

# 2017-2018 STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Student Offenses and  
Disciplinary Actions

## Bleckley County Schools

Steve J. Smith, Superintendent

P. O. Box 516 - 242 E. Dykes Street

Cochran, Georgia 31014

[www.bleckley.k12.ga.us](http://www.bleckley.k12.ga.us)

*Expect Excellence!*

**To Bleckley County Students and Parents:**

The Student Code of Conduct is provided to serve as an overview of the various discipline strategies and actions used in the Bleckley County School System. As you review the information contained in this brochure, you will observe that the disciplinary actions range from warnings or counseling to expulsion. Your knowledge of the information contained in this Code of Conduct will hopefully help us to maintain a positive school climate in our schools. Please be aware that further details regarding discipline can be found in the student handbooks for each school. The following information supports rather than replaces the information you may find in the individual school's student handbook. This Code of Conduct is not an all-inclusive list of misconduct for which a student may be disciplined. **An act of misconduct not listed will be subject to the discretionary authority of the principal.** Violations of the Code of Conduct and/or with local, state, and federal law may result in the termination of the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities.

One discipline strategy utilized by our middle and high schools is In-School Suspension (ISS). This program serves as an alternative for students who would otherwise be suspended home. Students and parents are also reminded that actions which are in violation of local, state, or federal law may result in the notification of the appropriate law enforcement agency.

The Bleckley County School System operates the Bleckley County Success Academy ("BCSA"). This school serves as an alternative to suspending or expelling students completely out of the school system. Students enrolled in BCSA may continue with their studies until they can eventually graduate or return to regular school.

The Board of Education and the Bleckley County School System seek the support of both parents and students in their approaches to student discipline. Overwhelmingly, we support the notion that our schools need to be safe places to learn.

This code of conduct and its rules and regulations are effective during the following times and in the following places:

- 1) at school or on school property at any time;
- 2) off school grounds during a school-related activity, function, or event and while traveling to and from such events;
- 3) on school buses and school bus stops.

Please review the discipline code that follows. We earnestly desire your support for an effective school discipline program.

The Bleckley County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to designated youth groups.

## **Bleckley County Schools Student Code of Conduct**

It is the purpose of the Bleckley County School District to operate each school in a manner that will provide an orderly process of education and that will provide for the welfare and safety of all students who attend the schools within the district. In accordance with that purpose, the Board of Education has adopted a policy which requires all schools to adopt codes of conduct which requires students to conduct themselves at all times in order to facilitate a learning environment for themselves and other students. These standards for behavior require students to respect each other and school district employees, to obey student behavior policies adopted by the Board and to obey student behavior rules established at each school within the district.

The school's primary goal is to educate, not to punish; however, when the behavior of an individual student comes in conflict with the rights of others, corrective actions may be necessary for the benefit of that individual and the school as a whole. Accordingly, students shall be governed by policies, regulations and rules set forth in this Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct is effective during the following times and in the following places:

- At school or on school property at any time;
- Off school grounds at any school activity, function or event and while traveling to and from such events;
- On vehicles provided for student transportation by the school system and at school bus stops.

Also, students may be disciplined for conduct off campus which could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony and which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to the persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process.

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

The General Assembly of Georgia requires that this code of conduct include language encouraging parents and guardians to inform their children on the consequences, including potential criminal penalties, of underage sexual conduct and crimes for which a minor can be tried as an adult.

Parents are encouraged to become familiar with the Code of Conduct and to be supportive of it in their daily communication with their children and others in the community.

### **Authority of the Principal**

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

### **Authority of the Teacher**

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

Each teacher shall comply with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-737, which requires the filing of a report by a teacher who has knowledge that a student has exhibited behavior that repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in his or her class or with the ability of such student's classmates to learn, where such behavior is in violation of the student code of conduct. Such report shall be filed with the principal or designee on the school day of the

most recent occurrence of such behavior, shall not exceed one page, and shall describe the behavior. The principal or designee shall, within one school day after receiving such a report from a teacher, send to the student's parents or guardian a copy of the report and information regarding how the student's parents or guardians may contact the principal or designee.

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

### **Progressive Discipline Procedures**

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

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

The following disciplinary actions may be imposed for any violation of this Code of Conduct. Note that school administrators may use their discretion in imposing discipline, and this discretion may include skipping items in this progression or changing the order where they feel it is warranted:

- Warning and/or Counseling with a School Administrator or Counselor
- Loss of Privileges
- Time Out
- Temporary Removal from Class or Activity
- Notification of Parents
- Parent Conference
- Corporal Punishment
- Detention/Saturday School
- Temporary Placement in an Alternative Education Program / In-school suspension
- Short-term Suspension
- Referral to a Tribunal for Long-term Suspension or Expulsion
- Suspension or Expulsion from the School Bus

Referral to law enforcement or juvenile court officials: Georgia law requires that certain acts of misconduct be referred to the appropriate law enforcement officials. The school will refer any act of misconduct to law enforcement when school officials determine such referral to be necessary and appropriate.

The maximum punishments for an offense include long-term suspension or expulsion, including permanent expulsion, but those punishments will be determined only by a disciplinary tribunal as outlined in the Bleckley County Board of Education policies and O.C.G.A. §20-2-754.

Parents or students may elect not to contest whether a student has violated the Code of Conduct or the appropriate discipline, and in such cases, an agreement may be negotiated which would include the parents or students waiving a right to a hearing before a disciplinary tribunal. Such an agreement and waiver must be approved also by the disciplinary tribunal or hearing officer.

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

School officials may search a student if there is reasonable suspicion the student is in possession of an item that is illegal or against school rules. Student vehicles brought on campus, student book bags, school lockers, desks and other school property are subject to inspection and search by school authorities at any time without further notice to students or parents. Cell phones/multi-media/electronic devices taken from students due to possession and/or use in violation of school rules are subject to having their contents searched. Students are required to cooperate if asked to open book bags, lockers or any vehicle brought on campus. Metal detectors and drug or weapon sniffing dogs may be utilized at school or at any school function, including activities which occur outside normal school hours or off the school campus at the discretion of administrators.

## **Behavior Which Will Result in Disciplinary Procedures**

The degree of discipline imposed will be in accordance with the progressive discipline process unless otherwise stated.

- **Activating a fire alarm under false pretenses or making a bomb threat.**
- **Any behavior based on a student's race, national origin, sex, or disability that is unwelcome, unwanted, and/or uninvited by the recipient is prohibited, including verbal or non-verbal taunting, physical contact, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical contact of a sexual nature, up to and including sexual harassment as used in connection with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.**
- **Assault, including threats of bodily harm (verbal assault) and/or sexual assault, of teachers, administrators, other school personnel, other students, or persons attending school-related functions:** Immediate suspension and automatic referral to a disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed an assault upon a teacher or other school personnel; possible referral to a disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed an assault upon another student or a person attending a school-related function.
- **Battery, including sexual battery, of teachers, administrators, other school personnel, other students, or persons attending school-related functions:** Immediate suspension and automatic referral to the disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed battery upon a teacher or other school personnel; possible referral to the disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed battery upon another student or a person attending a school-related function.
- **Cheating on school assignments or other academic dishonesty.**
- **Classroom and school disturbances and/or disruption.**
- **Damaging or defacing personal property, including property of another student or any person legitimately at the school, or school property (vandalism or graffiti) during school hours or off-school hours.**
- **Disrespectful conduct toward teachers, administrators, other school personnel, other students, or persons attending school-related functions including use of vulgar or profane language.**
- **Disobeying directives given by teachers, administrators, or other school staff, including substitutes.**
- **Driving or parking permit violations.**
- **Extortion or attempted extortion.**
- **Failure to comply with compulsory attendance** as required under Code Section 20-2-690.1.
- **Falsifying, Misrepresenting, omitting, or erroneously reporting information regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator, or other school employee toward a student.**

- **Gambling or possession of gambling devices.**
- **Giving false information to school officials.**
- **Inappropriate public displays of affection.**
- **Inciting, advising, or counseling of others to engage in prohibited acts.**
- **Insubordination, disorderly conduct, disobeying school rules, regulations, or directives; disobeying directives given by teachers, administrators, or other school staff.**
- **Marking, defacing, or destroying school property (vandalism); and/or marking, defacing, or destroying the property of another student. Willful or malicious damage to real or personal property of the school or to personal property of any person legitimately at the school.**
- **Moving and non-moving driving violations.**
- **Possession and/or use of fireworks or any explosive.**
- **Possession or use of a weapon or dangerous instrument as provided for in Code Section 16-11-127.1:** Students who possess any weapon described in Policy JCDAE in violation of this policy will be subject to a minimum of a one calendar year expulsion. The Superintendent shall have the authority either before or after the student is referred for a tribunal hearing to reduce the mandated one year expulsion under circumstances where the one year expulsion appears excessive to the Superintendent. The tribunal shall also have the authority to modify such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis in determining the appropriate punishment. Finally, in any tribunal decision appealed to the board of education, the board may reduce the mandated punishment but shall consider whether the superintendent and/or tribunal considered a reduction and any rationale in denying such a reduction.
- **Possession or use of tobacco in any form.**
- **Possession, sale, transmission, use in any amount, distribution, or being under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturates, marijuana, drug paraphernalia, inhalant, prescription drug not currently prescribed for possessing student, or alcoholic beverage or other intoxicant. Possession, distribution, attempted sale or sale of substances represented as drugs or alcohol or any of the items listed here.**
- **Students may not falsify, misrepresent, omit, or erroneously report information regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator, or other school employee toward a student.** Any student (or parent or friend of a student) who believes a student has been the victim of an act of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct by a teacher, administrator, or other school system employee is urged to make an oral report of the act to any teacher, counselor, or administrator at his/her school.
- **Theft.**
- **Transmitting sexually explicit or suggestive material to other students at school or circulating such material at school through electronic devices or in any other manner**
- **Unexcused absence, chronic tardiness, skipping class, leaving campus without permission.**
- **Use during prohibited times of cell phone or other electronic communication device, except for reasons approved by an administrator or teacher.**
- **Use of profane, vulgar, or obscene words or indecent exposure.**
- **Verbal assault including threatened violence of teachers, administrators, and other school personnel.**
- **Violating the school's/school system's acceptable use of the Internet/electronic resources agreement/policy**
- **Violation of school dress code.**
- **Willful and persistent violations of the student code of conduct.**

**Cell Phone/Electronic Device:** The use of cell phones and other electronic devices is acceptable under the guidelines of the Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) or Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) procedures in school and classrooms that allow such use. Use outside these guidelines are not permitted and shall be treated as disruptive behavior at the discretion of the principal.

**Bullying:** Georgia law mandates that upon a finding that a student in grades 6-12 has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, the student shall be assigned to an alternative school. See Policy JCDAG.

**Criminal law violations/Off-Campus Misconduct:** A student whose conduct off campus could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony and which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the education process may be subject to disciplinary action, including in-school suspension, short-term suspension and referral to a disciplinary tribunal.

## Definition of Terms

**Assault:** Any threat or attempt to physically harm another person or any act which reasonably places another person in fear of physical harm. (Example: threatening language or swinging at someone in an attempt to strike).

**Battery:** Intentionally making physical contact with another person in an insulting, offensive, or provoking manner or in a way that physically harms the other person. (Example: fighting)

**Bullying:** In accordance with Georgia law, bullying is defined as an act that is:

- (1) Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so; or
- (2) Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; or
- (3) Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, that:
  - (A) Causes another person substantial physical harm within the meaning of Code Section 16-5-23.1 or visible bodily harm as such term is defined in Code Section 16-5-23.1;
  - (B) Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education;
  - (C) Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
  - (D) Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

The term applies to acts which occur on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a local school system. The term also applies to acts of cyberbullying which occur through the use of electronic communication, whether or not electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic communication (1) is directed specifically at students or school personnel, (2) is maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school, and (3) creates a reasonable fear of harm to the students' or school personnel's person or property or has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose. Electronic communication includes, but is not limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writings, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system.

**Chronic Disciplinary Problem Student:** A student who exhibits a pattern of behavioral characteristics which interfere with the learning process of students around him or her and which are likely to recur.

**Corporal Punishment:** Physical punishment (paddling) of a student by a school official in the presence of another school official as provided for and outlined in Georgia law.

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

**Disciplinary Tribunal:** School officials appointed by the Board of Education to sit as fact finder and judge with respect to student disciplinary matters.

**Dress Code:** The current dress code is explained in the student handbook.

**Drug:** The term drug does not include prescriptions issued to the individual, aspirin or similar medications and/or cold medications that are taken according to product use recommendations and board policy. Caffeine pills are considered drugs.

**Expulsion:** Suspension of a student from a public school beyond the current school quarter or semester. Such action may be taken only by a disciplinary tribunal or hearing officer in accordance with O.C.G.A. §20-2-754.

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

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

**Gambling:** Engaging in a game or contest in which the outcome is dependent upon chance even though accompanied by some skill, and in which a participant stands to win or lose something of value.

**In-School Suspension:** Removal of a student from class(es) or regular school program and assignment of that student to an alternative program isolated from peers.

**Physical Violence:** Intentionally making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person of another; or intentionally making physical contact which causes physical harm to another unless such physical contacts or physical harms were in defense of himself or herself.

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

**Theft:** The offense of taking or misappropriating any property of another with the intention of depriving that person of the property, regardless of the manner in which the property is taken or appropriated.

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

**Weapons:** The term weapon is defined in Georgia's criminal Code Section 16-11-127.1, but for the purpose of this code of conduct includes any object that is or may be used to inflict bodily injury or to place another in fear for personal safety or well-being. See Board Policy JCDAE. Reporting Requirements. All employees must report violations of this policy to the principal or assistant principal of the school. If the principal has reasonable cause to believe that a report is valid, he/she must immediately make an oral report to the Superintendent and to the appropriate law enforcement authority and district attorney. The student's parents or guardian will be notified immediately of his/her child's involvement in any activity involving weapons. Students will be given a copy of the Code of Conduct, which includes a statement of prohibited conduct with regard to weapons and possible disciplinary actions.



### **Student Support Processes**

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

Through one or more school or school related organizations, students may have access to a mentor. Parents who are interested in their child being assigned a mentor should notify the school principal of this desire.

### **Parent Involvement**

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

Parents and students should contact the principal of the school if specific questions arise related to the Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct specifies within its standards of behavior various violations of the Code which may result in a school staff member's request that a parent or guardian come to the school for a conference. Parents are encouraged to visit the schools regularly and are expected to be actively involved in the behavior support processes designed to promote positive choices and behavior. Parents will only be allowed to visit classrooms with administrator approval so as not to disrupt learning.

Parents/guardians may not berate, harass, threaten or intimidate any school personnel, either at school or via social media. Any parent/guardian accused of such behavior will be subject to removal and banned from school property and/or face criminal prosecution.

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

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

The law allows a local board of education to petition the juvenile court to require a parent to attend a school conference. If the court finds that the parent or guardian has willfully and unreasonably failed to attend a conference requested by the principal pursuant to the laws cited above, the court may order the parent or guardian to attend such a conference, order the parent or guardian to participate in such programs or such treatment as the court deems appropriate to improve the student's behavior, or both. After notice and opportunity for hearing, the court may impose a fine, not to exceed \$500.00, on a parent or guardian who willfully disobeys an order of the court under this law.

While parents are encouraged to

### **Student Conduct on School Buses**

The goal of the Transportation Department of the Bleckley County Board of Education is to transport children in a safe and timely manner to and from school. While the law allows the school system to furnish transportation, it does not relieve parents of students from the responsibility of supervision until such time as the child boards the bus in the morning and after the child leaves the bus at the end of the school day. Once the child boards the bus, and only at that time, does he or she become the responsibility of the school system. Such responsibility shall end when the child is delivered to the appropriate bus stop at the end of the day.

It is the intent of the Bleckley County School System to operate a safe and efficient transportation program for students. Such intent is predicated on desirable behavior of bus passengers and consequences of misbehavior. Bus incidences will be dealt with by a school administrator at the school where each child attends. Since the bus is considered an extension of the classroom, discipline for incidents on the bus may also include discipline on the school level as well.

### **Parent Responsibility**

In our desire to provide for the safety of all students, Bleckley County School Bus Drivers have been instructed not to deliver students below grade six or certain special needs children to a home where a parent/guardian is not present. Those students will be returned to the Bleckley County Primary School and placed in after-school care at the expense to the parent. Whenever this occurs three times, the Transportation Director shall have the authority to suspend the student from the bus for a period at his discretion.

### **Bus Misbehavior**

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

(1) All provisions of the Student Code of Conduct apply to behavior on the school bus, including but not limited to, acts of physical violence as defined by Code Section 20-2-751.6, bullying as defined by subsection (a) of the Code Section 20-2-751.4, physical assault or battery of other persons on the school bus verbal assault of other persons on the school bus, disrespectful conduct toward the school bus driver or other persons on the school bus, and other unruly behavior;

(2) A meeting of the parent or guardian of the student and appropriate school district officials must be held to form a school bus behavior contract whenever:

- A student is found to have engaged in bullying; or
- A student is found to have engaged in physical assault or battery of another person on the bus.

The school bus behavior contract shall provide for age-appropriate discipline, penalties, and restrictions for student misconduct on the bus. Provisions may include, but are not limited to, assigned seating, ongoing parental involvement, and suspension from riding the bus.

These provisions regarding use of a bus behavior contract are not to be construed to limit the instances when other code of conduct violations may require use of a student bus behavior contract.

(3) Students may be prohibited, at the driver's discretion, from using any electronic devices during the operation of a school bus, including but not limited to cell phones; pagers; audible radios, tape or compact disc players without headphones; or any other electronic device in a manner that might interfere with the school bus communication equipment or the school bus driver's operation of the school bus; and

(4) Students shall be prohibited from using mirrors, lasers, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective devices in a manner that might interfere with the school bus driver's operation of the school bus.

### **Student Behavior Expectations**

Outside the bus pupils shall: Be at the designated bus stop at scheduled time; Never stand or play in the roadway; Line up orderly and safely away from the traffic lane until the bus has completely stopped; Board the bus in a safe and orderly manner without pushing or shoving; Follow the bus driver's instruction carefully by proceeding safely and alertly when getting off the bus and/or crossing the roadway; Exit the bus at their assigned stop, unless prior written permission from the parents has been given to the school and subsequently to the driver; Go home promptly after leaving the bus at the end of the school day.

Inside the bus pupils shall: Go immediately to their seats and courteously share seats with others boarding the bus; Sit in assigned seat (Bus Drivers have the authority to assign seats.); Be held responsible for any vandalism that may occur to the seats in which they ride. (Promptly report any damage found to the bus driver.); Change seats only with the bus driver's permission, and only when the bus is not in motion; Get on or off the bus only when it is completely stopped; Cooperate with any bus monitor on duty; Cooperate with the bus driver to keep the bus clean. Eating and drinking on the bus are prohibited; Observe classroom conduct, except for ordinary conversation, to enable the bus operator to give attention to safe driving; Keep head and limbs inside the bus windows at all times; Report any open exit or released latch to the bus driver immediately; Provide enrollment information to bus driver as requested.

**Unacceptable (but not extreme) Behavior Level One:** Standing while bus is in motion or moving while bus is in motion; Interference with the orderly process of the bus operation( not being ready at bus stop, not maintaining classroom conduct, eating, drinking, etc.); The use of profane or obscene language or language that might be deemed sexually explicit; Littering the school bus; Inappropriate displays of affection; Opening emergency exits, except in an emergency or as directed by the bus driver; Yelling.

**Unacceptable Extreme Behaviors Level Two:** Aggressive or threatening behavior toward other passengers or bus driver, including throwing objects of any nature or bullying; Possession of illicit or controlled materials (weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, etc.); Use of abusive/profane language directed at the bus driver or monitor; Actions to deliberately distract the driver; Sexual harassment of any form including indecent exposure or touching; Vandalism to school property; Threatening to injure or injuring another pupil; Instigating, participating in, or prolonging a fight.

**Consequences of Inappropriate Behavior on the bus:** Consequences for inappropriate behavior on the school bus may consist of the following based on the severity and nature of the behavior:

- Verbal Warning by Driver/Administrator
- Written referral to principal
- Meeting with Parent
- Loss of bus privileges for 3, 5, 10 days
- Loss of bus privileges for the school year or calendar year
- Any other appropriate consequence as proscribed the school Code of Conduct, Student Handbook, or Georgia State Law
- NOTE: Any consequences given for inappropriate behavior on any bus, whether for normal school days, after-school programs, field trips, or competitions will apply to all other bus use. For example, a student who is suspended from the after-school bus for inappropriate behavior will be suspended from all bus use and may not ride the bus to or from school until the suspension has been served.

### **Discipline of Disabled Students**

Students who have been identified as disabled and are receiving special education services, in some circumstances, must be viewed differently in determining the appropriate discipline to be administered.

Students with disabilities who are receiving educational services and who have exhibited frequent or intense inappropriate behaviors are best served through reconvening the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team. This IEP team will have the responsibility of reviewing or developing a behavioral intervention plan, determining whether or not the inappropriate behaviors were a manifestation of their disability, and reviewing the student's current placement options to determine the least restrictive environment necessary for the student to make educational progress. The use of short-term suspensions may be an appropriate disciplinary technique and will not constitute a change in placement unless the cumulative short-term suspensions result in a pattern of suspensions which constitute in reality a long-term suspension.

As documented in the parental rights in special education, if a student carries a weapon to school or to a school function or if a student knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at school or a school function, the school district personnel may order a change in the placement of the student to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting, another setting, or suspension, for not more than 10 school days (to the extent such alternatives would be applied to children without disabilities) and an appropriate interim alternative educational setting for the same amount of time that a child without a disability would be subject to discipline, but for not more than 45 days. The alternative education setting shall be determined by the IEP team.

The goal of discipline for all students, whether disabled or not, is to create a safe environment promoting student success.

### Notification of Rights Under PPRA

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) gives parents and students who are 18 or older or emancipated minors (“eligible students”) certain rights regarding the school district’s conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and conduct of certain physical exams. These include the right to:

**1. Consent to federally funded surveys concerning “protected information”.** If the U.S. Department of Education funds a survey in whole or in part, a student’s parents or an eligible student must consent in writing before the student may provide information relating to the following categories:

- Political affiliations;
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
- Sexual behavior or attitudes;
- Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- Critical appraisals of student’s family members;
- Privileged or similar relationships recognized by law, such as with attorneys, doctors, and ministers;
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student’s parents; or
- Income other than that required by law to determine program eligibility.

A survey that concerns any of these points is called a “protected information survey”.

**2. Opt out of certain surveys and health exams.** Parents and eligible students will receive notice of any of the following activities and will have the right to opt out of them:

- Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for purposes of marketing or selling or otherwise distributing the information to others;
- Any protected information survey, regardless of funding; and
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance administered by the school or its agent and scheduled by the school, and not necessary to protect the immediate health, and safety of a student or of another student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under state law.

**3. Inspect certain material.** Parents and eligible students have the right to inspect the following, upon request, before the district administers or uses them:

- Protected information surveys of students (including any instructional materials used in connection with the survey);
- Documents used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
- Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

**4. Receive notification of district policy.** The School District has developed a policy, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, and has made arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. The School District will directly notify parents and eligible students such as through U.S. Mail or e-mail, of this policy at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes are made.

**5. Report violations.** Parents and eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

**Family Policy Compliance Office**

U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20202-4605

Under state law passed by the Georgia State Legislature in 2007, parents of students who receive special education may choose to transfer their child to another public school or private school in Georgia.

### Public School Choice Options

A parent can request a transfer to another public school within their school system as long as there is available space at that school and the school has a program with the services agreed to in the

student's existing individualized education program. If the parent chooses this option, then the parent shall be responsible for transportation to the school.

The parent may request a transfer to a school in another school system if there is available space and the system and school has a program with the services agreed to in the student's existing individualized education program. If the parent chooses this option and the school system accepts the child, then the parent shall be responsible for transportation to a school in that system.

The parent may also request a transfer to one of the state schools for the deaf and/or blind operated by the State Board of Education. Acceptance into a state school will depend if that setting is appropriate for the student's needs. If the parent chooses this option, then the parent shall be responsible for transportation to the state school. Please contact the Georgia Department of Education for more information about transferring to a State School.

### **Private School Choice Option**

If you are interested in transferring your child to a private school in Georgia, you may be able to take advantage of a Georgia Special Needs Scholarship. These scholarships provide funding that can be used to offset tuition costs at participating private schools in the state of Georgia. For more information on the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship and the parent application process, please visit the Georgia Department of Education's website at <http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/>.

### **Teacher Authority & Administrative Support**

Georgia Code provides that a teacher shall have the authority to remove from his or her class a student who repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in the class or with the ability of the student's classmates to learn, where the student's behavior is in violation of the student's code of conduct, provided that the teacher has previously filed a report pursuant to Code Section 20-2-737 or determines that such behavior of the student poses an immediate threat to the safety of the student's classmates or the teacher. Each school principal shall fully support the authority of every teacher in his or her school to remove a student from the classroom under this Code section. Each school principal shall implement the policies and procedures of the superintendent and local board of education relating to the authority of every teacher to remove a student from the classroom and shall disseminate such policies and procedures to faculty, staff, and parents or guardians of students. Removal from the classroom may mean for as little as one class period or up to permanent removal. It will be the goal and expectation that all parties involved will work to restore the student's regular placement in the classroom where the student demonstrates appropriate respect for the classroom teacher and the learning environment.

### **School Closing Procedure**

The primary consideration regarding whether to have school on bad weather days will be the safety of our children. Heavy rain, and on some occasions snow and ice, causes some of our primary and secondary roads to become unsafe. If a threat to health and safety exist, school will be dismissed.

The superintendent will make a decision regarding school closing by 6:00 A.M. The decision will be communicated by AlertSolutions Telephone notification System, The Bleckley County Schools Website ([www.bleckley.k12.ga.us](http://www.bleckley.k12.ga.us)) and Twitter feed (@bleckleyschools) and/or WDXQ 96.7 FM. In addition, local television stations such as 13 WMAZ may have information.

### **School Nutrition Program**

All students that attend the Bleckley County School District are provided the opportunity to purchase breakfast and lunch at the school cafeteria in accordance with the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The following guidelines shall be followed in instances where the student finds it necessary to charge their meal due to lack of available funds.

Meal charges with the Bleckley County School Nutrition Program cannot exceed \$10.00 for any student or adult. An alternative meal will be served to students once this charge threshold has been reached. An alternative meal consists of a sandwich and a carton of milk. Parents/students and adults are encouraged to deposit money into their account so that adequate money is readily available to purchase school lunches and breakfasts.

### **Student Accident Insurance**

Parents who wish to purchase Student Accident Insurance for their child may do so through the K-12 Special Markets Insurance Company through electronic enrollment directly with the company. To find more information or to purchase Student Insurance, please visit <https://www.k12specialmarkets.com> or the school website to view an informational flyer. The purchase of insurance for your child is the responsibility of the parent or guardian of that child.

K-12 Special Markets Insurance Company is an independent agency and has not direct relationship with the Bleckley County School System beyond the agreement to provide parents of its students with the information listed above.

### **Discrimination or Harassment**

The Board of Education prohibits discrimination or harassment and retaliation for reporting such acts against students on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion or disability. Students/parents are entitled to express concerns or dissatisfaction regarding discrimination because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion or disability.

The purpose of this procedure is to describe a process that can be used to resolve such concerns or dissatisfaction. Students/parents may discuss matters informally with teachers, counselors and administrators at the school level. Special Education teachers and Special Education coordinator are also available to provide assistance to students and/or parents who feel that the school or school system has discriminated against students with disabilities.

If matters in question in the above paragraphs cannot be resolved informally and the student/parent feels that a formal complaint should be made, then the student/parent should use the complaint process outlined in Policy JAA, which is available on the district's website.

### **Drug Free Schools**

The foremost priority of the Bleckley County School System is to provide a safe and secure environment for all students with a deliberate consideration for the well-being and health of each individual. An appropriate learning climate must be established and maintained to ensure such an environment. Since alcohol and other drug use is illegal and interferes with both effective learning and the healthy development of children and adolescents, the school has a fundamental, legal, and ethical obligation to prohibit drug use and to maintain a drug-free educational environment.

1. The use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful. A student shall not possess, sell, use, distribute, or be under the influence of any prohibited drug to include: alcohol, narcotics, depressants, stimulants, hallucinogens, amphetamines, barbiturates, or intoxicants of any kind. Use of a drug authorized by a medical prescription from a licensed physician shall not be considered a violation of this rule.

2. Disciplinary sanctions, up to and including expulsion and referral for prosecution, will be imposed if the standards of conduct are violated. The sanctions to be imposed for violations may include conferences, suspension or expulsion.

3. Information concerning drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and re-entry programs can be obtained from the school counselor or administrative staff.

4. Compliance with the standards of conduct is mandatory.

As a part of the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Community Program and other school/educational programs, students will participate in anonymous surveys periodically. If you prefer that your child NOT participate, please notify your child's principal in writing. Otherwise, consent is implied. A copy of all surveys is available for review upon request.

### **Equity in Sports**

State law prohibits discrimination based on gender in athletic programs of local school systems (Equity in Sports Act, O.C.G.A. 20-2-315). Students are hereby notified that the Bleckley County School System does not discriminate on the basis of gender in its athletic programs. The sports equity coordinator for this system is: Benjy Rogers, Athletic Director, 1 Royal Drive, Cochran, GA 31014, (478)934-6258. Inquiries or complaints concerning sports equity in this system may be submitted to the sports equity coordinator.

### **FERPA Directory Information Notice**

The Bleckley County School System has designated the following information as directory information:

1. Student's name, address and telephone number.
2. Student's date and place of birth.
3. Student's participation in official school clubs and sports.
4. Weight and height of students if he/she is a member of an athletic team.
5. Dates of attendance at the Bleckley County School System schools; and
6. Awards received during the time enrolled in Bleckley County School System

Unless you, as a parent/guardian or eligible student, request otherwise, this information may be disclosed to the public upon request. You have the right to refuse to allow all or part of the above information to be designated as directory information and to be disclosed to the public upon request. If you wish to exercise this right, you must notify the Principal of your child's school in writing within 30 days of the first day of school, or upon enrollment if after that point.

### **NOTICE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND ELIGIBLE STUDENT OF RIGHTS UNDER THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT**

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C.1232g, the "Act"), you have rights to:

1. Inspect and review, within 45 days of a request, the education records of a student who is your child, or in the case of a student who is eighteen (18) years of age or older, or those who are emancipated, your own education records. Parents or eligible students should submit to the administration a written request identifying the record(s) they wish to inspect. The administration will make arrangements for access and provide notice of such arrangements.

2. Request the amendment of the student's education records to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights. To request the school district to amend a record, parents or eligible students should write the school principal, specify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights. If the district decides not to amend the record, it will notify the parents or eligible students of the decision and inform them of their right to a hearing. Additional information regarding the hearing procedure will be provided with the notification of the right to a hearing.

3. Consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that the Act and the regulations promulgated pursuant to the Act authorize disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is to school officials with legitimate educational interest. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member; a member of the school board; a person with whom the district has contracted to perform a specific task (such as attorney, auditor, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee (such as a disciplinary or grievance committee). A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his/her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school district forwards educational records without prior consent to another school in which the student seeks or intends to enroll.

4. File with the United State Department of Education a complaint under 20 C.F.R. 99.64 concerning the alleged failures by the Bleckley County Board of Education to comply with the requirements of the Act of the regulations promulgated thereunder. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20202-4605.

### **Civil Right Laws**

Federal Law prohibits discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color or national origin (Title I of the Civil Rights Act of 1964); sex (Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act of 1990); or disability (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) in educational programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance.

Employees, students and the general public are hereby notified that the Bleckley County School System does not discriminate in any educational programs or activities or in employment policies.

The following individuals have been designated as the employees responsible for coordinating the department's effort to implement nondiscriminatory policies:

|                           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Perkins Act               | Matt Godwin    |
| IDEA & ADA                | Debbie Puckett |
| Section 504               | Sommer Howell  |
| Sports Equity Coordinator | Von Lasseter   |

Inquiries concerning the application of the Perkins Act, IDEA, ADA, Sports Equity or Section 504 to the policies and practices of the school system may be addressed to the persons listed above at the Superintendent of Schools office: to the Georgia Department of Education, Twin Towers East, Atlanta 30334; to the Regional Office for Civil Rights, Atlanta 30323; or the Director, Office for Civil Rights, Education Department Washington, D.C. 20201.

**Section 504 Procedures** - Any student or parent or guardian ("grievant") may request an impartial hearing due to the school system's actions or inactions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, or educational placement under Section 504. Requests for an impartial hearing must be in writing to the school system's Section 504 Coordinator; however, a grievant's failure to request a hearing in writing does not alleviate the school system's obligation to provide an impartial hearing if the grievant orally requests an impartial hearing through the school system's Section 504 Coordinator. The school system's Section 504 Coordinator will assist the grievant in completing the written Request for Hearing. The Section 504 Coordinator may be contacted through the school system's central office. Copies of the 504 Procedural Safeguards and Notice of Rights of Students and Parents Under Section 504 may be found at the system website or may be picked up at the central office or at any of the school offices.

#### **Parental Right to Know**

In compliance with the requirements of the *No Child Left Behind* statute the Bleckley County School District informs parents that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your student's teacher(s). The following information may be requested:

- 1) Whether the teacher has met the Georgia Professional Standards Commission requirements for certification for the grade level and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- 2) Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status through which Georgia qualifications or certification criteria have been waived;
- 3) The college major and any graduate certification or degree held by the teacher;
- 4) Whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications.

If you wish to request information concerning your child's teacher's qualification, please contact Dr. Trey Belflower, Title II Coordinator, at 478-934-2821, or email him at [tbelflower@bleckley.k12.ga.us](mailto:tbelflower@bleckley.k12.ga.us).

#### **Student Reporting of Acts of Sexual Abuse or Sexual Misconduct**

- (A) Any student (or parent or friend of a student) who has been the victim of an act of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct by a teacher, administrator or other school system employee is urged to make an oral report of this act to any teacher, counselor, or administrator at his/her school.
- (B) Any teacher, counselor or administrator receiving a report of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct of a student by a teacher, administrator or other employee shall make an oral report of the incident immediately by telephone or otherwise to the school principal or principal's designee, and shall submit a written report of the incident to the school principal or principal's designee within 24 hours. *If the principal is the person accused of the sexual abuse or misconduct, the oral and written reports should be made to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee.*
- (C) Any school principal or principal's designee receiving a report of sexual abuse as defined in O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 shall make an oral report immediately, but in no case later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused. The report should be



made by telephone followed by a written report in writing. If requested to a child welfare agency providing protective services, as designated by the Department of Human Resources, or in the absence of such agency, to the appropriate police authority or district attorney.

Reports of sexual misconduct against a student by a teacher, administrator or other employee not covered by O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 or 20-2-1184 shall be investigated immediately by school or system personnel. If the investigation of allegation of sexual misconduct indicates a reasonable cause to believe that the report of sexual misconduct is valid, the school principal or principal's designee shall make an immediate written report to the superintendent and the Professional Standards Commission Ethics Division.

### **Communities In Schools/Family Connection Community Partnership**

Bleckley County School System offers a variety of services in partnership with Communities In Schools/Family Connection which include academic tutorial assistance, case management, parent engagement opportunities and prevention and wellness programming. Participation is voluntary and requires a referral from your school counselor as well as parental permission for participation.

*Contact Regina Smith, Director, for more information on the above. 478/934-4300*

### **Bring Your Own Technology (B.Y.O.T.) / Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)**

Students use their own technology more and more as a part of their educational experience. Bleckley County School is continuously researching how to best integrate personal technology devices in the classroom. Our schools have expanded their Wi-Fi capabilities to help meet the growing needs. We are also exploring what type of devices (cell phones, tablets, laptops, e-readers, etc.) work best with classroom instruction.

As we move closer in that direction, your child's teachers may elect to teach students to use their personal devices and allow them to access the Internet through the BCS network. Decisions for each school will be based on their specific instructional needs and how students' devices will support those needs. The use of personal devices at school will be permitted for educational purposes only, and no child will be required to provide a device regardless of the reason. This program is intended to enhance your child's education, not become a burden. It is the parents' decision to allow your child to take part and bring their device to school. When making your choice in this matter, please consider the following:

- **Access** – Access to the internet at school will be provided via the BCS network. To be granted access, students must confirm they accept the terms and conditions of the Bleckley County Schools' Responsible Use Policy (RUP). By accepting these terms and conditions, users agree to uphold the contents of the RUP as well as the Student Code of Conduct and Handbooks on their own student-owned devices while on the school district property. Additionally, in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), BCS will filter all content for users connected to the BCS network at school.
- **Theft, Loss, or Damage** – The owner of the device is responsible for ensuring that the device is safe and secure. BCS and employees of BCS are not liable or responsible for any theft, damage, or loss of any non-district device or information on any such device.
- **Usage Fees** – BCS is not responsible for any fees associated with using any personal technology devices. All fees and charges related to texting or internet use on any student-owned device are the sole responsibility of the owner. BCS will offer Wi-Fi internet access through the BCS network without fees to BYOT participants. However, if a student chooses to use other functions or features on his or her device, standard device fees may be billed by the students' service provider.

### **Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Guidelines for the Computer Network**

Bleckley County Schools recognizes that the use of technology is prevalent in society. Students and staff have access to the Internet, cell phones, games, and a variety of personal technology devices. Students and staff utilize social media websites and applications as well as a variety of other digital resources that allow them to interact, share, create and innovate. Staff members utilize these same resources as a means to effectively engage and motivate student learning and collaborate with

colleagues. These technologies must meet BCS standards and expectations for communication with students, staff and community members. The same laws, professional standards, expectations, and guidelines for interacting with students, parents, community members, and colleagues apply online as they do in the real world. The Board has adopted and will enforce the code of ethics adopted by the Professional Standards Commission. Students are expected to comply with the Student Conduct Behavior Code.

Listed below are the provisions of your agreement regarding computer network and Internet use. If you have any questions about these provisions, you should contact your school's administrator. If any user violates the guidelines, the student's access will be denied or withdrawn and he or she may be subject to additional disciplinary action.

### **I. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

By signing this agreement, you are agreeing to follow the rules written or implied in these guidelines and refrain from any other misuse of the network that has the effect of harming another or his or her property.

### **II. TERM OF PERMITTED USE**

A student who submits a properly signed agreement will have computer network and Internet access during the course of the school year only. A new agreement must be signed each year before given access to the Internet.

### **III. ACCEPTABLE USES**

1. Education Purposes Only. The school district is providing access to its computer networks and the Internet for *only* educational purposes. Faculty and staff will make determinations of what is educational and what is not.

2. Unacceptable Uses of Network. Among the uses that are considered unacceptable and which constitute a violation of the guidelines are the following:

Uses that violated the law or encourage others to violate the law.

Uses that causes harm to others or damage to their property.

Uses that jeopardize the security of student access and of the computer network or other networks on the Internet.

Uses that are commercial transactions. Students and other users may not sell or buy anything over the Internet.

Netiquette. All users must abide by rules of network etiquette, which include the following:

- Be polite. Use appropriate language. No swearing, vulgarities, suggestive, obscene, belligerent, or threatening language.
- Avoid language and uses which may be offensive to other users.
- Do not assume that a sender of e-mail is giving his or her permission for you to forward or redistribute the message to third parties or to give his/her e-mail address to third parties. This should only be done with permission or when you know that the individual would have no objection.
- Be considerate when sending attachments with e-mail (where this is permitted). Be sure that the file is not too large to be accommodated by the recipient's system and is in a format which the recipient can open.

### **IV. INTERNET SAFETY**

1. General Warning. Individual Responsibility of Parents and Users. All users and their parents/guardians are advised that access to the electronic network may include the potential for access to materials inappropriate for school-aged students. Every user must take responsibility for his or her use of the computer network or Internet and stay away from these sites. Parents of minors are the best guide to materials to shun. If a student finds that other users are visiting offensive or harmful sites, he or she should report such use to the supervising faculty or staff member or the school administrator.

2. Personal safety. Be safe. In using the computer network and Internet, do not reveal personal information such as your home address or telephone number. Do not use your real last name or any

other information which might allow a person to locate you without first obtaining the permission of a supervising teacher. Do not arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone you “meet” on the computer network or Internet without your parent’s or guardian’s permission (if you are under 18 years of age). Regardless of your age, you should never agree to meet a person you have only communicated with on the Internet in a secluded place or in a private setting.

3. “Hacking” and Other Illegal Activities. It is a violation of these guidelines to use the school’s computer network or the Internet to gain unauthorized access to other computers or computer systems, or to attempt to gain such unauthorized access. Any use which violates state or federal law relating to copyright, trade secrets, the distribution of obscene or pornographic materials, or which violates any other applicable law or municipal ordinance, is strictly prohibited. Deleting information on any computer, server, or in the cloud without the permission of the person who created the information is also strictly prohibited.

4. Confidentiality of Student Information. Personally identifiable information concerning students may not be disclosed or used in any way on the Internet without the permission of a parent or guardian or, if the student is 18 years of age or older, the permission of the student himself/herself. Users should never give out private or confidential information about themselves or others on the Internet such as home addresses, home telephone numbers, or particularly credit card or Social Security numbers.

5. Social Media Communications. We are proud to embrace the power of social media as a tool to communicate and engage with our parents, students and community. Negative behavior or attacks on any student or employee, by a student, employee, parent or any member of the public is disruptive to our positive learning environment and a violation of district policy. Use of social media for learning, informing and engaging students, parents, community members and employees in the educational process is embraced and encouraged. For additional information, please see the School Board’s Social Media Policy (Policy GAH) and the Social Media Guidelines for District Employees.

6. Active Restriction Measures. The school, either by itself or in combination with the Data Acquisition Site providing Internet access, will utilize filtering software or other technologies to prevent students from accessing visual depictions that are (i) obscene, (ii) child pornography, or (iii) harmful to minors. The school will also monitor the online activities of students, through direct observation and/or technological means, to ensure that students are not accessing such depictions or any other material which is inappropriate for minors.

## V. PRIVACY

Network and Internet access is provided as a tool for your education. The school district reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review and store at any time and without prior notice any and all usage of the computer network and Internet access and any and all information transmitted or received in connection with such usage. All such information files shall be and remain the property of the school district and no user shall have any expectation of privacy regarding such materials.

Student Pictures Appearing on School Web Sites - Bleckley County Schools make every effort to have their web sites accurate and up to date with information that is useful and informative to parents and the community. From time to time, your child’s picture may appear on one or more of the web sites for a variety of reasons. You as a parent or legal guardian have the right to request that your child not appear on the web site for any reason. **If you wish to exercise this right, you must notify the Principal of your child’s school in writing within 30 days of the first day of school each year, or from the date of your child’s enrollment in the Bleckley County School System.**

## VI. FAILURE TO FOLLOW GUIDELINES

The user’s use of the computer network and Internet is a privilege, not a right. A user who violates these guidelines shall, at minimum, have his or her access to the computer network or Internet terminated, which the school district may refuse to reinstate for the remainder of the student’s enrollment in the school district. A user violates these guidelines by his or her own action or by assisting another user in violating these guidelines or by concealing another user’s involvement in such activities. Further, if passwords are assigned, a user violates this agreement if he or she permits another to use his or her account or password to access the computer network and Internet, including any user whose access has been denied or terminated. The school district may also take other disciplinary action in any of the above-mentioned circumstances.

## VII. ASSURANCES

The school district cannot provide an absolute assurance that students will be prevented from accessing inappropriate materials or sending or receiving objectionable communications. However, the district will ensure that all practicable precautions will be taken to keep students safe from illegal and/or inappropriate material. The district shall not be responsible for any claims, losses, damages or costs (including attorney's fees) of any kind suffered, directly or indirectly, by any user or his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) arising out of the user's use of the district's computer networks or the Internet under these guidelines.

### **Compulsory Student Attendance**

Georgia Code Section 20-2-690.1 establishes consequences for parents and students who fail to comply with compulsory school attendance. The law establishes that:

"Any parent, guardian, or other person residing in this state who has control or charge of a child or children and who shall violate this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine not less than \$25 and not greater than \$100, imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, community service, or any combination of such penalties, at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction. Each day's absence from school in violation of this part after the child's school system notifies the parent, guardian, or other person who has control or charge of a child of five unexcused days of absence for a child shall constitute a separate offense."

Furthermore, it is recognized that students who miss more days from school typically do not perform as well in their academic achievement. For both educational purposes as well as for compliance with state law, parents or guardians are strongly encouraged to insure that students arrive at school on time, remain at school all day, and attend school unless extreme and justified circumstances merit their absence.

The Bleckley County School System's Attendance Protocol establishes penalties & procedures for enforcing excessive tardies, early releases, and absences. Violation with the court sanctioned attendance protocol may result in referrals to the Department of Family & Children Services, Department of Juvenile Justice, and/or the Superior Court. A complete copy of the protocol is available on the school district's website or may be reviewed at each school or the Bleckley County Board of Education.

***"Help us support student achievement by supporting student attendance."***

### **Chaperones and Volunteers**

The Bleckley County Board of Education recently updated its policy regarding chaperones and volunteers by adding the following language to Policy GAK – Criminal Background Checks:

***"Volunteers and chaperones who will supervise students alone are also required to undergo a criminal background check, with the cost to be paid by the volunteer/chaperone. An exception to this specific paragraph may be made when parents/guardians provide explicit permission for their student to be alone with a specific volunteer or chaperone. For example, a parent staying in a hotel room as a chaperone for three students who are close friends and whose parents know each other well will be exempted from this rule IF all parents of students staying in the room provide specific explicit permission."***

### **Student Organizations, Clubs, & Co-Curricular Organizations**

The following clubs and organizations are currently offered to students in the respective schools. All clubs and organizations are strictly voluntary, and some require membership dues. Unless the Principal is notified within the first two weeks of school, parents grant permission for their students to participate in any of the clubs listed.

Should a new club or organization be created during the school year, the student will be allowed to participate ONLY after receiving parental permission.

Students are encouraged to get involved in clubs and organizations, as they provide educational opportunities, improve social interactions, and provide opportunities to get involved in community service projects.

Parents should contact the schools directly to find out more about the individual clubs, club sponsors, dues, and volunteer opportunities.

| <b><u>Club Name</u></b>                      | <b><u>Mission or Purpose</u></b>                               | <b><u>Activities</u></b>                         |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Bleckley County Elementary School</b>     |  |  |
| 4-H  | Leadership & Character Development                             | Competition, Camps                               |
| Junior Beta                                  | Leadership & Community Service                                 | Community Service                                |
| <b>Bleckley County Middle School</b>         |  |  |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Science Club           | Learning, Service  | Community Service                                |
| Junior BETA Club                             | Leadership & Community Service                                 | Community Service, Competitions                  |
| Future Business Leaders of America           | Leadership Development in the Business World                   | Competitions, Conferences and Workshops          |
| Fellowship of Christian Athletes             | Fellowship & Leadership Development                            | Devotional Times, Meeting, Camps                 |
| 4-H  | Leadership & Character Development                             | Competition, Camps                               |
| Student Government                           | Leadership Development and Service                             | School Service, Meetings                         |
| Media Club                                   | Learning & Community Service                                   | Meetings, Competitions                           |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Science Club           | Learning, Service  | Meetings, Competitions                           |
| <b>Bleckley County High School</b>           |  |  |
| 4-H  | Leadership & Character Development                             | Competition, Camps                               |
| Fellowship of Christian Athletes             | Fellowship & Leadership Development                            | Devotional Times                                 |
| BETA Club                                    | Promote Academic Excellence                                    | Community Projects                               |
| Future Educators Association                 | Promote Lifelong Educators                                     | Projects at all Schools in the System            |
| FFA  | Leadership Development and Honor Agricultural Responsibilities | Competition, Camps                               |
| Family, Career, Community Leaders of America | Promote Leadership and Community Involvement                   | Community Projects                               |
| Future Business Leaders of America           | Leadership Development in the Business World                   | Competitions, Conferences                        |
| HOSA   | Promote awareness of careers in health care                    | Competitions, Conferences                        |
| National Honors Society                      | Promote Academic Excellence                                    | Operation Christmas Child and other Projects     |
| DECA   | Promote awareness of careers in Marketing                      | Competitions, Conferences                        |
| Science Club                                 | Promote Appreciation of Science                                | Science Fairs and Competitions                   |
| Student Council                              | Leadership Development   | Sponsor School Activities and Community Projects |
| Art Club                                     | Develop Knowledge and Appreciation of Art                      | Art Shows and Community Projects                 |

**For clubs or organizations started during the school year, the local board of education shall require written permission from a parent or guardian prior to a student's participation.**

The Student Code of Conduct may be found online here:  
<http://www.bleckley.k12.ga.us/docs/FY2018StudentCodeofConduct062017.pdf>

**Parent/Student Signature Page**

Please sign below indicating that you have read the Student Code of Conduct and return the form to your child's school. If you have any questions, please talk with your child's principal or his/her designee. Thank you for your cooperation in helping the system provide a quality education for all of our children. This is to also serve as notification of student clubs and co-curricular organizations that are provided and/or being conducted in the Bleckley County Schools.

**1. Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Guidelines Student and Parent/Guardian Agreement: (Every student, regardless of age, must read and sign below)**

I have read, understand and agree to abide by the terms of the foregoing Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Guidelines. Should I commit any violation or in any way misuse my access to the school district's computer network and the Internet, I understand and agree that my/my child's access privilege may be revoked and school disciplinary action may be taken against me. If I am signing this agreement when I am under 18 years of age, I understand that when I turn 18 years of age, this agreement will continue to be in full force and effect, and agree to abide by this agreement

**2. Compulsory Student Attendance:**

I have read, understand and agree to abide by the terms of the Compulsory Student Attendance Laws.

**3. Student Organization Notification:**

I have read, understand and agree to abide by the terms of the Student Organization Notification rules. Your signature reflects that you have been made aware of these organizations. If you do not desire for your child to participate in any or all student clubs or organizations, you may make such notification on the bottom of this signature page.

**4. Student Conduct on School Buses:**

I have read, understand and agree to abide by the terms of the Student Conduct on School Buses rules.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Name (PRINT CLEARLY)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent Name (PRINT CLEARLY)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Address

Comments and/or Organizational Opt-Out Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **HELP PREVENT POSSIBLE ACTIONS OF SCHOOL VIOLENCE**

**PLEASE REPORT ANY SUSPECTED INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE OR WEAPON  
POSSESSION TO YOUR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OR THE GEORGIA TOLL-FREE SCHOOL  
SAFETY HOTLINE:**

**1-877-729-7867**

### **SCHOOL PRINCIPALS**

|  |                           |                 |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Bleckley County Pre-K</b>           | <b>Mrs. Pansy Corbett</b> | <b>934-9094</b> |
| <b>Bleckley County Primary</b>         | <b>Mr. Quent Floyd</b>    | <b>934-2280</b> |
| <b>Bleckley County Elementary</b>      | <b>Mrs. Michele Dyal</b>  | <b>934-3600</b> |
| <b>Bleckley County Middle</b>          | <b>Mrs. Carla Thrower</b> | <b>934-7270</b> |
| <b>Bleckley County High</b>            | <b>Mr. Matt Gibbs</b>     | <b>934-6258</b> |
| <b>Bleckley County Success Academy</b> | <b>Mrs. Denise Warren</b> | <b>934-1685</b> |

### **Bleckley County Schools**

242 East Dykes Street  
P. O. Box 516  
Cochran, GA 31014  
(478)934-2821  
[www.bleckley.k12.ga.us](http://www.bleckley.k12.ga.us)