



September 1, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Ashe County Schools is committed to maintaining a safe and orderly climate in our schools and at all school activities. The following Code of Student Conduct includes our expectations for proper conduct as well as consequences for inappropriate behavior for all Ashe County students. The Code of Student Conduct and policies that align with this code are available online at www.asheschools.org.

To be truly effective, discipline must be a joint effort between home and school. Please read the Code of Student Conduct carefully, sign the Parent/Guardian Verification of Receipt and Review, and return it to the school your child attends within five days of receiving.

We ask your support for your child to follow all rules and regulations to help keep our schools safe. Appropriate behavior is directly linked to a positive and safe learning environment and academic achievement for students. Let's partner together to provide the best possible education for all of our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eisa M. Cox, Ed.D.".

Dr. Eisa M. Cox
Superintendent
Ashe County Schools
eisa.cox@ashe.k12.nc.us
336-246-7175 Office

ACCESS TO POLICIES Students and families are encouraged to review and discuss the material contained in this handbook, which summarizes several important policies. Please note that this document is not a comprehensive list of all district policies and that these summaries are not a substitute for the policies themselves. Full copies of all of the policies referenced in this handbook are available online at www.asheschools.org and at the school system's central administrative offices at 320 South Street in Jefferson. All other policies and procedures are available online at www.asheschools.org. Students and their families are urged to review the actual language of these policies and procedures, which include important information about student rights and responsibilities. Please contact the administration of your student's school if you have questions about a policy.

Ashe County Schools Student Code of Conduct

The Ashe County Board of Education is committed to discipline practices that encourage the development of self-control, personal responsibility and respect for the dignity of all individuals. The Board is committed to maintaining effective discipline in order to establish positive learning environments in which students have the opportunity to receive an appropriate public education. Each student in the Ashe County Schools is responsible for exhibiting the highest standards of behavior.

In order for effective discipline to be maintained in each school, the Board acknowledges that cooperative relationships must be established among students, parents, and school personnel. School personnel shall actively seek effective, positive methods and strategies to help each student learn to behave in a manner that is conducive to effective learning and that respects the rights of others. Each school principal shall systematically identify potential problem areas that may contribute to discipline problems. The Board encourages school administration to continue to work with appropriate community agencies in dealing with the discipline issues.

School-wide systems of support have been established at all school sites that include proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate student behaviors to create positive school environments. Instead of using a patchwork of individual behavioral management plans, a continuum of positive behavior support for all students is implemented in areas including the classroom and non-classroom settings.

The Code of Student Conduct states our system-wide expectations for student behavior designed to provide the best possible school climate. The Code of Student Conduct does not restrict the authority of teachers, site-based teams, or principals to make individual school or class rules. It is not all-inclusive. Administrators shall use their discretion in dealing with all specific behavior that violates the principles set forth in the Code. Consideration is to be given to the student's cognitive and developmental ability to appreciate the significance of his/her behavior and to assume responsibility for behavior.

Children with Special Needs

Disciplinary actions for students identified as exceptional children according to North Carolina guidelines will conform to *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities* as adopted by the State Board of Education. All students with disabilities will be accorded all rights as provided by state and federal law.

System-Wide Uniform Consequences for Misconduct

The principal or his/her designee shall investigate and deal with incidents of alleged misconduct of students under the following conditions:

- a student discipline problem is referred;
- the alleged misconduct violates the Code of Student Conduct; or
- the principal determines that a situation exists which could pose a danger to persons or property or which seriously disrupts the learning environment

Teachers and/or other student support personnel should utilize reasonable available discipline alternatives and preventive measures prior to referring the student to the principal or designee, unless the student's behavior presents harm or significant risk of harm to others or property or is a threat to the orderly operation of the school. School personnel may use reasonable force to control behavior or to remove a person from educational property when necessary.

Applicability of Code

All students shall comply with the Code of Student Conduct while on educational property (hereinafter defined) or other property under the control of the Ashe County Board of Education. Students may also be disciplined for conduct that occurs off educational property that violates this Code of Student Conduct if the conduct has, or is reasonably expected to have, a direct and immediate impact on the orderly and efficient operation of the schools or the safety of individuals in the school environment.

N.C. General Statute §115C-390.2(c)

Definitions

Board—The Ashe County Board of Education (ACBOE).

Corporal Punishment—The Ashe County Board of Education does not permit the use of

corporal punishment in school. Discipline shall be administered in accordance with this Code of Student Conduct and applicable policies adopted by the Board of Education, including, for example, ACBOE Policy Manual 4300 series and ACBOE Policy 4302, *School Plan for Management of Student Behavior*.

Day—Any day except school approved holidays and vacation days for students, legal holidays, Saturdays, or Sundays.

Educational Property—Any school campus, school building, athletic facility, recreational facility or other school facility; school bus, activity bus, or other school transportation vehicle; school bus stop; or any other property owned, leased, or occupied by the Ashe County Schools; or other property under the control of the Ashe County Board of Education.

Expulsion—The permanent exclusion of a student from the Ashe County Schools, including presence on educational property for any purpose not expressly permitted by law.

Weapons and Weapon-Like Items—Students are prohibited from possessing, handling, using or transmitting, whether concealed or open, any weapon or any instrument that reasonably resembles a weapon or could be used as a weapon.

Long-Term Suspension—The disciplinary exclusion of a student from educational property for more than 10 consecutive days. If the offense leading to the long-term suspension occurred before the final quarter of the school year, the exclusion shall not exceed the remainder of the school year in which the offense was committed. If the offense leading to the long-term suspension occurred during the final quarter of the school year, the exclusion may include the remainder of the school year in which the offense was committed and the first semester of the following school year. Refer to ACBOE Policy 4353, *Long-Term Suspension, 365-Day Suspension, Expulsion*.

365-Day Suspension- The disciplinary exclusion of a student from educational property for 365 calendar days. The superintendent may impose a 365-day suspension only as provided in N. C. Gen. Stat. §115C-390.10 and ACBOE Policy 4333, *Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats and Clear Threats to Safety*.

Parent—The natural parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or other caregiver adult who is acting in the place of a parent and is entitled under state law to enroll the student in school.

Principal—The school principal and/or the principal's designee.

School Personnel—Includes the following:

- any employee of the Board of Education
- any person working on educational property or at a school function under a contract or written agreement with the Ashe County Schools to provide educational or related

- services to students
- any person working on educational property or at a school function for another agency providing educational or related services to students

Short-Term Suspension— The disciplinary exclusion of a student from educational property and participation in school activities or events for up to ten days.

Superintendent—The superintendent or the superintendent’s designee.

Reports to Law Enforcement

When a principal has personal knowledge or actual notice from school personnel that an act has occurred on educational property involving assault resulting in serious personal injury, sexual assault, sexual offense, rape, kidnapping(s), indecent liberties with a minor, assault involving the use of a weapon, possession of a firearm in violation of the law, possession of a weapon in violation of the law, possession of a controlled substance in violation of the law, assault on a school employee, robbery, armed robbery, homicide, manslaughter, or death by vehicle, the principal shall report the act to the appropriate local law enforcement agency, shall notify parents/guardians of any alleged student victim, and shall notify the superintendent. Notification shall occur in writing or by electronic mail by the end of the workday in which the incident occurred, when reasonably possible, but not later than the end of the following workday. The superintendent shall communicate the information to the Board of Education.

The principal may notify law enforcement of any other potential criminal conduct or incident which the principal believes may jeopardize the safety, security, or well-being of the school environment.

Consequences and Behavioral Interventions

Violation of North Carolina laws, Board of Education policies, this Code of Student Conduct, or regulations issued by the individual school or teacher, may result in disciplinary action. Principals shall inform students at the beginning of each school year of the contents of this policy and any school rules that may result in discipline. Most disciplinary consequences can occur with the student remaining in an educational environment. In-school disciplinary consequences available to principals include behavior contracts, peer mediation, in-school suspension, conflict resolution, detention, restitution, loss of privileges, and school or community service. When in the judgment of the school principal, a student’s behavior warrants an out-of-school suspension, the principal may impose a short-term suspension or, for more serious violations of the Code of Student Conduct, may recommend a long-term suspension, a 365-day suspension, or an expulsion. Suspensions of greater than ten days are reserved for serious misconduct which either threatens the safety of others within the school or

threatens to substantially disrupt the educational environment.

In determining the appropriate consequence for a violation of the Code of Student Conduct, principals shall consider all aggravating or mitigating circumstances they deem relevant. Examples of aggravating or mitigating circumstances that may be considered include but are not limited to:

- student's age
- student's intent
- student's disciplinary history, including number of infractions and prior discipline for the same violation
- student's academic history
- whether the conduct caused a threat to safety
- whether educational property or personal property was damaged
- whether the conduct caused a substantial disruption of the educational environment
- whether a weapon was involved and whether any injury resulted

The Code of Student Conduct Rules are leveled, indicating the severity of the violation and the type of consequence. Level I violations are considered **minor**. Level II violations are considered **major**. **Level III, Level IV, and Level V violations** are considered **severe**. The school principal shall inform students of individual school rules that, if violated, may result in suspension from school.

Level I violations generally should result in in-school interventions. In cases where a student refuses to participate in the designated in-school interventions or engages in persistent violations of a Level I rule, or other aggravating factors are present, the principal may impose a short-term suspension. Level I rule violations may not result in a long-term suspension except in cases of repeated violations.

Level II violations involve more serious misconduct that may warrant a short-term suspension. The principals may recommend a long-term suspension and report the violation to law enforcement based upon the presence of aggravating factors.

Level III violations are more severe in nature and warrant a long-term suspension and a report to law enforcement. The principal may impose a short-term suspension based on mitigating factors. Refer to ACBOE Policies 4351, *Short-Term Suspension*; 4353, *Long-Term Suspension*, 365-Day Suspension, Expulsion; and 4361, *Appeals of Long-Term Suspension*.

Level IV violations compromise the safety and welfare of students and staff, and require a suspension of a specific length as provided by the North Carolina General Statutes. Law enforcement may also be involved.

Level V violations permit the expulsion of a student as provided N. C. Gen. Stat. § 390.11 if the student is fourteen (14) years of age or older and the student’s behavior indicates that his/her continued presence constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or staff and the Board determines that there is no appropriate alternative education program. Additionally, a student who is subject to ACBOE Policy 4260, *Student Sex Offenders*, may be expelled if the student’s continued presence constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or staff. Refer to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-208.18

Code of Student Conduct

The following list is a guide and not inclusive of all behaviors.

Violations of the Code of Student Conduct

The following rules for conduct apply to all students, and a violation of these rules will result in consequences as described below. In appropriate circumstances, the principal has the authority to exercise his/her good judgement and apply a greater or lesser consequence than those stated here. Aggravating circumstances may result in more severe consequences than listed for the specific rule violation and mitigating circumstances may result in less severe consequences than listed for the specific rule violation.

Minor Infractions

Level I—Warning, In-School Interventions, Possible Short-Term Suspension

Repetitive actions of the following infractions will result in more severe consequences.

- I-1 Inappropriate Language—Cursing or use of vulgar, profane, obscene language and racial slurs is prohibited.
- I-2 Attendance—Students shall follow state and local attendance guidelines. Students shall be considered truant and subject to consequences whenever they are absent or tardy from school without a valid excuse. Refer to ACBOE Policy 4400, *Attendance*, and the Tardies Procedure under Policy 4400, *Attendance*)
- I-3 Being in an unauthorized area or having food/drink in unauthorized areas.
- I-4 Compliance with Directions—Students shall comply with all directions of principals, teachers, substitute teachers, student teachers, teacher assistants, bus drivers, and all other authorized school personnel.

- I-5 Disrespect of Other Students—Students shall not mistreat fellow students or act in a way that interferes with the ability of other students to learn in a peaceful and safe environment.
- I-6 Defacing of Educational property/Littering—To deface, mar, or spoil the appearance or surface of any educational property and to litter any educational property are prohibited.
- I-7 Disruptive Behavior—Students may not use any means to interrupt or interfere with teaching or orderly conduct of school activities.
- I-8 Excessive Display of Affection—Students shall conduct their personal and social relationships according to community standards. Students will refrain from inappropriate touching contact as deemed by administration.
- I-9 Wireless Communication Devices/Unmanned Aerial Vehicles—Students are permitted to possess wireless communication devices on educational property so long as the devices do not disrupt the environment or instructional day as directed by school rules or school personnel. Wireless communication devices include, but are not limited to, cellular telephones, electronic devices with internet capability, paging devices, two-way radios, drones or other unmanned aerial vehicles, and similar devices. The Ashe County Schools is not responsible for any devices lost, stolen or damaged while on educational property or at school events.

Electronic devices may be used by students for instructional purposes with the permission and under the supervision of a teacher. Any device possessed or used in violation of this policy shall be confiscated. Penalties for violation of this policy are set at the discretion of the principal. Refer to ACBOE Policy 4318, *Use of Wireless Communication Devices*.

Laser pointers are prohibited. If a student uses a laser pointer in a way that reasonably could or does cause physical harm, the laser pointer may be considered a weapon and the student will be disciplined accordingly.

- I-10 Student Dress Code—The purpose of the dress code is to ensure that a student’s dress and appearance promote a positive learning environment, does not disrupt the learning of others or the general operation of the school, and does not create a safety hazard. Maintaining a positive learning environment and ensuring the health and safety of each student are high priorities of the Ashe County Schools. Students are expected to dress in a manner that does not cause disruption at school and promotes respect. Clothing should be clean, neat, and appropriate for school wear. Refer to ACBOE Policy 4316, *Student Dress Code*.
- I-11 Gambling—Students shall not participate in any unauthorized games of chance in which

money or other items of value may be won or lost.

- I-12 Disruptive or Indecent Images, Literature or Illustrations—The possession or distribution of images, literature, or illustrations that are vulgar, indecent, or obscene or that are disruptive to the educational environment are prohibited.
- I-13 Misconduct on a School Vehicle—While riding a school bus or other school vehicle, students shall observe the directives of the school bus driver and/or monitor. The following conduct is specifically prohibited:
- delaying the bus schedule
 - refusing to obey the driver’s instructions
 - tampering with or willfully damaging a school vehicle
 - getting off at an undesignated stop
 - failing to observe established safety rules and regulations
 - throwing objects from the vehicle
 - willfully trespassing upon a school bus or other school vehicle
 - violation of any other rule of the Code of Student Conduct policy while on the school bus or other school vehicle

Bus misconduct can lead to student suspension of bus transportation.

Major Infractions

Level II—In-School Disciplinary Consequence with Mitigating Factors/Short-Term Suspension/Recommendation of Long-Term Suspension and Possible Court Involvement

- II-1 Cheating—Cheating is the giving or receiving of any unauthorized aid or assistance or the giving or receiving of unfair advantage on any form of academic work. Students shall not engage in any act of deception or falsification of work product.
- II-2 Plagiarism—Plagiarism is the copying of the language, structure, idea, and/or thought of another and representing it as one’s own original work.
- II-3 Falsification of Information—Falsification is the verbal or written statement of any untruth or any acts of disrespect. Students shall not provide false information to school officials and/or parents or guardians with regard to any school business.
- II-4 Verbal Abuse/Disrespect of Faculty and Staff—Students may not direct toward any school employee cursing, vulgar, or abusive language.

- II-5 Skipping Class— Students shall come to school, remain at school once they have arrived, and be present in their designated homeroom and/or their assigned classroom unless otherwise authorized by the principal or his/her designee.
- II-6 Insubordination—Student willfully defies authority. Students shall comply with the directions of all principals, assistant principals, teachers, substitute teachers, counselors, media specialists, teacher assistants, student teachers, coaches, advisors, bus drivers, bus supervisors, and any other authorized school personnel at all times while on educational property or at any school-sponsored event.
- II-7 Possession of Student's Own Prescription Drug— Refer to ACBOE Policy 6125, *Administering Medicines to Students*,
- II-8 Use of Tobacco—At no time shall students be allowed to possess, smoke, use tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, vaporizers or other electronic smoking devices (even if the device does not contain tobacco or nicotine) on educational property, on a school vehicle, or at any school-sponsored event.
- II-9 Threat/False Threat—No student shall make any threat through written or verbal language or act which conveys a serious expression of intent to cause harm or violence. Furthermore, no student shall make a false threat of harm or violence, even in jest, which causes or is reasonably likely to cause fear or a disruption to school activities.
- II-10 Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination—Students shall not engage in bullying, harassment and related acts of discrimination. Refer to ACBOE Policy 1710/4020/7230, *Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited By Federal Law*.
- II-11 Computer Misuse—Students shall comply with ACBOE Policy 3225/4312/7320, *Technology Acceptable Use*. In addition to the provisions of that policy, the following are specifically prohibited:
- sending or displaying offensive, vulgar, crude, obscene or threatening messages, pictures or video
 - cyber-bullying—the use of the Internet and related technologies to harm other people, in a deliberate, repeated, and hostile manner
 - damaging digital devices, software or computer networks
 - violating copyright laws
 - using another's ID or password
 - unauthorized use of student school email
 - employing the network for commercial purposes

In the event a student engages in any of the above-referenced activities, his/her access privileges will be revoked and other disciplinary measures may result.

- II-12 Inappropriate Items on Educational Property—Students are not to possess on educational property any item that is disruptive to the instructional day.
- II-13 Theft or Damage to Property—No student may steal or attempt to steal any property , knowingly possess stolen property, or intentionally damage or attempt to damage any property of the Ashe County Schools or any individual.
- II-14 Fighting/Physical Aggression—No student may intentionally strike, hit, shove, scratch, bite, pull hair, restrict passage or movement, throw objects, or otherwise act physically aggressive toward any other person. No student shall incite or encourage, by any form of communication, others to engage in any altercation or other prohibited conduct.

A student who is attacked may use reasonable force in self-defense, but only to the extent necessary to get free from the attack and notify proper school authorities. A student who exceeds reasonable force may be disciplined even though someone else initiated or provoked the altercation.

Severe Infractions

Level III—Short-Term Suspension/Possible Long-Term Suspension with Aggravating Factors/Possible Court Action

- III-1 Hazing—No group or individual shall require a student to wear abnormal dress, play abusive or ridiculous tricks on him/her, frighten, scold, swear, harass or subject him/her to personal indignity.
- III-2 Arson—No student may initiate or attempt to initiate any fire on educational property unless specifically authorized and supervised by school officials.
- III-3 False Fire Alarms—No student shall engage, attempt to engage, or report any false fire alarm or assist any other person in the engagement or reporting of a false firm alarm.
- III-4 Trespassing—No student may be present on the campus of another school in the district during the school day without the knowledge and consent of the officials of the that school. Any student who is present on educational property without permission is subject to disciplinary action for trespass. Any student who has been suspended from school is subject to further disciplinary action if he or she is present on educational property during the period of suspension without the express permission of the principal.
- III-5 Possession of Another Person’s Prescription Drug—The possession of another person’s prescription medication is prohibited. Refer to ACBOE Policy 6125, *Administering Medicines to Students*.

- III-6 Gangs and Gang Activities—The Board of Education believes that gangs and gang-related activities pose a serious safety threat to students and staff members of the Ashe County Schools. Gang-related activities disrupt the educational environment and increase the risks of future violence. Gang-related activities are prohibited.
- III-7 Assault on School Personnel—No student may assault or attempt to assault any school employee or other person.
- III-8 Assault on Another Student—No student may assault or attempt to assault any other student.
- III-9 Coercion or Extortion—No student may use force or violence, or the threat of force or Violence, to obtain money, property, personal services, or other benefit from another student.
- III-10 Controlled Substances and Drug Paraphernalia—No student shall possess, use, inhale, ingest, transmit, conspire to transmit, or be under the influence of (a) any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, anabolic steroid, or any other controlled substance, (b) any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, fortified wine or other intoxicating liquor, (c) any drug paraphernalia, counterfeit drug, or other chemical product or substance designed to bring about a state of exhilaration or euphoria or other alteration of mood or behavior.
- III-11 Sexual Harassment—Sexual harassment is prohibited. See ACBOE Policy *Title IX Sexual Harassment – Prohibited Conduct and Reporting Process*.

Level IV—Suspensions Required Under State Law

- IV-1 Bomb Threats—Students are prohibited from making or aiding in the making of a threat or other report of the presence of a bomb or other destructive device on educational property. Such conduct is subject to criminal prosecution under applicable North Carolina law including, but not limited to N. C. Gen. Stat. §§ 14-69.1 and 14-69.2. No student may knowingly or willfully cause, encourage, aid or assist another student or other person to make a bomb threat or perpetrate a bomb hoax. Any student who becomes aware that another student or other person intends to use a bomb or other destructive device on educational property, make a bomb threat, or perpetrate a bomb hoax must notify school personnel immediately.
- IV-2 Weapons and Other Dangerous Instruments—Students are prohibited from using, possessing, or transmitting, whether concealed or open, any weapon or any instrument that reasonably resembles a weapon or could be used as a weapon.

Weapons include, but are not limited to, the following: loaded and unloaded firearms, including guns, pistols and rifles; destructive devices, including explosives, such as dynamite cartridges, bombs, grenades and mines; knives, including pocket knives, bowie knives, switch blade knives,, dirks and daggers; slingshots and slung shots; leaded canes; blackjacks; metal knuckles; BB and pellet guns, air rifles and air pistols; stun guns and other electric shock weapons, such as tasers; icepicks; razors and razor blades; box cutters; fire-works; and any sharp pointed or edged instruments.

No student may knowingly or willfully cause, encourage or aid another student to use, possess, or transmit any weapon or any instrument that reasonably resembles a weapon or could be used as a weapon. A student who finds a weapon or weapon-like item, who witnesses another student or other person with such an item, or who becomes aware that another student or other person intends to use, possess, or transmit such an item shall notify school personnel immediately.

This section does not apply to the exemptions permitted by N. C. Gen. Stat. § 14-269.2(g).

As provided by N. C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-390.10, a student who brings or possesses a firearm or destructive device on educational property or at a school-sponsored event is subject to suspension for 365 days. The superintendent may modify, in writing, the required 365-day suspension for an individual student on a case-by-case basis.

Level V—Expulsion

An expulsion is the indefinite exclusion of a student from school enrollment for disciplinary purposes. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, the Board may expel a student who is 14 years of age or older whose continued presence in school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or school staff. During the expulsion, the student is not entitled to be present on any property of the Ashe County Schools and is not considered a student of the Ashe County Schools. Refer to ACBOE Policy 4353, *Long-Term Suspension, 365-Day Suspension, Expulsion* and N. C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-390.11.

While this document is intended to provide notice to students and parents of general expectations for behavior and consequences for misconduct, it must be understood that discretion will have to be used in dealing with a wide range in age and maturity of students, and that consideration must be given to the seriousness of the infraction(s) when determining the severity of the consequences. The disciplinary process will include parent contact and a parent conference, when necessary. Administrative discretion will be exercised regarding consequences and law enforcement may be involved. Other inappropriate behavior not identified in this Code of Conduct document will be addressed by the principal and/or other

school personnel and may result in the imposition of the consequences listed or other consequences as deemed warranted.

Discrimination, Harassment, & Bullying

Students are expected to comply with the behavior standards established by the Board of Education and the Student Code of Conduct. A violation of this policy is serious and school personnel shall take prompt and appropriate action to investigate claims of discrimination, harassment, and/or bullying. Based on the nature and the severity of the offense and the circumstances surrounding the incident, a student who violates this policy is subject to consequences and remedial actions ranging from positive behavior interventions to possible expulsion. School counselors work to promote kindness and character education and foster a school culture of acceptance, tolerance and respect. A student who believes he/she is experiencing, or has experienced discrimination, harassment or bullying is encouraged to contact school personnel immediately.

Additionally, accessible through a cell phone for Ashe County Schools students is the anonymous "Say Something App." This App allows students and/or adults to report acts of discrimination, harassment, or bullying (or other inappropriate conduct) anonymously and without fear of retaliation. School personnel will investigate and address reports of inappropriate as provided by applicable Board of Education policies.

Safe and Drug Free Schools

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any school campus or other educational property. Any student who possesses or engages in the delivery, sale or other distribution of an illegal drug on educational property or at a school event is subject to suspension for the remainder of the school year, and law enforcement will be notified. If you have specific information concerning the use, possession, sale or distribution of drugs on your campus, please contact your school's principal. Our purpose is to ensure that our schools are safe places for all students to learn.

Prohibited Behavior

Illegal drugs and alcohol are harmful to students. Students are prohibited from possessing, using, selling, distributing, or being under the influence of any of the following substances:

- Narcotic drugs
- Hallucinogenic drugs
- Amphetamines
- Barbiturates
- Prescription drugs and inhalants not intended for the individual prescribed
- Marijuana

- Controlled substances
- Any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, fortified wine, or other intoxicating liquor; or
- Any chemicals or products procured or used with the intention of bringing about a state of exhilaration or euphoria or of otherwise altering the student's mood or behavior.

Students also are prohibited from possessing, using, selling, or distributing drug paraphernalia or counterfeit (fake) drugs. Students may not in any way participate in selling or distributing prohibited substances, regardless of whether the sale or distribution occurs on educational property. The first violation of the possession, consumption, or distribution of a prohibited drug or other substance, an unauthorized prescription or over-the-counter medication, or alcohol may result in a recommendation for a long-term suspension. Possession or use of prescription and over-the-counter drugs is not in violation of this policy if the possession or use is in accordance with ACBOE Policy 6125, Administering Medications to Students.

No student shall possess, use, or distribute any tobacco product, including all lighted and smokeless tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, vaping devices, JUUL's, and other electronic smoking devices, even if they do not contain tobacco or nicotine, on any educational property or at any school event.

The principal may authorize the lawful use of substances otherwise prohibited by this policy for approved school projects.

Title IX Information

The US Department of Education provides information regarding Title IX to assist school districts in working with students and parents/guardians in the area of sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the school system's education program or activity. Such conduct can include sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking. A person may report sexual harassment at any time (including non-business hours) by telephone, email, U. S. Mail, or personal notice to the Title IX Coordinator for the Ashe County Schools, Roy Putman, Human Resources Director. His contact information is as follows:

Roy Putman
Human Resources Director
Ashe County Schools
320 South Street
Jefferson, NC 28640
Telephone: (336) 246-7175
Email: roy.putman@ashe.k12.nc.us

Refer to ACBOE policies 1725/4035/7236, TITLE IX SEXUAL HARASSMENT – PROHIBITED CONDUCT AND REPORTING PROCESS; 1720/4030/7235, TITLE IX NONDISCRIMINATION

ON THE BASIS OF SEX; 1710/4020/7230, DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW; TITLE IX SEXUAL HARASSMENT – PROHIBITED CONDUCT AND REPORTING PROCESS; and 1726/4036/7237, TITLE IX SEXUAL HARASSMENT GRIEVANCE PROCESS.

Search, Seizure

Schools must be safe and free from weapons, drugs, and other contraband. School officials may search a student, lockers, motor vehicles, computers, and other electronic devices pursuant to ACBOE policy 4342, STUDENT SEARCHES, and may seize any illegal, unauthorized, or contraband materials discovered during the search.

Seclusion, Restraint and Reasonable Force

Seclusion, restraint, and isolation of students is governed by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-391.1 and ACBOE Policy 4375, STUDENT SECLUSION / RESTRAINT / ISOLATION. Further, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-390.3 authorizes school personnel to use reasonable force to control behavior or remove a person from the scene when necessary to correct students, quell a disturbance threatening injury to others, obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects on the person or within the control of a student, act in self-defense, protect other persons or property, and/or to maintain order on educational property or at a school-related activity on or off educational property.

Dropout Prevention/Driver License Legislation

North Carolina has legislation (N. C. Gen. Stat. § 20-11) reflecting a coordinated statewide effort to motivate and encourage students to complete their high school education. The law provides for the revocation of the student's driving permit or license if the student does not maintain adequate academic progress or drops out of school. Adequate academic progress is defined as passing five (5) subjects under a traditional schedule (6- or 7-period day) or 3 out of 4 classes in a block schedule school. This law applies to all North Carolina students under the age of 18 who are eligible for a driving permit or license.

Previously, a student had to present a birth certificate, social security card and Driver Education Completion Certificate to the Department of Motor Vehicles in order to obtain a permit or license. A student is now required to present a Driving Eligibility Certificate, issued by the school and good for 30 days, to the Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain a permit or license. The Driving Eligibility Certificate will only be issued to students making adequate academic progress. Students who do not meet the academic progress requirements will be reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles and their permit or license may be revoked.

Lose Control, Lose Your License Legislation

A student who is expelled, suspended for more than 10 (ten) consecutive days, or assigned to an alternative educational setting for more than 10 (ten) consecutive days for one of the three reasons listed below is subject to having his/her driving permit or license suspended for up to one calendar year.

- The possession or sale of an alcoholic beverage or an illegal controlled substance on educational property.
- The possession or use on educational property of a weapon or firearm that resulted in disciplinary action under G.S. §115C-391(d1) or that could have resulted in that disciplinary action if the conduct had occurred in a public school.
- The physical assault on teacher or other personnel on educational property.

See N. C. Gen. Stat. § 20-11(n1).

**Ashe County Schools
Code of Student Conduct**

Parent/Guardian Verification of Receipt and Review

Parent/Guardian Verification:

This is to certify that I have received and reviewed the Ashe County Schools Code of Student Conduct and understand that this document governs the standards of behavior for students in the Ashe County School System. I understand that these standards of student behavior apply to school sites, off-site school sponsored activities and on any form of transportation provided by Ashe County Schools. I understand policies which align with the Code of Student Conduct may be found on the district's website www.asheschools.org. Each school's individual student handbook may be found on that school's homepage under the "For Students" link.

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signatures

Parent/Guardian Names
(please print)

Student Name
(please print full name)

Please return this form to your child's assigned teacher within 5 days.

Keep the Code of Student Conduct booklet as a reference