EDUCATIONAL EQUITY – NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The Educational Equity Administrator for Seminole County Public Schools has the responsibility of assuring compliance with the educational equity requirements by providing technical expertise, monitoring activities or programs related to compliance, and responding to equity complaints. One of the responsibilities is to administer the Educational Equity Complaint/Grievance Procedures as adopted by the School Board.

It is the policy of the School Board of Seminole County, Florida, that no employee, student, or applicant shall – on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, marital status, age, religion, or any other basis prohibited by law – be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination and harassment under any educational programs, activities or in any employment conditions, policies, or practices conducted by the district. Additionally, the School Board of Seminole County provides equal access to public school facilities for the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups as required by 34 C.F.R. 108.9.

Every employee, student or applicant for employment at Seminole County Public School has a solemn right to be treated fairly, equally, equitably, and with dignity. If for any reason you – the employee, student or applicant for employment – find that you have been victimized by acts of discrimination and or harassment, whether intentional or unintentional, you are strongly encouraged to file an Educational Equity Complaint or Grievance with the Educational Equity Administrator, or any county or school-level administrator. All such complaints must be immediately forwarded to the Educational Equity Administrator for dissemination, action and resolution. Forward to: SCPS Educational Equity Administrator, Seminole County Public Schools, Educational Support Center, 400 E. Lake Mary Blvd., Sanford, FL 32773-7127 (407-320-0321).

The School Board of Seminole County recognizes that the education of children is a process that involves a partnership between a child’s parent(s), teachers, school administrators, and other school and school board personnel. School and school district personnel will treat all visitors on School Board property with courtesy and respect. The School Board asks that visitors treat school and school district personnel with the same courtesy and respect.

School Board Policy 3380 Civility and Conduct of Parents, Other Visitors to Schools and School District Facilities, and District Employees
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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Seminole County Public Schools of Florida. The District School Board and Superintendent are proud of the positive learning environment and general tone of good discipline that exist in the public schools of Seminole County. These have been achieved through a cooperative effort among students, school district personnel, and parents to establish an orderly and purposeful educational atmosphere.

DEFINITIONS:
1. The term “parent” wherever used in this document shall include a student’s parent or parents, legal guardian, legal custodian, or adult recognized by the student’s school as acting “in loco parentis.”
2. The term “Superintendent” shall include the Superintendent’s designees including executive directors, principals, assistant principals, and/or deans as is appropriate within the context of the provision.

The Student Conduct and Discipline Code is published to communicate the expectations of the School Board for students’ behavior in grades K-12 and to summarize the policies of the Seminole County Public Schools related to the management of student conduct. Accordingly, this handbook:

1. defines the responsibilities and rights of students;
2. defines the rules of conduct and the behavioral expectations for students;
3. establishes the consequences for violations of the rules of conduct; and
4. describes the procedures for processing disciplinary violations.

The Student Conduct and Discipline Code is published once a year and may not contain subsequent changes in policy or procedure. When a policy or procedure is revised, the change will be communicated through school newsletters or other means of communication, at which time the published revision shall replace previous information. For the most current policy or procedure information, visit the Seminole County Public Schools’ website: www.scps.k12.fl.us.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Maintaining a safe and secure environment is the primary priority of the School Board of Seminole County, Florida. It is the belief of the School Board that all students have the right to attend school and school functions free of fear, harm or harassment. The policies and procedures outlined in the Student Conduct and Discipline Code have been adopted in support of this fundamental premise.

Please note that the School Board cooperates with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in reporting, preventing and responding to unlawful activities occurring on the campuses of the Seminole County Public Schools.

In order for the School Board to implement its responsibilities fully, it is important that enrollment and emergency card information be kept up to date at each student’s school. It is the responsibility of each student and his or her parent to report changes in enrollment or emergency card information to the school.

Video cameras have been installed throughout the buildings of Seminole County Public School campuses. Students may be filmed and the videotapes may be used to determine violations of the Student Conduct and Discipline Code.

SCOPE OF AUTHORITY

The Student Conduct and Discipline Code applies to all students enrolled in a Seminole County public school. The code is in effect on School Board owned or controlled property and whenever students are under the official supervision of School Board employees, including but not limited to: field trips, extracurricular activities, or while being transported to and from such places either by school bus, approved drivers, or other official means of conveyance.

This code applies to students who are formally charged with the commission of a felony, or delinquent act, which would be a felony if committed by an adult, and when such conduct is determined by the student’s principal to
have a detrimental effect on the orderly operation of a school, or to jeopardize the health, safety, or welfare of students and staff members of a school.

A student may be subject to school board authorized disciplinary sanctions when he or she commits an act or acts away and apart from school that can be shown to pose a threat or danger to the safety of other students, staff, or school property and/or that the act or acts will prevent the orderly delivery of the instructional program at any school.

**STUDENTS SUBJECT TO AUTHORITY BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

Florida Statute 1003.31 establishes that all students enrolled in the Seminole County Public Schools are subject to the law, rules, regulations, and policies of the State of Florida and the School Board of Seminole County, Florida, anytime:

1. a student is on School Board owned property;
2. a student is attending school;
3. a student is on a school bus;
4. a student is being transported to or from school or school-sponsored events; or
5. a student is in attendance at or participating in a school-sponsored activity.

School personnel have the right to question students concerning school matters without notice to or consent of the student’s parent(s) or legal guardian.

During such times, all students are subject to the immediate control and direction of district and school level administrators, deans, supervising teachers or other adults (such as chaperones), staff members, and school bus drivers.

**STUDENT DETENTION, SEARCH AND SEIZURE**

Except as otherwise permitted herein (student vehicle parking) students may be detained, searched, and property seized as permitted by School Board Policy 5771. Neither Florida law nor School Board policy prohibits the use of metal detectors or specially trained animals in the course of a search for illegally possessed substances or objects. Policy 5771 provides as follows:

The School Board recognizes that the privacy of students or their belongings may not be violated by unreasonable search and seizure and directs that no student be searched without reasonable suspicion or in an unreasonable manner.

The Board acknowledges the need for in-school storage of student possessions and shall provide storage places, including desks and lockers, for that purpose. Such spaces remain the property of the Board and, in accordance with law, may be the subject of search upon reasonable suspicion that a prohibited or illegally possessed substance or object is contained therein. Where locks are provided for such places, students may lock them against incursion by other students, but in no such places shall students have such an expectation of privacy as to prevent examination by a school official.

School authorities are charged with the responsibility of safeguarding the safety and well-being of the students in their care. In the discharge of that responsibility, school authorities may search the person or property, including vehicles, of a student, with or without the student's consent, whenever they reasonably suspect that the search is required to discover evidence of a violation of law or of school rules. The extent of the search will be governed by but not limited to, the training and experience school authority; their personal observation; the reliability of informant information; previous experiences with the student to be searched, the knowledge of the student’s age, reputation, and discipline record; the prevalence and/or seriousness of the suspected violation of the law or the Student Conduct and Discipline Code, and the urgency to protect the health and safety of students, school personnel, and others. This authorization to search shall also apply to all situations in which the student is under the jurisdiction of the Board.
Search of a student’s person or intimate personal belongings shall be conducted by a person of the student’s gender, in the presence of another staff member of the same gender, and only in exceptional circumstances when the health or safety of the student or of others is immediately threatened.

The Board also authorizes the use of canines, trained in detecting the presence of drugs or devices. This means of detection shall be used only to determine the presence of drugs in locker areas and other places on school property where such substances could be concealed. Canine detection must be conducted in collaboration with law enforcement authorities or with organizations certified in canine detection and is not to be used to search individual students unless a warrant has been obtained prior to the search.

Except as provided below, a request for the search of a student or a student's possessions will be directed to the Principal who shall seek the freely offered consent of the student to the inspection. Whenever possible, a search will be conducted by the Principal in the presence of the student and a staff member other than the Principal. A search prompted by the reasonable belief that health and safety are immediately threatened will be conducted with as much speed and dispatch as may be required to protect persons and property.

The Principal shall be responsible for the prompt recording in writing of each student search, including the reasons for the search; information received that established the need for the search and the name of informant, if any; the persons present when the search was conducted; any substances or objects found; and the disposition made of them. The Principal shall be responsible for the custody, control, and disposition of any illegal or dangerous substance or object taken from a student.

**AUTHORITY OF THE TEACHER**

Florida Statute 1003.32 vests teachers and other school staff members with authority for the control and discipline of students on a school campus and in other places they are assigned to supervise students. Students are **required** to follow the lawful directions of all district or school level administrators, teachers, school staff members and chaperones when on School Board owned property or at other places where they are under the supervision of School Board personnel.

Teachers shall make every reasonable effort to control classroom disruptions or misbehavior by students. However, if a disruption or misbehavior persists, or if the disruption is severe, the teacher shall direct the student to an appropriate administrator with a description of the offense written on a **referral form** provided by the administration.

**Note:** Florida Statute 1003.32 and State Board Rule 6A-1.0404, and 6A-6.03312 authorize teachers and other school or school district personnel to file charges against a student if a crime has been committed against a teacher or other instructional personnel on school property, on school-sponsored transportation, or during school-sponsored activities.

**Note:** Florida Statute 1003.32(4) authorizes teachers to remove a student who is unruly, disruptive, or abusive, or who repeatedly interferes with the teacher’s ability to communicate with the class or the ability of the student’s classmates to learn in accordance with the provisions of 1003.32(5) & (6).

**REASONABLE FORCE**

Florida Statute 1003.32(1)(J) authorizes teachers and other instructional personnel to use reasonable force to protect himself/herself or others from injury. The Department of Education has defined reasonable force as, “appropriate professional conduct including physical force as necessary to maintain a safe and orderly environment.” The Department of Education has also clarified that school personnel have the right and the authority to protect against:

1. conditions harmful to learning;
2. conditions harmful to student’s physical and mental health;
3. conditions harmful to safety; or
4. conditions harmful, causing injury to self, school personnel, and others.

**Note:** Florida Statute 1006.11(2) further provides that a principal, teacher, other staff members, or bus driver shall not be civilly or criminally liable for any action carried out in conformity with School Board rules regarding the control, discipline, suspension, and expulsion of students, except in the case of excessive force, or cruel and unusual punishment.
STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The following declaration outlines the fundamental responsibilities of all students who attend Seminole County Public Schools:

**Responsible Students Make the Difference**

**Students are required to:**

1. attend school regularly;
2. treat others with respect;
3. treat school property and the property of others with respect;
4. respect the privacy of others;
5. have in their possession only those items allowed by law and/or School Board rules or policies;
6. listen courteously to the opinions and points of view of others;
7. come to class with all necessary materials and be prepared to learn;
8. take advantage of their learning opportunities;
9. report hazardous or dangerous situations to an adult in authority;
10. report threats to do harm to an adult in authority, and
11. submit original work.

Seminole County Public Schools is committed to creating positive learning environments, promoting kindness between all individuals, and creating a safe community. For more information on initiatives within Seminole County, please visit the following:

**Speak Out Hotline:** The "Speak-Out" program provides three 24-hour monitored services that allows students, parents, or community members to report concerns regarding drugs, weapons, bullying, harassment, violence, abuse, suicide, or other problems anonymously by calling (1-800-423-8477), texting (274637) or reporting at (www.speakouthotline.org). Speak-Out has contributed to the district's ability to be proactive in responding to troubling situations before they escalate to the crisis level.

**Focus on Safety:** This is a program sponsored by the Seminole County Sheriff’s Office. This program is designed to educate students on the following topics: violence prevention, substance abuse, bullying (including cyber bullying) and character education. This program is taught by Seminole County Deputy Sheriffs and provided to 5th grade elementary students. For additional information contact the Seminole County Sheriff’s Office Juvenile Division (407-708-7640).

**UpStanders:** This is a program for middle school students sponsored by the Holocaust Center in Maitland that promotes a positive school environment by teaching students to become Upstanders rather than bystanders (www.holcaustedu.org/education/student_center/upstander_stand_up_to_bullying).

**To Be Kind:** This is a program promoting anti-bullying campaign that fosters positive actions for the prevention for bullying for all grade levels (www.facebook.com/TBK.ToBeKind and www.twitter.com/TBKtobekind).

**STUDENT RIGHTS**

Students attending Seminole County Public Schools have the right to a free and appropriate education, which includes the right to equal educational opportunities without regard to race, national origin, gender, disability, or marital status. Students are also vested with other fundamental rights. Among these are the rights to:

1. a safe and orderly environment in which to learn;
2. treatment with dignity and respect;
3. reasonable expression of opinions and personal points of view;
4. peaceable assembly;
5. security in their personal privacy;
6. limit access to their student records;
7. notification of the rules of conduct; and
8. reasonable and fair treatment.
**Note:** These rights are not absolute and are more restricted at school than when students are in a public place or engaged in activities not associated with school. Any student behavior that substantially interferes with the orderly operation of the school is prohibited and may subject the student to disciplinary action and criminal prosecution.

**THREATS OF VIOLENCE**

Students are **prohibited** from making direct or indirect threats of violence against individuals or groups. Any threat of such violence must be reported immediately to a teacher or school administrator. All threats of violence (oral, written, electronic, or symbolic) will be reported to law enforcement and investigated by school officials. A student found to have made a threat of violence is subject to appropriate disciplinary consequences, up to and including: **suspension, expulsion, arrest, and prosecution**.

**Note:** Pursuant to Florida Statute 836.10, it is a second-degree felony for a person to communicate a written threat to do bodily harm to another person.

**Note:** Pursuant to Florida Statute 790.162, it is a second-degree felony for a person to threaten to place or discharge a destructive device with the intent to do bodily harm.

**BULLYING AND HARASSMENT**

It is the policy of the Seminole County School Board that all of its students, school district employees and school district volunteers have an educational setting that is safe, secure and free from harassment and bullying of any kind. The School Board will not tolerate bullying and harassment of any type. Conduct that constitutes bullying and harassment, as defined herein, is prohibited. Any behavior that applies to the definition for bullying or harassment should be reported to the school, and policy protocol will be followed.

Bullying means systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students, a school district employee or a school district volunteer, including: unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior threats. This includes any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interferes with the individual’s school performance or participation.

Harassment means any threatening, insulting or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a student, school district employee or school district volunteer by a student, school district employee or school district volunteer.

Bullying and Harassment includes cyber stalking which means engaging in a course of conduct to communicate, or to cause to be communicated, words, images, or language by or through the use of electronic mail or electronic communication, directed at a specific person, causing substantial emotional distress to that person and serving no legitimate purpose, as defined by Florida Statute 784.048(1)(d). Cases of cyber stalking will be reported to law enforcement.

The Seminole County School Board requires that students, school district employees, and school district volunteers conduct themselves appropriately for their respective level of development and maturity, and demonstrate capabilities with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, school district employees and school district volunteers as otherwise set forth in School Board policies.

To review the entire Seminole County Bullying and Harassment Policy please visit the website: https://go.boarddocs.com/fl/semi/Board.nsf/Public Policy 5517.01.

**UNSUBSTANTIATED BULLYING (UBL) OR UNSUBSTANTIATED HARASSMENT (UHR)**

**NOTE:** If after a complete investigation and follow up of a reported bullying or harassment offense, the investigator determines that there is not enough evidence to substantiate that the incident meets the criteria of a prohibited act under the definition of bullying or harassment as listed in the Jeffery Johnston Stand Up for all Students Act, the unsubstantiated bullying or harassment allegation will be reported to SESIR (section 1006. 147, F. S.).
**TEEN DATING VIOLENCE**

It is the policy of the Seminole County School Board that all of its students have an educational setting that is safe, secure, and free from dating violence or abuse of any kind. The School Board will not tolerate teen dating violence or abuse in any form. Consistent with the intent and requirements of section 1006.148, Florida statutes, dating violence by any student is prohibited.

Dating violence means violence between students who presently have, or have had, a continuing and significant relationship of a romantic or intimate nature. Violence is any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, or false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death by a student against any other student. Additionally, these include insults, coercion, social sabotage, sexual harassment, stalking, threats and/or acts of physical or sexual abuse, abuse, harassment, and stalking via electronic devices such as cell phones and computers, and harassment through a third party, which may be physical, mental or both.

The Seminole County School Board requires that students conduct themselves appropriately for their respective level of development, maturity, and demonstrated capabilities with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students as set forth in School Board policies.

**HONOR CODE**

Academic honesty and integrity are essential to the existence and integrity of an academic community. Without maintaining a high standard of honesty and conduct, the academic reputation of a school is compromised.

Students of Seminole County Public Schools shall refrain from all forms of academic dishonesty, such as cheating, plagiarism, misuse of electronic communication, or other deceitful means of obtaining inflated grades. In addition to receiving all consequences listed below, students found in violation of the Honor Code may lose additional academic and extracurricular privileges.

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<td>Invocation of Citizenship Standards</td>
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**VIOLATIONS OF LAW**

Students are subject to arrest and prosecution for committing violations of the *Student Conduct and Discipline Code*, which are also determined to be violations of law. School resource officers and other law enforcement officers have the power and authority to conduct investigations independent of those conducted by school personnel for the same offense. Furthermore, the sanctions imposed by the school district for misconduct are separate and distinct from the consequences that may be imposed following the arrest and prosecution of a student for a violation of the law originating from the same offense. School personnel will make every effort to contact parents when a student is arrested.

**School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR)**

The School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR) System collects data on specific incidents of crime, violence, and disruptive behaviors. These incidents occur on school grounds, at off-campus, school-sponsored events, on school transportation, or off campus where the incident is accomplished through electronic means, if the incident substantially disrupts the educational process or orderly operation of a school.
SESIR incidents occur 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. School districts are required to provide data relating to SESIR incidents to the Department of Education. SESIR incidents relate to:

- Aggravated Battery
- Alcohol
- Arson
- Burglary
- Bullying
- Disruption on Campus-Major
- Drug Sale or Distribution
- Drug Use or Possession
- Fighting
- Harassment
- Kidnapping
- Hazing
- Homicide
- Larceny/Theft ($750.00)
- Other Major Incidents
- Physical Attack
- Robbery
- Sexual Assault
- Sexual Battery (Rape)
- Sexual Harassment
- Tobacco
- Sexual Offences – Other
- Threat/Intimidation
- Trespassing
- Vandalism ($1,000)
- Weapons Possession

SESIR incidents must be reported regardless of whether:

1. The incident was carried out by a student, a person other than a student, or where the person who carried out the incident is unknown;

2. The victim of the incident is a student, a person other than a student, or where the victim is unknown;

3. The incident occurred when school was in session or not. SESIR incidents occur 365 days a year at any time of the day or night; or.

4. Disciplinary action is taken by the school district and regardless of whether law enforcement action is taken.

**DEFINITIONS OF INFRINGEMENTS AND MISCONDUCT**

Student conduct, which is considered to be a violation of the *Student Conduct and Discipline Code*, is defined and described in this section of the handbook. When a student has committed an infraction, the misbehavior is to be classified according to the definition that best describes it [S] indicates a SESIR violation. The sanctions to be imposed are then to be determined by referring to the Matrix of Infractions and Consequences. Students who commit a SESIR infraction as outlined in the Student Conduct and Discipline Code may be assigned to the Eugene Gregory Memorial Youth Academy.

**Aggression** - engaging in any behavior (by word or act) as an individual or as a member of a group or crowd that encourages, incites, or instigates threatening, aggressive, or unsafe acts, or participating as a member of a group or crowd in aggressive or unsafe acts.

**Aggravated Battery (S)** - A battery where the attacker intentionally or knowingly causes great bodily harm, permanent disability, or permanent disfigurement; uses a deadly weapon; or, where the attacker knew or should have known the victim was pregnant.

**Note:** Florida Statute 784.081 provides that enhanced criminal penalties be imposed on anyone who commits an assault or battery against a school employee.

**Alcohol (S)** - Possession, sale, purchase or use of alcoholic beverages. Use means the person is caught in the act of using, admits to use or is discovered to have used in the course of an investigation.

**Arson (S)** - To Intentionally damage or cause to be damaged, by fire or explosion, any dwelling, structure, or conveyance, whether occupied or not, or its contents.
Note: Pursuant to Florida Statute 790.162, it is a second-degree felony for a person to threaten to place or discharge a destructive device with the intent to do bodily harm.

Note: Pursuant to Florida Statute 790.163, it is a second-degree felony to make a false report concerning the placement of a bomb or destructive device.

Burglary (S) - unlawful entry into or remaining in a dwelling, structure, or conveyance with the intent to commit a crime therein.

Bullying (S) - Systemically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employees that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment, or unreasonably interfere with the individual’s school performance or participation. Bullying includes instances of cyberbullying.

Cheating - possession of inappropriate or deliberate distribution or use of information, including, but not limited to: computer files or folders, electronic devices or oral or written notes, materials, or work of another person in the completion of an academic exam, test, or assignment (refer to Honor Code).

Classroom Disruption - engaging in conduct that interferes with the process of teaching or learning.

Confrontation - engaging in behavior that provokes, promotes, or encourages hostility or disruption.

Contraband - possession or storage of items which are prohibited at school, including, but not limited to: ammunition clips, bullets or cartridges, flammable liquids, combustible materials, poisonous substances, matches, lighters, firecrackers, bottle rockets, smoke bombs, paraphernalia, vaporizers, common pocket knives (without intent) or other similar devices, and laser pointers or light pens.

Counterfeit (S) (OMC) - producing knowingly, using or distributing an imitation of something genuine with the intent to deceive or defraud including but not limited to counterfeit money.

Destruction of Property (under $1,000 not a SESIR violation) - See vandalism for definition.

Disrespect - using words or acts that demean, degrade, antagonize, or humiliate a person or group of persons.

Disruption on Campus - Major (S) - Disruptive behavior that poses a serious threat to the learning environment, health, safety, or welfare of others. Examples of major disruptions include bomb threats, inciting a riot, or initiating a false fire alarm.

Dress Code Violation - failure to comply with the established dress code policy.

Drug Sale or Distribution (S) - The manufacture, cultivation, sale, or distribution of any drug, narcotic, controlled substance, or any substance when used for chemical intoxication. Use means the person is caught in the act of using, admits to use or is discovered to have used in the course of an investigation.

NOTE: Students are prohibited from distributing by sale or otherwise any drug, narcotic, controlled substance or any substance that is represented to be, represented to contain, mimics, or that looks like a narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, stimulant, depressant, intoxicant, or controlled substance of any kind under the law of Florida or federal law while on a school campus, a school bus, at a school or School Board sponsored function, or while at any School Board facility or on property owned or utilized by the School Board. A substance includes, but is not limited to, anything that contains or is represented to contain chemicals, any substance that produces the same effect as or is represented to produce the same effect as a controlled substance, or any analogue of a controlled substance including, but not limited to, K2, also known as “Spice or legal weed.”

Drug Use or Possession (S) - The use or possession of any drug, narcotic, controlled substance, or any substance when used for chemical intoxication. Use means the person is caught in the act of using, admits to use, or is discovered to have used in the course of an investigation.
**Note:** Pursuant to State Board Rule 6A-1.0017(8)(b), F.A.C., All SESIR incidents that involve the use of non-combustible vaping products, including electronic cigarettes, vapes and vape pens, or any electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS) are required to be reported as Vaping-related, if the liquid used contains nicotine or a controlled substance. Schools are not required to test for nicotine or drugs in vaping devices.

**NOTE:** Students are prohibited from possessing or being under the influence of or using any drug, narcotic, controlled substance or any substance that is represented to be represented to contain, mimics, or that looks like a narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, stimulant, depressant, intoxicant, or controlled substance of any kind under the law of Florida or federal law while on a school campus, a school bus, at a school or School Board sponsored function, or while at any School Board facility or on property owned or utilized by the School Board. Substance includes, but is not limited to, any substance that contains or is represented to contain chemicals, any substance that produces the same effect as or is represented to produce the same effect as a controlled substance, or any analogue of a controlled substance including, but not limited to, K2, also known as “Spice or legal weed”

**Electronic Device Misuse** – disruptive and inappropriate exposure/use of cell phones, text messaging, web access, mp3 players, digital cameras and similar communication devices during the instructional day. Principals, in cooperation with the School Advisory Council at each school, have the option of permitting wireless/electronic devices for instructional purposes and/or in common areas during the school day.

The use of a computer/calculator to do the following unauthorized and prohibited activities include, but are not limited to: violating the Acceptable Use Policy for Creating Digital Citizens (SBSC Policy 7540.03) hacking into or accessing or breaking into restricted accounts or networks; modifying, or destroying files without permission; illegally copying software; and entering, accessing, viewing, distributing, or printing inappropriate/unauthorized files, programs, accessing pornographic sites, or sites advocating hate or violence.

**Extortion (S) (OMC)** - using threat or intimidation to obtain or attempt to obtain anything of value from another person, including, but not limited to, money.

**Failure to Report for Detention/Saturday School** - Failure to attend an assigned detention or Saturday School.

**False Accusation Against a Staff Member** - the intentional publication (oral or written) of untrue, injurious allegations against a staff member or school volunteer, or knowingly bringing false charges against a staff member or school volunteer.

**Fighting (S)** - when two or more persons mutually participate in use of force or physical violence that requires either physical intervention or results in injury requiring first aid, or medical attention. Lower-level fights, including pushing, shoving, or altercations that stop on verbal command are not required to be reported in SESIR reporting.

**Note:**  
**Self Defense** – a student has the right to protect self from unsought physical harm or injury. A valid claim of self-defense requires the danger of imminent bodily harm in which the student was unable to decline or escape the conflict; the student did not say or do anything for the purpose of provoking another student; and the student used reasonable force and restraint in protecting him/herself. Retaliation is not self-defense.

**Forgery (S) (OMC)** - making a false or misleading written communication to a school staff member with either the intent to deceive or under circumstances which would reasonably be calculated to deceive a staff member, or producing or possessing any false document, item, or record represented to be an authentic school document, item, or record.

**Gambling (S) (OMC)** - any participation in games or activities with a resulting chance for money or items of value.
**Gang-Related Activity** - engaging in any verbal, written, or physical act which is associated with becoming a member of a gang, being a member of a gang, or participating in gang identified rituals or behaviors on a school campus or at a school sponsored program or activity.

**Harassment (S)** - any threatening, insulting or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal or physical conduct that places a student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property; has the effect of substantially interfering with a student’s educational performance, opportunities, or benefits; has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school including any course of conduct directed at a specific person that causes substantial emotional distress in such a person and serves no legitimate purpose.

**Hate Crime** - an act or acts that indicate prejudice based on race, religion, ethnicity, color ancestry, sexual orientation, or national origin, political beliefs, marital status, age, social and family background, linguistic preference, or mental/physical disability.

**Hazing (S)** - any action or situation that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student at a school with any of grades 6-12 for purposes of initiation or admission into an affiliation with any school-sanctioned organization. Hazing includes but is not limited to: pressuring, coercing, or forcing a student to participate in illegal or dangerous behavior, or any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, or exposure to the elements.

**Homicide (S)** - The unjustified killing on one human being by another.

**Horseplay** - engaging in reckless, rowdy, or rough behavior that interferes with the safe or purposeful order of a school or school-related activity.

**Illegal Organization Violation** - establishing or participating in a secret society or prohibited organization on School Board owned property, at a school function, or at a school sponsored extracurricular activity.

**Inappropriate Act** - the use of oral or written language, electronic messages, pictures, objects, gestures, or engaging in unwelcome or inappropriate touching, or any other physical act that is considered to be offensive, socially unacceptable, or not suitable for an educational setting.

**Inattentive Behavior** - conduct that demonstrates a lack of engagement or attention in lessons or class activities, including, but not limited to, non-participation, putting head down on desk, napping or sleeping in class.

**Insubordination** - the refusal or failure to follow a directive or order from a school staff member, bus driver, or any other adult in authority at school.

**Kidnapping (S)** - Forcibly, or by threat, confining, abducting, or imprisoning another person against his/her will and without lawful authority.

**Larceny/Theft ($750 threshold) (S)** - The unauthorized taking, carrying, riding away with, or concealing another person, including motor vehicles, without threat, violence, or bodily harm. Incidents that fall below $750 threshold are not reportable in SESIR.

**Lying/Misrepresentation** - intentionally providing false or misleading information to, or withholding valid information from, a school staff member or any other adult in authority at school.

**Medication Policy Violation** - failure to comply with the guidelines for possessing or administering prescription medications and over-the-counter medications.

**Off Campus Felony** - the notification of the formal charges of a student for an alleged commission of a felony or a delinquent act which would be classified as a felony if committed by an adult at a time and place where students are not subject to the control of the school.

**Open Defiance** - the flagrant or hostile challenge of the authority of a school staff member, bus driver, or any other adult in authority.

**Other Major (OMC) (S)** - Any serious, harmful or incidents resulting in the need for law enforcement consultation not previously classified.
Physical Attack (Battery) (S) - an actual and intentional striking of another person against his/her will, or the intentional causing of bodily harm to an individual.

Robbery (S) - the taking or attempted taking of anything of value owned by another person or organization, under the confrontational circumstances of force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.

Sexting - the taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs, where electronic data transfer or otherwise may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be reported to law enforcement and/or other appropriate state or federal agencies, which may result in arrest and prosecution.

Sexual Assault (S) - an incident that includes threatened rape, fondling, indecent liberties, child molestation, both males and females can be victims of sexual assault.

Sexual Battery (Rape) (S) - Forced or attempted oral, anal, or vaginal penetration by using a sexual organ or an object simulating a sexual organ, or the anal or vaginal penetration of another by any body part or foreign object. Both males and females can be victims of sexual battery.

Sexual Harassment (S) - unwanted verbal, nonverbal or physical behavior with sexual connotations by an adult or student that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment, cause discomfort or humiliation or unreasonably interfere with the individual’s school performance or participation as defined in Rule, 6A-19.008, F.A.C.(1); an offense when one person demands a sexual favor from another under the threat of physical harm or adverse consequence.

Sexual Offenses (Other) (S) - other sexual contact, including intercourse, without force or threat of force; Includes subjecting an individual to lewd sexual gestures, sexual activity, or exposing private body parts in a lewd manner.

Skipping Class - not reporting to or leaving an assigned class, activity, or area without receiving proper approval by following the established procedures for checking out of a class.

Skipping School - not reporting to school or leaving school grounds without receiving proper approval by following the established procedures for checking out of school.

Tardy - late arrival to school or to a class.

Teasing (unwanted) - making fun of, mocking or attempting to provoke or irritate; saying or doing something in order to have fun by annoying another; provoking behavior and/or persistent annoyances that does not rise to the level of the definition of bullying or harassment.

Threat/Intimidation (S) - An incident where there was no physical contact between the offender and victim, but the victim felt that physical harm could have occurred based on verbal or nonverbal communication by the offender. This includes nonverbal threats (e.g., brandishing a weapon) and verbal threats of physical harm which are made in person, electronically, or through any other means.

Note: Pursuant to Florida Statute 836.10 it is a second-degree felony for a person to communicate a written threat to do bodily harm to another person.

Tobacco (S) - The possession, use, distribution, or sale of tobacco or nicotine products on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, or on school transportation by any person under the age of 21.

Note: Pursuant to State Board Rule 6A-1.0017(8)(h), F.A.C., All SESIR incidents that involve the use of non-combustible vaping products, including electronic cigarettes, vapes and vape pens, or any electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS) are required to be reported as Vaping-related, if the liquid used contains nicotine or a controlled substance. Schools are not required to test for nicotine or drugs in vaping devices.
Trespassing (S) - To enter or remain on school grounds, school transportation, or at a school-sponsored event, without authorization or invitation and with no lawful purpose for entry.

Unauthorized Area - being present in buildings, rooms, or other areas on a school campus restricted or not open to student access during all or portions of a day.

Unauthorized Assembly - being present at unapproved student gatherings, meetings, demonstrations, or protests which interfere with the orderly process of the school environment, or which interrupts a school function or an extracurricular activity.

Unauthorized Items - the possession or storage of items that have the potential of interfering with teaching or learning, such as, but not limited to: skates, skateboards, radios, toys, video games, over the counter stimulants, as well as items or merchandise brought to school without administrative authorization for the purpose of sale or distribution.

Unauthorized Publication - the unapproved posting or distribution of printed words, petitions, electronic messages, or graphic representations as defined in School Board policy.

Unsafe Act - engaging in any act which compromises the health or safety of an individual including, but not limited to, recklessness, pushing, shoving, hitting, kicking, or slapping.

Vandalism ($1,000 threshold) (S) - The intentional destruction, damage, or defacement of public or private/personal property without consent of the owner or the person having custody or control of it. Incidents that fall below the $1,000 threshold are not reportable in SESIR.

Vehicle/Parking Violation - failure to follow established rules and regulations concerning the privilege of driving and parking vehicles on a school campus.

Weapons Possession (S) - Possession of a firearm or any instrument or object that can inflict serious harm on another person, or that can place a person in reasonable fear of serious harm.

NOTE: School administrators should refer to the Seminole County Discipline Procedures Manual for reporting requirements.

Zero Tolerance (S) - as herein defined and as defined to School Board policy.

**ZERO TOLERANCE**

The School Board has zero tolerance for conduct that poses a threat to school safety. Zero tolerance policies must apply equally to all students and are not intended to be rigorously applied to petty acts of misconduct.

**Recommendation for Expulsion Required:** Students who are determined by the School Board to have committed one of the following violations as defined by Florida law or this code while on School Board owned, operated or maintained property (including a school bus or other school or School Board vehicle) or while at a school/School Board sponsored activity (whether on or off a school site, or School Board owned, operated or maintained property).

(a) Shall be **recommended for** expulsion from all Seminole County public schools for not less than one year:
(1) Bringing or possessing a firearm or weapon, as defined in Chapter 790 Fla. Stat., to school, to any school function, or onto any school-sponsored transportation.

Note: For the purposes of zero tolerance “weapon” means any dirk, knife, metallic knuckles, slingshot, billy club, tear gas gun, chemical weapon or device or other deadly weapon except a common pocketknife, plastic knife, or blunt-bladed table knife.

“Firearm” means any weapon (including starter gun) which will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or silencer; any destructive device; or any machine gun. The term firearm does not include an antique firearm unless the antique firearm is used in the commission of a crime.

(2) Making a threat or false report, as defined by ss. 790.162 and 790.163, respectively, involving a school or school personnel’s property, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity.

Upon recommendation by the Superintendent, the School Board may assign students who are determined to have committed any of the above offenses to an alternative assignment under such terms and conditions as determined by the School Board in lieu of expulsion. If a student committing any zero tolerance offenses is a student who has a disability, the School Board shall comply with applicable State Board of Education rules.

Any student found to have committed a violation of SS. 784.011(1), (2), or (3) shall be expelled or placed in the district alternative school or other alternative program as deemed appropriate. Upon being charged with an offense under SS 784.011(1), (2), or (3), the student shall be immediately removed from his or her school of regular attendance and placed in the district alternative school, or other alternative program as deemed appropriate and as required by SS. 1006.13(4).

Acts that Pose a Threat to School Safety: Those acts that pose a threat to school safety include, but are not limited to:

(a) possession of firearms or other weapons
(b) placing, discharging, or throwing an explosive item or noxious substance or making threats to do so
(c) arson
(d) felony assault
(e) threats of unsafe and potentially harmful, dangerous, violent, or criminal activities

Petty Act of Misconduct Defined: Petty acts of misconduct that are not a threat to school safety do not require consultation with law enforcement. The following are typically considered petty acts of misconduct, although each act must be examined on a case-by-case basis to determine whether or not the act constitutes a threat to school safety requiring consultation with law enforcement:

(a) disorderly conduct
(b) disrupting a school function
(c) simple assault or battery
(d) verbal abuse or use of profanity
(e) cheating
(f) theft of less than $300, trespassing, and vandalism of less than $1,000
(g) possession or use of tobacco
(h) any other act deemed as petty misconduct by the Superintendent or his designee

Review of Disciplinary Action Imposed: Each student has the opportunity for a review of the disciplinary action imposed. Please turn to the Involuntary Transfer of Students section on page 17 for those procedures. Please turn to the Expulsion section beginning on page 24 for those procedures.

Reporting to Law Enforcement: The District shall enter into agreements with local law enforcement specifying procedures so that acts that pose a threat to school safety, whether committed by a student or adult, are reported to a law enforcement agency having jurisdiction.
Threat Assessment Team Consultation: Pursuant to ss. 1006.13(2)(f), Fla. Stat. the threat assessment team is required to consult with law enforcement when a student exhibits a pattern of behavior, based upon previous acts or the severity of an act, that would pose a threat to school safety.

Minimization of Victimization: The principal shall notify all school personnel as to their responsibility regarding incident reporting, that acts which pose a threat to school safety, and crimes are properly reported to the principal, and that the disposition of the incident is properly documented.

TOBACCO VIOLATIONS AND CIVIL PENALTIES

Florida Statute 569.12 authorizes school officials to be designated as Tobacco Product Enforcement Officers and authorizes them to issue civil citations that are filed with the Clerk of the Court for the Circuit Court of the 18th Judicial Circuit in Seminole County, Florida. Students found to be guilty of a tobacco violation (FS 386.212 or FS 569.11) are subject to penalties that include monetary fines, community service, and revocation of driving privileges in addition to discipline sanctions as provided by this code.

SUSPENSION OR DELAY OF DRIVING PRIVILEGES

Florida law authorizes the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to suspend the driver’s license or delay the issuance of a driver’s license to anyone if they:

1. are convicted of the possession, sale, or conspiracy to possess a controlled substance (FS 322.055).
2. are less than 21 years of age and misrepresent his/her age or the age of any other person for the purpose of obtaining alcoholic beverages (FS 322.069).
3. are less than 21 years of age and are in possession of alcoholic beverages (FS 322.069).
4. are less than 18 years of age and misrepresent his/her age for the purpose of obtaining tobacco products and fail to complete the penalties imposed by the court (FS 322.069).
5. are less than 18 years of age and are in possession of tobacco or smoking tobacco on school property or within 1,000 ft. of a public school and fail to complete the penalties imposed by the court (FS 322.069).
6. are less than 18 years of age and accumulate 15 unexcused absences in any 90-day period during the school year (FS 322.091).
7. are less than 18 years of age and drop out of school (FS 322.091).
8. are expelled from public school (FS 322.091) and not otherwise in attendance as required by law.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSIGNMENT

A student found to have committed one or more violations of the of Student Conduct and Discipline Code, which according to the Discipline Matrix of the Seminole County Public Schools Student Conduct and Discipline Code is punishable by an alternative placement, and may be assigned by the Principal or the Principal’s designee to Journeys Academy, or other alternative program as deemed appropriate for a period not to exceed two school years (4 semesters). Additionally, a student who has previously been assigned to Journeys Academy and has committed an infraction outlined in the Student Conduct and Discipline Code that results in an alternative assignment may be alternatively assigned to Eugene Gregory Memorial Youth Academy, with the approval of the Director of Alternative Programs. A student who commits a SESIR infraction as outline in the Student Conduct and Discipline Code may be assigned to the Eugene Gregory Memorial Youth Academy.

The Superintendent reserves the right to extend a student’s administrative assignment to the district alternative school or other alternative program as deemed appropriate for a period not to exceed one additional semester if the student does not meet transition requirements. The staff will provide the student/parent with an orientation to the alternative program and the transition requirements will be provided in writing at the time of the orientation.

Students assigned to an alternative school, but who fail to attend the district alternative program and enroll in school in another district, private school, home school or charter school, must apply for reentry to his/her zoned school through and the Department of Alternative Programs. The student’s records of school attendance, school performance, and behavior will be reviewed to determine placement. The Superintendent reserves the right to reassign the student to the district alternative school or other district alternative program for up to and including the length of time of the original assignment.
A student attending an out-of-zone school on the basis of a voluntary transfer (limited family/program transfer, capacity transfer, diversity transfer, incentive transfer, controlled open enrollment student) or on the basis of an administrative assignment, to the extent permitted by law (NCLB, IDEA, or No Contact Order), who is expelled or placed at the district alternative school or another district alternative disciplinary program, shall be reassigned to the student’s zoned school upon completion of the student’s term of assignment to the district alternative school or other district alternative program.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance provides students the opportunity to acquire specific skills and meet course goals and objectives that may not otherwise be possible if not in attendance. Many integral learning activities, including class discussions, laboratory experiments, field trips, direct instruction, and guest speakers cannot be simulated or replicated with bookwork. Therefore, the Seminole County Public Schools has adopted attendance policies for elementary, middle and high schools to encourage honest, accurate, and consistent adherence by all students, parents, teachers, and administrators. These policies outline what qualifies as an excused absence and unexcused absence and provide guidelines for the make-up of work missed due to an absence.

Florida Statute 1003.21 establishes that regular school attendance is required of ALL students enrolled in public school. This statute also points out that only those students who have attained the age of 16 years and have filed a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment are not subject to compulsory school attendance laws. The declaration to terminate school enrollment must be signed by both the student and the student’s parent. This declaration requires the student and parent to acknowledge that terminating enrollment is likely to reduce the student’s earning potential or career opportunities in the future.

Parents are responsible for the attendance of their children within the compulsory attendance age (Florida Statute 1003.24). Whenever a student of compulsory school attendance age is absent without the permission of the person in charge of the school, the parent of the student must, as soon as practical after learning of the absence, report and explain the cause of such absence to the appropriate school personnel.

Florida Statute 1003.27 provides that a parent or legal guardian who refuses or fails to have a child under his or her control attend school regularly, is subject to the charge of a second-degree misdemeanor, punishable as provided by law. A student who accumulates 15 or more unexcused absences within 90 days with or without the knowledge or consent of the student’s parent shall be classified as a habitual truant. If a student becomes a habitual truant, the school administration shall refer matters to the Legal Services Department. Thereafter, the Superintendent may file a truancy petition with the circuit court. The Superintendent also may choose to refer truancy matters to the State Attorney’s Office for criminal prosecution of the parent.

Students who are married and students who are pregnant shall not be prohibited from attending school. These students and students who are parents shall receive the same educational instruction, or its equivalent, as other students, but may voluntarily be assigned to a class or program suited to their special needs. Consistent with Florida Statute 1003.54, pregnant or parenting teens shall be entitled to participate in a teenage parent program. Pregnant students may attend alternative education programs or adult education programs, provided that the curriculum allows the student to continue to work toward a high school diploma.

**Note:** ALL students who do not attend school or who leave school without permission are subject to being detained by a local law enforcement officer and transported to the Seminole Truancy Alternatives for Youth (S.T.A.Y.) Center where they must remain until released directly into the custody of a parent or guardian.

ADMINISTERING STUDENT MEDICATIONS POLICY

Medication which is prescribed by a licensed health care provider with prescriptive authority may be administered to the student or self-administered by the student (when permitted) during the school day, including any occasion when the student is away from school property on official school business.

Prescription, non-prescription, and over-the-counter medication must be administered in accordance with the district policy for Administering Medication to Students.
All medication to be administered by school personnel or self-administered by a student will require completion of the appropriate authorization form.

**ELECTRONIC RESOURCES ACCESS AND CONTROL**

The *Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety Policy (AUP) (SBSC Policy 7540.03)* provides, among other things, that the use of the district network, the Internet and other electronic resources relies heavily on the proper conduct of the users who must adhere to strict guidelines. If a student user violates any of the provisions, his/her access account will be terminated, and future access will be denied. In addition, appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken which may include suspension, expulsion, or referral to law enforcement.

1. **Usage**
   a. The use of the account must comply with the educational goals and policies of SCPS.
   b. Use of any other network or computer resources must be consistent with the rules appropriate to that network. This includes but is not limited to laws and regulations regarding:
      1. copyright material;
      2. threatening, obscene or profane materials;
      3. material protected by trade secret.

2. **The following are prohibited:**
   a. Use of another individual’s account or providing individual account information to another person.
   b. Use of the network for financial gain or for political or commercial activity.
   c. The attempt to send or sending anonymous messages of any kind or pretending to be someone else while sending a message.
   d. The attempt or actual action to access, modify, harm, or destroy another user’s data on the SCPS network.
   e. Harassing, insulting, or attacking others via network communication.

3. **Privileges**
   The use of electronic networks is a privilege. Inappropriate use will result in cancellation of that privilege and referral for disciplinary/legal action. Administrators will decide if usage is appropriate and their decision is final.

4. **Security**
   When a student identifies a security problem, he/she must notify a teacher, media specialist, or system administrator immediately, not show or identify the problem to others.

**IN VOLUNTARY TRANSFER OF STUDENTS**

The Superintendent/Superintendent’s designee may involuntarily transfer a student to a school or alternative program other than the student’s zoned school when such placement is determined to further the interest of the School Board in maintaining a safe, orderly, and purposeful learning environment. A student who is repeatedly disruptive or who poses a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of others may be involuntarily assigned to an alternative program or school.

The School Board may, instead of an expulsion, assign a student to a school or an alternative program other than the student’s zoned school when the recommendation of expulsion is a mandatory consequence for the violation of the Student Conduct and Discipline Code.

Students who have been suspended, expelled, or administratively assigned to the district alternative school or other alternative program are prohibited from coming on any district school campus, participating in any extra-curricular event, or attending any event or activity sponsored by a school or the School Board for the duration of their suspension, expulsion or disciplinary assignment, regardless of whether the assignment is an administrative assignment by the Superintendent/Superintendent’s designee or an assignment in lieu of expulsion by the School Board. Students who violate this prohibition shall be deemed trespassers.

Students who are administratively assigned to a school other than their zoned school for violations of the *Student Conduct and Discipline Code* or as the result of the imposition of a no contact order may only participate in
activities or events at their assigned school, except as otherwise limited or prohibited by the Citizenship Standards for participation in school sponsored extra-curricular activities.

A student who is administratively assigned to an alternative disciplinary school or program or a school other than the student’s zoned school may request a review of the assignment by the School Board Hearing Officer. The assignment shall, however, be effective upon the termination of any suspension or if there is no suspension, immediately upon being made. Upon review, the School Board may take such action, as it deems appropriate.

**Note:** State Board Rule 6A-1.0404 authorizes the use of a student’s juvenile justice information and criminal record in conjunction with other relevant information for the purpose of reviewing a student’s educational placement and need for services, and to protect the safety of other students and school personnel.

**REVOCATION OF VOLUNTARY TRANSFER**

The voluntary transfer of a student from one school to another, pursuant to SBSC Policy 5120, may be revoked and the student returned to his/her zoned school of attendance if tardiness, unexcused absences or behavior/discipline problems develop at the receiving school.

**STUDENT APPEARANCE AND DRESS CODE**

Responsibility for the dress and appearance of students enrolled in the Seminole County Public Schools primarily rests with parents and the students. Some student apparel, however, may not be appropriate to wear to school even though that same apparel may be appropriate to wear in other settings. To assist parents and students in making appropriate fashion and grooming decisions for school, the School Board has established the following minimal guidelines for the appearance and dress of students.

The standards of appearance for students shall insure that the students be clean, neat, and properly dressed. They shall observe modes of dress and standards of personal grooming which are appropriate for the academic environment.

It is the responsibility of the principal to see that the dress appearance of any student shall not be extreme, to the point of creating a disturbance, or is hazardous to self, others, or school property, whether or not the specific case is covered by the information below. The principal or principal’s designee may make exceptions to the dress code for special school events. The principal or principal’s designee has the final authority for interpreting whether a student’s apparel/appearance conforms to the dress code.

*All schools have the option of adopting a standard dress code (uniform) when developed and agreed upon in collaboration with their School Advisory Council. Schools that adopt a standard dress code should include the following: Collared shirts, sleeves, khaki or dark pants/shorts/shorts, defined shirt colors (e.g. school colors).*

**(1) HEADWEAR**

No hats, caps, visors, hoods, sunglasses or other head gear may be worn on campus except with administrative permission (i.e. medical necessity, religious practice, school related events).

**(2) FOOTWEAR**

(a) All students shall wear shoes/footwear. Students must wear shoes that are safe and appropriate for the learning environment. Students must wear athletic shoes in all PE classes and/or outdoor activities.
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<tr>
<th>(3) UPPER GARMENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>(a) Garments must be appropriate for the learning environment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(b) The following items are prohibited unless worn under a covering garment: halter tops, tube tops, backless dresses/tops, spaghetti straps, crop tops and tank tops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Low cut necklines are prohibited, and the cut of garments must not expose undergarments or cleavage.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(b) Shirts must touch, at a minimum, the top portion of lower garments at all times.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Garments that are distracting or inappropriate are prohibited, including but not limited to those with see-through materials, skin-tight items, pajamas, trench coats, bandanas, rips-tears, printed profanity, or language/symbols/styles that promote the use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco products, gang-related or other illegal activities.</td>
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<th>(4) LOWER GARMENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>(a) Undergarments and the buttocks MUST remain entirely covered even while seated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Dresses, skirts and shorts must be at least mid-thigh or below in length. Rip/tears above mid-thigh that expose skin or undergarments are not permitted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) The waistband of pants, shorts or skirts must be worn and secured between the hips and the waist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Undergarments as outerwear, pajama pants, bathing suits, bike shorts are prohibited.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>(5) ACCESSORIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Clothing, jewelry, and accessories shall not convey messages that are: crude, vulgar/profane, violent/death-oriented, gang related, sexually suggestive, or promote alcohol, drugs or tobacco.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Jewelry or accessories that pose a safety concern for the student or others are prohibited.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Due to school and safety concerns, personal technology (headphones, earbuds, or other accessories) is restricted to minimal volume, only to be heard by the user. One ear must remain free of the accessory at all times. Exceptions to this rule may be granted by administration, faculty or staff.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Consequences for wearing clothing that exposes underwear or body parts in an indecent or vulgar manner or that disrupts the orderly learning environment:
1. For the first offense, a student shall be given a verbal warning and the school principal/designee shall call the student’s parent or guardian.
2. For the second offense, the student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period of time not to exceed five (5) days and the school principal/designee shall meet with the student’s parent or guardian.
3. For a third or subsequent offense, a student shall receive an in-school suspension pursuant to s.1003.014 (5) for a period not to exceed three (3) days, the student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period not to exceed 30 days and the principal/designee shall call the student’s parent or guardian and send the parent or guardian a written letter regarding the student’s in-school suspension and inability to participate in extracurricular activities. Students not involved in extracurricular activities will be subjected to the consequences listed in the Matrix of Infractions.
RULES OF CONDUCT - TRANSPORTATION

Florida Statute 1006.10 gives school bus drivers the authority to monitor and control the behavior of students when they are on a school bus, when they are being transported to and from school or school functions at public expense, or when a school bus is present at a bus stop.

**Video Cameras on Buses:** Video cameras with audio recording capability have been installed on all Seminole County Public School Buses. Students may be filmed at any time during their ride. The tapes may be utilized to determine violations of the Student Conduct and Discipline Code. Violations of these standards, the Student Conduct and Discipline Code, or any action or behavior by a student(s) to distract the driver substantially and causes or has the potential to cause a safety hazard on a moving bus, or while stationary, may be the basis for suspension from bus/school and/or expulsion of bus riding privileges.

**Standards of Conduct for Riding a School Bus:** Student conduct that distracts the driver, endangers the health and safety of other students, or demonstrates a willful disregard for transportation rules shall be reported to the principal or principal's designee.

The following rules of conduct apply to students when the bus is present at the bus stop and when they are being transported on a school bus:

1. Students must be at the bus stop on time. The bus driver cannot wait for those who are tardy.
2. Students are to stand at least five (5) feet off the roadway at all times while waiting for the bus.
3. A student's parents have responsibility for the control and direction of the student at the bus stop.
4. Students must ride their assigned buses and cannot board or depart the bus at any stop other than their regular stop, unless authorized by the principal/designee.
5. Students are to enter the bus in an orderly manner and sit in an assigned seat, if designated by the bus driver or by the school administration.
6. Students must obey the driver, monitors, and chaperones at all times and follow the posted rules of conduct while riding the school bus.
7. Students are to remain seated, facing forward at all times when the bus is moving. All portions of a student's body are to remain inside the bus. Students are required to wear seat-belts in buses equipped with passenger restraint systems.
8. Eating or drinking is not permitted on the bus.
9. Glass or breakable containers are not permitted on the bus.
10. Reptiles, insects, animals, or marine life are not permitted to be transported on the bus.
11. Absolute silence is required of students at railroad crossings.
12. Bulky or objectionable objects, including musical instruments, that cannot be held in the student's lap are not permitted on the bus. No objects may block the aisles or emergency exits.
13. No items are to be thrown or propelled out of the bus windows. (Behavior that violates this rule/expectation may be classified as a felony. The student and the parent/guardian shall be held responsible for any damages that result from such an act).
14. Littering, throwing, or propelling of objects inside the bus is not permitted.
15. Defacing or vandalizing a school bus is forbidden. Restitution will be required.
16. Profanity, obscene language, offensive gestures, or offensive materials of any nature are not permitted on the bus.
17. Posters or signs not to be displayed from the bus.
18. After disembarking, those students who must cross the road shall cross approximately twelve (12) feet in front of the stopped bus.

**Bus Probation:** Violation of transportation policies, rules or standards of conduct committed while on the school bus may be grounds for placing a student on probationary status for an indefinite period of time. Violation of the conditions of probation is grounds for bus suspension, or other sanctions, up to and including, out-of-school suspension and expulsion if warranted.

**Bus Suspension:** Violation of transportation policies, rules or standards of conduct committed while on the school bus may be grounds for the suspension of bus riding privileges for a period of time not to exceed ten (10) school days per occurrence. However, the consequences for such violations are **not limited** to the suspension of bus riding privileges. Other sanctions, up to and including, out-of-school suspension and expulsion may be imposed if warranted.

**Bus Expulsion:** Repeated violation, or a single serious violation, of transportation policies, rules or standards of conduct **committed** while on the school bus may be grounds for the revocation of a student’s bus riding privileges.
by the principal for a period of time up to the remainder of a school year, the intervening summer school, and the following school year. However, the consequences for such violations are not limited to revocation of bus riding privileges. Other sanctions, up to and including out-of-school suspension and expulsion from school may be imposed if warranted.

**PARKING ON CAMPUS**

The parking of a student’s vehicle on campus is a privilege that is granted by the School Board that may be conditional upon the purchase of a parking decal from the school of attendance. Students parking vehicles on campus without authorization or who repeatedly violate campus-parking rules may have their parking decal revoked and/or their vehicle towed at the owner’s expense. The presence of a vehicle on School Board property pursuant to a parking decal is deemed to be consent by the student to a search of the vehicle. Each student who parks a vehicle on a school campus pursuant to a parking decal is presumed to know what is contained in his/her vehicle and will be held accountable for any contraband, weapons, drugs, etc., which may be found in the vehicle.

Vehicles parked on School Board property (without an appropriately authorized parking decal) by a student are subject to search if school personnel have reasonable suspicion that illegal, prohibited, harmful items or substances, or stolen property may be contained therein. Each student who parks a vehicle on a school campus is presumed to know what is contained in his/her vehicle and will be held accountable for any contraband, weapons, drugs, etc., which may be found in the vehicle.

**SUSPENSION**

Suspension is the temporary removal of a student from a class, all classes or from a student’s zoned school and all district schools and school or school board sponsored activities, except as authorized by a student’s principal for a prescribed period of time, not to exceed ten (10) school days at any one time.

When a student is suspended, the principal or the principal's designee shall make a good faith effort to inform a student’s parent(s) immediately by telephone of the student’s suspension and the reasons for the suspension. The reasons for the suspension shall be reported in writing within 24 hours to the student’s parents by U.S. mail or in person.

Except when taken into custody by law enforcement officials, the student will be remanded to the custody of the parent with specific homework assignments for the student to complete.

**Note:** Florida Statute 1006.09 provides that no student may be suspended out-of-school for unexcused tardies, lateness, absences, or truancy.

**Note:** Only a principal or the principal's designee may suspend a student. Only a principal may reduce the number of days assigned for a suspension.

**Student Excluded from School and School Activities:** Throughout the duration of an out-of-school suspension, the student may not come onto School Board owned property. The student is also prohibited from attending athletic events, extracurricular activities, or any other school related function until the suspension is completed.

**Parent Notification:** When a student is suspended, the principal or the principal's designee shall make a good faith effort to inform the student's parent or guardian immediately by telephone of the reason(s) for the student's suspension. When telephone contact is made with the parent, then a copy of the suspension papers related to the offense shall be mailed within 24 hours. Following a conference, a copy of the suspension papers may be given directly to the parent. If the principal or the principal's designee is unable to contact the parent, then the suspension papers related to the offense shall be sent by certified mail to the parent’s most current address on record at the school.

**Guidelines for Suspensions:** The principal or the principal's designee may suspend a student for a period of time not to exceed ten (10) school days at any one time. Before a suspension is imposed on a student, except in emergencies, the student shall be provided an:

1. explanation of which provision(s) of the Student Conduct and Discipline Code was/were violated,
2. explanation of the specific conduct that constituted the violation(s);
3. explanation of the factual basis for the suspension;
4. opportunity to present his/her version of the offense;
5. opportunity to identify witnesses who support the student's version of the offense, and the identified students will be interviewed by the disciplining administrator;
6. explanation of the rationale for the suspension.

**Note:** A suspension conference is not a formal legal proceeding and is not required to be conducted in accordance with rules of procedure normally associated with an administrative hearing under ss. 120.57, Florida Stat. or a court proceeding. Students do not have the right to cross-examine witnesses or to have legal representation at a suspension conference. However, if the conduct underlying a suspension results in a recommendation for expulsion, the student shall be entitled to the full procedural safeguards associated with an expulsion.

**Immediate Suspension:** The principal may immediately suspend a student out-of-school if he/she has committed any of the following acts:

1. physically assaulting another individual;
2. engaging in behavior posing an immediate danger to students or staff members; or
3. creating an immediate disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

**Note:** Before a student is suspended immediately from school, the student shall be given either oral or written notice of the allegation(s), an explanation of the allegation(s), and an opportunity to explain his/her version of the offense.

**Provision for Academic Make-Up Work:** Students are permitted to make up, for full credit, any academic work missed during the term of a student's first or second out-of-school suspension. Missed class assignments, homework, quizzes, tests, and exams shall be made up in a timely manner for the student to receive full credit. However, the absences will be coded as a suspension.

**Note:** It is the student's responsibility to make specific arrangements with each teacher for completing make-up work. At a minimum, the student shall have the number of days he/she was absent to complete and hand in make-up work for credit. A zero will be assigned for any work not made up in a timely manner.

**Extension of the Duration Out-of-School Suspension:** Florida Statute 1006.08 permits the Superintendent to extend a suspension beyond ten (10) school days if such suspension period expires before the next regular or special school board meeting following the tenth day of a suspension if the student is being recommended for expulsion. Alternatively, the Superintendent or the superintendent's designee may assign a student to the district alternative school or other alternative program pending the completion of any expulsion hearing and entry of any final order of expulsion by the School Board.

**Suspension for Criminal/Delinquent Acts Occurring Off Campus:** The Florida Legislature has authorized indefinite suspension, and expulsion of students who engage in criminal/delinquent acts off-campus which cause the student's presence on campus to be disruptive to the maintenance of good order and discipline at school. Florida Statute 1006.09 permits the principal to initiate suspension proceedings against any student who is formally charged by a proper prosecuting attorney with a felony, or with a delinquent act which would be a felony if committed by an adult, for an offense that allegedly occurred on property other than that owned by Seminole County Public Schools.

Upon receipt of notice that a student has been formally charged with a felony, or with a delinquent act which would be a felony if committed by an adult, the principal shall conduct a suspension conference for the purpose of determining whether or not the student shall be assigned to the Eugene Gregory/Consequence Alternative Unit pending court determination of whether the student did or did not commit such an act, or dismissal of the charges by the court or prosecuting attorney. The alternative assignment may be implemented upon receipt of notice of the filing of formal charges (Petition for Delinquency in Juvenile Court, Information or Indictment in the Circuit Court or Indictment in the U.S. District Court) pending conduct of the required due process conference and statutory determination that the alternative placement shall continue pending the outcome of the formal charges. All proceedings under this provision shall comply with Fla. Admin. Code R. 6A-1.0956.

Fla. Admin. Code R. 6A-1.0956 requires that, the principal shall:

1. Immediately notify, in writing, the student and parent(s) of the specific charge(s) against the student and of their right to a suspension conference at the school.
2. Provide a notice of a suspension conference stipulating a date for the hearing which shall be not less than two (2) school days and no more than five (5) school days from the postmarked date, or delivery, of the notification. The notification must advise the parent of the conditions under which a waiver of suspension may be granted.

3. Pending such conference, the student may be temporarily assigned to the Eugene Gregory/Consequence Alternative Unit if the principal is concerned that the presence of the student on campus will have a disruptive influence on the orderly operation of the school.

4. Conduct a school site conference that may be attended by the student, the parent(s), the student's representative or counsel, and any witnesses requested by the student or the principal.

5. Allow the student to speak in his/her own behalf, present evidence indicating his/her eligibility for a waiver of disciplinary action, and be questioned regarding his/her testimony.

6. Make a determination as to whether the presence of the student on campus would have an adverse impact on the educational program, discipline, or welfare of the school.

7. Provide the student and the parent with written notification of the decision as to whether or not the student will be indefinitely assigned to the Eugene Gregory/Consequence Alternative Unit pending the legal resolution of the formal charge.

8. Make provisions for the delivery of educational services to the student during the time of suspension (assignment to the Eugene Gregory/Consequence Alternative Unit).

Upon a judicial determination that the student committed the act or acts with which he/she is charged, the principal/superintendent may administratively assign the student to Eugene Gregory Memorial Youth Academy for a period of time not to exceed the remainder of the current term and 1 additional year from the time of adjudication or recommend to the School Board that the student be expelled. The School Board may be expel the student for the maximum time permitted by law.

***Suspension of Exceptional Education Students:*** The required due process guidelines for suspension of students with a disability or otherwise entitled to be treated as a student with a disability under 20 U.S.C. §1415, § 1003.57, Fla. Stat., are set forth in Fla. Admin. Code Rule 6A-6.03312 (IDEA) and in the *Exceptional Student Education Policies and Procedures (SP&P).*

***Suspension of Students With A Section 504 Plan or Subject to Be Treated As a Student With a Disability Under Section 504:*** The required due process guidelines for suspension of students with a disability or students otherwise entitled to be treated as a student with a disability under § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 795 are set forth in the *Seminole County Public Schools Policies and Procedures for Implementation of Section 504 Handbook.*

***Previous Student Assignment to a District Alternative School:*** Students who have previously been assigned to a District Alternative School and have committed an infraction outlined in the Student Conduct and Discipline Code that results in an alternative assignment may, with the approval of the Director of Alternative Programs, be assigned to the Eugene Gregory Memorial Youth Academy.

**In-School Suspension:** In-School Suspension is an alternative to out-of-school suspension that prevents a student from attending all or some classes for up to ten (10) school days at any one time. During the period of an In-School Suspension, the student is assigned to a self-contained alternative classroom.

**EXPULSION**

Expulsion is the severest penalty the School Board may impose for a violation of the *Student Conduct and Discipline Code.* Expulsion is the removal of the right and obligation of a student to attend public school for a specified period of time, not to exceed the current school year, the following school year and any intervening summer school. Expelled students are fully excluded and prohibited from attending any Seminole County public school, any school or School Board sponsored activity, or coming upon the grounds of any school, until the term of the expulsion is completed.
A principal will recommend expulsion for a student who has previously, at each level, been assigned to the district alternative program and commits (an) infraction(s) that would otherwise result in an assignment to the district alternative program.

Recommendations for expulsion shall be processed in accordance with the procedures adopted by the School Board and prescribed by law and administrative regulations of the State of Florida, for student expulsions.


***Expulsion of Students With a Section 504 Plan or Subject to Be Treated as a Student With a Disability Under Section 504:*** The required due process for expulsion of students with a disability or otherwise entitled to be treated as a student with a disability under § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 795, are set forth in the Seminole County Public Schools Policies and Procedures for Implementation of Section 504 Handbook.

**Guidelines for Expulsions:** Florida Statute 1006.09 states that the principal may recommend to the Superintendent the expulsion of any student who has committed a serious breach of conduct, as set forth in the Student Conduct and Discipline Code, including, but not limited to, willful disobedience, open defiance of a school staff member, violence against persons or property, any other act which substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of the school, or violations of the Zero Tolerance policy. All offenses for which a student may be expelled are identified in the Matrix of Infractions as set forth in the Code or the Zero Tolerance provision therein contained.

The procedures outlined in this section shall be followed when a student is recommended for expulsion.

1. The principal/designee shall conduct a pre-suspension conference with the student as required prior to a student’s suspension.

2. The principal/designee shall schedule a pre-expulsion conference with the parent(s) or the student (if majority age).

3. At the pre-expulsion conference, the principal/designee shall review the basis and rationale for the preliminary recommendation for expulsion and advise the student and the parent of the preliminary recommendation for expulsion that will be forwarded to the Superintendent/designee. Pursuant to Florida Statute Section 1002.20(21)(a), the parent may be accompanied by another adult of their choice such as an attorney, an advocate, etc., at the pre-expulsion conference.

4. The student and parent(s) will be advised that the recommendation for expulsion will be scheduled for a preliminary hearing before a school board member sitting as an administrative hearing officer and that at that time the hearing officer will determine if the student admits the misconduct or denies the misconduct. If the student admits the misconduct, the hearing officer shall conduct an informal hearing pursuant to state statute 120.57(2) and determine what penalty to recommend to the School Board. If the student denies the misconduct, the matter will be scheduled for a formal hearing pursuant to state statute 120.57(1). The student and parent(s) will be notified as to the formal hearing as required by law. The student will be assigned to the district alternative school or will remain at the district alternative school pending any hearing and the entry of any final order by the School Board.

5. A student has the right to be represented by legal counsel, or any other qualified person during the process discussed in subsection four (4) above.

6. Failure of the student or the parent(s) to appear before the School Board at the designated time for any formal or informal hearing without good cause shall be deemed a waiver of the student's right to a hearing on the matter. Upon the determination of a waiver by the administrative hearing officer, the hearing officer shall forward his or her recommended final order to the School Board without further hearing.

7. The recommended order shall comply with the requirements of law and applicable provisions of the Uniform Rules of Procedure for administrative proceedings under ss. 120.57(1) & (2), Florida Statutes found at Fla. Admin, Code R. 28-106.101, et. seq.
8. The final order entered by the School Board shall be subject to judicial review pursuant to ss. 120.68, Fla. Stat.

**Expulsion Recommendations:** A student may be recommended for expulsion for any violation of the code for which expulsion is an optional penalty. The nature of the offense, the severity of the infraction, and the student’s previous record of discipline shall be considered by the principal when making this recommendation. A student shall be recommended for expulsion for any violation of the code that requires a mandatory recommendation or for any “zero tolerance offense.” The School Board member hearing officer may recommend any penalty that he or she deems appropriate upon the facts of a case and the School Board may impose any penalty that it deems appropriate upon the facts of a case, upon recommendation of the referring principal or designee or upon its own determination. A principal will recommend expulsion for a student who has previously, at each level, been assigned to the district alternative school and commits (an) infraction(s) that would otherwise result in an assignment to the district alternative program.

**Alternatives to Expulsion:** A student who is being recommended for expulsion may be assigned by the School Board Hearing Officer to the district alternative school or other alternative programs.

When a student is assigned to the district alternative school or other alternative programs, in lieu of expulsion, the School Board reserves the right to extend the term of the student’s assignment for a minimum of one semester or revoke the assignment and impose an expulsion for the maximum period permitted by law for the following:

1. Failure of the student to attain and maintain a 90% attendance record, except for bona fide excused absences.
2. Failure to comply with the rules of conduct established by the district alternative school programs as permitted by §1003.32.

**ENROLLMENT OF STUDENTS EXPELLED/DISMISSED FROM OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS OR PRIVATE SCHOOLS**

The records of students seeking to enroll in Seminole County Public Schools, who have been assigned to an alternative school by another public school district, a private school, or a charter school, must be reviewed by the appropriate Executive Director and the Director of Alternative Programs. The student will be assigned to the district alternative school or other alternative school program or a reentry program for the period of time as determined to be appropriate.

The records of students seeking to enroll in Seminole County Public Schools who are currently being recommended for expulsion or dismissal, or who have been expelled or dismissed from another public school district, a private school, or a charter school, must be reviewed by the appropriate Executive Director and the Director of Alternative Programs. The student will be assigned to the district alternative school or other alternative school program or a reentry program for a period of time as determined to be appropriate.

If a final order of expulsion has been imposed upon the student from a previous school, the appropriate Executive Director and the Director of Alternative Programs:

1. honor the expulsion or dismissal of the student from the previous school;
2. assign the student to a district alternative school;
3. assign the student to another district alternative program;
4. assign the student to a zoned school of attendance.

**RE-ENTRY OF EXPELLED STUDENTS**

Upon completion of a term of expulsion from Seminole County Public Schools, students shall be assigned to the district alternative school, Journeys Academy, for a minimum of one semester prior to returning to his/her zoned or assigned school of attendance.

**Note:** Students are subject to all of the policies, rules, and sanctions outlined in the School Board policies and the *Student Conduct and Discipline Code* while assigned to any district alternative school placement.