

# PAGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



We are committed to maximizing every  
student's potential - whatever it takes.

## 2015-2016 STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT & ATTENDANCE

Also available online: <http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/pcss/Board.nsf>

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Division Superintendent

The School Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, political affiliation, handicapping conditions, or sex in its educational programs or employment. No person shall be denied employment solely because of any impairment, which is unrelated to the ability to engage in activities involved in the position or program for which application has been made.

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## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

September 2015

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians:

A positive, safe school climate is the foundation of a quality education program. The enforcement of consistent discipline, based on clear expectations and common courtesies, allows teachers to teach and students to learn. This Code of Conduct serves as the framework for discipline in our school system.

The purpose of this publication is to provide students, parents, guardians, school personnel, and the public with a concise and comprehensive description of the minimum expectations and responsibilities of all students enrolled in our schools. It defines appropriate student conduct. It also states suggested courses of action which will be utilized in working with behavior problems during school hours or at any school-sponsored activity.

In order to ensure that all students attending Page County Public Schools receive the full benefits of their education, the emphasis of this code is placed upon the right of all responsible students to accept the challenge to learn. The code specifically outlines the major categories of behavior and states subsequent consequences which may occur as the result of misconduct. It is our responsibility to provide you with a copy of the Code of Conduct within thirty (30) days of the beginning of school.

The role of the home and parents is strongly emphasized in this code. Your endorsement of these standards is critical for success. If Page County Public Schools is to remain an outstanding school division, we need the involvement and support of parents and guardians. Cooperation between the home and school helps to reduce misunderstandings and differences of opinion which can undermine the education process.

It is critical that parents recognize the importance of student attendance. Children cannot learn if they are not in school, and the habit of good attendance translates into an important employment skill when they become adults. As parents, I ask that you make every effort to relate to your children the importance of attending school and take the steps to ensure they are in attendance. Schedule appointments and family trips to minimize time missed from school.

Finally, we ask that parents read and discuss this Code of Student Conduct with your child. Make sure that your child fully understands its contents and their personal responsibility to uphold it. Each principal will explain the rules to students during the first few days of school. That creates a perfect opportunity for further conversation and clarification at home. If you have any questions concerning this Code of Student Conduct, please do not hesitate to contact your child's principal.

It is state law that parents or guardians sign and return the form on page six (6) acknowledging that they have received a copy of the Code of Student Conduct. Thank you, in advance, for your support in our efforts to create a great learning environment for everyone.

Sincerely,

Donna Whitley-Smith  
Superintendent of Page County Schools

## 1.0 **PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AND INVOLVEMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Parental involvement is an essential element in effective education. Studies show that two factors are necessary to improve learning: 1) a sound instructional program and 2) consistent involvement of parents and other influential adults. It is, therefore, the policy of Page County Public Schools to seek avenues that allow families and the community to be involved in the education of our children. We recognize that the term “parent” refers to any adult—mother, father, older sibling, aunt, uncle, grandparents, guardian, or mentor—who plays a significant role in the care of a student or students enrolled in our schools. Although parental involvement is the specific focus of this policy, it is recognized that all those concerned with the education of students must work together cooperatively to meet the needs of students. Schools have the responsibility to involve parents and parents have the responsibility to become involved in the school.

Parental involvement efforts start with a free flow of information about the school system to our community at large. This has been facilitated by the posting of School Board Meeting Agendas and subsequent actions on BoardDocs, the publication of two widely circulated community newsletters per year, and the willingness of the local paper to spotlight individual schools on a regular, rotating basis. Opportunities for involvement are strengthened through the formal appointment of parents and interested community members to critical committees, including the Special Education Advisory Committee, the Gifted and Talented Advisory Committee, the Strategic Six Year Plan Committee, the Facilities Use Policy Committee, the Title I District Advisory Council, and the Page County Education Foundation.

Individual schools encourage parents to work as partners in their children’s education and offer a variety of opportunities to address the diverse needs of working parents. Volunteer efforts are encouraged and take the form of everything from direct classroom assistance and mentoring to participation in PTAs and booster organizations. Each school offers unique opportunities. All six schools stress the importance of direct contact with parents by teachers and this contact is a part of every teacher’s annual performance review.

Title I parent involvement begins with information about the program which is shared at the Parent Meeting early in the year. The Parent Compact spells out both the responsibility of the school and the parent in forming the partnership that is critical to student success. Frequent feedback concerning the status of academic goals, the opportunity for parent/teacher conference, and parent workshops connect parents to what is going on in the classroom. Parent newsletters in both English and Spanish provide parents with concrete tips on how to support the education efforts that start in school.

PAGE COUNTY SCHOOLS STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT & ATTENDANCE  
PARENT SIGNATURE FORM

In order to ensure that all students attending Page County Public Schools receive the full benefit of their education, the emphasis of this *Student Code of Conduct & Attendance* is placed upon the right of all responsible students to accept the challenge to learn. The *Student Code of Conduct & Attendance* specifically outlines the major categories of behavior and states subsequent consequences which may occur as the result of misconduct:

Attendance, Behavior, Integrity, Chemical Abuse, Dangerous Objects, Firearms, Explosives, Arson, Bomb Threats, Dress Code, Fighting, Pupil Transportation, School Bus Safety and Discipline, Teacher Removal of Students from Class, Bus Discipline, Teacher Responsibilities, Tobacco Products, Trespassing, Vandalism, Internet/Computer System Acceptable Use Policy, Appeals Process for All Disciplinary Actions, and, Virginia Statutes. Regarding school attendance, the following is an excerpt from VA CODE § 22.1-254:

Compulsory attendance required; excuses and waivers; alternative education program attendance; exemptions from article. Except as otherwise provided in this article, every parent, guardian, or other person in the Commonwealth having control or charge of any child who will have reached the fifth birthday on or before September 30 of any school year and who has not passed the eighteenth birthday shall, during the period of each year the public schools are in session and for the same number of days and hours per day as the public schools, send such child to a public school or to a private, denominational, or parochial school or have such child taught by a tutor or teacher of qualifications prescribed by the Board of Education and approved by the division superintendent, or provide for home instruction of such child as described in § 22.1-254.1.

We strive for Page County to continue to be one of the finest school divisions in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In order for that to take place, we will need the involvement and support of parents and guardians. The role of the home and parents is strongly emphasized in this *Student Code of Conduct and Attendance*. Cooperation between the home and school will help reduce misunderstandings and differences which can undermine the education process.

We ask that parents assist us by reading and discussing this *Student Code of Conduct & Attendance* with your child. Make sure that your child fully understands its contents. The Page County Public Schools *Student Code of Conduct & Attendance* can be found online at <http://eclipse.pagecounty.k12.va.us> under Handbooks/Policies. If you have any questions concerning this *Student Code of Conduct & Attendance*, please do not hesitate to contact your child's principal. The principal will explain the rules to students during the first few days of school. If you desire to have a hard copy of this document, please ask your school principal and he/she will gladly provide you with one.

I understand that I, as parent or guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, am responsible for understanding  
(Please Print Student's Name)

and then reviewing the *PCPS Student Code of Conduct and Attendance* (**especially sections 2.0 through 3.4 regarding school attendance**) with my child. If I would like to have a hard copy of this document, I will ask my child's principal for a copy and I will immediately be provided with one.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

PLEASE  
NOTE:

STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT PARENTS OR GUARDIANS SIGN THIS  
FORM ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THEY HAVE REVIEWED A COPY OF THE  
*STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND ATTENDANCE*. PLEASE RETURN  
SIGNED FORM TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

**THIS FORM WILL BE FILED IN STUDENT'S SCHOLASTIC RECORD**

2.0 PAGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL’S ATTENDANCE POLICY - GENERAL

The Commonwealth of Virginia requires that all persons attend school until they reach the age of eighteen. A good attendance record is an indication that an individual is willing to accept responsibility, exert self-discipline, and develop good work habits necessary for success in school, at work, and in life and regular attendance is the first step to academic success. Students who are frequently absent miss instruction in key concepts and skills. We ask that parents set the tone for their child by encouraging good attendance and by communicating that school is their child’s job and therefore, his or her responsibility every day.

2.1 EXCUSED ABSENCES

Examples of **excused absences** include; medical/dental reasons, a death in the family, legal appointments, religious holidays, and prearranged situations arranged with the school principal or other emergencies discussed with and approved by the principal. **In this regard, the principal will consider the nature of the specific request of the parent, number of prior excused and unexcused absences, past and current grades as well as the student’s discipline record when making decisions about whether to excuse these “prearranged situations.”**

2.2 UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Examples of **unexcused absences** include; personal business, not having a note, oversleeping, haircuts, shopping, failure to catch the school bus, failure of private transportation, etc. An unexcused absence is an act of truancy and is a violation of school rules which may require school disciplinary action. An absence “without parental awareness and support” will be considered an “unexcused” absence. Court action may be taken if unexcused absences become excessive (see section 3.3).

3.0 ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY

The elementary, middle schools and high schools record all student absences. This record is part of each student’s permanent school record. Absences are recorded for students absent for the entire school day as well as for students who are absent for any specific class period. In this regard, if a student must be absent from school, a parent or guardian needs to telephone their child’s school prior to 9:30 a.m. on the day of the absence and state the reason for the child’s absence. If word has not been received from the home concerning the absence, the school will make every attempt to contact the parent or guardian of each student by phone at their home and/or their place of employment. **Whether or not contact with a parent or guardian is able to be made by the school in order to verify the absence, the student must present a note to the school secretary upon his or her return to school.** Failure to provide a note, even for an excused absence communicated over the phone from the parent or guardian, within 3 days of an absence will result in the absence being coded as “unexcused.”

### 3.1 EXCESSIVE EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

After a student has 5 unexcused absences or a total of 15 absences of any type (excused, unexcused or a combination of both) for an entire day or from a specific block or class, school administration shall require that the parent/guardian of the student meet with the school principal or assistant principal and other school level staff for an Attendance Improvement Plan Meeting. As part of the development of this plan, after discussing the reasons for the student's excessive absences, school administration may require the parent(s) and student to use the PCPS MEDICAL EXCUSE FORM for all future absences. This form will document the date of any future doctor visits, the exact dates that it was *medically necessary* for the student to be out of school, and this form will be signed by the doctor. In addition, the parent will be asked to sign a Release of Information Form so that the student, family, physician and school staff can work together to create a successful plan for attendance improvement. In this regard, if required by school administration, **the parent must have the student's doctor complete the PCPS MEDICAL EXCUSE FORM for each "all day" absence or each absence from a "specific block or class" from that point on. In addition, the parent will be responsible for submitting this form to the student's school within three days of the student's return to school in order for staff to be able to code the absence as excused.** Additional absences that are not excused by a physician using the PCPS MEDICAL EXCUSE FORM will be coded as unexcused and will result in additional school level meetings and/or court interventions being initiated by the school system against the parent and/or student as described in Section 3.3 of this document. Students with excessive excused and unexcused absences may also receive sanctions within each individual school's positive attendance reward program.

### 3.2 EXCESSIVE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES - PARENTAL COOPERATION

It is expected that parents will cooperate with the attendance coordinator and other school officials to remedy the student attendance problems. Where direct contact with a parent cannot be made, despite reasonable efforts, or where parents otherwise fail to cooperate in remedying the student's attendance problem (including not sending notes to the school explaining the reason for each absence), the superintendent or the superintendent's designee may seek immediate compliance with the compulsory school attendance laws. The attendance coordinator, with the knowledge and approval of the Superintendent, shall institute proceedings against any parent who fails to comply with the requirements of the compulsory attendance laws. Where the complaint arises out of the parent's failure to comply with the requirements of § 22.1-258, the attendance coordinator shall document the school division's compliance with this Code section.

### 3.3 CONSEQUENCES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE WITH STATE ATTENDANCE LAWS AND LOCAL ATTENDANCE POLICIES - UNVERIFIED ABSENCES per Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, sections 22.1-254 and 22.1-258 through 22.1-269, 22.1-279.3.8 VAC 20-110-10 et seq.

#### Student Attendance Policy Summary

Student attendance is a cooperative effort and the School Board shall involve parents and students accepting the responsibility for good attendance.

Each parent/guardian or person having control or charge of a child within the compulsory



attendance age shall be responsible for such child's regular and punctual attendance at school as required under provisions of the law.

A reasonable effort shall be made to contact a parent/guardian of each absent student every day, and to obtain an explanation for the student's absence, where there is no indication that the student's parent is aware of and supports the absence. A log will be kept of call attempts. Students who are absent must bring to school within 3 days of their absence stating the reason for absence signed by the parent or guardian. Unexcused absences shall be handled according to regulations issued by the superintendent in this document.

Students shall attend school for a full day unless otherwise excused. Secondary students shall be scheduled for a full school day unless they are enrolled in a cooperative work-study program. All other exceptions to a full day schedule must be approved on an individual basis by the superintendent or designee.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to limit in any way the authority of any attendance officer or the division superintendent to seek immediate compliance with the compulsory school attendance law.

#### COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

##### A. Upon Fifth Absence Without Parental Awareness and Support

If (1) a student fails to report to school for a total of five scheduled school days for the school year, and (2) there is no indication that the student's parent is aware of and supports the absence; and (3) reasonable efforts to notify the parent of the absences have failed, then the Principal or designee shall make a reasonable effort to ensure that direct contact is made with the parent, either in person or through telephone conversation, by the attendance officer to obtain an explanation for the pupil's absence and to explain to the parent the consequences of continued nonattendance. The attendance officer, the pupil, and the pupil's parent shall jointly develop a plan to resolve the pupil's nonattendance. Such a plan shall include documentation of the reasons for the pupil's nonattendance.

##### B. Upon Sixth Absence without Parental Awareness and Support

If the pupil is absent an additional day after direct contact with the pupil's parent and the attendance officer has received no indication that the pupil's parent is aware of and supports the pupil's absence, the attendance officer shall schedule a conference within ten school days, which must take place no later than the fifteenth school day after the sixth absence. At the conference, the pupil, his parent, and school personnel, shall meet to resolve issues related to the pupil's nonattendance. Other community service providers may also be included in the conference.

C. Upon Additional Absence without Parental Awareness and Support

Upon the next absence after the conference without indication to the attendance officer that the pupil's parent is aware of and supports the pupil's absence, the Principal or designee shall notify the attendance officer or Superintendent who shall enforce the compulsory attendance rules by either or both of the following: **(i) filing a complaint with the juvenile and domestic relations court alleging the pupil is a child in need of supervision as defined in § 16.1-228 or (ii) instituting proceedings against the parent pursuant to § 18.2-371 or § 22.1-262.** In filing a complaint against the student, the attendance officer shall provide written documentation of the efforts already undertaken to resolve the pupil's absence. If the student's parents have joint physical custody of the student and the school has notice of the custody arrangement, then both parents shall be notified at their last known addresses.

In addition to court interventions, students who are found to be in violation of Virginia's Compulsory Attendance Law may also receive one or more of the following school-based disciplinary actions:

- ❖ Suspension of driving privileges
- ❖ After school detention
- ❖ Suspension of extra-curricular activities
- ❖ Poor school standing
- ❖ In-school suspension
- ❖ Hallway program
- ❖ Requirement to attend Saturday School
- ❖ Referral to the attendance officer for second meeting with parent
- ❖ Return of an out of district student to their home high school

Lastly, the Code of Virginia (HB 1826) provides for the suspension of the driver's license of any student who has 10 or more unexcused absences from public school on consecutive days.

3.4 STUDENTS ARRIVING TARDY TO SCHOOL OR TO SPECIFIC CLASSES

Any student tardy to school must report to the office with their parent or with a written note signed by a parent or guardian explaining the reason for being late to school. If a note at the time is not possible, the tardy will be coded as unexcused. However, if the note is presented to the office the following day the tardy will be changed to "excused" in the school's database if the explanation in the note meets the "excused" criteria discussed in section 2.1 of this document. The following steps will be taken in response to student tardiness at the middle and high schools:

- ❖ 3 unexcused tardies to school: letter to parent from school
- ❖ 5 unexcused tardies to school: letter and phone call to parent from school
- ❖ 10 unexcused tardies to school: 1 lunch detention, phone call to parent
- ❖ 13 unexcused tardies to school:
  - suspension of driving privileges for 3 days (exception of middle schools)
  - Hallway program
- ❖ 16 unexcused tardies to school:
  - 3 lunch detentions

- Suspension of driving privileges for 1 week (exception of middle schools)
- 1 week hallway program
- ❖ 20 or more unexcused tardies to school:
  - 1 day of ISS
  - 2 week suspension of driving privileges (exception of middle schools)
  - Meeting with parent, principal and PCPS Attendance Coordinator to resolve problem (possibly with court intervention)

At the elementary school level, the following steps will be taken with regard to student tardiness:

- ❖ 5 unexcused tardies to school: letter and phone call to parent
- ❖ 10 unexcused tardies to school: meeting with principal to resolve the difficulty
- ❖ More than 10 unexcused tardies to school: referral to Page County Attendance Coordinator

If a parent chooses to provide transportation to and from school for their child who attends elementary, middle or high school, the parent is legally responsible for getting the student to school on time each day. If the student is chronically late to school, **Page County Public Schools may be required to institute legal proceedings against the parent pursuant to VA Code § 18.2-371 or § 22.1-262.**

### 3.5 EARLY DISMISSAL - STUDENTS WHO LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY ARE REQUIRED TO LEAVE SCHOOL PROPERTY

Students are not permitted to leave school before their school day is completed unless they are approved in the office and properly signed out. Students who expect to leave early must bring in a note or signed statement from their parent giving a reason for the early dismissal, the time for dismissal, and the telephone number where the parent can be contacted. If transportation is by someone other than the parent this should be noted. This statement should be taken to the office between 8:00 and 8:20 a.m. The student's note will be collected and the student's name will be put on the Daily Morning Bulletin with the time of departure. If the student did not take a note to the attendance office between 8:00 and 8:20 a.m. and his or her name is not on the Morning Bulletin, the student will need to report to the main office to sign out when it is time for him or her to leave the school building. A parent will then need to be contacted before the student can be released.

If the student is leaving early from school in a habitual manner and picked up from school by the parent or with the parent's permission, **Page County Public Schools may be required to institute legal proceedings against the parent pursuant to VA Code § 18.2-371 or § 22.1-262.**

### 3.6 DISMISSAL PRECAUTIONS

Principals shall not release a student during the school day to any person not authorized by the student's parent/guardian to assume responsibility for the pupil. Students shall be released only on request and authorization of parent or guardian. The superintendent shall provide procedures

for release of pupils who are not residing with or under the supervision of a parent/guardian. The burden of proof on the authority of the person to receive the student is on the requesting party. A formal check-out system shall be maintained in each school.

### 3.7 ON SCHOOL GROUNDS DURING AN ABSENCE

Students absent from school are not to be on school grounds without permission from school administration. If a student who is absent from school comes onto school property during the school day without appropriate permission or without their parent or guardian, this act will be treated as a failure to follow school policy and that student will receive at minimum, 1 day of in-school suspension.

### 3.8 STUDENTS LEAVING SCHOOL PROPERTY AND/OR SKIPPING CLASS

Once a student arrives on school property, he or she may not leave the premises without permission from school administration prior to the end of the regularly scheduled school day. Students who leave school property without permission and/or fail to report to their assigned location during the school day will be referred to the School Principal, Assistant Principal, or Designee who will choose one or more of the following disciplinary actions:

- ❖ Suspension of driving privileges
- ❖ After school detention
- ❖ Suspension of extra-curricular activities
- ❖ Poor school standing
- ❖ In-school suspension
- ❖ Lunch Detention
- ❖ Hallway program
- ❖ Requirement to attend Saturday School
- ❖ Referral to the attendance officer
- ❖ Return of an out of district student to their home high school

### 3.9 STUDENT ILLNESS

Students that become ill or injured and need to leave school should report to the clinic. In this case, parents will be contacted before a student will be released early from school (also see serious illness or injury procedure in parent/student handbook).

### 3.10 ATTENDANCE REPORTING

Student attendance shall be monitored and reported as required by state law and regulations. At the end of each school year, each public school principal shall report to the Superintendent the number of pupils by grade level for whom a conference was scheduled pursuant to Part II (B) above. The Superintendent shall compile this information and provide it annually to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

### 3.11 COMPULSORY SOL REMEDIATION ATTENDANCE

Students not passing SOL tests will be required to attend remediation services. This may include the following: summer school, after-school remediation during the school year or remedial classes during the regular school day. Students refusing to attend any remediation classes may forfeit their right to participate in extra-curricular activities.

### 3.12 MAKE UP WORK NEEDED DUE TO ABSENCES

Any student absent from class is required to make up all work missed whether excused or unexcused. Students should obtain all homework assignments prior to leaving the building on the day before a known or preplanned absence will occur. It is the responsibility of the student and the parent to request assignments for the day the student is out unexpectedly so that he/she may keep up with the class work. Assignments should be requested before 10:00 a.m. on the day the parent will pick up the work so that there is ample to time to gather up all the school work needed. Parents are requested to pick up the assignments later in the day between 3:10 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

In addition, grades for school work made up due to unexcused absences may be reduced depending on the teacher's requirements. A student and parent's failure to request make up work and to schedule make up work timeframes with his or her teacher for excused and unexcused absences can result in the student receiving a zero grade for the assignments not completed.

### 3.13 EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ON THE DAY OF THE ABSENCE

Students must be in attendance, at minimum, during the last four hours of the school day in order to participate in any extra-curricular activity and for over the weekend school activities, students must be in attendance for the last four hours of the school day on Friday. However, exceptions may be made if the specific absence has been discussed with and approved by the school principal prior to the student missing any time in school.

### 3.14 ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS BY CLASS

Page County Tech Center, dual enrollment, and/or honors courses may have more stringent attendance requirements than state law and local policy. These more stringent attendance requirements will be stated in each specific course syllabus and students are expected to meet these requirements. For example, classes that lead to a nursing diploma or a certificate of completion in a technical area have attendance requirements that are set by teacher and school principal. In this regard, in many of these classes there are a specific number of seat time hours required in addition to the completion of the actual class and homework. If these attendance hours are not met, students will not receive a passing grade or credit for the class.

### 3.15 STUDENTS LEAVING SCHOOL EARLY (EARLY DISMISSAL)

3.15.1 Students are not permitted to leave school before their school day is completed unless they are approved in the office and properly signed out. Students who expect to leave

early must bring a note or signed statement from their parent giving a reason for the early dismissal, the time for dismissal, the telephone number where the parent can be contacted, and a doctor or dentist appointment card. If transportation is by someone other than the parent this should be noted. This statement should be taken to the attendance office between 8:00 and 8:20am. The student's note will be collected and the student's name will be put on the Daily Morning Bulletin with the time of departure (high school). If the student did not take a note to the attendance office between 8:00 and 8:20 a.m. and his or her name is not on the Morning Bulletin, the student will need to report to the main office to sign out when it is time for him or her to leave the school building. A parent will then need to be contacted before the student can be released.

3.15.2 As indicated in in 3.9 of this document, students that become ill or injured and need to leave school should report to the clinic. In this case, parents will be contacted before a student will be released early from school.

3.15.3 Students in approved Work Study Programs may qualify for Early Dismissal. Other students receiving special permission for justifiable reasons approved by the Superintendent's Office may be also be scheduled for Early Release. Early Released students must exit the school premises at the time designated. Remaining at school or on school grounds is not permitted and any exceptions need to be approved by the administration. School Administration and the Work Study Coordinator must approve Work Study students for early release. These students must have a Work Study Agreement on file and they must adhere to the terms of their contract.

3.15.4 As indicated in 3.8 of this document, once a student arrives on school property, he or she may not leave the premises without permission from school administration prior to the end of the regularly scheduled school day. Students who leave school property without permission and/or fail to report to their assigned location during the school day will be referred to the Assistant Principal who will choose one or more of the following disciplinary actions:

- ❖ Suspension of driving privileges
- ❖ After school detention
- ❖ Suspension of extra-curricular activities
- ❖ Poor school standing
- ❖ In-school suspension
- ❖ Hallway program
- ❖ Referral to the attendance officer for second meeting with parent
- ❖ Return of an out of district student to their home high school
- ❖ Requirement to attend Saturday School

5.0 **BEHAVIOR CODE**

Student conduct affects the learning environment of all students. In order to maintain a positive learning environment students are expected to follow the behavioral guidelines outlined in this section. Also students and parents should be aware of certain behaviors at school and in the community which may affect their academic progress and school privileges.

5.1 **BEHAVIOR AT SCHOOL/SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS**

The expectations for student behavior on school property, on school buses, at bus stops, and at school-sponsored events are listed on the following pages. It is important that students and parents have a clear understanding of the Code so that all students may have the opportunity to learn in a safe, non-disruptive environment.

5.2 **SERIOUS MISBEHAVIOR THAT OCCURS IN THE COMMUNITY**

If the Juvenile Probation Officer notifies the superintendent that a student has been charged with a crime, which could have resulted in injury to others, possession of weapons, alcohol, drugs, or causing intentional injury to others (even if the alleged crime occurred off school property), the School Board may require the student to attend alternative education pending disposition of the case by the courts. Students who are found guilty by the courts of serious crimes (even if the alleged crime occurred off school property) may face long-term suspension, expulsion or alternative placement. In addition, Section 22.1-279.4 of the *Code of Virginia* as well as additional, related regulations developed by the Office of the Attorney General; indicate that juveniles may be prosecuted as adults for the commission of certain crimes.

5.3 **FELONY CHARGES**

Students charged with any offense, wherever committed, that would be a felony if committed by an adult may be disciplined and/or required to participate in prevention/intervention activities.

6.0 **INTEGRITY**

6.1 **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Page County Public Schools recognizes that academic integrity and the concept of intellectual property are critical to the values of our schools and our community. Therefore, we strive to cultivate an environment that supports the safeguard of honesty as it relates to the use of ideas, as well as the demonstration of understanding. Academic Integrity is defined as the practice of students performing their work and completing their assignments within the guidelines set down by teachers. It includes avoiding the representation of someone else's ideas as original and responsibly documenting the ideas of others in all formats. Teachers will accept the responsibility of providing clear guidelines for what is acceptable help from others, as well as clear requirements for the submission of research-based work and acceptable documentation practices, including research guidelines and format for Works Cited and Works Consulted.

6.1.1 Specific Prohibited Behaviors with Regard to Academic Integrity

- a. Cheating – Cheating includes the actual giving or receiving of any unauthorized assistance or the actual giving or receiving of unfair advantage of any form of academic work.
- b. Plagiarism – Plagiarism includes the copying of the language, structure, idea and/or thought of another and representing it as one’s own original work.
- c. Attempts – Attempts toward completion of any act described above would constitute a violation and may be punishable to the same extent as if the attempted act had been completed.

6.1.2 Consequences and Dispositions with Regard to Academic Integrity

Principals will apply consequences and dispositions in accordance with the age and developmental stage of the student, and will take into consideration all circumstances surrounding each incident.

RECOMMENDED DISPOSITIONS (Which may include, but not be limited to):

- First Offense: Zero on assignment, parent contact, and forfeiture of academic honors/awards for 30 school days.
- Second Offense: Zero on assignment, in-person conference, forfeiture of academic honors/awards for 180 school days, and placement on Poor School Standing.

6.2 PERSONAL INTEGRITY

Specific Prohibited Behaviors with regard to Personal Integrity

- a. Falsification – a verbal or written statement of any untruth.
- b. Stealing – Stealing includes acquiring another’s possessions without right or permission.
- c. Attempts – Attempts toward completion of any act described above would constitute a violation and may be punishable to the same extent as if the attempted act had been completed.

RECOMMENDED DISPOSITIONS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Student Conference                      | Suspension/Suspension of Extra-curricular |
| Activities Parent Contact               | Juvenile Probation Officer Referral       |
| Conference with Parent or Guardian      | Law Enforcement Agency Referral           |
| Detention                               | Court Referral                            |
| In-School Suspension                    | Alternative Education Placement           |
| Recommend Expulsion to the School Board |   |



## 7.0 CHEMICAL ABUSE

No person may possess, use, manufacture, sell or distribute “alcohol, drugs, and other substances,” nor use or possess paraphernalia for the purposes of illicit/inappropriate drug use, at any time, on school property, building and grounds, in school-sponsored vehicles or at school sponsored events at other sites. The terms “alcohol, drugs, and other substances” shall be construed to refer to all substances in all forms, including, but not limited to: alcohol and alcohol-containing beverages, all forms of tobacco, inhalable substances (including gases, solvents and solvent-based products, butane, propane, electronic and/or vapor cigarettes, adhesives and similar products), marijuana, cocaine/crack, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, methadone, scheduled narcotics, steroids, herbal stimulants, herbal/”natural” euphorants, all *look-alike products*, and any substances commonly referred to as “designer drugs.” The inappropriate and/or illegal use of prescription or over-the-counter preparations is prohibited. Possessing, using, or having evidence of prior use of illegal chemicals, alcohol, “look-alike” drugs, (including “look-alike” marijuana), any drug not prescribed for the student by a licensed prescriber, or any substance represented as a drug; or possession or use of drug paraphernalia on school grounds or at any school related event is prohibited. This policy will be implemented in grades 6-12. Students in grades K-5 will be considered on an individual basis. **All prescription or over-the-counter drugs needed by the student for medical reasons must be taken to the main office by the parent accompanied by a note from a physician or parent (VA Code 22.1-277.08).**

### 7.1 POSSESSION, DISTRIBUTION OR ATTEMPTED DISTRIBUTION OF DRUGS (WHETHER SALE OR GIFT), TRANSPORTING OR CARRYING ILLICIT DRUGS ONTO SCHOOL PROPERTY, AND BRINGING SUCH SUBSTANCES TO SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES (22.1-277.08):

If a student engages in any of the activities indicated above, the following disciplinary consequences will be initiated:

- ❖ Poor school standing.
- ❖ 10 days suspension from school and suspension of extra-curricular activities (**Principals may use discretion when assigning the number of days of suspension and when providing other disciplinary actions for violations of policy on possession of legally prescribed medications inadvertently brought to school**).
- ❖ Referral to a community based Drug Awareness, Intervention, and/or Counseling Program. Student must complete this program in order to return from expulsion or to return to “good school standing.”
- ❖ Referral to the Superintendent for a Disciplinary Hearing in order to review all possible disciplinary consequences including long term suspension, expulsion, and Alternative Education.
- ❖ Report to Law Enforcement Agency for appropriate legal action.
- ❖ **Any student who possess, uses, manufactures, sells or distributes “alcohol, drugs, and other substances” on school property as described in section 7.0 above or is intoxicated by any of these substances on school property during their 12<sup>th</sup> grades year, will not be permitted to participate in their high school’s June graduation ceremony. Students who engage in the same infraction(s) during their 9<sup>th</sup>, 10, and/or 11<sup>th</sup> grade year(s) may**

receive the same disciplinary consequence. However, the decision about graduation participation for these students will be made by the Page County Public Schools Superintendent and the Page County School Board on an individual basis.

7.1 POSSESSION, DISTRIBUTION OR ATTEMPTED DISTRIBUTION OF DRUGS (WHETHER SALE OR GIFT), TRANSPORTING OR CARRYING ILLICIT DRUGS ONTO SCHOOL PROPERTY, AND BRINGING SUCH SUBSTANCES TO SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES (22.1-277.08):

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- ❖ Referral to the Superintendent for a Disciplinary Hearing in order to review all possible disciplinary consequences including long term suspension, expulsion, and Alternative Education.
- ❖ Report to Law Enforcement Agency for appropriate legal action.
- ❖ **Any student who possess, uses, manufactures, sells or distributes “alcohol, drugs, and other substances” on school property as described in section 7.0 above or is intoxicated by any of these substances on school property during their 12<sup>th</sup> grades year, will not be permitted to participate in their high school’s June graduation ceremony. Students who engage in the same infraction(s) during their 9<sup>th</sup>, 10, and/or 11<sup>th</sup> grade year(s) may receive the same disciplinary consequence. However, the decision about graduation participation for these students will be made by the Page County Public Schools Superintendent and the Page County School Board on an individual basis.**

Va. Code 22.1-277.08 – Expulsion of students for certain drug offences

- A. School boards shall expel from school attendance any student whom such school board has determined, in accordance with the procedures set forth in this article, to have brought a controlled substance, imitation controlled substance, marijuana as defined in § 18.2-247, or synthetic cannabinoids as defined in § 18.2-248.1:1 onto school property or to a school-sponsored activity. A school administrator, pursuant to school board policy, or a school board may, however, determine, based on the facts of a particular situation that special circumstances exist and no disciplinary action or another disciplinary action or another term of expulsion is appropriate. A school board may, by regulation, authorize the division superintendent or his designee to conduct a preliminary review of such cases to determine whether a disciplinary action other than expulsion is appropriate. Such regulations shall ensure that, if a determination is made that another disciplinary action is appropriate, any such subsequent disciplinary action is to be taken in accordance with the procedures set forth

in this article. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a student's expulsion regardless of the facts of the particular situation.

- B. Each school board shall revise its standards of student conduct to incorporate the requirements of this section no later than three months after the date on which this act becomes effective (1998, c. 655; 1999, cc. 706, 732, Va. Code 222.1-277.01:1; 2001, cc.688,820).

## 8.0 DANGEROUS OBJECTS, FIREARMS, EXPLOSIVES, ARSON, AND CHEMICALS

Each student has the right to learn in an environment which respects the safety and well-being of all students. The following categories are considered extremely serious violations which threaten a suitable and safe learning environment. Violation of any of the below may result in an immediate recommendation for expulsion.

### 8.1 DANGEROUS OBJECTS

This means the possession or use of items commonly understood to be inappropriate to typical school activities, such as; machetes, brass knuckles, switchblades, knives, Chinese stars, ammunition, etc. Also included would be the misuse of acceptable objects in a manner which endangers a person's safety or health. This may include toy or "look-a-like" weapons.

### 8.2 FIREARMS

Whether loaded or unloaded (which may include an unloaded firearm in a closed container), operative or inoperative, the possession or use of a firearm on any school property or during any school activity is

prohibited unless specifically authorized by school officials. A "Firearm" includes any stun weapon, knife with a blade of more than 3 inches, pistol, revolver, or other weapon designed or intended to propel a missile of any kind by action of an explosion of any combustible material, dirk, bowie knife, switchblade, knife, ballistic knife, machete, razor, slingshot, spring stick, metal knucks, or blackjack, nun chuck, fighting chain or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart ) see Va. Code Ann.22.1-277-07 (E)

❖ 18.2-308.1.

### 8.3 PNEUMATIC GUNS

Pneumatic guns which include, paint ball guns, pellet guns, BB guns, and CO2 air pistols are not considered to be firearms. Possession or use of a pneumatic gun is prohibited unless specifically authorized by school officials. Possession includes storage in a vehicle, locker, or other receptacle. The improper use of a starter or "look-a-like" pistol is specifically prohibited.

#### 8.4 EXPLOSIVES

The possession or use of any item or material considered to have the capacity to create an explosion is prohibited unless specifically authorized by school officials.

#### 8.5 ARSON

The use or the intent to use any material which may result in a fire on school property is prohibited unless specifically authorized by school officials.

#### 8.6 CHEMICALS

The possession or use of chemicals that impact the health and/or safety of others is strictly prohibited.

#### 8.7 THE FEDERAL GUN FREE SCHOOL ACTS OF 1994 requires a school principal to recommend at least a one-year (365 days) expulsion to the school board for possession of a firearm. State Law (VA Code 22.1-277.07) classifies a firearm as:

- a. Any stun weapon or taser.
- b. Any pistol, revolver, or other weapon designed or intended to propel a missile of any kind.
- c. Any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, razor, slingshot, spring stick, metal knucks, or blackjack.
- d. Any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain.
- e. Any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart,
- f. Any weapon of like kind as those enumerated in items (a) through (e).
- g. Any weapon, including a starter gun, which will or is designed or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive,
- h. The frame or receiver of any weapon referenced in item (g).
- i. Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or
- j. Any destructive device. "Destructive device" is defined as (i) any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missiles having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine, or other similar device; (ii) any weapon, generally recognized as particularly suitable for sporting purposes, by whatever name which will, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter; (iii) any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described in this subsection and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled. "Destructive device" does not include any device which is not designed or redesigned for use as a weapon, or any device originally

designed for use as a weapon and which is redesigned for use as a signaling, pyrotechnic, line-throwing safety, or similar device.

- k. All types of shotguns.
- l. Any knife with a three-inch (or longer) blade.

#### RECOMMENDED DISPOSITIONS

Report to the Superintendent and the Law Enforcement Agency.

Student Conference

Parent Contact

Conference with Parent or Guardian

Suspension Pending a Hearing/Suspension of Extra-Curricular Activities

Recommended Expulsion to the School Board

Juvenile Probation Officer Referral

Alternative Education Placement

Court Referral

Confiscation

§22.1-277 .07. Expulsion of students under certain circumstances; exceptions -

A. In compliance with the federal Improving America's School Act of 1994 (Part F -Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994), a school board shall expel from school attendance for a period of not less than one year any student whom such school board has determined, in accordance with the procedures set forth in this article, to have possessed a firearm on school property or at a school-sponsored activity as prohibited by § 18.2- 308.1; to have possessed a firearm or destructive device as defined in subsection E, a firearm muffler or firearm silencer, or a pneumatic gun as defined in subsection E of § 15.-2915 on school property or at a school- sponsored activity. A school administrator, pursuant to school board policy, or a school board may, however, determine, based on the facts of a particular situation that special circumstances exist and no disciplinary action or another term of expulsion is appropriate. A school board may promulgate guidelines for determining what constitutes special circumstances. In addition, a school board may, by regulation, authorize the division superintendent or his designee to conduct a preliminary review of such cases to determine whether a disciplinary action other than expulsion is appropriate. Such regulations shall ensure that, if a determination is made that another disciplinary action is appropriate, any such subsequent disciplinary action is to be taken in accordance with the procedures set forth in this article. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a student's expulsion regardless of the facts of the particular situation.

#### 9.0 DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

Any physical or verbal disturbance, which occurs within the learning environment and which interrupts or interferes with teaching or orderly conduct of school activities is prohibited. This would include but not be restricted to the following:

## 9.1 SEXUAL HARASSMENT

It is the policy of the Page County School Board to maintain a learning environment for all its students that provides for fair and equitable treatment of all employees and students including freedom from sexual harassment by employees or by fellow students. It is illegal for any employee or student, male or female, to harass another employee or student by (1) making unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors, or engaging in other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature; or (2) making submission to, or rejection of, such conduct a basis for academic decisions affecting the student; or (3) creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning environment by such conduct. Any student/employee who believes that he or she has been subjected to sexual harassment should file a written complaint of the alleged act immediately to the Principal/Immediate Supervisor who will work with the Title IX compliance officer to investigate the matter.

The Title IX Compliance Officer is Dr. Paul Johnson, 735 West Main Street Luray, VA 22835. Alternate Title IX Compliance Officer is Assistant Superintendent Donna Whitley-Smith. The written complaint should state in detail the basis for the complaint, the names of the persons involved, and the dates of any specific incidents. A thorough confidential investigation of all reported incidents to determine the nature and extent of any alleged sexual harassment will be undertaken immediately. If the complaint is against the Principal, the complaint should be filed with the Title IX compliance officer. If the complaint is against the Title IX compliance officer, the complaint shall be filed with the Superintendent. If the complaint is against the Superintendent, the complaint shall be filed with the chairman of the school board. The question of whether a particular action or incident is prohibited behavior requires a determination based on all the available facts in the matter. A written report shall be filed upon the conclusion of any investigation of sexual harassment regardless of the outcome of that investigation.

Any employee or student who is found, after appropriate investigation, to have engaged in sexual harassment of another person will be subject to disciplinary action appropriate to the offense from warning, expulsion, dismissal, or legal action.

Any individual filing a sexual harassment complaint is assured that he/she will be free from any retaliation from filing such a complaint. Persons who retaliate will be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion or dismissal.

## 9.2 BULLYING/HARASSMENT

Negative behaviors that target specific individuals are strictly prohibited and perpetrators will receive appropriate consequences. Prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to, written or verbal abusive statements/remarks, threats, physical abuse, harassment, and ethnic or gender slurs. In addition, this policy covers not only verbal and written threats, but also any bullying, harassment, and intimidation conveyed by electronic means such as texting and “sexting,” phone messages, and using the internet (instant messaging, MySpace, emails, Facebook, etc.).

When there is evidence that two or more individuals are directing bullying/harassing behaviors at each other, perpetrators will receive appropriate consequences. In addition, administrators may provide conflict resolution services for the students in face-to-face meeting(s).

### 9.3 OBSCENITY OR VULGARITY

Cursing or using abusive language including remarks intended to demean a person's race, religion, sex, national origin, handicapping condition, or intellectual ability. This includes action or displays of an obscene nature and the wearing of clothing or adornments which convey unacceptable messages.

### 9.4 VERBAL ABUSE/DISRESPECT/THREATS

Verbal abuse is any serious or persistent action that prevents an orderly and peaceful learning experience for any individual. Students must respect not only each other but respond to written or verbal directions given by school personnel. Any verbal, written, electronically conveyed, and/or physical threats (even implied threats) toward students, staff, faculty members, administration, or school property will result in disciplinary action.

- a. Bomb Threats – The Page County Public School System takes bomb threats very seriously and we always keep the safety and security of our students and staff as our primary objective. Students and their parents should be aware that if bomb threats occur, PCPS will seek the most severe dispositions possible. These actions include, but are limited to: expulsion from all public schools in the State of Virginia, prosecution in a court of law, juvenile detention, and complete financial restitution to the school system and to Page County as a whole.

### 9.5 GAMBLING

Any event, action, or statement which relies on chance for the monetary advantage of one participant at the expense of others. This includes exchanging items of value as well as currency and extends to keeping score for later settlement.

### 9.6 INAPPROPRIATE LITERATURE AND ILLUSTRATIONS

The possession of literature or illustrations that disrupt the educational process is unacceptable.

### 9.7 MECHANICAL/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The unauthorized possession or use of any type of electronic or mechanical device which distracts or impedes the educational process is prohibited. This includes pagers, beepers, cellular phones, text messaging devices, and laser pointers. All mechanical/electronic devices must be out of sight and turned off during the regular school day. Parents are to refrain from using electronic devices to contact students during the school day. However, at the two high schools, students are allowed to use their cell phones during their lunch period.

9.8 PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

Physical contact such as holding hands, kissing and embracing on school grounds will not be tolerated. The following dispositions will be as follows:

- a. First Offense - counseling by the teacher and incident reported to the office.
- b. Student conference with the administration.
- c. Parents contacted by phone or letter.
- d. Conference with parents/guardians and students.
- e. Detention or suspension.

9.9 HAZING

Hazing means to recklessly or intentionally endanger the health or safety of a student or students or to inflict bodily harm on a student or students in connection with or for the purpose of initiation, admission into or affiliation with or as a condition for continued membership in a club, organization, association, fraternity, sorority, or student body regardless of whether the student or students so endangered or injured participated voluntarily in the relevant activity.

The principal of any school at which hazing which causes bodily injury occurs shall report the hazing to the Local Commonwealth Attorney. Hazing, as defined above, is a Class 1 misdemeanor which may be punished by confinement in jail for up to 12 months and a fine of up to \$2,500, or both, in addition to any disciplinary consequences which may be imposed under this policy. In addition, any person receiving bodily injury by hazing has a right to sue, civilly, the person or persons guilty thereof, whether adults or infants. See VA Code 18.2-56.

Teachers and Coaches will accept the responsibility for recognizing and reporting hazing. All forms of hazing are prohibited including any perceived tradition of initiation. Teachers and coaches are to be diligent in carrying this message to all participants. These behaviors by students or failure to report by staff will have immediate consequences.

RECOMMENDED DISPOSITIONS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Alternative Education Placement           | Confiscation (return to parent only)      |
| In or Out of School Suspension            | Recommended Expulsion to the School Board |
| Referral to the School Psychologist       | Referral Court                            |
| Conference with Parent or Guardian        | Juvenile Probation Officer Referral       |
| Shortened School Day                      | Law Enforcement Agency Referral           |
| Suspension of Extra-curricular Activities |   |

10.0 DRESS CODE

Students are expected to dress in a manner consistent with recognition that they have the responsibility to help foster a learning environment that promotes health and safety, respect, pride, cohesiveness, and a positive regard for discipline and authority. The following, for example, is unacceptable:



- a. See-through or scanty apparel.
- b. Clothing that is offensive, lewd, vulgar, obscene, or profane.
- c. Body and facial piercings that are potentially dangerous due to overall health and safety reasons, and
- d. Other attire which may undermine or compromise the learning environment, that distracts others from focusing on the learning process or present a safety hazard.

Within these overall expectations, each school's Standards of Dress define the other rules of appropriate dress/attire determined suitable for the age, grade level, stage of development, physical facilities, and other appropriate educational environment-related circumstances.

### RECOMMENDED DISPOSITIONS

Student Conference  
 Parent Contact  
 Conference with Parent or Guardian  
 Detention  
 In-School Suspension  
 Suspension/Suspension of Extra-Curricular Activities  
 Alternative Education Placement  
 Recommended Expulsion to the School Board

#### 11.0 FIGHTING

Physical Abuse - Intentionally hitting, shoving, scratching, biting, blocking the passage of, or throwing objects at a student who does not reciprocate.

- 11.1 INCITEMENT OR INSTIGATION OF FIGHTING - Actions, comments, or written messages intended to cause others to fight or which may result in a fight.
- 11.2 FIGHTING - INTENTIONALLY STRIKING A STUDENT WITH THE PURPOSE OF CAUSING HARM OR INJURY - This action may extend to mutual shoving, wrestling, or other aggressive actions, which could result in the danger of harm or injury to the students involved, bystanders, or school property. This Code of Conduct recognizes the fundamental right of every student to reasonable actions as may prove necessary to defend one's self from an attack by another. Reasonable actions should include walking away and seeking supervision. Physical intervention must be a last resort. While self defense might be presented or considered as a possible circumstance of an altercation, safety and order in schools require little or no tolerance for fighting.
- 11.3 ASSAULT ON A STUDENT - The willful use of physical violence, which is intended to result in serious bodily injury; and the use of a dangerous object in an effort to cause serious bodily injury.
- 11.4 ASSAULT ON A SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYEE - Intentional physical violence directed toward a school board employee with intent to cause bodily harm; (18.2-57) provides for a mandatory period of incarceration of two (2) days when the object of the battery is a teacher, principal or guidance counselor.

- 11.5 THREATS - Conveying by gestures, notes, or verbal comments the intent to cause bodily injury or to deprive a student of his/her rights.
- 11.6 EXTORTION - Willful use of physical or verbal threats or physical abuse intended to result in an involuntary transfer of money or property to another student.
- 11.7 BULLYING/HARASSMENT - Negative behaviors that target specific individuals are strictly prohibited and perpetrators will receive appropriate consequences. Prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to, threats, written or verbal abusive statements/remarks, physical abuse, harassment, and ethnic or gender slurs.

When there is evidence that two or more individuals are directing bullying/harassing behaviors at each other, perpetrators will receive appropriate consequences. In addition, administrators may provide conflict resolution services for the students in face-to-face meeting(s).

**RECOMMENDED DISPOSITIONS**

Student Conference	Recommended Expulsion to the School Board
Parent Contact	Alternative Education Placement
Conference with Parent or Guardian	Court Referral
In-School Suspension	Suspension of Extra-curricular Activities
Juvenile Probation Officer Referral	Law Enforcement Agency Referral

12.0 **PUPIL TRANSPORTATION**

The bus driver has the responsibility for the safety of all students assigned to his/her bus. The driver can perform this responsibility only with the cooperation and courtesy of all students. It is the aim to insure that the health, safety, welfare, and educational opportunity of each transported student is thoroughly protected. Students should keep their possessions with them at all times. The Page County Schools is not responsible for any items lost or stolen while a student is being transported on a bus, whether traveling to and from school or on a field trip.

13.0 **SCHOOL BUS SAFETY AND DISCIPLINE**

Each principal is responsible for carrying out a school bus safety program and has jurisdiction over the conduct of students while they are being transported. Students must be made aware of the following school bus safety procedures:

13.1 **MEETING THE BUS**

- a. Students should be at their bus stop prior to the arrival of the bus.
- b. Students should take the safest route to their assigned bus stop.
- c. Students should wait in a safe place off the main road or street.
- d. Students should wear bright clothes if there is snow, rain, or fog.
- e. Students should stand back from the road or street and give the bus driver room to stop.
- f. Students should not trespass on private property or litter.

- g. Students should not play in the roadway or street.
- h. Students should not sit on the curb.
- i. Students should not run in a bus loading/unloading area.

### 13.2 BOARDING THE BUS

- a. Pupils should not enter the roadway to get on a bus until the bus has come to a complete stop and the driver motions to the pupils to proceed.
- b. If students must cross the highway to board their bus, they should cross at least ten feet in front of the bus, never behind it.
- c. When entering the bus, students must enter in an orderly fashion and in accordance with instructions from the bus driver.
- d. Younger students should be allowed to enter the bus first.
- e. Students should go directly to an assigned seat and remain seated while the bus is in motion.

### 13.3 STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Students shall not behave in a disruptive manner or otherwise violate the following Code of Conduct while waiting for a school bus, while on a school bus or after being discharged from a school bus.

- a. Students should show respect for the bus driver.
- b. Students are to remain seated until the bus reaches its destination and comes to a complete stop.
- c. Students are to speak in a normal voice and refrain from using unacceptable language.
- d. The bus aisle is to be kept clear of feet, arms, and other objects.
- e. Books, coats, and all other objects should be held on students' laps.
- f. Students should not deface the bus. Vandalism either willful or careless to the bus will be paid for by those responsible, and the school board's regulation regarding parent liability will be enforced.
- g. Students are to be silent at railroad crossings so the bus driver can hear railroad warning signals.
- h. State regulations prohibit smoking on the bus at any time.
- i. Students should ride the same bus mornings and afternoons. No change in buses may be made without written request from the parent. Additional bus stop locations may be established for special permission transportation.
- j. Students should not tamper with the bus or any of its equipment, including emergency equipment.
- k. Students should not fight, scuffle, or throw objects inside the bus.
- l. Students should not extend arms, legs, or heads out of the bus, or throw objects outside the bus windows.
- m. Except in an emergency, students should not talk to the bus driver while the bus is in motion.
- n. No glass containers, water pistols, pea shooters, or weapons of any type are to be brought on the bus. No soda containers may be carried in hand on the bus.
- o. Paper or other litter should not be thrown on the bus floor.
- p. Students should not chew gum, eat, or drink on the bus.

- q. No pets or animals are allowed on the bus. Animals brought on the bus create disturbances, which may result in unsafe driving situations.

#### 13.4 LEAVING THE BUS

- a. Students must remain seated until the bus comes to a full stop.
- b. Students are to leave the bus in an orderly manner. The students in the front seats will depart first.
- c. Students must not loiter around the bus.
- d. Students must leave the bus at their regular stop.
- e. If students must cross a highway, they are to do so only at the front of the bus and at a distance of at least ten feet in front of the bus. They must not cross until the bus driver has signaled that it is safe to do so.

#### 13.5 PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING BUS MISCONDUCT

Of foremost importance is the realization that riding the school bus, for whatever purpose, is a privilege. Should that privilege be abused, it may be revoked for a specified period of time or permanently. Bus drivers are instructed to report to the school principal any infraction of the regulations for riding. Should a student be reported to the school principal, the principal will be responsible for the disciplinary action, including loss of the privilege of bus transportation.

- a. The Bus Operator is responsible for notifying the principal, by filling out a discipline referral, of details pertaining to a disciplinary problem with a student on the school bus. If action taken by the school does not resolve the problem, the operator contacts the Supervisor of Transportation.
- b. The principal is responsible for determining the necessary action, noting the action on the disciplinary referral form, and forwarding copies to the Supervisor of Transportation. The principal will then make sure that any denial of riding privileges follows proper procedures.
- c. Denial of Riding Privileges: Students who violate the behavior and safety rules may have bus-riding privileges denied temporarily or permanently by the school principal in accordance with the following:
  - ❖ The principal will warn the student of the possibility of the denial of riding privileges. If the problem continues, the principal confers with the parent/guardian and the student prior to the suspension of riding privileges or, depending on the severity and nature of the behavior problem, suspends riding privileges immediately.
  - ❖ The principal notifies the parent/guardian in writing of complaints received and the suspension of the student's riding privileges, with a copy to the bus operator, Supervisor of Transportation and Director of Support Services.
- d. The student's riding privileges may be restored by the principal after a conference with the principal/school board office staff and parent/guardian. The principal notifies the bus operator in writing of the reinstatement of the student's riding privileges.

- e. Any student suspended from riding his/her bus may not ride any other Page County Public Schools bus until the suspension is complete.

RECOMMENDED DISPOSITIONS

Warning	Expulsion
Conference with parent	Out-of-School Suspension
Conference with parent and driver	Court referral
After school detention	Bus suspension
Suspension of Extra-curricular Activities	
Restitution before student can be restored to good school standing.	

**PAGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**BUS DISCIPLINE REFERRAL**

Student's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
School \_\_\_\_\_ Bus No. \_\_\_\_\_

Regulation of the conduct of school bus passengers is essential to provide a safe and effective means of transportation for all students. As a violation of bus rules or good conduct, the above named student is referred to the principal's office for one or more of the following reasons:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not seated, bus in motion         | <input type="checkbox"/> Tampering with bus equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unusual noise (Explain)           | <input type="checkbox"/> Throwing objects (Explain)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inconsiderate of others (Explain) | <input type="checkbox"/> Fighting                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Refusal to obey driver            | <input type="checkbox"/> Littering                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Obscenity or use of profanity     | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-authorized stop          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____             |   |

Additional comments or explanation (s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Driver's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**For Administrator's Use Only**

**Action Taken**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Warning and notification to parents                                    |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent conference required before riding privileges will be reinstated |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One day bus suspension   | <input type="checkbox"/> Three day bus suspension |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Five day bus suspension  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ten day bus suspension   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suspension of riding privileges until superintendent reviews           |   |

Comments:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Suspension Effective \_\_\_\_\_ Until \_\_\_\_\_

Administrator's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Students suspended from the bus must still attend school VA Code 22-275**

CC: School      CC: Bus Driver      CC: Parent      CC: Superintendent Office

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### 14.0 TEACHER REMOVAL OF STUDENTS FROM CLASS

Teachers shall have the initial authority to remove students from class for disruptive behavior. Disruptive behavior is defined as a violation of school board regulations governing student conduct that interrupts or obstructs the learning environment.

#### 14.1 CRITERIA FOR REMOVAL

Prior to the removal of a student from class under this policy, the following criteria must be met:

- a. The student's behavior is disruptive as defined above.
- b. Removal of the student from the class is necessary to restore a learning environment free from interruptions and obstructions caused by the student's behavior.
- c. Teacher and/or administrative interventions have been attempted and failed to end the student's disruptive behavior.
- d. Notice of the student's disruptive behavior and the opportunity to meet with the teacher and/or school administrators have been provided to the student's parents as described below.

When all of the above criteria have been satisfied, teacher removal of a student from class shall be deemed appropriate.

#### 14.2 REQUIREMENTS FOR INCIDENT REPORTS

No removal under this policy shall occur unless three prior written incident reports have been filed with school administrators. Upon removal, the teacher shall file a Student Removal Form with school administrators and any other documentation to support the removal including, but not limited to, the previous three incident reports.

#### 14.3 PROCEDURES FOR WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF STUDENTS AND PARENTS

The teacher shall provide copies of any incident report and Student Removal Form to the student and his or her parents and notify them of the opportunity to meet with the teacher and/or school administrators to discuss the behavior and the possible consequences if the behavior continues. Such notice shall be provided within twenty-four hours of each incident. The teacher shall document, in writing, his or her attempts to request and encourage the parents to meet with school administrators and/or the teacher. Documentation shall be required for each incident report and student removal.

#### 14.4 PROCEDURES FOR THE STUDENT'S RETURN TO CLASS

The Principal shall determine, after consultation with the teacher, the duration of the student's removal from class. The Principal shall notify the teacher of the decision to return the student to class. The following procedure shall apply if the teacher disagrees with the Principal's decision to return a student to the class:

- a. The teacher and Principal shall discuss the teacher's objection to returning the student to class and the Principal's reason for returning the student.
- b. The teacher, after meeting with the Principal may appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent or designee within one school day. The incident reports and removal form must accompany the appeal. After discussion with the Principal and teacher or receiving their written comments, the decision of the Superintendent or designee shall be final. The decision shall be made within forty-eight hours of the teacher's appeal. During the appeal process, the student shall not be returned to class. The Principal will determine an appropriate placement for the student.
- c. Once the decision has been made to return the student to class, the teacher and Principal shall develop a plan to address future disruptive behavior.

#### 14.5 OTHER PROVISIONS WITH REGARD TO STUDENTS REMOVED FROM CLASS

The Principal shall ensure that students removed from class under this policy continue to receive an education in accordance with School Board policies. Application of this policy to students with disabilities shall be consistent with federal and state law and regulations, as well as School Board policy regarding students with disabilities. Concerns about classroom management shall be addressed in teacher evaluations pursuant to the policy listed in the policy manual by the letters GCN. This policy does not limit or restrict the ability of school division employees to apply other policies, regulations, or laws for maintaining order in the classroom.

#### 14.6 GUIDELINES : ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTION OF REMOVED STUDENTS

The Principal shall determine the appropriate placement of the student. The principal has several options regarding the placement of a removed student including, but not limited to

- a. Assigning the student to an alternative program.
- b. Assigning the student to another class.
- c. Sending the student to the Principal's office or study hall. If the Principal chooses this option, the teacher shall provide and evaluate appropriate make-up work for the student.
- d. Suspending or expelling the student. If the Principal chooses this option, alternative instruction and assignment, if any, shall be provided according to School Board policy and, in the case of students with disabilities, in accordance with federal law.
- e. Returning the student to class (see procedures below).

In addition, based on available space, a student may be administratively assigned to a alternative education program either at the request of the parent and with the consent of the division superintendent or by the division superintendent after written notice to the student and his parent. Such notice of the opportunity for the student and/or his parent to participate in a hearing conducted by the division superintendent or his designee regarding such placement shall be issued and the assignment shall be final unless altered by the school board, upon timely written petition, in accordance with regulations of the school board, by the student or his parent, for a review of the record by the school board.



## 15.0 **TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES**

The classroom teacher has the major responsibility for student discipline and classroom management. Each teacher has the responsibility for the development of a threefold classroom disciplinary policy which addresses the following:

- a. The development of a positive climate.
- b. The actions that are preventive in nature, and
- c. The activities that can be described as corrective.

The percentage of disciplinary cases found in a classroom correlates to some extent with the quality and effectiveness of the program operating in the classroom. Teachers who provide meaningful and challenging experiences that relate to student needs have fewer discipline problems. Although some discipline problems result from difficulties within the social or cultural environment rather than from within the classroom or school, students will be held responsible for their actions.

The efficient, routine operations of a classroom require a well-developed, a well-understood, and a consistent set of rules and regulations. If students are to be held accountable for certain standards, these expectations must be established ahead of time in a manner that makes them easily learned and understood.

Developing a long list of do's and don'ts in an attempt to cover every contingency can create a classroom climate in which the object becomes "beating the system." Rules and regulations that attempt to define every type of situation and recourse are not necessary.

Each public school operating in Page County provides a referral system within which teachers know under what circumstances they should ask for assistance, to whom they should go, and who accepts responsibility for the resolution of the referral. Teachers will refer a student for discipline when the situation has gone beyond a reasonable effort to resolve it. AN ADEQUATE FOLLOW-THROUGH WILL EXIST SO THAT STAFF MEMBERS INVOLVED WILL BE AWARE OF ANY ACTIONS TAKEN.

## 16.0 **TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

The use and/or possession of tobacco products or electronic and/or vapor cigarettes by all students on school premises are prohibited. Penalties for the use and possession of tobacco or electronic and/or vapor cigarettes products are as follows:

- First Offense – Student conference, parent conference, and in-school suspension.  
Second Offense – Out-of-School Suspension/Suspension of Extra-curricular Activities.  
Subsequent Offense – Out of School Suspension/Referral to School Board.

If under 18 years of age, the student will be referred to the Juvenile Probation Officer.

17.0 **TRESPASSING**

- a. Any student who has been suspended or expelled from school shall be considered trespassing if he/she appears on Page County Public School property during the suspension period unless an exception is approved by the principal/assistant principal.
- b. Students who loiter at school after the close of their school day without specific need or supervision may be considered trespassers.
- c. Any student who is directed by an administrator to leave school property is expected to do so immediately. No student or other person may attend or visit a Page County school as a guest during the regular school day without authorization from the school administration.

**RECOMMENDED DISPOSITIONS**

Student Conference	Juvenile Probation Officer Referral	Suspension
Parent Contact	Law Enforcement Agency Referral	Alternative Education
Conference with Parent or Guardian	Possible Expulsion	Legal Papers Served

18.0 **VANDALISM**

Vandalism is the willful marring, defacing, or destruction of property held in trust by the Page County School Board, or any of the Board’s employees. This applies to the buildings, both exteriors and interiors, books, school buses, private automobiles, school grounds, and property. **VANDALISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** When any student injures, destroys, or defaces any school property, the student and/or his/her parent or guardian will be required to pay the cost plus related damages costs of the property destroyed or damaged. In addition, the student will be subject to whatever disciplinary action is deemed necessary and appropriate by the principal. Any type of vandalism will be reported to the proper law enforcement agency.

**RECOMMENDED DISPOSITIONS**

Student Conference	Juvenile Probation Officer Referral
Restitution	Recommended Expulsion to the School Board
Parent Contact	Law Enforcement Agency Referral
Conference with Parent or Guardian	Court Referral
Suspension	Alternative Education Placement
Suspension of Extra-Curricular Activities	

After consideration of circumstances surrounding the incident, the student’s previous record, and the age and development stage of the student, disposition of the case may be selected from the following additional alternatives, which are listed below:

- a. Alternative Education – Educational services provided at a location other than the school where the student is on the attendance roster.
- b. Confiscation – Any item prohibited by this Code will be removed from the student’s possession.

- c. Court Referral – In case of a drug offense, weapon possession, or other violation of the Code of Virginia, the student may be taken to court. Usually the Youth Services Officer will be involved in handling the referral. The complaining party may be either the school or the victim.
- d. Detention – This is a method of discipline which may be employed by any teacher or administrator to keep a student before or after school hours in the hope of correcting Failure to do so shall be considered trespassing.
- e. Inappropriate behavior. Parents must be notified and detention generally should not exceed one hour.
- f. Law Enforcement Agencies – In cases of serious violations of the Code of Virginia, the Page County Police, Child Protective Services, and Juvenile Probation Departments may be included in the disposition. However, the Juvenile Probation Officer normally operates in this capacity.
- d. Parent Contact – The most effective person in dealing with student discipline problems is the parent. Teachers, counselors and administrators will contact the parents by phone or letter in an effort to keep parents informed of student conduct.
- e. Poor School Standing – Student may not participate or be a spectator at any school-sponsored event regardless of where the activity takes place. Student may not go on field trips unless required by an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Student may not drive a vehicle onto or park on school property. Students may be placed on “Poor School Standing” for an extended period of time. Students who are suspended from school are automatically on “Poor School Standing.”
- f. Recommended Expulsion to the School Board – Expulsion is defined as the permanent exclusion of a student from the Page County Public School System, including Adult Education and the G.E.D. program. Only the School Board may expel a student.
- g. Restitution – The replacement of or payment for property taken, damaged or destroyed will be required.
- h. School Conference with Parent/Guardian – Parents are encouraged to set up an appointment with any teacher, counselor, or administrator to discuss their son’s or daughter’s progress or problems. After a suspension, a parent may be asked to come to school to reinstate the student.
- i. Student Conference – The first line of discipline is with the classroom teacher. Formal and informal conferences are held between the student and teacher. If problems become more serious, the building administrator will hold a conference with the student in an attempt to improve behavior. Many times the student’s counselor will also be included in the conference.
- j. Suspension – According to adopted School Board policy, a student may be suspended from school attendance for sufficient cause. Students may also be suspended or expelled for actions begun or planned on school property but which are completed off school property. For suspensions of ten days or less, the school principal or assistant principal shall inform the student of the specific charges and offer a time and place for a conference. The Page County School Board authorizes the superintendent to extend a student’s suspension beyond 10 days if the student is being referred to the School Board for long-term suspension or expulsion.

- ❖ In the event of suspension, a letter shall immediately be mailed to the parent or guardian informing him/her of the charges against the student and the details of the suspension. The letter will also include information on whether or not some form of alternative education will be provided during the suspension, and a statement informing the parent/student of their right to ask the superintendent to review the suspension. A reasonable effort will be made to contact parents or guardians by phone and inform them of the suspension. In all cases, administrators may suspend a student and may require a parent/guardian conference with the student present before the student may return to school.
  - ❖ If the parents or guardians choose to appeal a suspension, they shall contact the principal to schedule a hearing date. At the appointed time, the principal will determine the sufficiency and admissibility of the evidence and shall not be bound by the traditional rules of courtroom procedure. He/She may affirm, modify, or reverse the original decision. At the conclusion of the conference, the principal shall announce his/her decision and the reasons therefore and shall inform the student and his/her parent or guardian of the right to appeal the decision to the Superintendent.
- k. In-School Suspension (ISS) – Removes a student from the regular academic schedule but retains him/her within the school building. In-school suspension should be used when, in the principal’s best judgment, the greatest benefit will occur to all concerned. The same due process procedures shall be followed for in-school suspension as for out-of-school suspension. If a student is suspended due to problems with his/her assignment to ISS, a condition of readmission to school will be that the student must complete the remainder of his/her assigned time in ISS
  - l. Suspension of extra-curricular Activities – Temporarily removes the privileges of attending and/or participating in all school extra-curricular activities. Also, students (Grades 7-12) who are referred to the office five or more times face loss of attending and/or participating in all school extra-curricular activities and also includes revocation of on-campus driving privileges.
  - m. Juvenile Probation Officer – This individual’s major concern is to help correct problems before they come to the attention of the court, but the officer also processes cases that need to be taken to court.
  - n. Community Service at School – With the agreement of the parent, students may be assigned supervised physical work at school. Examples are: cleaning and picking up trash from grounds.

## 19.0 APPEALS PROCESS FOR ALL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

If a parent disagrees with a disciplinary action taken by a school administrator, the parent has the right to appeal the action. However, if a parent appeals the disposition may be upheld, lessened or lengthened. The following actions are to be followed for any appeal:

- a. Appeals of actions taken by any school level employee (other than the principal) shall be made to the principal.
- b. Appeals of actions taken by the principal shall be made to the Division Director of Human Resources and Administration.
- c. Appeals of actions taken by the Division Director of Human Resources and Administration shall be made to the Division Superintendent.
- d. Appeals of actions taken by the Division Superintendent shall be made to the School Board. Written notice of such an appeal must be filed with the Superintendent within 7 days of the action being appealed. The appeal shall be heard within 20 calendar days. A decision will be available verbally within two working days of the hearing with written confirmation to follow.
- e. Appeals of actions taken by the School Board may be made to the Circuit Court of Page County.

**PAGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
DISCIPLINARY REFERRAL / STUDENT REMOVAL FORM**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Incident: \_\_\_\_\_

Referring Employee: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

**PURPOSE:** This report is to inform you of a disciplinary incident involving your son/daughter. Please note the information and return the form signed or call the administrator at the school.

**INFRACTION:** Period/Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unauthorized absences from class/school<br><input type="checkbox"/> Chronic Tardies<br><input type="checkbox"/> Disrupting class or other students<br><input type="checkbox"/> Disrespectful/discourteous<br><input type="checkbox"/> Fighting<br><input type="checkbox"/> Tobacco Violation | <input type="checkbox"/> Destruction of Property<br><input type="checkbox"/> Chemical Abuse (Drug/Alcohol)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Dangerous Objects<br><input type="checkbox"/> Dress Code<br><input type="checkbox"/> Documented Cheating or Plagiarism<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|---|

Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Employee's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

<b><u>PREVIOUS EMPLOYEE ACTIONS:</u></b>	Dates	Dates
Teacher/Student Conference (or Warning)	_____	Parent Contact/Telephone – Letter _____
Parent – Teacher Conference	_____	Previous Office Referral _____
Other _____	_____	

**ACTION TAKEN BY ADMINISTRATOR:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Correction/Warning<br><input type="checkbox"/> Parent Contact<br><input type="checkbox"/> Request Parent Conference<br><input type="checkbox"/> Detention _____<br><input type="checkbox"/> In School Suspension (days) _____<br><input type="checkbox"/> Suspension of Extra-Curricular Activities<br><input type="checkbox"/> Poor School Standing | <input type="checkbox"/> Referral to Attendance Officer<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other Referral _____<br><input type="checkbox"/> Required Parent Conference<br><input type="checkbox"/> Suspension, out of school (letter to follow)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Community Service at School<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|--|--|

The offense was explained to me and I was given a chance to tell my side of the story.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Administrator's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

The School Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, political affiliation, handicapping conditions, or sex in its educational programs or employment. No person shall be denied employment solely because of any impairment, which is unrelated to the ability to engage in activities involved in the position or program for which application has been made.

Note: The appeals process is found in the Page County Public Schools "Code of Student Conduct/Attendance."

20.0 **STATUTES - CODE OF VIRGINIA**

20.1 **§ 22.1-277. SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS OF PUPILS GENERALLY**

- a. Pupils may be suspended or expelled from attendance at school for sufficient cause.
- b. Any student for whom the division superintendent of the school division in which such student is enrolled has received a report pursuant to § 16.1-305.1 of an adjudication of delinquency or a conviction for an offense listed in subsection G of § 16.1-260 may be suspended or expelled from school attendance pursuant to this article.
- c. The authority provided in § 22.1-276.2 for teachers to remove students from their classes in certain instances of disruptive behavior shall not be interpreted to affect the operation of §§ 22.1-277.04, 22.1-277.05, or § 22.1-277.06.

(Code 1950, §§ 22-230.1, 22-230.2; 1972, c. 604; 1980, c. 559; 1984, c. 415; 1997, cc. 371, 585, 608, 734, 830; 1998, cc. 355, 379, § 22.1-277.02; 2001, cc. 688, 820; 2003, c. 119.)

20.2 **§ 22.1-277.2:1 DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY OF SCHOOL BOARDS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM**

- a. A school board may, in accordance with the procedures set forth in this article, require any student who has been (i) charged with an offense relating to the Commonwealth's laws, or with a violation of school board policies, on weapons, alcohol or drugs, or intentional injury to another person, *or with an offense that is required to be disclosed to the superintendent of the school division pursuant to subsection G of § 16.1-260*; (ii) found guilty or not innocent of an offense relating to the Commonwealth's laws on weapons, alcohol, or drugs, or of a crime that resulted in or could have resulted in injury to others, or of an offense that is required to be disclosed to the superintendent of the school division pursuant to subsection G of § 16.1-260; (iii) found to have committed a serious offense or repeated offenses in violation of school board policies; (iv) suspended pursuant to § 22.1-277.05; or (v) expelled pursuant to §§ 22.1-277.06, 22.1-277.07, or § 22.1-277.08, or subsection B of § 22.1-277, to attend an alternative education program. A school board may require such student to attend such programs regardless of where the crime occurred. School boards may require any student who has been found, in accordance with the procedures set forth in this article, to have been in possession of, or under the influence of, drugs or alcohol on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity in violation of school board policies, to undergo evaluation for drug or alcohol abuse, or both, and, if recommended by the evaluator and with the consent of the student's parent, to participate in a treatment program.

As used in this section, the term "charged" means that a petition or warrant has been filed or is pending against a pupil.

- b. A school board may adopt regulations authorizing the division superintendent or his designee to require students to attend an alternative education program consistent with the provisions of subsection A after (i) written notice to the student and his parent that the student will be required to attend an alternative education program and (ii) notice of the

opportunity for the student or his parent to participate in a hearing to be conducted by the division superintendent or his designee regarding such placement. The decision of the superintendent or his designee regarding such alternative education placement shall be final unless altered by the school board, upon timely written petition, as established in regulation, by the student or his parent, for a review of the record by the school board.

- c. A school board may adopt regulations authorizing the principal or his designee, following oral notice and an opportunity for a hearing to be conducted by the principal or designee, to impose a short-term suspension, as defined in § 22.1-276.01, upon a student who has been charged with an offense involving intentional injury to another student of the school division pending a decision by the division superintendent or his designee as to whether to require that such student attend an alternative education program.

(1990, c. 835; 1995, cc. 724, 755, 801; 1998, c. 355; 1999, c. 457; 2000, c. 577, § 22.1-277.1; 2001, cc. 688, 820; 2003, c. 119.)

### 20.3 § 22.1-279.1 CORPORAL PUNISHMENT PROHIBITED

- a. No teacher, principal or other person employed by a school board or employed in a school operated by the Commonwealth shall subject a student to corporal punishment. This prohibition of corporal punishment shall not be deemed to prevent (i) the use of incidental, minor or reasonable physical contact or other actions designed to maintain order and control; (ii) the use of reasonable and necessary force to quell a disturbance or remove a student from the scene of a disturbance which threatens physical injury to persons or damage to property; (iii) the use of reasonable and necessary force to prevent a student from inflicting physical harm on himself; (iv) the use of reasonable and necessary force for self-defense or the defense of others; or (v) the use of reasonable and necessary force to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects or controlled substances or paraphernalia which are upon the person of the student or within his control.
- b. In determining whether a person was acting within the exceptions provided in this section, due deference shall be given to reasonable judgments at the time of the event which were made by a teacher, principal or other person employed by a school board or employed in a school operated by the Commonwealth.
  - a. For the purposes of this section, "corporal punishment" means the infliction of, or causing the infliction of, physical pain on a student as a means of discipline.

This definition shall not include physical pain, injury or discomfort caused by the use of incidental, minor or reasonable physical contact or other actions designed to maintain order and control as permitted in subdivision (i) of subsection A of this section or the use of reasonable and necessary force as permitted by subdivisions (ii), (iii), (iv), and (v) of subsection A of this section, or by participation in practice or competition in an interscholastic sport, or participation in physical education or an extracurricular activity (1989, c. 287; 1995, c. 681.).



20.4 § 22.1-279.4. INFORMATION REGARDING PROSECUTION FOR CERTAIN CRIMES

School boards shall provide information developed by the office of the Attorney General to students regarding laws governing the prosecution of juveniles as adults for the commission of certain crimes. Methods of providing such information may include, but shall not be limited to, public announcements in the schools, written notification to parents, publication in the student conduct manual, and inclusion in those materials distributed to parents pursuant to § 22.1-279.3 (1997, c. 465.)

**Page County Public Schools**  
**MEDICAL EXCUSE FORM**

*This Student is "at-risk" of being referred into the court system due to excessive absences*

*Student Information (completed by parent/guardian)*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Appointment: \_\_\_\_\_ Time of Appointment: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Appointment: \_\_\_\_\_

*I hereby authorize this health care provider and the Page County Public School System to be able to exchange and release attendance, grade, health information and the information requested on this form for my child listed above:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/ Legal Guardian Signature Date

*The above named is engaged in the Attendance Review Process with the Page County Public School System due to excessive absences and is at-risk of being referred into the court system. Therefore (per the School Board approved Code of Student Conduct and Attendance) PCPS is requesting the information below and is requiring the parent to use this form to gain medical verification of all school absences.*

*Medical Information (completed by a medical professional)*

Date seen in your office: \_\_\_\_\_ Time In: \_\_\_\_\_ Time Out: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Appointment/Diagnosis: \_\_\_\_\_

May return to school: \_\_\_\_\_ today (please check) or in \_\_\_\_\_ day(s)

Special instructions/ accommodations: \_\_\_\_\_

**(If this student will be out for ten days or longer, please contact Kim Comer (see below) so that a Homebound Instruction application can be completed).**

**HEALTH CARE PROVIDER:**

Name & Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of **Physician/Medical Provider**: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Date

**Contact Information: Ms. Kim Comer-Burton, Attendance Officer (540) 843-2826**

