behaviors | | Consequences | |
|------------------------|--|--------------|--|
| | | High School | |
| 1 | Biting | Step 5-8 | Zero tolerance |
| 2 | Bomb threat | Step 5-8 | |
| 3 | Cutting/leaving class without permission | Step 3-5 | |
| 4 | Defacement/Destruction of Property/Vandalism | Step 3-8 | Restitution required \$20,000 maximum |
| 5 | Defiance of staff member/Disrespect/Continuous disobedience | Step 1-8 | |
| 6 | Dress code violation | Step 1-5 | |
| 7 | Eating/drinking in unapproved area | Step 1-3 | |
| 8 | Fighting (or spreading rumors/gossip which leads to verbal/physical confrontation/fight/disruption/disturbance) at school, school activities, and/or aboard a school bus | Step 5-8 | |
| 9 | Gambling/possession of gambling devices | Step 2-5 | |
| 10 | Gang activity/association/secret organizations/clubs | Step 5-8 | |
| 11 | Going to car without permission | Step 1-4 | |
| 12 | Harassment, intimidation, hazing, stalking, or threatening another student or staff members | Step 1-8 | |
| 13 | Inappropriate display of public affection | Step 1-4 | |
| 14 | Improper/disruptive behavior on school grounds or at school activities | Step 1-8 | |
| 15 | Improper use of internet | Step 1-8 | |
| 16 | Improper use of lockers | Step 1-6 | |
| 17 | Leaving campus without authorization | Step 4-6 | |
| 18 | Lying to authorities | Step 1-7 | |
| 19 | Misbehavior aboard school bus | Step 1-8 | |
| 20 | Parking/Traffic violations | Step 1-3 | |
| 21 | Pornography in any form | Step 5-8 | |
| 22 | Possession of cell phones, radios, beepers, other electronic devices | Step 3-6 | |
| 23 | Possession of weapon, imitation weapon or object that could be used as a weapon | Step 6-8 | |
| 24 | Profanity/vulgarity (includes acts, gestures, or symbols directed at person) | Step 3-6 | |
| 25 | Refusal to identify one's self when requested to do so by school staff | Step 4-5 | |
| 26 | Sexual harassment or Sexual misconduct | Step 4-8 | |

| | | |
|----|---|----------------------|
| 27 | Stealing/Theft/Cheating | Step 4-8 |
| 28 | Tardies (as defined in student handbook) | See Tardiness Policy |
| 29 | Trespassing | Step 4-7 |
| 30 | Unauthorized fundraising (sale of candy, etc.) | Step 1-4 |
| 31 | Use of forged/altered documents such as parent notes, report cards, hall passes, etc. | Step 4-7 |
| 32 | Use/Possession of Dangerous Objects | Step 5-8 |
| 33 | Use/Possession of Fireworks | Step 5-7 |
| 34 | Use, sale, possession, or under the influence of alcohol or alcohol-related products | Step 6-8 |
| 35 | Use, sale, possession, or under the influence of drugs and/or drug paraphernalia (as defined herein) or counterfeit | Step 6-8 |
| 36 | Use, sale, possession of tobacco or tobacco-related products | Step 4-7 |
| 37 | Violent act towards school employee | Step 5-8 |

Discipline Guide

1. Fighting

- Level I – Pushing, shoving, wrestling, trying to throw a punch, inciting a fight
- Level II – Vicious, blood, fist fight
- Level III – Habitual discipline problem, previously warned, 2nd fight or more in a year

Consequences

- Level I – Step 5 – 1 day suspension
- Level II – Step 5 – 5 days suspension, referral to youth court
- Level III – Step 6 – 6 days suspension, 9 weeks at Alternative School, referral to youth court

2. Weapons

- Level I – Weapons other than a gun found on person, vehicle
- Level II – Using, threatening or brandishing any weapon, possession of a gun on person or in vehicle

Consequences

- Level I – Step 6 – 6 days suspension & 9 weeks at Alternative School, referral to youth court
- Level II – Step 7 – 6 days suspension, expulsion and/or Alternative School, referral to youth court

3. Over the Counter Medications & Supplements

- Level I – Handling, passing it to another student
- Level II – Brought to school to sell, give away, trade

Consequences

- Level I – Step 5 – 3 days suspension
- Level II – Step 6 – 6 days suspension & 9 weeks at Alternative School

4. Alcohol & Prescription drugs

- Level I – Under the influence (consumed off campus), possession
- Level II – Brought to school, consumption on campus

Consequences

- Level I – Step 6 – 6 days suspension & 9 weeks Alternative School, referral to youth court
- Level II – Step 6 – 6 days suspension & one semester at Alternative School, referral to youth court

5. Illegal Drugs

- Level I – Possession
- Level II – Use, under the influence, selling, trading, giving away

Consequences

- Level I – Step 6 – 6 days suspension & one semester Alternative School, referral to youth court
- Level II – Step 7 – 6 days suspension & one year Alternative School or expulsion, referral to youth court

- Any combination of the above will result in more severe consequences. The Alternative School assignment of days may vary based on what is best for the student to meet academic requirements.

Youth Court

Criminal behavior if committed by a student may result in referral to Lamar County Youth Court or the appropriate Judiciary. The following is a list of offenses that may be reported:

| | |
|---|--|
| Mississippi Code 97-37-17 Possession of weapons Possession of drugs Possession of alcohol Possession of drug paraphernalia Simple assault Disorderly conduct Abuse of a Teacher or Principal Rape Sexual battery | Mississippi Code 37-11-20 Threatening and intimidation Public intoxication Defacing or destroying school property Malicious mischief Cyber stalking Vandalism Gambling Trespassing Bomb threats |
|---|--|

And other criminal offenses of the Mississippi Code

In addition to the above listed criminal offenses, excessive unexcused absences will also be reported to the Lamar County Youth Court.

Expulsion

The Board of Education may expel any student for conduct that disrupts the educational process or endangers the health or safety of any student, his/her classmates, or any school personnel. Only the School Board may expel a student from school attendance and the School Board may only take such action after having afforded the student recommended for expulsion with all due process to which the student is entitled. Recommendation for expulsion must be made by the school principal to the Superintendent and/or District Discipline Committee to be submitted to the Board of Education for their action. Notice of the date, time, and location of the Board hearing shall be given in writing to the parent/guardian and student.

Acts of Violence, Inciting Violence, Threats of Violence, Hazing, Fighting and/or Disruption of Educational Process

Violent acts, inciting violent acts, threats of violence, and/or other acts that disrupt the educational process/school related activities are strictly prohibited. Such acts are totally unacceptable behavior which result in the disruption of normal school operation and, in some cases, can endanger the safety and general welfare of other students and staff members. Hazing, whether it occurs at school or away from school, if related in any way to school and/or school activities, will not be tolerated, and the student will be disciplined as if the action occurred at school. Violent acts (including fighting), inciting violence, and/or threats of violence, are considered to be a major breach of school decorum and will not be tolerated. Such acts are dealt with in accordance with the seriousness of the incident, the age of the student(s) involved, the number of students participating in the episode, and the extent to which the student(s) are cooperative in following the instructions of administration and staff in ending the incident. In almost all cases, some disciplinary action will be imposed by the principal/assistant principal. A parent conference will be required and a threat assessment may be recommended. For seriously violent situations law enforcement officials will be contacted, and the student(s) will be placed on Step 5 or higher of the discipline ladder. Principals/assistant principals are fully authorized to file necessary criminal charges against students involved in such acts if in their discretion the same is warranted.

Harassment

Students of Lamar County School District shall not bully, harass or intimidate others including electronic means such as, but not limited to MySpace, the internet, text messages or related means.

Threatening, Extortion, Intimidation

Section 37-11-20: Intimidation, threatening or coercion of students for purpose of interfering with attendance of classes. It shall be unlawful for any person to intimidate, threaten, or coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce, whether by illegal force, threats of force or by the distribution of intimidating, threatening or coercive material, any person enrolled in any school for the purpose of interfering with the right of that person to attend school classes or of causing him not to attend such classes. Upon conviction of violation of any provision of this section, such individual shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), imprisonment in jail for a period not to exceed six (6) months or both. Any person under the age of seventeen (17) years who violates any provision of this section shall be treated as a delinquent within the jurisdiction of the youth court.

Students are not permitted to make threats whether **overt or implied**, against other students or school personnel. Students are not allowed to extort money, favors, or something of value from other students or staff, regardless of the amount of value, in return for protection or in connection with a threat to inflict harm. Such behavior is a violation of school policy and students in violation are subject to disciplinary action. This statement will apply on school grounds, before, during, and after school, or any time when the school is being used by a school group. It is also applicable off school grounds at school-sponsored events or when the prohibited behavior is a consequence of or directly related to causes or events which occurred or originated on the school campus.

Cyber stalking

1. It is unlawful for a person to participate in the following offenses:
 - a. Use in electronic mail or electronic communication any words or language threatening to inflict bodily harm to any person or that person's child, sibling, spouse, or dependent, or physical injury to the property of any person, or for the purpose of extorting money or other things of value from any person.
 - b. Electronically mail or electronically communicate to another repeatedly, whether or not conversation ensues, for the purpose of threatening, terrifying or harassing any person.
 - c. Electronically mail or electronically communicate to another and to knowingly make any false statement concerning death, injury, illness, disfigurement, indecent conduct, or criminal conduct of the person electronically mailed or of any member of the person's family or household with the intent to threaten, terrify or harass.
 - d. Knowingly permit an electronic communication device under the person's control to be used for any purpose prohibited by this section.
2. Whoever commits the offense of cyber stalking shall be punished, upon conviction:
 - a. Except as provided herein, the person is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than two (2) years or a fine of not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or both;
 - b. If any of the following apply, the person is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than five (5) years or a fine of not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), or both.

Reporting Threats, Plans, or Designs of Violence or Violent Acts

Students and staff have a duty to report any knowledge they may have regarding the threat, plan, or design of a violent act to school authorities. This includes, but is not limited to, reporting knowledge of verbal or written comments by an individual or group of individuals stating their intent to commit a violent act or knowledge that an individual is in possession of an item that is considered or could be considered a weapon. **Failure to report such knowledge to school authorities is a serious violation of school policy.**

Student Possession of a Weapon

Section 97-37-17: Possession of Weapons by Students (excerpt): It shall be a felony for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any gun, rifle, pistol or other firearm of any kind, or any dynamite, cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine or powerful explosive on educational property. Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or committed to the custody of the State Department of Corrections for not more than three (3) years, or both.

It shall be a misdemeanor for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed any BB gun, air rifle, air pistol, Bowie knife, dirk, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, switchblade knife, blackjack, metallic knuckles, razors and razor blades. Any person violating this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor shall be fined not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or be imprisoned not exceeding six (6) months, or both.

Student safety must be and shall be a foremost consideration within the schools. Any student who is in possession of a knife, handgun, other firearm, or any other instrument considered to be a weapon or considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm, shall be subject to expulsion pursuant to Section 37-11-18 of the Mississippi Code of 1972. The principal, who shall make a recommendation in regard to expulsion to the Superintendent and Board of Education, may immediately suspend any student who possesses any such device on school grounds or on board a school bus. Further, any student who uses an object that could be classified as a weapon in any fight with another student or with any school staff member shall be immediately suspended and a recommendation of expulsion shall be made to the Board of Education, who shall have sole and absolute discretion to act thereon. Any use of a weapon in a fight or other altercation or any other incident shall be immediately reported by school officials to local law enforcement as a criminal act.

Use/Possession of Drugs-Controlled Substances or Medications (Prescription or "Over-the Counter")

No student attending school or any school-sponsored activity shall be permitted to carry on his/her person or in any other manner have in his/her possession, in any way, or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages; morphine, marijuana, cocaine, opium; heroin or their derivatives or compounds; drugs commonly called LSD, "Pep" pills, designer drugs, tranquilizers, uppers/downers, medications (prescription or "over-the-counter") or any compound which, when taken orally, intravenously, inhaled or in any other manner may cause the person to be under the influence thereof, and no student shall use any of the same at any school in the district. The provisions of this policy shall not apply to any student who is under the care

of a licensed physician and who is taking medication which is under the supervision and direction of such physician. However, any and all such prescription drugs shall be kept by school personnel in a numbered, labeled bottle provided by a licensed pharmacist. Further, the student's parents/guardians shall be responsible for notifying the school principal/assistant principal when the taking of such drugs/medicines is required on school grounds during the regular school day or at school-sponsored activities.

The provisions of this policy shall apply to all students during the period of time they are subject to the jurisdiction of the school district as defined by law and while participating in or going to or from school sponsored activities and while under the supervision and direction of any teacher, principal/assistant principal, or other authority of the school district.

The principal may use observation, i.e. smell, symptoms, etc., to determine whether the student is under the influence. The parents have the right, at their own expense, to seek a drug test (to be taken within 24 hours of said observation) to contradict these findings.

Any student violating any of the provisions of the district's drug policy shall be considered to have committed a major offense and shall be subject to major disciplinary action, which may include long-term suspension, alternative school placement, and possible expulsion by the board of education. Pursuant to state law, any person who possesses any controlled substance in violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Law shall be subject to automatic expulsion. The principal/assistant principal shall suspend the student and a recommendation will be made to the Superintendent and Board of Education to expel the student.

This policy is for the sole and exclusive protection of the students of this district and their general welfare and nothing herein shall be construed to avoid any prosecution under applicable criminal laws. The principal/assistant principal shall report any violation of this policy to the superintendent and also to the proper law enforcement officials.

School Bus Transportation

Bus transportation is available to students who live one mile or more from the school of their attendance. **Our buses will not go down private drives to pick up students unless they live more than 3/10 of a mile from the nearest traveled road. Our Transportation Director will set-up neighborhood bus stops and will assign students living in the neighborhood a bus stop. At no time will a student have to walk more than 3/10 of a mile to the bus stop.** Students are expected to follow all rules regarding riding of a school bus, and drivers are authorized to instruct and otherwise control student behavior so as to insure maximum safety in the operation of the school bus. The school principal/assistant principal is authorized to implement disciplinary measures as needed to correct misconduct aboard a school bus. School bus drivers are to report any misconduct aboard the bus to the school's administration in accordance with the reporting procedures established at the individual school campus. **It is to be fully understood that bus transportation is a privilege, and students who misbehave and jeopardize the safety of other students or the driver may be denied bus transportation.**

Principals/assistant principals are authorized to suspend students from bus transportation privileges for misconduct and may recommend expulsion from the bus to the board of education. Students riding a bus are not permitted to engage in the following:

1. smoke or use tobacco in any form.
2. fight or tussle.
3. strike or in any manner threaten the driver.
4. use profanity or make vulgar gestures.
5. carry any item that would be considered a weapon.
6. make excessive noise.
7. throw objects, including paper.
8. use or be in possession of any drug in violation of the district's drug policy.
9. distract the driver.
10. extend head, hand, arms, other body parts, or articles from the bus window.
11. use the emergency exit in normal non-emergency situations.
12. bring unauthorized/potentially dangerous articles aboard the bus.
13. be out of seat while the bus is in motion.
14. be disrespectful to the driver.
15. refuse to obey the driver's instructions.
16. harass, threaten, pester, or intimidate other students.
17. bring food or drink aboard the bus to be consumed while on the bus.
18. have hats, bandanas, visors, sunglasses, or other headwear;
19. electronic devices.
20. vandalism of the inside or outside of the bus.

- **Interference with Operation of School Bus**

According to Mississippi Law 37-41-2, it shall be unlawful for any individual other than a student scheduled to be a passenger upon that particular bus, a member of the public school administration or faculty, or a law enforcement official, to

directly or indirectly interfere in any way with passenger ingress and egress or the operation, including unauthorized boarding thereof, of a bus used in public school student transportation unless permission has been obtained as prescribed by pertinent rules and regulations promulgated by the state board of education or the local school authorities.

Upon conviction of violation of any provision of this section, such individual shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed six (6) months, or both. Any person under the age of seventeen (17) who violates any provision of this section shall be treated as delinquent within the jurisdiction of the youth court.

- **Video/Audio Monitoring**

Monitoring devices (cameras) are placed on school buses to provide one source of observation for school officials to help with the maintenance of discipline and safety practices. School officials are authorized to utilize video/audio taping on school buses to assist in the supervision of student conduct and safety.

- **Disciplinary Action for Misbehavior Aboard School Buses will result in action according to the discipline ladder.**

The following procedures are generally followed in administering discipline to students who fail to behave aboard the bus:

- 1st Offense: Parents will be contacted. Other appropriate action may be taken to include suspension from the bus, school, or both.
- 2nd Offense: Appropriate disciplinary action/suspension from the bus for 1-10 days.
- 3rd Offense: Appropriate disciplinary/suspension from the bus for 11-20 days.
- 4th Offense: Appropriate disciplinary action/expulsion from the bus.

- **Fighting Aboard a School Bus or at a bus stop will result in automatic expulsion from the bus for one calendar year.**

Pursuant to State Law Section 37-9-71 the Superintendent of Schools and the Principal of a school shall have the power to suspend a pupil for good cause, including misconduct, in the school or on school property as defined in Section 37-11-29 on the road to and from school, or at any school-related activity or event, or for conduct occurring on property other than school property or other than at a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil, in the determination of the superintendent or principal, renders that pupil's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole, or for any reason for which such pupil might be suspended, dismissed or expelled by the school board under state or federal law or any rule, regulation or policy of the local school district.

- **General Reminder Concerning Safety Aboard the School Bus**

While buses are moving, any incident that distracts the driver's attention is considered a major disciplinary infraction. Students involved in a major infraction, including fighting, may be subject to out-of-school suspension in addition to bus suspension at the discretion of the school's administration. Further, parents/guardians and students are reminded that the punishment sequence listed above is a minimum that may occur for each offense. School administrators may, in their judgment, administer more severe punishment if they feel that the situation or infraction warrants such action.

- **Riding Bus Other Than Regularly Assigned Bus**

Students often make a request to be allowed to ride another bus to another location other than the regular bus going to the student's residence. **Such request must be made by the parent/guardian in writing to the principal/assistant principal prior to the student being allowed to board any other bus other than the bus that the student regularly rides.** Such requests must be presented to the principal/assistant principal on the day that the student wishes to board a different bus. The written request must be submitted by 8:15 a.m. on the day the boarding change is to occur. The written request must include a telephone number where the parent/guardian may be contacted for verification.

- **Meeting or Passing a School Bus Section 63-3-615**

1. The driver of a vehicle upon a street or highway upon meeting or overtaking (passing) any school bus which has stopped on the street or highway for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school children shall come to a complete stop and shall not proceed until the children have crossed the street or highway and the school bus has proceeded in the direction it was going.
2. Any person violating the provisions of subsection 1 of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or imprisoned for not more than one (1) year, or both.

Other Student Information

Sexual Harassment

The Board of Education will not tolerate sexual harassment of or by students. Students who are guilty of threatening or sexually harassing other students or staff shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Disrespect/Insolence

Insolence (to be boldly disrespectful in speech or behavior) and general disrespect shall not be tolerated. Students are not permitted to intimidate or harass school personnel or other students. Students who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension.

Tobacco

Student use and/or possession of tobacco in any form **is not permitted on any campus of the Lamar County School District nor upon any school bus operated by the district.** Students in violation of this policy are subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension.

Cheating/Stealing

Students are expected to do their own work. The unauthorized giving or receiving of help in any area of schoolwork will not be tolerated. Cheating is a serious, disciplinary offense, and students should leave no doubt in this area. The act of giving or receiving unauthorized help, including cheating, plagiarism, and copying, will result in a zero being assigned for the work. Stealing is a major violation of school disciplinary policy and may result in criminal charges.

Forged Excuses, Notes, Etc.

Forgery of an administrator's, teacher's, or parent's/guardian's name to a school document or note shall result in appropriate disciplinary action.

Defacing/Destroying School Property

Equipment, facilities, books, and fixtures that make up the school campus are paid for by the taxpayers. Willful damage or destruction of school property shall not be tolerated. State law provides in Section 37-11-19/1953 Ex. Sec., 26 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 that:

"If a pupil shall willfully destroy, cut, deface, damage, or injure any school building, equipment or other school property, he/she shall be liable to suspension or expulsion and his/her parents or persons in loco parentis (in place of the parents) shall be liable for all damages."

The punishment for such destruction of school property may include replacement of the property by the parent/guardian, renovation and/or repair of the property destroyed or damaged by the parent/guardian, and/or suspension/expulsion of the student from school.

Gambling

Gambling in any form on the school campus or at a school activity is strictly prohibited.

Cafeteria Behavior

All students must respect the rights of others in the lunch line. Students are to return trays so that the tables will be clear for those students following. Students must sit in assigned areas and behave properly at all times. Pushing, shoving, or "breaking" of the lunch line is not permitted. Disrespect to cafeteria workers will not be tolerated. Students who misbehave in the cafeteria are subject to disciplinary action by the administration and/or faculty.

Trespassing

Campuses are closed 15 minutes after school dismissal. Only those involved in supervised school activities are permitted on campus. Throughout the school campuses, video surveillance is used 24 hours a day for the safety and protection of students and staff. Students who are found on the school grounds at unauthorized times will be placed on the district discipline ladder under school policy and will be subject to arrest. In all instances of such vandalism, restitution will be the responsibility of the students and their parents. Students who are assigned to parent care or out-of-school suspension, recommended for expulsion, or expelled but are on campus unaccompanied by a parent/guardian will be considered as trespassing.

Leaving Campus and/or Failing to Report to Class without Permission

Leaving campus and/or failing to report to any assigned class, commonly called "skipping," is a major disciplinary offense and students leaving campus and/or failing to report to assigned areas/classes without proper permission from the school office shall be subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension.

Possession of Cellular Phones, Pagers, Radios, or Other Electronic Devices

In order to maintain a quiet and orderly learning environment, students are not allowed to use or have turned on any cellular phone/ mobile devices while at any Lamar County School beginning with the time of student's arrival to any campus and the ending bell of the school day. This includes the use in hallways, restrooms, offices or any other place on campus; students may **NOT** take a pass out of class to use their phones.

Use is interpreted as using any cell phone/mobile device function or feature (**out-going calls, in-coming calls, text messaging, camera use, game-playing, or any other use**), not just the sending or receiving of calls. Cell phones/mobile devices must be turned off, not silent or vibrate, and kept out of sight. Students may store their devices in their pockets, purse, book bag, etc. **OUT OF SIGHT AND TURNED OFF** at all times during the school day unless deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Students who choose to use the cell phone/mobile device will be referred for insubordination and the following disciplinary action will occur:

- a. First offense: The cell phone/mobile device is confiscated and will be held until the end of the day after which time the parent/guardian will pick up the phone. The student will serve 1 day in school suspension.
 - b. Second offense: The cell phone/mobile device is confiscated and will be held until the end of the day after which time the parent/guardian will pick up the phone. The student will serve one day out of school suspension.
 - c. Third offense: The cell phone/mobile device is confiscated and will be held until the end of the day after which time the parent/guardian will pick up the phone. Three days of out of school suspension
 - d. Further offenses will result in further suspensions.
- Parents should continue to call the school for any emergency situation. We will contact your son/daughter. Do not try to contact them by cell phone or pager.
 - Students bring these devices to school at their own risk
 - Lamar County School District, its schools, its faculty, and staff are **NOT** responsible for any damaged, missing, or stolen cell phones. If a student has a cell phone and it is damaged or stolen, schools WILL NOT utilize administrative time to investigate the incident nor will the District, or schools, take any financial responsibility for the cell phone or cell phone charges.

Personal Possessions

Students are expected to care for their own possessions and to keep up with personal belongings. The school district cannot be responsible for loss, theft, or damage to personal belongings. However, when properly reported, school officials will, if possible, assist the student in locating lost or stolen property within the limits of their abilities to do so.

Automobile/Motorized Vehicle Use

- Students may not bring a motorized vehicle on any school campus without special permission from the parents/guardians and the school's administration. Permission forms are to be obtained from the appropriate school office. All student vehicles must be registered with the school's administration and must display a parking decal issued by the school on the rearview mirror.
- Students must park vehicles in designated areas as assigned by the administration. **STUDENTS MAY NOT RETURN TO THE VEHICLE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.**
- Freshmen (9th graders) are not permitted to bring their vehicles on the school campus.
- Only legally licensed drivers shall be given permission to bring any motorized vehicle to school.
- Any student bringing a motorized vehicle on campus must provide the school office with some proof of liability insurance on the vehicle. This proof may be a copy of the insurance policy or a statement from the insurance provider. Parents' notes will not meet this requirement.
- Sitting in cars during school hours is strictly prohibited. After parking, students are to leave the parking lot immediately.
- The district shall not assume any responsibility for damage to student vehicles or theft or vandalism involving the approved vehicle.
- The parking lot is off limits during the school day. School District Police Officers will patrol the parking lot at different times throughout the day.
- Vehicles are not to be moved from one area of the campus to another during the school day.
- Students shall not play loud, vulgar, or obscene music while their vehicle is on school property.
- Students shall drive in a courteous and careful manner and obey all speed and traffic flow signs.
- All vehicles on Lamar County School District Property are subject to search. Students found with illegal or prohibited items may face disciplinary actions and criminal referral to the appropriate court.
- Bringing an automobile to school is a privilege and, therefore, may be temporarily or permanently revoked for violating the above regulations or the student code of conduct.
- Seatbelts must be worn.
- No one shall ride in or on vehicles in non-passenger compartment areas.

Public Displays of Affection

Public displays of affection on school grounds are not permissible and will result in disciplinary action.

Student Demonstrations/Strikes/Sit-In Activities, Etc.

The Board is responsible for providing an appropriate education program. The right of a child to attend school and receive an educational program is mandated by law. The Board will not tolerate any disruption or interference with that right through the use of violence, vandalism, seizure of any area of school property, sit-in activities, walkouts, strikes, or other methods of demonstration which disrupts the operation of the school.

Messages and Gifts to Students from Parents/Guardians and Others

Except in the case of emergency, classes cannot be interrupted by messages to students from parents/guardians or others. PLEASE DO NOT ASK THAT THIS BE DONE EXCEPT IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS. Such disruptions interfere with instruction and result in loss of time and concentration. Arrangements for family matters should be made in the home, not at school or through the school office. No message will be delivered except from the parent/guardian. If a true emergency necessitates a message to a student, the school office will deliver that message. Further, the district recognizes the enjoyment students get by receiving gifts on special occasions. However, such deliveries to students can cause problems for school personnel and must be handled appropriately. Therefore, gift deliveries will be allowed on a limited basis, with arrangements for the management of such deliveries to be made between the vendor making the delivery and the principal/assistant principal. Because of safety issues, balloon deliveries will not be allowed at school. Students may not distribute personal correspondence at school. **All delivery of gifts will be made to a central location and be made available to students at the conclusion of the school day.**

Use of School Office Telephones

School office phones are business phones. Students will not be allowed to use school office phones except in case of an emergency/illness. Calls for missing materials, homework, etc. will not be allowed.

Student Lockers

Lockers, when available, are furnished for student convenience and are considered school property. Lockers are subject to inspection/search at any time by school officials. Students should not expect individual privacy in the use of a school locker. Further, school lockers are subject to the same care as other school property and are not to be defaced. Students are prohibited from writing on locker doors and walls and also from placing permanent stickers, pictures, or other decals on or in the locker.

Lockers are to be kept reasonably neat and students are expected to clear the locker at the end of the school year. Further, students are encouraged to place a combination lock on the locker if a built-in lock is not available. The school is not responsible for items stolen/lost that were reportedly in a student's locker. Students should not keep items of value in their locker. This includes money, band instruments, or other items of value to the student.

Field Trips-Extra Activities

The parent/guardian must grant permission for their child to make a field trip and must sign an appropriate permission form which provides that school personnel are authorized by the parent/guardian to seek out and secure medical attention necessary should the child be injured or become ill during a trip. Further, parents/guardians must assume responsibility for payment of any costs involving medical treatment for their child. Misbehavior may result in loss of the field trip privileges.

Chaperones cannot bring any other children.

Student Clubs and Organizations

Student clubs and organizations are encouraged; however, such clubs and organizations shall only be organized and operative after the principal/assistant principal has granted approval. No club or organization shall be formed without a proper sponsor, who shall be a certified staff member of the district. Secret clubs and organizations are not permitted in the schools of the district. Students who form, become members of, or participate in activities involving a non-approved club or organization shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Proms

Within the Lamar County School District, proms are **NOT** school-sponsored activities.

Fundraising Activities

Clubs, organizations, and other school programs often wish to conduct fundraising activities to raise funds for projects, trips, convention attendance, and other operations of the group. However, such activities should be as limited as possible. Sponsors wishing to conduct such activities shall follow the procedures for making fundraising requests:

1. The sponsor is to neatly complete a request form as provided by the school's administration.

- Junior Class Favorite Boy and Girl
- Sophomore Class Favorite Boy and Girl
- Freshman Class Favorite Boy and Girl
- **Senior Teacher Awards** – Nominated and elected by their respective faculty.
- **Most Athletic** Boy and Girl
Nominated and elected by coaches. Students active in multiple sports shall receive top consideration.
- **Most Talented** Boy and Girl
Nominated and elected by art, drama, band, and music teachers. Students active in multiple activities shall receive top consideration.
- **Most Intellectual** Boy and Girl
To be determined by counselor and principal – Highest GPA at the end of the 11th grade year.
- **Citizenship Requirement** – Must have satisfactory conduct and good citizenship. During the year of election a student cannot:
 - Reach Step 5 or above on the discipline ladder
 - Receive more than two office disciplinary referrals (not teacher misconduct reports)

IV. CLASS OFFICERS AND CLUB OFFICERS ELECTIONS – Nominated and elected by their respective classes or clubs.

- **Citizenship Requirement** – Must have satisfactory conduct and good citizenship. During the year of election a student cannot:
 - Reach Step 5 or above on the discipline ladder
 - Receive more than two office disciplinary referrals (not teacher misconduct reports)

V. HOMECOMING COURT – All maids are nominated and selected by their respective grades.

- Two freshmen maids
- Two sophomore maids
- Two junior maids
- Two senior maids and one ethnic minority for a total of three maids at Purvis and Sumrall
- Oak Grove because of enrollment will have four senior maids and one ethnic minority for a total of five maids
- The high school football team will nominate and elect two football sweethearts, one white and one ethnic minority from the whole senior class.
- From the senior maids, a queen will be chosen – voted on by the entire student body, grades 9-12. The queen will be announced at the Homecoming football game.

For all elections, a faculty committee under the supervision of the administrator will count the votes.

- Elections will be conducted during designated times and locations determined by each school. Winners must receive the most votes. Some run-offs may be necessary to achieve this.
- **Citizenship Requirement** – Must have satisfactory conduct and good citizenship. During the year of election a student cannot:
 - Reach Step 5 or above on the discipline ladder
 - Receive more than two office disciplinary referrals (not teacher misconduct reports)

VI. BAND GUARD POLICIES

- The guard in the marching band is comprised of members of the high school band. The guard is considered a selection of the band and expected to function as such.
- Guard tryouts and practice for tryouts will be held during the spring of each school year. Judges will be selected from adults who are actively involved in the instruction of the guard on the high school and/or junior college level.
- Students will be assessed a tryout fee prior to the tryout. Students who are selected for membership in the guard will be assessed a uniform/equipment fee.
- Rehearsals – Additional summer and fall rehearsals and/or camps are required for guard members. Members are expected to attend.

VII. SPIRIT GROUP POLICIES – For both high school and middle school

- All candidates will be given information concerning the criteria judges will be evaluating BEFORE tryouts.
- Three judges will be provided by the MHSAA when applicable. These judges will be from out of town and will have no direct connection to the candidates or coaches.
- The number of spirit team members selected will be determined by the local school’s coach with the approval of the principal.
- Coaches with the approval of the principal will determine the length of pre-tryout sessions.

- A tryout fee will be assessed to cover the expenses of the tryouts. The amount will be determined by the coach with the approval of the principal.
- No one other than official judges, spirit coaches, tabulators, administrator, and the spirit group candidates will be allowed at the tryouts.
- No video taping will be allowed during pre-tryout sessions or tryouts.
- Spirit candidates will not be allowed to check out on tryout day.

MHSAA Rules and Guideline as outlined in the Spirit Rules Book will be the standard to which all squads will adhere. All squad members and coaches should familiarize themselves with the policies set forth in the handbook.

1. A list of activities, games, and practice dates will be given to each squad member, and members will be expected to attend all dates unless prior approval has been given by the coach.
2. Spirit group members must meet all financial responsibilities including summer camp, camp wear, uniforms, warm-up suits, competition travel and fees.
3. Absolutely no jewelry of any kind may be worn at practice or games.
4. No glitter lotion, spray, etc., may be worn while at practice or games.
5. Exemplary conduct is expected at all times. Squad members should represent their schools in a positive manner at games and practices.
6. The coach will determine all practice, camp, and game apparel. No loose or baggy clothing.
7. Uniforms will be approved by school administration.
8. Uniforms will be worn during pep rallies at school only. Squad warm-up pants and tops may be worn during the day in accordance with the Lamar County School District dress code.
9. Squad members are responsible for their own transportation to and from games and practices.
10. Hazing is strictly prohibited. Students who participate in hazing activities shall be subject to disciplinary action.
11. Each school must follow MHSAA guidelines for routine decency. All routines should be in good taste and have administrator approval.

VIII. MR AND MISS HIGH SCHOOL – Must be a senior

Due to the nature of this award, the following additional qualifications are established:

- Must attend named high school for entire high school career.
- Must have an overall average of 90 from grades 9-11.
- Must be an active member of two school-sponsored organizations at some point during their high school 9-12 career.
- Nominations – all seniors who meet the criteria and qualifications can be nominated. The entire student body will vote for Mr. and Miss High School.
- **Citizenship Requirement** – Must have satisfactory conduct and good citizenship. During the year of election a student cannot:
 - Reach Step 5 or above on the discipline ladder
 - Receive more than two office disciplinary referrals (not teacher misconduct reports)
 - Citizenship requirements extend through all four years.

IX. HALL OF FAME

Due to the nature of this prestigious award, the following additional qualifications are established:

- Hall of Fame is based on scholarship, leadership, and citizenship.
- Nominations are made after the second nine (9) weeks.
- A list of qualified senior students will be given to the faculty.

Qualifications are:

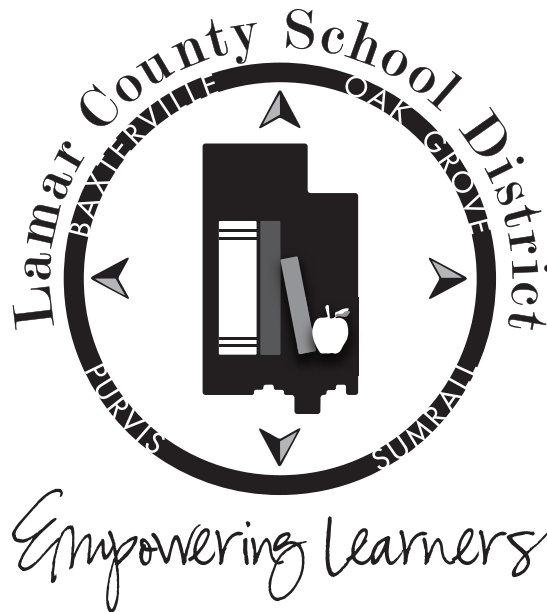
- Senior student must have been enrolled three (3) years at current school
- Senior student must have an overall average of 90
- Senior student must meet citizenship requirements as set forth in the Lamar County School District Handbook.

This list is to be prepared by the counselor and administration.

- Each high school teacher may nominate up to ten (10) different students. Only those receiving five (5) nominations will be listed on the Hall of Fame ballot. After this nomination process, the Hall of Fame ballot will be given to the teachers. Each high school teacher may vote for up to twelve (12) students. The top twelve (12) students who receive the most votes will be the pool of students to be selected for the six (6) in the Hall of Fame.
- The twelve (12) students will then complete an activity, honors, and service questionnaire. The nominees will be called into the office as a group and told of the Hall of Fame process, their nomination, and when to return the questionnaire.

- The questionnaire, student's transcript, and copies of grades will be given to the Hall of Fame committee.
- Each Hall of Fame committee will choose a maximum of eight (8) students for a 5-A school, seven (7) students for a 4-A school, and six (6) students for a 3-A school.
- Committee members will review the materials and complete the ranking sheet provided. Each person's first choice will receive points equal to the total number of nominees. After each committee member submits his/her rankings, the principal will total each candidate's scores. Hall of Fame members will be the candidates with the highest scores.
In case of a tie the counselor/principal will have each committee member vote between the two students.
- **Citizenship Requirement** – Must have satisfactory conduct and good citizens
During the year of election a student cannot
 - Reach Step 5 or above on the discipline ladder
 - Receive more than two office disciplinary referrals (not teacher misconduct reports)
 - Citizenship requirements extend through all four years.

LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT WELLNESS POLICY



MISSION OF THE DISTRICT

The mission of the Lamar County School District is to empower all students with the knowledge and skills to create their own futures; to become passionate, lifelong learners; and to contribute cooperatively to a diverse and changing world.

The Lamar County Wellness Policy was designed by a cross-section of administrators, teachers, nurses, staff, community leaders, and parents. Thank you to the following Core Group for their efforts in preparing this Wellness Policy:

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Stacey Pace
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Jamie Powell
Kevin Prince
Mike Pruitt
Beth Rutland
Susan Saucier
Anita Sumrall
Glenn Swan
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Gretchen Waters
Helen Watts
Karen Weldy
Wade Wilkes
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Debbie Yawn

Rationale:

Schools have a responsibility to help students learn, establish, and maintain lifelong, healthy eating and activity patterns. The link between nutrition, physical activity, and learning has been well documented.

One of the most integral parts of a healthy school environment is staff wellness. The school staff should be daily role models for healthy behaviors.

Healthy eating and activity patterns are essential for students to achieve their full academic potential, physical and mental growth, establish lifelong health and well being, thus reducing the risk of many chronic diseases.

Goal:

All students in the Lamar County School District shall possess the knowledge and skills necessary to make nutritious food choices and enjoyable physical activity choices for a lifetime. The staff in the Lamar County School District is encouraged to model healthful eating and physical activity as a valuable part of daily life.

To meet this goal, the Lamar County School District adopts this school wellness policy to be implemented in a safe and drug free school environment with the following commitments: nutrition, physical activity, comprehensive health education (with emphasis on mental and social well-being), marketing, and implementation. This policy is designed to effectively utilize school/community resources and to equitably serve the needs/interests of all students and staff while taking into consideration differences in culture.



Commitment to Nutrition

The Lamar County School District will:

1. A crucial relationship exists between nutrition and health and nutrition and learning. Therefore, we offer a school breakfast, lunch, and snack program with menus that meet or exceed the meal patterns and nutrition standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Healthier U.S. School Challenge provides nutritional guidance for school meals, the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and USDA's My Pyramid (www.mypyramid.gov). We will offer equal access to all meals or items served or sold under the National School Lunch & Breakfast Programs.
2. Strongly encourage school staff and families to participate in school meal programs.
3. Follow State Board of Education policies on competitive foods and extra food sales (Mississippi Board of Education Policy, Code EEH).
4. Establish food safety as a key component of all school food operations and ensure that the food service permit is current for the Food Service school site.
5. Operate all Child Nutrition Programs with school foodservice staff who are properly qualified according to current professional standards (Mississippi Board of Education Policy, Code EE-2E)
6. Follow established guidelines provided by the State School Board for all foods available on the school campus during the school day with the objective of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity.
7. Provide adequate time for students to eat and enjoy school meals by allowing for a minimum of 18-25 minutes seated time at lunch by 2009. Since school breakfast is not factored into the regular school day, schools should take into consideration the recommended time of 10 minutes for a child to eat school breakfast after they have received the meal. Consider, where applicable, moving recess before lunch.
8. Encourage students to make food choices based on the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, by emphasizing menu options that feature baked (rather than fried) foods, whole grains, fresh fruits and vegetables, and reduced-fat dairy products. When offering healthy foods and beverages, it does not guarantee students will choose them. Therefore, aggressive marketing techniques must be adopted to inform students, teachers, administrative staff and most importantly, the public of healthy choices that are available to students.
9. By the academic school year 2009, fryers will be removed at all Elementary sites and at Middle/High schools by 2012.
10. Establish a cafeteria environment conducive to a positive dining experience, with socializing among students and between students and adults; with supervision of eating areas by adults who model proper conduct and voice level; and with adults who model healthy habits by eating with the students.
11. Make school meals accessible to all students with a variety of delivery strategies, such as breakfast in the classroom, grab-and-go lunches, or alternative eating sites.
12. Nutritious and appealing options will be the only choices allowed whenever foods/beverages are sold or otherwise offered at school, including vending machines, school stores, parties, and concession stands during the school day. We strongly encourage our concession stands at sporting and academic events and other school functions to follow these guidelines for all after school activities.
Resources, pp. 7 – 14.
13. In strict accordance with State School Food/Beverage guidelines, only the use of healthy foods or 'nutrient dense' foods (foods high in nutrient content) as rewards for student accomplishment in the classroom is acceptable. Resources, pp. 11 - 12

14. All school-based organizations to use services, contests, non-food items, and/or healthy foods for fundraising programs. The sale of candy, cookie dough, pizza, etc. will not be acceptable. Resources, p. 13
15. Provide nutritional information for parents, including nutrition analysis of school meals and resources to help parents to improve food that they serve at home. Example: Feature menus, healthy snacks, and nutrition resources on the school district website. Family education will be key to allow families to embrace nutrition and wellness through an ongoing family nutrition education program.

THE LAMAR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT CHILD NUTRITION DEPARTMENT INCORPORATES THE FOLLOWING IN DAILY PRODUCTION:

- A. Healthy Food and Beverage choices:
 1. We shall increase fresh fruits and vegetables offered with a minimum of one fresh fruit or vegetable choice daily.
 2. We shall offer a minimum of three fruits and five vegetables daily.
 3. We shall offer milk choices with a maximum milk fat of 2%. Flavored nonfat, low-fat, or reduced-fat milk shall contain no more than 160 calories per an eight ounce serving.
 4. We shall only offer 100% fruit and vegetable juice with no added sugar.
- B. Food Preparation, Ingredients, and Products:
 1. We shall implement healthy food preparation techniques through annual training.
 2. We shall adopt the Dietary Guidelines recommendation that trans fatty acids will be kept below 10%.
 3. Wherever possible and practical, we shall include products in school breakfast and lunch which are labeled "0" grams trans fat.
 4. We shall incorporate whole grain products into daily and weekly menus based on product availability and student acceptability.
- C. The Availability of Food Items during Breakfast and Lunch:
 1. In complying with the Mississippi Board of Education policy on Competitive Food Sales, we shall limit the number of extra sale items that may be purchased with a reimbursable meal. This policy will exclude extra beverage purchases of milk, juice, and/or water. Elementary students shall be allowed to purchase one extra sale item; Middle School and High School students shall be allowed to purchase two items other than a beverage.
 2. We shall sell extra items in portions not to exceed the menu portion serving size.

Commitment to Physical Activity

1. Provide physical education for all students (In accordance with Section 37-13-134, Mississippi Code of 1972, ann., reference 2008 Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards 33).
2. Provide funds for adequate equipment and Physical Education facilities on campus, or near campus to implement physical activity by 2008-2009.
3. Offer a planned sequential program of physical education instruction incorporating individual and group activities, which are student centered and taught in a positive environment.
4. Implement the 2006 Mississippi Physical Education Framework.
5. Incorporate physical activity/movement in classrooms to teach subject areas and to make transitions between different lessons (e.g., Take Ten!, Mind and Body, etc.).
6. Participate in a yearly fitness test for students (e.g., Fitness Gram, President's Challenge to Physical Fitness, etc.) in grades 5 through 12.

7. Establish or enhance physical activity opportunities (like walking clubs or fitness challenges) for staff utilizing existing facilities. Mark each campus for walking, i.e. mile markers.
8. Provide staff-monitored recreational activities that promote moderate physical activity during all outdoor and indoor recess times.
9. Collaborate with local recreational departments and youth fitness programs to promote participation in lifelong physical activities.
10. Create a wider opportunity for students to voluntarily participate in before-and after-school physical activity programs like intramurals, clubs, community league sports, and at the secondary level, interscholastic athletics through utilization of school facilities (which will be available by 2009).
11. Encourage administrators and faculty to secure funds through grant writing to promote participation in lifelong physical activities.

Commitment to Comprehensive Health Education

The Lamar County School District will:

1. Provide a minimum of ½ Carnegie unit (45 minutes) of comprehensive health education for graduation (2004 Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard 20).
2. Provide certified health teachers for grades K-8 by 2008-2009 school year.
3. Provide a school site Resource Center for teachers and parents.
4. Participate in USDA nutrition programs such as *Team Nutrition Schools* and the *Healthier US School Challenge*. The school will conduct nutrition education activities and promotions that involve students, parents, and the community. The school team responsible for planning nutrition activities will include school foodservice staff, school nurses, health and PE teachers, coaches, and additional staff, as appropriate.
5. Continue using the Mendez Foundation drug/character education curriculum, *Too Good for Drugs and Violence* which was adopted by the Lamar County School District and is in place in all schools for grades Kindergarten through 12.

Commitment to Marketing a Healthy School Environment

1. Provide positive, motivating messages, both verbal and non-verbal, about healthy lifestyle practices throughout the school setting. All school personnel will help reinforce these positive messages using the Whole School Approach in Marketing the Local Wellness Policy. Suggestions include the following:
 - A. Establishing community partnerships which can provide physical and financial support.
 1. Junior League
 2. Service Organizations (Rotary, Kiwanis, etc.)
 3. Local community foundations
 - B. Marketing new foods. Research shows it takes a number of times for an item to be served before it can be accepted. To facilitate the introduction of a new item, we will
 1. Have tasting parties
 2. Have serving line sampling
 3. Have serving line promotion
2. Involve students in planning for a healthy school environment. Students will be asked for input and feedback through the use of student surveys, and attention will be given to their comments.
3. Promote healthful eating, physical activity, and healthy lifestyles to students, parents, teachers, and administrators, and the community at school events (e.g., school registration, parent-teacher

conferences, PTA meetings, open houses, health fairs, teacher in-services, and other events).

Resources for Implementation

4. Encourage advertising and other materials on the school campus that promote healthy foods.
5. Work with local media, such as newspaper, TV and radio, to inform the community of the health problems facing Mississippi children, as well as the need for and benefits of healthy school environments.
6. Provide ongoing training for Foodservice Administrators, Kitchen Managers, and Cooks in Marketing, New Cooking Techniques, and Garnishing, using available or newly developed training tools, such as *Marketing Sense* – Mississippi Department of Education, Office of child Nutrition. (Completed in Fall, 2007 for entire leadership team.)

Commitment to Implementation

1. Establish a plan for implementation of the school wellness policy.
2. Maintain the School Health Council (SHC) that addresses all aspects of a coordinated school health program, including a school wellness policy.
3. Designate a District Coordinator along with the site Principal (and/or person designated by site Principal) to ensure implementation of the Wellness Policy as written.
4. A team, consisting of the site coordinator, parents, and paraprofessionals, shall conduct an annual site review to evaluate progress toward school wellness policy goals to identify areas for improvement.
5. District coordinator shall form a committee to prepare and submit a yearly report to the school board regarding the progress toward implementation of the school wellness policy and recommendations for any revisions to the policy as necessary.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, discrimination is prohibited on the basis of race, color, nation origin, sex, age, or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D>C> 20250-9410 or call 720-5964 (voice and TDDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Resources

to Implement Lamar County Beverage Policy

Healthy Foods and Healthy Finances

It is the desire for LCSD to become one of the leading school districts which has created more healthful school environments by improving food and beverage options in vending machines, classroom activities and fundraisers.

Food and beverage contracts and sales are a revenue source for discretionary spending for schools. The LCSD will implement innovative solutions – maintaining or increasing revenue levels with more healthful options. Examples of solutions are included in this document.

Lamar County School District operates under the Competitive Food Policy as follows.

Code 2002

STATE BOARD POLICY

Adopted 2-22-85
Revised 10-19-07

To ensure that children are not in the position of having to decide between non-nutritious foods immediately before or during the meal service period:

- No food items will be sold on the school campus for one (1) hour before the start of any meal services period.
- The school food service staff shall serve only those foods which are components of the approved federal meal patterns being served (or milk products) and such additional foods as necessary to meet the caloric requirement of the age group being served.
- With the exception of water and milk products, a student may purchase individual components of the meal only if the full meal unit also is being purchased.
- Students who bring their lunch from home may purchase water and milk products.

This policy should be viewed as a minimum standard. Local boards of education are encouraged to develop more comprehensive restrictions.

NUTRITION STANDARDS for FOOD and BEVERAGES SOLD on CAMPUS

Nutrition Standards Intent/Rationale:

The Lamar County School District requires the sale or distribution of nutrient dense foods for all daily* school function and activities. Nutrient dense foods are those foods that provide students with calories rich in the nutrient content needed to be healthy. In an effort to support the consumption of nutrient dense foods in the school setting, the school has adopted the following nutrition standards governing the sale of food, beverage, and candy on school grounds. Schools are to utilize these standards in developing building policy using the following Nutrition Standards as guidelines as State Law mandates.

Snack Regulations for Mississippi Schools Kindergarten through 12th Grade

The Mississippi Board of Education recognizes the critical roles that optional nutrition play in health weights, disease prevention, and dental health, as well as academic performance. The nutrition needs of young people at school are best met through well-balanced, nutrient-rich school meals provided through Child Nutrition Programs, planned by nutrition professionals following US Department of Agriculture (USDA) guidelines.

The following regulations apply to all Mississippi school campuses during the school day defined as the hours between 7:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. To protect the integrity of the Child Nutrition Program and to ensure that children do not have to choose between the School Lunch/Breakfast programs and vended items, schools shall follow the Competitive Food policy, EEH.

Food Sales outside of Child Nutrition Programs, including vending machines, student stores, snack bars, and other fundraising programs, are available in Mississippi schools at the discretion of the school district. When schools decide to offer vending, they shall provide a selection of healthful food options to students, with the following overall goals:

1. Minimize excessive intake of calories, especially empty calories from fat and sugar.
2. Increase intake of nutrients for optimal growth, development, and brain functioning, especially from nutrient-rich, minimally processed foods like whole grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, lean meats, and dairy foods.
3. Develop marketing and nutrition education strategies to promote healthful options to all students, families, and school staff.

Food:

- Encourage the consumption of nutrient dense foods, i.e. WHOLE GRAINS, FRESH FRUITS, VEGETABLES, and REDUCED-FAT DAIRY PRODUCTS.
- Any given food item for sale prior to the start of the school day and throughout the instructional day, will have no more than 30% of its total calories derived from fat.
- Any given food item for sale prior to the start of the school day and throughout the instructional day, will have no more that 10% of its total calories derived from saturated fat.
- Nuts and seeds with minimal added fat in processing (no more than 3 grams of added fat per standards because they are nutrient dense and contain high levels of monounsaturated fat.
- It is recognized that there may be rare occasions when the school principal may allow a school group to deviate from these Standards, but those special occasions must be recorded and included in the Nutrition & Physical Activity Advisory Council Annual Report.

Beverage Regulations for Mississippi Schools

The Mississippi Board of Education recognizes the critical role that adequate hydration plays in healthy weights, disease prevention, and dental health, as well as academic performance. The fluid and nutrition needs of young people at school are best met through well-balanced, nutrient-rich school meals provided through Child Nutrition Programs, planned by nutrition professionals following US Department of Agriculture (USDA) guidelines.

Elementary School (K-5)

- The approved portion size is 8 ounces only.
- Bottled water
- Low fat and non fat regular and flavored milk* with up to 160 calories/8 ounces
- Up to 8 ounce serving of milk and 100% juice**
- 100% juice ** with no added sweeteners and up to 120 calories/8 ounces

Middle School (6-8)

- The approved portion size is 10 ounces only.
- Same as elementary school, except juice and milk may be sold in 10 ounce servings***

High School (9-12)

- The approved portion size is 12 ounces only.
- Bottled water
- No or low calorie beverages with up to 10 calories/8 ounces
- Up to 12 ounce servings of milk, 100%**, light juice and sports drinks
- Low fat and non fat regular and flavored milk with up to 160 calories/8 ounces
- 100% juice** with no added sweeteners and up to 120 calories/8 ounces
- Light juices and sports drinks with no more than 66 calories/8 ounces
- At least 50% of beverages must be water and no or low calorie options.

**Milk includes nutritionally equivalent milk alternatives (per USDA), such as soymilk.*

***100% juice that contains at least 10% of the recommended daily value for three or more vitamins and minerals*

****As a practical matter, if middle school and high school students have shared access to areas on a common campus or in common buildings, then the school community has the option to adopt the high school standard.*

Candy:

- Candy is defined as any processed food item that has:
Sugar (including brown sugar, corn sweetener, corn syrup, fructose, glucose (dextrose), high fructose corn syrup, honey, invert sugar, lactose, maltose, molasses, raw sugar, table sugar (sucrose), syrup) is listed as one of the first two ingredients AND sugar is more than 25% of the item by weight.
- Vending sales of candy will NOT be permitted on school grounds.
- Non-vending sales of candy will be permitted ONLY at the conclusion of the instructional school day after 4:00 P.M.

Snacks, Bars and Dessert Items

This category includes, but is not limited to chips, crackers, popcorn, cereal, trail mix, nuts, seeds, peanut butter and other nut butters, jerky, cookies, animal/graham crackers and cereal bars, granola bars, bakery items (e.g., pastries, toaster pastries, muffins, soft pretzels), frozen desserts, ice cream, cheese, yogurt and smoothies (made with low-fat yogurt or other low-fat daily alternatives and/or fruit/juice).

Based on manufacturer's nutritional data or Nutrition Facts labels, all foods must meet the following criteria per package:

- **Key Nutrients:** At least 5% of the recommended Daily Value (DV) for three or more nutrients (i.e.; vitamins A, C, D, E; thiamin, niacin, riboflavin, calcium, iron, and zinc). At least 3 grams protein per package may be substituted for one of the listed nutrients. Schools are encouraged to offer foods that
 - Are good sources (at least 10% of the recommended Daily Value or DV) of one or more nutrients listed above.

- Contain at least 5 grams protein.
- List a whole grain as the first item on the ingredient list.
- **Total Calories:** No more than 200 calories per package.
- **Fat:** No more than 35 percent of total calories from fat and 7 grams maximum (with the exception of nuts, seeds, peanut and other nut butters, and cheeses).
- **Saturated Fat and Trans Fat:** No more than 10 percent of calories from saturated fat and/or trans fat and 2 grams maximum (with the exception of nuts, seeds, peanut and other nut butters, and cheeses).
- **Added Sugar:** No more than 35 percent added sugar by weight and 15 grams maximum (excludes sugars naturally occurring in fruits, vegetables, and dairy). For smoothies (made with low-fat yogurt or other low-fat dairy alternatives and/or fruit/juice), yogurt and pudding, no more than 5 grams total sugar (added and naturally occurring) per ounce.

Fruits and Vegetables

Include quality* fruits and vegetables available anywhere snack items are sold. For example, dried fruit in vending machines, fresh fruit (e.g., pineapple slices or melon cubes), or fresh vegetables (e.g. baby carrots) in snack bars and concessions.

Based on manufacturer's nutritional data or Nutrition Facts labels, all foods must meet the following criteria per package:

- **Key Nutrients:** At least 5% of the recommended Daily Value (DV) for three or more nutrients (fiber, vitamins A, C, D, E; thiamin, niacin, riboflavin, calcium, iron, and zinc). Schools are encouraged to offer foods with at least 10% of the recommended Daily Value (DV) for one or more of these nutrients.
- **Total Calories:** No more than 200 total calories.
- **Fat:** No more than 35% of total calories from fat and 7 grams maximum.
- **Saturated Fat and Trans Fat:** No more than 10% of calories from saturated fat and/or trans fat and 2 grams maximum.
- **Added Sugar:** No more than 35% added sugar by weight and 15 grams maximum (excludes sugars naturally occurring in fruits and vegetables).

ALL ITEMS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

* See Child Nutrition Director for a form to evaluate food items for sales/vending and State approved product list.

Healthy School Parties

Schools can play a major role in helping students become fit, healthy and ready to learn. One way to accomplish this is for foods offered in schools to support lessons learned in the classroom regarding nutrition and physical activity. What better venue is there than schools to empower children with the message that proper nutrition and physical activity are a key part of a healthy lifestyle? Positive examples of making healthy eating choices and encouraging physical activity should be visible throughout the school. Parties as well as cafeterias, school stores, vending machines, and after-school events offer opportunities for schools to reinforce the message that making healthy food choices and being physically active means a healthier body and a sharper mind.

Snack Ideas for School & Classroom Parties

Of course, the foods offered at school parties should add to the fun but try to avoid making them the main focus. Remember, schools are responsible for helping students learn lessons about good nutrition and healthy lifestyles, and students should practice these lessons during school parties. For example, consider combining student birthday parties into one monthly event that incorporates physical activities as well as healthy snacks. Also, be sure to consider ethnic and medical food restrictions and allergies when providing classroom snacks.

Here is a list of healthy snack choices to consider for classroom events. Serving all healthy foods and incorporating physical activities make a powerful statement. Actions speak louder than words: Lead by example.

- | | |
|---|---|
| +Fresh fruit and vegetables – buy locally when possible. | +Baked chips |
| +Yogurt | +Low-fat popcorn |
| +Bagels with low-fat cream cheese | +Granola Bars* |
| +Baby carrots and other vegetables with low-fat dip | +Soft pretzels and mustard |
| +Trail mix* | +Pizza (no extra cheese & only one meat) |
| +Nuts and seeds* | +Pudding |
| +Graham Crackers | +String Cheese |
| +Animal Crackers | +Cereal bar |
| +Jell-o (sugar-free, pre-packaged) | +Single-serve low-fat or fat-free milk (regular or flavored) |
| +Applesauce (pre-packaged) | +Fruit cups |
| +Fig cookies | +Crackers (whole-grain, low-fat) |

*May be allergens and/or a choking risk for some people, please check with a health care provider.

Plan Healthy School Parties

Yogurt Parfait

2 cups vanilla low-fat yogurt
1 cup chopped fruit
(thawed frozen fruit works well)
1 cup low-fat granola
Spoon $\frac{1}{2}$ cup yogurt in each of 4 cups
Spoon $\frac{1}{4}$ cup chopped fruit in each cup.
Sprinkle with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup granola.

Pizza Party

Order your favorite from the cafeteria and enjoy!

*Be sure to order 10 days in advance!

Things to Remember When Having a School Party

Common Food Allergies

Eight foods account for 90% of all food-allergic reactions: peanuts, tree nuts (walnuts, cashews, etc.), milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, soy and wheat. The most common food allergens that cause problems in children are eggs, milk, and peanuts. It is important to prevent allergic reactions to food because they can cause devastating illness and, in some cases, be fatal. Avoidance is the only way to prevent an allergic reaction. When planning school parties, be sure you are aware of any food allergies of students and staff.

Incorporate Physical Activity

Today's children are at an increased risk of developing diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, **depression**, and anxiety as a result of the lack of physical activity and poor nutrition habits. Teachers are encouraged to incorporate physical activities into class parties as well as classroom learning. Celebrate special events without food or limit the quantity of food and encourage physical activity (active games, dancing, walking, etc.).

Food Safety*

Preparing and serving food that will not cause food borne illness is as important as preparing and serving healthy choices for school parties! Remember the four steps to safe food:

1. Clean. Wash hands and surfaces often.
2. Chill. Refrigerate promptly.
3. Cook to proper temperatures.
4. Separate. Don't cross contaminate.

*Fact sheets on each of these steps can be found at www.fightbac.org.

Alternative To Using Food As A Reward

At school, home, and throughout the community kids are offered food as a reward for “good” behavior. Often these foods have little or no nutritional value but are easy, inexpensive, and can bring about short-term behavior change.

There are many disadvantages to using food as a reward:

- ◆It undermines nutrition education being taught in the school environment.
- ◆It encourages over-consumption of foods high in added sugar and fat.
- ◆It teaches kids to eat when they’re not hungry as a reward to themselves.

Kids learn preferences for foods made available to them, including those that are unhealthy.¹ Poor food choices and inadequate physical activity contribute to overweight and obesity. Currently, obesity among kids is at epidemic levels and can often lead to serious health problems.²

1. Birch LL. Development of Food Preferences. Annu. Rev. Nutr. 1999, 19:41-62.

2. Ogden CL, Flegal KM, Carroll MD, and Johnson CL. Prevalence and Trends in Overweight Among US Children And Adolescents, 1999-2000. JAMA, October 9, 2002 Vol 288, No. 14.

Students Learn What They Live

Kids naturally enjoy eating healthy and being physically active. Schools and communities need to provide them with an environment that supports healthy behaviors. Below are some alternatives for students to enjoy instead of being offered food as a reward at school.

ZERO-COST ALTERNATIVES

- ◆Sit by Friends ◆Watch a video
- ◆Read outdoors ◆Teach the class
- ◆Have extra art time ◆ Enjoy class outdoors
- ◆Have an extra recess ◆Play a computer game
- ◆Read to a younger class ◆Get a no homework pass
- ◆Make deliveries to the office
- ◆Listen to music while working
- ◆Play a favorite game or puzzle
- ◆Earn play money for privileges
- ◆Walk with a teacher during lunch
- ◆Eat lunch outdoors with the class
- ◆Be a helper in another classroom
- ◆Eat lunch with a teacher or principal
- ◆Dance to favorite music in the classroom
- ◆Get “free choice” time at the end of the day
- ◆Listen with a headset to a book on audiotape
- ◆Have a teacher perform special skills (i.e. sing)
- ◆Have a teacher read a special book to the class
- ◆Give a 5 minute chat break at the end of the day

LOW-COST ALTERNATIVES

- ◆Select a paperback book
- ◆Enter a drawing for donated prizes
- ◆Take a trip to the treasure box (non-food items)
- ◆Get Stickers, pencils, and other school supplies
- ◆Receive a video store or movie theatre coupon
- ◆Get a set of flashcards printed from a computer
- ◆Receive a “mystery pack” (notepad, folder, sports cards, etc.)

IDEAS FROM TEACHERS

GAME DAY: “I have my students earn letters to spell...after the letters have been earned, we play reading or phonics-type board games. The kids beg for Game Day!”

FRIDAY FREE TIME: “I give my students 30 minutes at the beginning of the week and they can earn or lose free time according to their behavior. I use a timer and turn it on (they can hear it) if they are too loud working, lining up, etc. I add time when their behavior is good. Adding time is the most effective. I save time by not waiting for them to settle down so I don’t feel bad about the free time”.

Used with permission from Michigan Team Nutrition, a partnership between the Michigan Department of Education and Michigan State University Extension.

NON-FOOD REWARDS

Kids naturally enjoy eating nourishing foods and being physically active. Schools and teachers can provide them with an environment that supports these healthy behaviors by using non-food rewards. Here are effective alternatives – from outstanding educators across the country – to offering food as a reward to individual students or entire classes.

Read a book.
Sit by friends.
Read outdoors.
Teach the class.
Have extra art time.
Enjoy class outdoors.
Have an extra recess.
Play a computer game.
Read to a younger class.
Get a no homework pass.
Sing a silly song together.
Make deliveries to the office.
Listen to music while working.
Play a favorite game or puzzle.
Earn play money for privileges.
Walk with a teacher or principal.
Eat lunch outdoors with the class.
Be a helper in another classroom.
Eat lunch with a teacher or principal.
Start and maintain a vegetable garden.
Dance to favorite music in the classroom.
Get a “free choice” time at the end of the day.
Listen with a headset to a book on audiotape.
Have a teacher perform special skills (i.e. sing).
Be first in line when the class leaves the room.
Have a teacher read a special book to the class.
Take a trip to the treasure box (filled with stickers, pencils, erasers, bookmarks, etc).

Additional online resources for non-food reward ideas:

Connecticut Team Nutrition

[www.state.ct.us/sde/deps/Student/NutritionEd/Food As Reward HO1.pdf](http://www.state.ct.us/sde/deps/Student/NutritionEd/Food%20As%20Reward%20HO1.pdf)

Michigan Team Nutrition

www.tn.fcs.msue.msu.edu/foodrewards.pdf

New England Food and Dairy Council

www.newenglanddairy_council.org/PDF/alternativefoodrewards.pdf

Texas Department of Agriculture

[www.squaremeals.org/vgn/tda/files/983/1034 NonFood Rewards.pdf](http://www.squaremeals.org/vgn/tda/files/983/1034_NonFood_Rewards.pdf)

Smart Fundraisers for Today's Healthy Schools

Raising money may present a constant challenge for schools. School fundraisers may help pay for computers, field trips, athletics, music, art, and other programs that educate and enrich young lives – important programs that are not always covered by shrinking school budgets. More than just raising money to pay for valuable programs, a well-run fundraiser can also be an experience that educates, builds self-esteem, provides community service, and promotes school and community spirit.

The Lamar County School Board strongly discourages fundraising involving selling food items of limited nutritional value, such as candy, cookies, cookie dough, pizza, etc. The following are web sites and fundraising ideas that offer alternatives to selling candy. When healthy food choices are used as fundraising items, the healthy eating message presented in the schools is reinforced. Some of the ideas even have the added benefit of providing additional physical activity opportunities for students.

Take a look and help your school select a creative fundraising alternative to selling foods of limited nutritional value.

Good Examples for smart fundraising:

- ✓ Bottled water with school name/logo
- ✓ Gift baskets with fruit/cheese
- ✓ Naturally low fat pretzels
- ✓ Popcorn
- ✓ Jump-rope competition
- ✓ Walk-a-thon
- ✓ Mugs
- ✓ Megaphones
- ✓ Stadium cushions
- ✓ Yard signs
- ✓ Talent shows
- ✓ Singing telegrams
- ✓ Plants, flowers, bulbs
- ✓ Cookbooks
- ✓ Hats, Frisbees, spirit flags

For more just search the web:

Connecticut Team Nutrition

[www.state.ct.us/sde/deps/Student/Nutrition Ed/Healthy Fundraising Color.pdf](http://www.state.ct.us/sde/deps/Student/Nutrition%20Ed/Healthy_Fundraising_Color.pdf)

Montana Office of Public Instruction

www.opi.state.mt.us/pdf/MBI/fundraiser.pdf

Parents Advocating School Accountability <http://pasaorg.tripod.com/nonfoodfundraising.pdf>

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