

Barrow County Schools  
**Student Code of Conduct**

The Barrow County Student Code of Conduct is based on the philosophy that discipline is a tool that is used to teach students to become responsible for their own behavior. Since our students live in a society in which citizens are expected to obey laws and abide by commonly accepted standards of behavior, we must teach them to be self-disciplined. This Student Code of Conduct is built upon those commonly accepted standards of behavior sometimes called character traits. These character traits include: citizenship, cheerfulness, cleanliness, compassion, cooperation, courage, courtesy, creativity, diligence, fairness, generosity, honesty, kindness, loyalty, patience, patriotism, perseverance, punctuality, respect for others, respect for the creator, respect for the environment, sportsmanship, school pride, self-respect, self-control, tolerance, and virtue.

In order to educate students to become productive citizens as adults, we must create a safe, non-threatening and orderly school environment that enables teachers to teach and students to learn. We expect students to “behave themselves in such a way so as to facilitate a learning environment for themselves and others, respect each other and school district employees, obey student behavior policies adopted by the local board of education, and obey student behavior rules established by individual schools (O.C.G.A. 20-2-735).” This Code of Conduct establishes expectations for the maintenance of a positive learning environment at school.

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

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

**Parental Involvement:** Parental involvement is key to the success of students in school. Therefore it is important that parents have opportunity to know what is happening with their children on a regular basis. Parents can stay informed about their child’s progress through regular progress reports and report cards, weekly folders at the elementary school level and daily agendas at the middle and high school level. Parents are encouraged to review these materials with their children regularly. Additional notices will be sent home with students when they are referred to the principal or assistant principal for a violation of the code of conduct. When notices of disciplinary action are sent home it is the responsibility of the parent to sign and return the notice to school. More direct contact such as a mailed letter or phone call may be made for Class II or III offenses. Class IV offenses require a more formal parental notification such as a mailed letter or phone call and a conference with the parent. At any time, a parent may request a conference with the principal, assistant principal or teacher to discuss issues related to discipline and the code of conduct. This code was developed with input and review by parents and suggestions for improvement from parents, students, teachers and staff are always welcome.

The Barrow County School System encourages parents and guardians to inform their children of the consequences, including potential criminal penalties, of underage sexual conduct and crimes for which a minor can be tried as an adult.

**Cooperation:** Cooperation is essential to a successful discipline program. Every person has an important role to play. Students must know the rules and accept responsibility for the choices they make and the consequences, positive or negative, that result from these choices. Teachers and administrators must enforce the rules consistently and fairly. Parents must be aware of situations affecting their child and provide support for correcting problematic behavior. Everyone must be a role model by setting a positive example. This Code of Conduct outlines expectations for each of these parties. When parents, teachers, administrators and students work together, our students can become fully prepared for life beyond school.

**Responsibilities:**

<u>Student Responsibilities</u>	<u>Parent Responsibilities</u>	<u>Teacher Responsibilities</u>	<u>Administrator Responsibilities</u>
Serve as a positive role model to peers.	Serve as positive role model for students and peers.	Serve as positive role model for parents, students and peers.	Serve as positive role model for teachers, parents, students and peers.
Obey all school and district rules and policies.	Review Code of Conduct and behavior expectations with student and sign.	Comply with district, school and classroom policies, rules, regulations and directives.	Promote training for effective use of discipline.
Take responsibility for one's own behavior.	Expect and encourage students to make choices that reflect high standards of behavior.	Be present, on time, monitor student behavior and take corrective action as needed and assigned.	Provide fair, impartial and consistently administered treatment for all students.
Strive toward self-discipline.	Stay informed of student's progress.	Maintain an orderly and productive classroom environment conducive to learning including clearly stated rules consistent with this Code of Conduct.	Encourage effective parent-school communication, including participation in parent-teacher conferences.
Cooperate with school staff in maintaining an orderly learning environment.	Participate in parent-teacher conferences.	Offer encouragement and correction as needed to assist students to set high standards and make positive choices.	Provide assistance to students in learning to set high standards and make positive choices.
Follow instructions from school staff.	Follow established channels for expressing concerns and appealing actions.		Provide appropriate support to teachers in dealing with student discipline problems.
Behave in a way that allows everyone to learn.	Recognize that a quality education reflects shared responsibility.		Provide appropriate support to parents and students to constructively resolve school-related issues.
Respect other students.			
Respect school faculty and staff.			

**Off-Campus Criminal Charges:** Corrective actions in this Code of Conduct may also be enforced for a student who has been arrested, charged or convicted in a court with a felony or an offense which would be considered to be a felony if the student were an adult, or is charged with an assault upon another student, a violation of drug laws or sexual misconduct of a serious nature and whose presence at school is reasonably certain to endanger other students or staff or cause substantial disruption to the educational climate. O.C.G.A. § 20.2.751.1(c)

**Teacher Authority to Remove a Student from Class:** Under Georgia law (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-738) a “teacher shall have the authority, consistent with local board policy, to manage his or her classroom, discipline students, and refer a student to the principal or the principal’s designee to maintain discipline in the classroom.” A teacher also has the authority to remove from his or her classroom a student who repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher’s ability to communicate effectively with the students in the class or with the ability of the student’s classmates to learn, where the student’s behavior is in violation of the Code of Conduct. Should a teacher, exercising this authority, remove a student from class, the principal or a placement review committee will determine the proper temporary and permanent placement for the student. This process may take up to three days. Parents will be notified whenever a teacher exercises his or her authority to remove a student from class.

**Student Searches:** Student cars brought on campus, student book bags, school lockers, desks and other school property shall be subject to random inspection and search by school authorities at all times without further notice to students or parents. Such searches may be conducted using "drug-sniffing" dogs or hand-held metal detectors. An individual student may be searched if there is a reasonable suspicion that the student is in possession of an item that is illegal or in violation of school rules.

The Barrow County School System reserves the right to use "walk-through" and "hand-held" metal detectors and "drug-sniffing" dogs at any school function, including activities which occur outside normal school hours or off the school campus. Students are notified that these metal detectors will be used in the discretion of administrators.

**Targets of Inappropriate Behavior:** The code of conduct shall be enforced when a student commits acts of verbal or physical assault or acts of disrespectful conduct against school personnel, other students or any persons attending school related events (O.C.G.A. 20-2-751-.5).

**Firearms at School:** Students who possess a firearm on campus will be subject to a minimum of a one-calendar year suspension/expulsion and will be referred to law enforcement officials (JCDA). See Explanation of Terms for an explanation of what is considered a firearm.

**Chronic Disciplinary Students:** Any time a teacher or principal identifies a student as a chronic disciplinary problem student, the principal shall invite the parent or guardian to observe the student in a classroom situation, and request at least one parent or guardian to attend a conference with the principal or the teacher or both to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan (O.C.G.A. 20-2-765). Before any chronic disciplinary problem student is permitted to return from an expulsion or suspension, his/her parent will be expected to attend a conference with the principal to develop a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan. Documentation of this conference shall be placed in the student’s permanent file.

**Acts of Physical Violence:** Any student who commits an act of physical violence against a teacher, school bus driver, or other school official or employee will be referred to a tribunal and may be expelled and referred to Juvenile court depending on the findings of the tribunal. Physical violence against a teacher, or other school official or employee shall be either: (1) *intentionally making physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person of another* or (2) *intentionally making physical contact which*

*causes harm to another unless such physical contacts or physical harms were in defense of himself or herself as provided in Code Section 16-3-21.*

*Any student who commits any act of violence against a teacher, school bus driver, or other school official or employee shall be referred to a tribunal for fact-finding hearing as described below. The local board shall appoint a tribunal to hold a disciplinary hearing pursuant to Code Section 20-2-754 regarding the alleged act of physical violence and penalty. Any student alleged to have committed an act of physical violence shall be suspended pending the hearing by the tribunal. The tribunal shall be composed of three teachers or certificated education personnel, appointed by the local school board. The tribunal shall determine all issues of fact and intent and shall submit its findings and recommendations to the local school board for imposition of punishment in accordance with this Code section. If appropriate...the tribunal's recommendations shall include a recommendation as to whether a student may return to public school and if return is recommended, a recommended time for the student's return to public school. The local school board may follow the recommendations of the tribunal or impose penalties not recommended by the tribunal.*

*A student found by a tribunal to have committed an act of physical violence as defined by intentionally making physical contact which causes harm to another unless such physical contacts or physical harms were in defense of himself or herself as provided in Code Section 16-3-21 against a teacher, school bus driver, school official, or school employee shall be expelled from the public school system. The expulsion shall be for the remainder of the student's eligibility to attend public school pursuant to Code Section 20-2-150. The local board at its discretion may permit the student to attend an alternative education program for the period of the student's expulsion. If the student who commits an act of physical violence is in kindergarten through grade eight, then the local school board at its discretion and on the recommendation of the tribunal may permit such a student to reenroll in the regular public school program for grades nine through 12. If the local school board does not operate an alternative education program for students in kindergarten through grade six, the local school board at its discretion may permit a student in kindergarten through grade six who has committed an act of physical violence by intentionally making physical contact which causes harm to another unless such physical contacts or physical harms were in defense of himself or herself as provided in Code Section 16-3-21 to reenroll in the public school system.*

*Any student who is found by a tribunal to have committed an act of physical violence by intentionally making physical contact which causes harm to another unless such physical contacts or physical harms were in defense of himself or herself as provided in Code Section 16-3-21 against a teacher, school bus driver, school official, or school employee shall be referred to juvenile court with a request for a petition alleging delinquent behavior.*

**Disciplinary Hearings (Tribunal):** The Superintendent shall convene a disciplinary hearing when a student has committed an alleged incident of Assault and Battery upon a teacher, school official or employee, when a student intentionally causes substantial damage to personal property of a teacher, school official or employee or when a student engages in any other act which the student's principal determines should be punished by long-term suspension or expulsion including assault and battery on other students or destruction of property belonging to other students. The teacher, other school official, employee, or student who is subjected to the assault, battery, or damage shall file a complaint with the school administration and with the local board of education through the superintendent's office (O.C.G.A. 20-2-753). This corrective action shall not infringe

on any right provided to students with Individualized Education Programs pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

**Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities receiving special education services under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (1997) have certain due process rights under both Federal and State law. Therefore, **only** the IEP/Placement Committee has the authority to change the placement of an IDEA covered student.

Students covered under *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973* (and therefore the *Americans with Disabilities Act*) are to be referred to the 504 team in order to determine if their disability had a causal effect on the behavior (manifestation). Prior to any change in placement, an evaluation is to be conducted within 10 school days. If the committee determines there is no manifestation, the student can receive the same consequences as students without disabilities.

**Format of the Student Code of Conduct:**

This Code of Conduct is divided into three sections according to the grade of the student. Within each section offenses and corrective actions are divided into classes, based on the severity of the offense. It is impossible to list every possible offense. Therefore only the most common offenses are listed as examples. The corrective actions for each class of offense may be used in any combination at the discretion of the administrator. If a student commits an offense that violates state or federal law, the school administrator or school resource officer may file a juvenile complaint. Some felony offenses committed on or within 1000 feet of a school could result in more severe consequences administered through the courts. The Barrow County School System is required to report to the Department of Education certain serious offenses. These offenses are marked with an \* in the Code of Conduct.

**Mitigating Circumstances:** The corrective actions described in the Code of Conduct are those expected under normal circumstances. However, mitigating circumstances may dictate a course of corrective action different from that described in the code. Mitigating circumstances include, but are not limited to, the following factors: age, health, maturity and academic placement of the student, prior conduct, attitude of the student, cooperation of the parents, willingness to make restitution and the seriousness of the offense. An administrator shall take into consideration all mitigating circumstances in recommending a corrective action. *The school administration reserves the right to exercise discretion in applying corrective actions.*

Early Learning Center Offenses and Corrective Actions	
<b>Class I Minor Offenses</b>	<b>Possible Corrective Actions</b>
-Disrupting class/school -Inappropriate language -Not following directions -Lunchroom/bathroom misconduct	-Counseled and warned by school administrator -Loss of privileges -Natural consequences -Notification of parent or guardian - Principal's Time-out - Referral to counselor or other school services -Response to Intervention referral - Other at discretion of administrator
<b>Class II Intermediate Offenses</b>	<b>Possible Corrective Actions</b>
-Repeated or severe violation of Class I offenses -Damaging or destroying school property -Hitting/Biting/Kicking another student or teacher	-Conference with law enforcement officer -Counseled and warned by School Administrator -Long-term Suspension* -Notification of parent or guardian -Parent/guardian conference -Parental sign-out -Principal's Time-out -Referral to counselor or other school service -Response to Intervention referral -Restitution -Short-term Suspension* -Other at discretion of administrator

\*Reported to Bright From the Start

**Elementary School Offenses and Corrective Actions**

<b><u>Class I – Minor Offenses</u></b>	<b><u>Possible Corrective Actions</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cheating/Altering or destroying records (grades PK-2)</li> <li>- Classroom and school disturbances</li> <li>- Disrespectful conduct</li> <li>- Encouraging a student to violate the code of conduct</li> <li>- Gambling or possession of gambling devices</li> <li>- Inappropriate display of public affection</li> <li>- Profanity and obscene language</li> <li>- Unexcused absence, chronic tardiness, chronic early dismissals, (partial attendance) skipping class</li> <li>- Violation of school rules</li> <li>- Verbal assault of other students</li> <li>- Violation of dress code</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Corporal punishment* (Board policy JDA)</li> <li>- Detention</li> <li>- Extra-curricular activities denied</li> <li>- Notification of parent(s)/guardian(s)</li> <li>- Parent/guardian conference</li> <li>- Principal’s probation</li> <li>- Principal’s Time-out</li> <li>- Reflective Writing Assignment</li> <li>- School service</li> <li>- Response to Intervention referral</li> <li>- Warning and/or counseled by school administrator</li> <li>- Other at Discretion of the Administrator</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b><u>Class II – Intermediate Offenses</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Repeated or severe violation of Class I offenses</li> <li>- Inappropriate web sites, data or files</li> <li>- Misuse of computer password/access</li> <li>- Bullying</li> <li>- Cheating/Altering or destroying records (grades 3-5)</li> <li>- Electronic Devices</li> <li>- Fighting (Altercation)</li> <li>- Gang related activity</li> <li>- Harassment</li> <li>- Insubordination, disrespect or giving false information to school officials</li> <li>- Leaving campus without authorization</li> <li>- Theft, trespassing, defacing or destruction of personal or school property*</li> <li>- Tobacco*</li> <li>- Verbal assault of school personnel or persons attending school events</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b><u>Possible Corrective Actions</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conference with law enforcement officer</li> <li>- Detention</li> <li>- Long-term suspension* (Board Policy JD)</li> <li>- Loss of privileges</li> <li>- Principal’s Probation</li> <li>- Refer to Law Enforcement - charges filed*</li> <li>- Reflective Writing Assignment</li> <li>- Short-term suspension* (Board Policy JD)</li> <li>- Corporal punishment* (Board policy JDA)</li> <li>- Notification of parent(s)/guardian(s)</li> <li>- Parent/guardian conference</li> <li>- Parental sign-out</li> <li>- Principal’s Time-out</li> <li>- Restitution</li> <li>- School service</li> <li>- Response to Intervention referral</li> <li>- Warning and/or counseled by school administrator</li> <li>- Other at Discretion of the Administrator</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b><u>Class III – Major Offenses</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Repeated or severe violation of Class II offenses</li> <li>- Off-Campus criminal charges</li> <li>- Battery and/or assault on a school employee*</li> <li>- Battery and/or assault on another student*</li> <li>- Disruption of school</li> <li>- Drugs or alcohol*</li> <li>- Falsifying reports regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by teacher or other school personnel.</li> <li>- Other violations of criminal law not otherwise specified</li> <li>- Possession and/or use of fireworks</li> <li>- Sexual harassment, commission of an act of sexual content or of indecent exposure*</li> <li>- Terroristic threats*</li> <li>- Unauthorized presence on campus</li> <li>- Weapons and dangerous instruments*</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b><u>Possible Corrective Actions</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Long-term suspension* (Board Policy JD)</li> <li>- Principal’s Probation</li> <li>- Refer to Law Enforcement - charges filed*</li> <li>- Referral to Tribunal for Expulsion* (Board Policy JD)</li> <li>- Short-term suspension* (Board Policy JD)</li> <li>- Response to Intervention referral</li> <li>- Other at Discretion of the Administrator</li> </ul>

**Items marked with an asterisk \* are reported the Department of Education**

<b>Middle School Offenses and Corrective Actions</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Class I – Minor Offenses</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Annoying classmates</li> <li>-Attendance policy violation</li> <li>-Electronic devices</li> <li>-Encouraging a student to violate the code of conduct</li> <li>-Excessive or loud talking</li> <li>-Excessive tardiness/Excessive early dismissals</li> <li>-Food/Drink/Gum</li> <li>-Horseplay</li> <li>-In unauthorized area</li> <li>-Inappropriate language</li> <li>-Inappropriate materials</li> <li>-Inappropriate public display of affection</li> <li>-Misuse of pass/agenda</li> <li>-Not participating</li> <li>-Out of assigned area</li> <li>-PE Dress Cuts</li> <li>-School dress code violation</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Possible Corrective Actions for Class I</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Cafeteria duty</li> <li>-Confiscation of item</li> <li>-Conflict resolution</li> <li>-Corporal punishment* (Board Policy JDA)</li> <li>-Counseled and warned</li> <li>-Detention</li> <li>-Disciplinary probation</li> <li>-Extra-curricular activities denied</li> <li>-In School Suspension* (Board Policy JD)</li> <li>-Loss of privileges</li> <li>-Notify parent</li> <li>-Parent conference</li> <li>-Peer mediation</li> <li>-Principal’s Probation</li> <li>-Referred for counseling</li> <li>-School service</li> <li>-Separation from group</li> <li>-Silent lunch</li> <li>-Response to Intervention referral</li> <li>-Other at discretion of the administrator</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Class II – Intermediate Offenses</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Repeated or severe violation of Class I offenses</li> <li>- Inappropriate web sites, data or files</li> <li>- Misuse of computer password/access</li> <li>-Abusive language</li> <li>-Cheating/altering records</li> <li>-Chronic referrals to the office</li> <li>-Classroom disruption</li> <li>-Damage to property</li> <li>-Disrespect for authority/defiance</li> <li>-Excessive mischief/horseplay/safety hazard</li> <li>-Excessive tardiness/Excessive early dismissals</li> <li>-Fireworks possession</li> <li>-Gambling or possession of gambling devices</li> <li>-Gang related activity</li> <li>-Harassment</li> <li>-Insubordination</li> <li>-ISS misbehavior</li> <li>-Leaving class without permission</li> <li>-Obscene materials</li> <li>-Physical altercation</li> <li>-Providing false information to school officials</li> <li>-Skipping class/school</li> <li>-Stealing/theft</li> <li>-Tampering with school equipment</li> <li>-Tobacco: possession/use/distribution*</li> <li>-Verbal altercation/argument</li> <li>-Verbal Assault of students, school personnel or others attending school events</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Possible Corrective Actions for Class II</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Assignment to Short-term Alternative School</li> <li>-Behavior Correction Plan</li> <li>-Confiscation of item</li> <li>-Disciplinary probation</li> <li>-Early release</li> <li>-Extra-curricular activities denied</li> <li>-In School Suspension* (Board Policy JD)</li> <li>-Loss of privileges</li> <li>-Notify parent</li> <li>-Parent conference</li> <li>-Principal’s Probation</li> <li>-Referral to AEP for Placement</li> <li>-Referred for counseling</li> <li>-Reinstatement conference</li> <li>-Restitution</li> <li>-School service</li> <li>-Separation from group</li> <li>-Short-term Suspension* (Board Policy JD)</li> <li>-Response to Intervention referral</li> <li>-Other action at the discretion of the administrator</li> </ul>

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Middle School Offenses and Corrective Actions *continued*

<u><b>Class III – Major Offenses</b></u>	<u><b>Possible Corrective Actions for Class III</b></u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Repeated or Severe Violation of Class II Offenses</li> <li>- Dangerous Instruments</li> <li>- Off-campus criminal charges</li> <li>-Battery*</li> <li>-Breaking and entering/burglary*</li> <li>-Bullying</li> <li>-Bullying – (third offense)</li> <li>-Chronic referrals to the office</li> <li>-Computer trespass*</li> <li>-Damage to property</li> <li>-Disorderly conduct*</li> <li>-Disruption of School</li> <li>-Drugs/Alcohol and related paraphernalia: possession, use, selling, distribution or under the influence of*</li> <li>-Extortion</li> <li>-Falsifying reports regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by teacher or other school personnel.</li> <li>-Fighting*</li> <li>-Fireworks – use</li> <li>-Gang related activity</li> <li>-Indecent exposure (Public Indecency)</li> <li>-Larceny/Theft*</li> <li>-Leaving school without permission</li> <li>-Misuse of medication (JGCD)</li> <li>-Motor vehicle theft*</li> <li>-Physical assault</li> <li>-Robbery*</li> <li>-Sex offense*</li> <li>-Sexual battery</li> <li>-Sexual harassment*</li> <li>-Terroristic threats</li> <li>-Threat/Intimidation*</li> <li>-Tobacco: distribution*</li> <li>-Trespassing*</li> <li>-Unauthorized presence on campus</li> <li>-Vandalism/Destruction of Property*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Assignment to Short-term Alternative School</li> <li>-Behavior Correction Plan</li> <li>-Disciplinary probation</li> <li>-ISS - In-School Suspension* (Board Policy JD)</li> <li>-Long-term Suspension* (Board Policy JD)</li> <li>-Loss of privileges</li> <li>-Parent conference</li> <li>-Refer to Law Enforcement - charges filed*</li> <li>-Referral to AEP for Placement</li> <li>-Referral to Tribunal for Alternative School* (Board Policy JD)</li> <li>-Referral to Tribunal for Expulsion* (Board Policy JD)</li> <li>-Referred for counseling</li> <li>-Reinstatement conference</li> <li>-Restitution</li> <li>-Short-term Suspension* (Board Policy JD)</li> <li>-Response to Intervention referral</li> <li>-Superintendent’s Probation</li> <li>-Other at the discretion of the administrator</li> </ul>
<p><u><b>Class IV – Tribunal Offenses</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Repeated or severe violation of Class III offenses</li> <li>-Arson*</li> <li>-Homicide*</li> <li>-Kidnapping*</li> <li>-Weapon: knife/firearm/other or facsimile* (JCDA)</li> </ul>	<p><u><b>Possible Corrective Actions for Class IV</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Response to Intervention referral</li> <li>-Refer to Law Enforcement - charges filed*</li> <li>-Referral to Tribunal for Alternative School* (Policy JD)</li> <li>-Referral to Tribunal for Expulsion* (Policy JD)</li> <li>-Referral to Tribunal for Permanent Expulsion* (JD)</li> <li>- Other at the discretion of the Tribunal</li> </ul>

High School Offenses and Correction Actions

<u><b>Class I – Minor Offenses</b></u>	<u><b>Possible Corrective Actions for Class I</b></u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Annoying classmates</li> <li>-Classroom disruption</li> <li>-Dress code violation</li> <li>-Electronic devices</li> <li>-Encouraging a student to violate the code of conduct</li> <li>-Excessive mischief/horseplay/safety hazard</li> <li>-Excessive or loud talking</li> <li>-Excessive tardiness/Excessive early dismissals</li> <li>-Failure to attend detention</li> <li>-Food/Drink/Gum violations</li> <li>-Inappropriate language</li> <li>-Inappropriate public display of affection</li> <li>-Misuse of pass/agenda</li> <li>-Not participating</li> <li>-Parking violation</li> <li>-PE dress cut</li> <li>-Tardy to ISS/Class</li> <li>-Tobacco: Possession, use or distribution*</li> <li>-Violation of cafeteria rules</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Cafeteria duty</li> <li>-Counseled</li> <li>-Detention</li> <li>-Disciplinary probation</li> <li>-ISS – In-School Suspension* (Board Policy JD)</li> <li>-Loss of privileges</li> <li>-Restitution</li> <li>-Saturday school</li> <li>-Response to Intervention referral</li> <li>-Other at the discretion of the administrator</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inappropriate web sites, data or files</li> <li>- Misuse of computer password/access</li> <li>-Abusive language</li> <li>-Altering records</li> <li>-Bullying (JCDA)</li> <li>-Cheating</li> <li>-Damage to property</li> <li>-Disrespect for authority/Defiance</li> <li>-Driving violation</li> <li>-Extortion</li> <li>-Gambling/Possession of gambling devices</li> <li>-Harassment</li> <li>-In unauthorized area</li> <li>-Inappropriate materials</li> <li>-Indecent exposure</li> <li>-Insubordination</li> <li>-Leaving class/school campus without permission</li> <li>-Persistent or Severe Violation of Class I offenses</li> <li>-Physical aggression</li> <li>-Providing false information to school officials</li> <li>-Skipping class/school</li> <li>-Stealing/theft</li> <li>-Tampering with school equipment</li> <li>-Transmission of material, information, or software in violation of any local, state, or federal law (such as copyrighted materials, software piracy, etc).</li> <li>-Verbal altercation/Argument</li> <li>-Verbal Assault of another student</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Loss of privileges</li> <li>- Response to Intervention referral</li> <li>-Assignment to Short-term Alternative School</li> <li>-ISS – In-School Suspension* (Board Policy JD)</li> <li>-Refer to Law Enforcement - charges filed* (Board Policy JD)</li> <li>-Referral to AEP for Placement</li> <li>-Restitution</li> <li>-Short-term Suspension* (Board Policy JD)</li> <li>-Other at the discretion of the administrator</li> </ul>

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High School Offenses and Correction Actions *continued*

<u><b>Class III – Major Offenses</b></u>	<u><b>Possible Corrective Actions for Class III</b></u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Persistent or Severe Violation of Class II offenses</li> <li>- Off-campus criminal charges</li> <li>-Arson*</li> <li>-Battery*</li> <li>-Breaking and entering/Burglary*</li> <li>-Bullying (3<sup>rd</sup> offense) (JCDA)</li> <li>-Chronic referrals to the office</li> <li>-Computer trespass*</li> <li>-Dangerous instruments</li> <li>-Disciplinary probation violation</li> <li>-Disorderly conduct*</li> <li>-Disruption of school</li> <li>-Drugs or Alcohol*</li> <li>-Falsifying reports regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by teacher or other school personnel.</li> <li>-Fighting*</li> <li>-Fireworks – possession or use</li> <li>-Gang related activity</li> <li>-ISS misbehavior</li> <li>-Physical assault</li> <li>-Physical assault of an employee*</li> <li>-Robbery*</li> <li>-Sexual Harassment/sexual battery/sex offenses*</li> <li>-Terroristic threats*</li> <li>-Threat/Intimidation*</li> <li>-Trespassing*</li> <li>-Unauthorized presence on campus</li> <li>-Vandalism/Destruction of Property*</li> <li>-Verbal Assault of an employee*</li> <li>-Weapon/facsimile possession* (JCDA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Loss of Privileges</li> <li>- Referral to Magistrate Court for criminal warrant</li> <li>-Assignment to Short-term Alternative School</li> <li>-Long-term Suspension* (Board Policy JD)</li> <li>-Principal’s probation</li> <li>-Refer to Law Enforcement - charges filed*</li> <li>-Referral to AEP for Placement</li> <li>-Referral to Tribunal for Alternative School or Expulsion (Board Policy JD)</li> <li>-Restitution</li> <li>-Short-term Suspension* (Board Policy JD)</li> <li>-Response to Intervention referral</li> <li>-Superintendent’s probation</li> <li>-Other at the discretion of the administrator</li> </ul>
<p><u><b>Class IV – Tribunal Offenses</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Arson*</li> <li>-Chronic repetition of Class III offenses</li> <li>-Homicide*</li> <li>-Kidnapping*</li> <li>-Weapon: knife/firearm/other or facsimile* (JCDA)</li> </ul>	<p><u><b>Possible Corrective Actions for Class IV</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Response to Intervention referral</li> <li>-Refer to Law Enforcement - charges filed*</li> <li>-Referral to Tribunal for Alternative School* (Policy JD)</li> <li>-Referral to Tribunal for Expulsion* (Board Policy JD)</li> <li>-Referral to Tribunal for Permanent Expulsion* (JD)</li> <li>- Other at the discretion of the Tribunal</li> </ul>

**Items marked with an asterisk \* are reported the Department of Education**

### Explanation of Terms

**Alcohol:** Violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, or use of intoxicating alcoholic beverages or substances represented as alcohol.

**Arson:** Unlawful and intentional damage or attempted damage to any real or personal property by fire or incendiary device.

**Assault:** An assault is any threat or attempt to physically harm another person or any act that reasonably places another person in fear of physical harm. An assault may be physical or verbal. (Example: profanity, threatening, abusive language, intimidating, or shoving).

**Battery:** The actual and intentional touching or striking of another person against his or her will or intentionally causing bodily harm to an individual. This includes an attack with a weapon and the actual placement of a bomb or one sent through the mail, regardless of whether the bomb explodes.

**Breaking and Entering- Burglary:** The unlawful entry in to a building/structure with the intent to commit a crime.

**Bullying:** Any willful attempt to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so; or any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm. Upon finding that a middle or high school student has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, the student shall be assigned to alternative school.

**Chronic:** The term chronic refers to any action that continues for a long period of time or that occurs frequently. For instance five or more tardies or early release days within a 9 week grading period will be considered chronic.

**Computer Trespass:** The unauthorized use of a computer or computer network with the intention of deleting, obstructing, interpreting, altering, damaging, or in any way causing the malfunction of the computer, network, program(s) or data.

**Confiscation of Item:** A teacher or administrator may take up inappropriate materials or other items used by students at inappropriate times such as snacks and drinks. Lunch items will be returned to the student during lunch. Personal items may be returned to the student at the appropriate time or a parent may be required to come to school to pick up the confiscated item.

**Conflict Resolution:** An adult facilitated process to bring the parties of a conflict together to solve a problem through communication and compromise.

**Corporal Punishment:** In the discretion of the principal or his or her designee, a student or parent or guardian may have the option of choosing corporal punishment in lieu of other punishment. Corporal punishment will be administered only in accordance with board policy and state law.

**Dangerous Instruments:** Any object that is possessed, handled, transmitted, or used for the purpose or intent of causing or attempting to cause physical injury. This also includes any knife whose blade is less than two inches long.

**Detention:** A student assigned to detention by administrator must report to a designated location and teacher or administrator for the purpose of extra work and behavior management. In the discretion of the school administration, this detention may be during break, on Saturday or before or after school. Transportation will be the responsibility of the student and parent(s).

**Disorderly Conduct:** Any act that substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of a school function, substantially disrupts the learning environment, or poses a threat to the health, safety, and/or welfare of students, staff or others.

**Disrespect:** Responding in a rude and impertinent manner.

**Disruption of School:** Intentionally behaving in a manner that interferes with classroom instruction or other educational activities.

**Drugs:** The unlawful use, cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, possession, transportation, or importation of any controlled drug, narcotic substance, inhalant or equipment or devices used for preparing or using drugs or narcotics. Includes substances alleged or purported to be a controlled substance and over the counter and prescription medications if not used according to Board of Education Policy (JGCD).

**Early Dismissal:** Early Dismissal is defined as leaving school or class before the designated end time. See also partial attendance. The accumulation of five or more early dismissals in a 9 week grading period shall cause a student to be disqualified from Perfect Attendance recognition.

**Electronic Devices:** This includes cell phones, pagers and other communication devices, as well as, cameras, recorders, wireless devices, electronic media, and multimedia devices when not being used with permission of school officials. Laptops, electronic Personal Digital Assistants (PDA) and other technology devices specifically used for instruction or personal organization may be allowed provided they do not interfere with instruction.

**Encouraging a Student to Violate the Code of Conduct:** This includes inciting, advising or counseling others to engage in prohibited acts.

**Expulsion:** Expulsion shall mean the permanent denial to the student of the right of continuing school in Barrow County. This corrective action will be imposed only after appropriate due process, including a disciplinary tribunal as outlined in Barrow County Board of Education policies. Students may not attend or participate in extracurricular or other school related activities on any day they are expelled.

**Fighting:** The mutual participation in an incident involving physical violence where there is no one main offender and no major injury.

**Firearm:** Firearm is defined by Federal law in Title 18 Section 921 U.S.C. Firearms include but are not limited to any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or any destructive device such as any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas - bomb, grenade, or rocket.

**Fireworks:** Fireworks include any combustible or explosive composition or any substance or combination of substances prepared for the purpose of producing a visible, audible or other sensory effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration, or detonation, including blank cartridges, balloons requiring fire to propel them, firecrackers, torpedos, skyrockets, Roman candles, bombs, sparklers, stink bombs and other combustibles and explosives of like construction, as well as articles containing any explosive or flammable compound and tablets and other devices containing an explosive substance.

**Gambling or Possession of Gambling Devices:** Playing any game of skill or chance for money or anything of value. Gambling devices include materials used for gambling such as dice or playing cards when not used for legitimate classroom purposes.

**Gang-Related Activity:** Gang-related activity will not be tolerated in Barrow County Schools. A gang member is a person who is part of an association of three or more people allied for a common purpose that engages, individually or collectively, in illegal behavior. Gang-related activity includes, but is not limited to, communication of gang affiliation through hand sign flashing, wearing of clothing articles in a certain way or color scheme, jewelry, tattoos, gang symbols or graffiti on personal items, vandalism of public or private property and acts of intimidation, threats, fighting or other forms of violence.

**Harassment:** Harassment means a course of conduct directed at a specific person that causes substantial emotional distress in such person. Disturbing consistently, by pestering or tormenting.

**Homicide:** Murder and non-negligent manslaughter, killing of one human being by another, killing a person through negligence.

**Inappropriate Language:** Includes use of profanity, obscene, vulgar and degrading language or gestures whether verbal, written or using gestures.

**Inappropriate web sites, data or files:** Using a computer to access, download or possess digital content that depicts or describes with pictures, text, sound, animation, or video overt sexual behavior, acts of violence, subversive acts,

activities that do not meet community standards of morality or can not be verified by a teacher as being associated with established curriculum requirements.

**In-School Suspension (ISS):** This program is one to which a student may be assigned for violation of the Student Code of Conduct as an alternative to out-of-school suspension. A student assigned to ISS will be required to maintain his/her regular classroom work and to abide by the administrative regulations of the school's ISS program. Students may not attend or participate in extracurricular or other school related activities on any day they are in ISS.

**Insubordination:** Disobedient to authority

**Larceny/Theft:** The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of public, real or personal property (having a value in the judgment of the principal of \$25 or more) belonging to or in the lawful possession of another person without threat, violence, or bodily harm.

**Long-Term Suspension:** Long-term suspension shall mean denial to a student of the right to attend school and take part in any school function for any period of more than ten (10) school days. This corrective action will be imposed only after appropriate due process, including a disciplinary tribunal as outlined in Barrow County Board of Education policies. Students may not attend or participate in extracurricular or other school related activities on any day they are suspended.

**Misuse of Pass/Agenda:** The student agenda remains the property of the school and should be treated in the same manner as a textbook.

**Motor Vehicle Theft:** Theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.

**Obscene:** Repulsive by reason of crass disregard of moral or ethical principles.

**Off-Campus Criminal Charges:** A student who has been arrested, charged or convicted in a court with a felony or an offense which would be considered to be a felony if the student were an adult, or is charged with an assault upon another student, a violation of drug laws or sexual misconduct of a serious nature and whose presence at school is reasonably certain to endanger other students or staff or cause substantial disruption to the educational climate.

**Partial Attendance:** Partial attendance is defined as any day or class period that a student does not attend the full period/day. Tardies and early dismissals are both considered partial attendance and shall be treated in a similar manner. Therefore, the accumulation of five or more partial attendance days, in any combination of tardies and early dismissals, within a 9 week grading period shall disqualify a student from Perfect Attendance recognition.

**Peer Mediation:** Mediation is the intervention into a dispute by a neutral third party having no authoritative decision-making power to assist the disputants in voluntarily reaching their own acceptable settlement of the issues in dispute.

**Probation:** A trial period during which a student violating school and/or school system rules is subject to further disciplinary action.

**Profanity and Obscene Language:** Includes use of profane, vulgar or obscene words or gestures in the presence of any teacher, administrator, employee or student.

**Reflective Writing Assignment:** The writing assignment is generally an essay that the student writes on a topic related to the offense and how to avoid that offense in the future. \

**Response to Intervention(RTI):** RTI: Response to Intervention (RTI) is a tiered system of support provided to all students enrolled in a school district. As students show signs of academic or behavioral difficulty, research-based interventions are systematically applied and progress is measured. Based on how the student responds to these interventions he/she may receive more intense intervention or be considered for specialized support programs.

**Restitution:** A student may be required to pay for or restore any damages caused by his or her actions.

**Robbery:** Taking or attempting to take, anything of value that is owned by another person or organization, by force or threat of force or violence. This includes extortion of lunch money.

**School Dress Code:** See School Board Policy JCDB Dress Code.

**School Service:** A community service project that occurs at school and is approved by the school administrator or designee. The project is designed to allow the student to practice desired character traits such as responsibility, citizenship, cleanliness, cooperation and school pride. School service must occur outside of class time.

**School-sponsored Activity:** An activity or event sponsored by the Barrow County School System or participated in by officially recognized teams, clubs, or groups of students of Barrow County Schools. This includes events that occur on a Barrow County School System campus, and field trips, athletic, band or academic competition events off campus.

**Sexual Battery:** Illegal touching of private body parts of another person (either through human contact or using an object), indecent liberties, child molestation, fondling, sodomy, rape or intercourse where the victim is incapable of giving consent due to youth or mental incapacity.

**Sexual Harassment:** Deliberate, repeated, and unsolicited physical actions, gestures, or verbal or written comments of a sexual nature, when such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with a student's academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning environment.

**Sexual Offenses:** Sexual intercourse, sexual contact, or other unlawful behavior or contact intended to result in sexual gratification without force or threat of force and where the victim is capable of giving consent. Includes indecent exposure.

**Short-Term Suspension:** Short-term suspension shall mean the denial to a student of the right to attend school and take part in any school function for a period not exceeding ten (10) days. A conference with the student must precede any suspension from school. Parents must be notified of the suspension and be provided an opportunity to discuss their student's conduct. Students may not attend or participate in extracurricular or other school related activities on any day they are suspended.

**Tardy:** Tardy is defined as arriving to school or class after the designated start time. For perfect attendance and other recognition purposes five or more tardies within a 9 week grading period shall disqualify a student from Perfect Attendance recognition.

**Terroristic Threats:** A terroristic threat occurs when a person threatens, *through verbal or written means including email and derogatory student websites*, to commit any crime of violence or to burn or damage property with the purpose of terrorizing another or of causing the evacuation of a building, place of assembly, or facility of public transportation or otherwise causing serious public inconvenience, or in reckless disregard of the risk of causing such terror or inconvenience.

**Threat/Intimidation:** Unlawfully placing another person in fear of bodily harm through verbal threats without displaying a weapon by any means including electronic means such as email or websites.

**Tobacco:** Possession, use, distribution or sale of tobacco products.

**Trespassing:** Entering or remaining on a school campus or School Board facility without authorization or invitation and with no lawful purpose for entry. Includes students under suspension or expulsion, and unauthorized persons who enter or remain on a campus after being directed to leave by the administrator or designee.

**Truant:** Any student who has more than five unexcused absences in a school year. School days missed as a result of an out of school suspension shall not count for the purpose of determining student truancy.

**Vandalism:** The willful and/or malicious destruction, damage, or defacement of public or private property, real or personal, without the consent of the owner.

**Verbal Altercation:** A heated angry dispute, involving words and may involve minor physical contact such as pushing, spitting, grabbing, etc.

**Verbal/Nonverbal Abuse:** The expression of profane, obscene, lewd, indecent, vulgar, libelous or slanderous messages toward another person. This includes verbal expression, written expression and gestures.

**Weapons:** A student shall not possess, use, handle or transmit any weapon. Weapon means and includes any pistol, revolver, or any weapon designed or intended to propel a missile of any kind, or any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, metal knucks, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any weapon of like kind, and any stun gun or taser as defined in subsection (a) of Code Section 16-11-106. Students who possess firearms on campus will be subject to a minimum of a one calendar year suspension/expulsion and will be referred to law enforcement officials.

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### **Summary of Changes to the Code of Conduct**

- Policy JCDA page 2: Replaced the words Student Support with 504 to be more accurate in the team that will review Section 504 placement decisions also added the phrase “but not covered under IDEA” to clarify that these are separate federal laws with different procedural requirements and protections.
- Header: Updated effective date to July 1, 2008
- Page 5, **Student with Disabilities:** Replaced the words Student Support with 504 team to be more accurate in the team that will review Section 504 placement decisions.
- Page 6, Class I Corrective Actions: Added Response to Intervention referral as a possible corrective action.
- Page 6, Class II Corrective Actions: Replaced Referral to Preschool Special Education for Screening with Response to Intervention referral.
- Page 7, Class I, II and III Corrective Actions: Replaced Student Support Team with Response to intervention
- Page 7, Class III added offense of “falsifying reports regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher or other school personnel” in order to comply with HB1321 which was passed by Georgia General Assembly in 2008 legislative session.
- Page 8, Class I and II Corrective Actions: Replaced Student Support Team with Response to intervention
- Page 9, Class III and IV Corrective Actions: Replaced Student Support Team with Response to intervention
- Page 9, Class III added offense of “falsifying reports regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher or other school personnel” in order to comply with HB1321 which was passed by Georgia General Assembly in 2008 legislative session.
- Page 10, Class I and II Corrective Actions: Replaced Student Support Team with Response to intervention
- Page 11, Class III and IV Corrective Actions: Replaced Student Support Team with Response to intervention

- Page 11, Class III added offense of “falsifying reports regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher or other school personnel” in order to comply with HB1321 which was passed by Georgia General Assembly in 2008 legislative session.
- Page 14: Added definition for Response to Intervention.
- Page 15: Deleted Student Support Team definition.
- Page 16: Added section for changes from previous Student Code of Conduct