

YAZOO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

“Creating Next Generation Leaders”



**STUDENT-PARENT
HANDBOOK
2019-2020**

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YAZOO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

YAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Greg Moseley; Board President

Larry Walls; Board Secretary

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Millicent Ledbetter

Chastity Magyar Ph.D.

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SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Bentonia Gibbs Elementary School

Lorie Lundy Ed.D, Principal

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Charlotte Scott Assistant Principal

Charlotte.scott@yazoo.k12.ms.us

10340 Mississippi 433

Bentonia, MS 39040

Phone: 662-755-2270

Linwood Elementary School

Shundria Shaffer Ph.D, Principal

Shundria.shaffer@yazoo.k12.ms.us

Cristin Ware Assistant Principal

cristin.ware@yazoo.k12.ms.us

3439 Vaughan Road

Vaughan, MS 39179

Phone: 662-673-9191

Yazoo County Middle School

Melanie Roberts, Principal

Melanie.roberts@yazoo.k12.ms.us

Tracy Watts Assistant Principal

Tracy.watts@yazoo.k12.ms.us

116 Panther Drive

Yazoo City, MS 39194

Phone: 662-746-1596

Yazoo County High School

Philip Turner, Principal

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Blaine Overby Assistant Principal

Blaine.overby@yazoo.k12.ms.us

191 Panther Drive

Yazoo City, MS 39194

Phone: 662- 746-1492

Yazoo County Alternative School

Antonio Magee Ph.D, Principal

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191 Panther Drive

Yazoo City, MS 39194

Phone: 662- 746-1492

VISION STATEMENT

It is the vision of the Yazoo County School District to create “Next Generation Leaders.”

MISSION STATEMENT

Yazoo County School District exist to create next generation leaders who pursue purposeful, productive lives.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

The Yazoo County School District Community, Faculty, Staff and Students believe:

- High quality, committed, and passionate teachers who embrace diversity are essential for student success;
- Change is inevitable, and we must adapt to meet the evolving needs of our students and community;
- The success of every student requires nurturing the needs of the whole child;
- Positive relationships yield success;
- Shared beliefs and norms create an internally cohesive environment; and
- A safe, secure environment is foundational to learning.

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

In 2015, Congress passed Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. The federal education law has historically primarily focused on disadvantaged students. ESSA replaced No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT:

As a parent of a child/children in the Yazoo County School District, you are entitled to the following:

- Parents may request information on teacher qualifications at any time;
- If it becomes necessary for a school to hire a teacher who is not highly qualified, and a parent has a child who is being taught by this teacher, the district must let the parent know this within a four-week period; and
- At least 1% of Title I funds must be used for parental engagement.

CONSENT UPON REGISTRATION:

By registration of your child (children) or any student in the Yazoo County School District, all parents, legal guardians, and students do hereby consent to and agree to obey and follow rules and regulations contained in this handbook and such other oral directions of school administrators or teachers as may be necessary or desirable to carry out the orderly educational process of the school.

Furthermore, such parents, legal guardians, and students agree to abide by and follow all rules or school board policies of the Yazoo County School District.

Additionally, all parents, legal guardians, and students agree and are hereby informed that all students of the Yazoo County School District are subject to questioning or being taken into official custody while at school by any appropriately appointed law enforcement official or department of human services agent investigating an official case upon oral or written court order of the Yazoo County Youth Court, County Court, Circuit Court, or Chancery Court of the State of Mississippi.

Click here for: [Student-Parent Handbook Form](#)

Click here for: [Student/Teacher/Parent Compact](#)

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION:

The Yazoo County School District grants equal educational opportunities to all qualified persons regardless of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, marital status, religion, or disability. It is the intent and desire of the Yazoo County Board of Trustees that equal educational opportunities be provided in any and all educational programs and activities. All inquiries regarding Yazoo County School District's nondiscrimination policies, requests for copies of grievance procedures, and filing of grievances should be submitted to the following person:

Dr. Ken Barron; Superintendent
94 Panther Drive
Yazoo City, MS 39194
Ken.barron@yazoo.k12.ms.us

LEGAL REFERENCE: MS Code 37-15-35; 1972 Educational Amendments, Title IX; 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title VI; 1973 Rehabilitation Act, Section 503 & 504; 45 CFR Part 84 and Part 86; Brown vs. Board of Education, 347 U. S. 483 (1954); Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards

Yazoo County School District Academic Calendar 2019-2020

Board Approved 03.04.2019		August 19		September 19		October 19		November 19		December 19		January 20		February 20		March 20		April 20		May 20		June 20																																									
1st Semester		2nd Semester		Su M Tu W Th F Sa		Su M Tu W Th F Sa		Su M Tu W Th F Sa		Su M Tu W Th F Sa		Su M Tu W Th F Sa		Su M Tu W Th F Sa		Su M Tu W Th F Sa		Su M Tu W Th F Sa		Su M Tu W Th F Sa		Su M Tu W Th F Sa		Su M Tu W Th F Sa																																							
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July 31 Principals Meeting		Aug. 1, 2, 5, 6 Professional Development		Aug. 7 First Student Day		Sept. 2 Labor Day		Sept. 5 Progress Reports Sent Home		Oct. 4 End of 1st 9-weeks		Oct. 14 Columbus Day		Oct. 15 Professional Development & Parent-Teacher Conf. 1:00-6:00		Nov. 7 Progress Reports Sent Home		Nov. 25-29 Thanksgiving		Dec. 18-20 Semester Exams		Dec. 20 60% Day		Dec. 20 End of 2nd 9-weeks		Dec. 23-Jan 6 Christmas Holiday		Jan. 6 Professional Development		Jan. 7 Students Return to School		Jan. 20 Martin Luther King Holiday		Jan. 21 Parent Teacher Conference Until 6:00		Feb. 6 Progress Reports Sent Home		Mar. 6 End of 3rd 9-weeks		March 9-13, Spring Holidays		Mar. 26 Parent Teacher Conference Until 6:00		April 10 Good Friday		April 13 Easter Monday		May 14-15, Senior Exams		May 19-21 Semester Exams		May 21 Graduation 7:00 p.m.		May 21, 60% Day		May 21 Last Student Day		May 22 Professional Development		Total Student Days 180		Total Teacher Days 187	

State Retest HS Professional Dev. 60% Days Senior Exams Par./Tchr Conf.

State Primary Test Holidays First/Last Stud. Day Semester Exams

State Testing dates have not been finalized yet. A revised calendar will be issued when finalized.

2019-2020 Statewide Testing Calendar

Test Name	Details	Testing Window			Testing Population	
		Start Date	Finish Date	Maximum Duration in Minutes	Grade Levels	Repeaters
Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA)	Pretest Posttest	8/12/2019 3/23/2020	9/20/2019 4/24/2020	41 41	PK-K PK-K	No No
3rd Grade MS Academic Assessment Program ELA	Initial	4/13/2020	4/24/2020	113	3	Yes
3rd Grade Reading Alternative Assessment	1st Retest	5/11/2020	5/15/2020	92	3	Yes
3rd Grade Reading Alternative Assessment	2nd Retest	6/22/2020	7/10/2020	92	3	Yes
MS Academic Assessment Program for Biology and U.S. History	Fall	11/18/2019	12/13/2019	Untimed	9-12	Yes
MS Academic Assessment Program for English II & Algebra I		11/18/2019	12/13/2019	207-257	English II, Algebra I	Yes
MS Academic Assessment Program for ELA & Math	Spring	4/13/2020	5/15/2020	207-257	3-8, English II, Algebra I	Yes
MS Academic Assessment Program for Grade 5 and Grade 8 Science		4/13/2020	5/15/2020	180	5 & 8	No
MS Academic Assessment Program for Biology and U.S. History		4/13/2020	5/15/2020	Untimed	9-12	Yes
Special Populations						
MS Academic Assessment Program - Alternate	ELA & Math Science	3/16/2020 3/16/2020	5/8/2020 5/8/2020	Untimed Untimed	SCD 3-12 5, 8, 11	Yes Yes
LAS Links-English Language Proficiency Test	English Learners Paper	3/2/2020 2/25/2020	4/10/2020 2/25/2020	Untimed 175	K - 12 11	No No
	Initial Accommodations	2/25/2020	3/6/2020	175	11	No
	Online	2/25/2020	3/5/2020	175	11	No
	Paper-only Make-up	3/17/2020	3/17/2020	175	11	No
	Accommodations Make-up	3/17/2020	3/27/2020	175	11	No
	Emergency Make-up	3/31/2020	3/31/2020	175	11	No
	Emergency Accommodations	3/31/2020	4/10/2020	175	11	No
	Fall	11/11/2019	11/14/2019	TBD	Secondary	No
	Fall Make-up	11/15/2019	11/15/2019	TBD	Secondary	No
	Performance-Based Assessment	4/1/2020	4/30/2020	TBD	Secondary	No
	National Certifications Testing	4/1/2020	5/8/2020	TBD	Secondary	No
	Spring	4/8/2020	4/29/2020	TBD	Secondary	No
	Spring Make-up	4/30/2020	4/30/2020	TBD	Secondary	No
<p>ACT *Please refer to the ACT Schedule of Events for specific online and accommodations testing days.</p>						
<p>MS Career Planning Assessment System, Third Edition *This assessment is for Career and Technical Education students only.</p>						
<p>Key: NA = Not Applicable; TBD = To be determined. Mardi Gras is February 25, 2020; Easter is April 12, 2020; Spring Break typically will be March 9-13, 2020; Coastal Spring Break is TBD. Note: Testing days vary from a minimum of one (1) day to a maximum of three (3) days. Note: Please see K-3 Assessment Key Dates document for further information on all dates related to the Literacy-Based Promotion Act.</p>						

[Link to K-3 information](#)

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

Bentonia-Gibbs Elementary	7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Linwood Elementary	7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Yazoo County High School	7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Yazoo County Middle School	7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Much of the business in the main school office is of a private and confidential nature, which involves important information about each individual, including students, faculty, and staff, in school. For this reason, there should be as little traffic as possible in this area. Students are permitted in the front office only for the following reasons:

- When called by the principal, assistant principal, or someone acting upon the approval of the principal;
- When there is an emergency; and
- When a student seeks permission to leave the campus.

No student is permitted to use the phone in the front office.

DISMISSALS FROM CAMPUS:

The Yazoo County School District recognizes that students' and parents' plans may change periodically in terms of plans after the school day is complete. Schools will **ONLY** accept a written form of communication indicating the students' plan for dismissal and/or how the student will get home. Examples of written forms of communication include a fax, a handwritten note, or an email. It is at the school principal's discretion as to whether a phone call indicating change of plans for dismissal will be accepted. Parents may not pick up students after 2:45 p.m. This is to allow buses access to load students at YCMS and YCHS and exit campus without interruptions. Additionally, there will be no check-outs/dismissals of students after 2:00.

The above aforementioned statements **DO NOT** apply to pre-kindergarten.

DISMISSAL PRECAUTIONS:

Dismissal from School:

1. No student shall leave school without permission from the principal or his/her designee.
2. Students having an appointment with a doctor or dentist or for other valid reasons may be dismissed from school as follows:
 - a. A parent or legal guardian may personally come to the school and dismiss a student.
 - b. The student may present a note from a parent or legal guardian to the attendance office containing the reason for dismissal, time of dismissal, and phone number where the parent and/or legal guardian can be contacted, in order to receive a dismissal permit.
 - c. If a note of appointment card cannot be verified, school officials reserve the right to refuse the issuance of a dismissal permit.
 - d. Work must be made up if a dismissal for any of the reason causes a student to miss classwork, tests, etc.
3. Any student leaving school on school related business must first obtain written permission from his/her teacher and then personally signed out at the attendance office. Upon return to school, the

student must personally sign in.

5. No student shall leave school without a dismissal permit or without signing out at the attendance office.
6. Dismissal requests during the last period of the day shall receive strict scrutiny by the attendance office due to abuse of the dismissal privilege.

AUTOMOBILE USE/JGFF:

Driving on school roads and parking on school property is a courtesy offered to students and others by the school board.

The parking facilities located at the various school district buildings are not public parking areas and are to be used for school purposes only. School purposes include attendance at school activities or other school authorized activities, which occur before or after the regular school day. Violators may be charged with trespassing and/or vehicles towed at others' expense. The administration obtaining suggestions from the local police department, shall establish rules and regulations to assure traffic safety. The district shall not assume any responsibility for damage to vehicles.

Students shall be responsible for locking their vehicles upon arrival since the school district shall assume no responsibility for any loss.

Failure to abide by vehicle regulations may result in the loss of the right to bring a vehicle to school or other disciplinary action.

Cross Ref.: Policy JCDA – School Searches

SCHOOL PARKING REGULATIONS:

All students who bring a vehicle on campus must register the vehicle with the school and students must display a current decal at all times. Please see the parking contract for detailed regulations.

VISITORS TO SCHOOL CAMPUSES:

To ensure the safety of our students and staff, all visitors must sign in at the front office immediately upon arrival and leave keys/I.D. All visitors must have a visible pass before moving past the front office. Neither teacher nor student shall invite an individual to school without special permission from the principal or designee. By definition, *VISITOR, UNDER THIS POLICY, MEANS ANYONE WHO IS NOT A STAFF MEMBER, A STUDENT OR EMPLOYED PERSONNEL.*

PARENT VOLUNTEER/SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS:

The Board recognizes that community members can provide valuable services to the schools by sharing their time, talents and experience. An effective volunteer program allows students to benefit from individual attention, provides enrichment opportunities that supplement the regular educational program, allows teachers to focus on teaching and learning by relieving them of non-teaching tasks, provides interested community members an opportunity to become directly involved with education, and strengthens the relationship between school and community.

For the purpose of this policy, a volunteer is a person who provides services, without compensation or benefits of any kind or amount, on an occasional or regular basis in the schools or in school

activities.

All volunteers shall be at least 18 years of age unless their volunteer work is part of a class, is done to fulfill a service learning or community service requirement for graduation, or is done by a recognized student organization.

Volunteers serve under the direction and supervision of the building principal or designated staff. When volunteers work with children, their activities will be under the direct and immediate supervision of the classroom teacher, coach, activity adviser, or other designated employee.

Approval, assignment, continuation, or termination of volunteers shall be at the discretion of the building principal.

Volunteers are expected to abide by all Board policies, procedures and school rules when performing their assigned responsibilities. The building principal shall make volunteers aware of applicable policies, procedures, and rules before they undertake their first assignment through a volunteer orientation, volunteer handbook, or other means.

Volunteers shall perform only those tasks that have been assigned. Volunteers will not have access to confidential information in student records. Persons interested in volunteering time or services should contact the building principal. Prospective volunteers may be required to complete a written application.

PRIVACY OF STUDENT RECORDS:

Policy Link:

Student Records: JR

<https://yazooco.msbapolicy.org/DistrictPolicies/ViewsAdmin/SelectedDocumentReadOnly/tabid/6639/Default.aspx?docId=200988>

Access to Student Records: JRC

<https://yazooco.msbapolicy.org/DistrictPolicies/ViewsAdmin/SelectedDocumentReadOnly/tabid/6639/Default.aspx?docId=102990>

STUDENT ORGANIZATION FUNDRAISING:

Any student that has not paid for the fundraising merchandise on the day it is due will be dropped from the organization and the money will be collected through the office.

LOST OR STOLEN PROPERTY:

All articles which are found should be taken to the principal's office immediately. Lost and/or stolen items should be reported to the teacher immediately. Articles left unclaimed at the end of the semester will be donated to a charity or similar organization.

EMERGENCY DRILLS:

Emergency drills will be held regularly as specified in the school board policy and State Board of Education regulations. All students will comply with established evacuation procedures and the specified instructions of staff personnel.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS/DELAYED START BOARD POLICY: EBBD

Policy Link:

Emergency Closings:

<https://yazooco.msbapolicy.org/DistrictPolicies/ViewsAdmin/SelectedDocumentReadOnly/tabid/6639/Default.aspx?docId=225044>

TRANSFERRING RECORDS:

Note: *This school district does transfer records upon request from another school.* **RESIDENT STUDENTS: JBCAA**

ENROLLMENT AND ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE AGES:

A compulsory-school-age child is defined as a child who has attained or will attain the age of six (6) years on or before September 1st of the calendar year and who has not attained the age of seventeen (17) years on or before September 1st of the calendar year.

This also includes any child who has attained or will attain the age of five (5) years on or before September 1st and has enrolled in kindergarten. The parent/guardian of a kindergarten student shall be allowed to withdraw the child from kindergarten one time, and that child shall not be deemed a compulsory-school-age child until the child attains the age of six (6) years.

Students excluded from this requirement are those determined to be incapable of school attendance by school officials as based on medical documentation or an identified handicapping condition and those in a legitimate home instructional program as determined by a school attendance officer.

If a compulsory-school-age child has not been enrolled in school within fifteen (15) calendar days after the first day of the school year or if a student has accumulated five (5) unexcused absences during the school year, the principal shall report such absences to the school attendance officer within two school days or within five calendar days, whichever is less, according to the method prescribed by the State Department of Education and on the form designated for that purpose by the district.

LEGAL REFERENCE: MS Code 37-13-91, 37-13-92; JEA 5-13-09

ADMISSION PROCEDURES: Admission requirements for the District shall be as follows:

ENTRANCE AGE REQUIREMENTS:

No child shall be enrolled or admitted to a pre-kindergarten program of the Yazoo County School District unless that child will be four (4) years of age on or before September 1st of the current school year.

No child shall be enrolled or admitted to a kindergarten program of the Yazoo County School District unless that child will be five (5) years of age on or before September 1st of the current school year.

No child shall be enrolled or admitted to the first grade of any school in the Yazoo County School

District unless that child will be six (6) years of age on or before September 1st of that school year.

Any child who transfers from an out-of-state school in which that state's law provides for a first grade or kindergarten enrollment subsequent to September 1, shall be allowed to enroll in school at the same grade level if:

- The parent, legal guardian, or custodian of the child was a legal resident of the state from which the child is transferring;
- The out-of-state school from which the child is transferring is duly accredited by that state's appropriate accrediting authority;
- The child was legally enrolled in school for a minimum of four weeks in the previous state; or
- The Superintendent has determined that the child was making satisfactory Educational progress in the previous state.

LEGAL REFERENCE: MS Code 37-15-9, JEB 5-13-09

INITIAL ENROLLMENT:

1. Presentation of a certified birth certificate (long form as recommended);
2. Verification of required immunizations (Mississippi Form 121);
3. Completion of student information profile/emergency card/registration packet;
4. Attainment of the age of four years on or before September 1st of the current year for enrollment in the pre-kindergarten program and/or five years on or before September 1st of the current school year (for kindergarten enrollment:) or attainment of the age of six years on or before September 1st of the current school year (for first grade) (JEB); and
5. Proof of residence in the attendance zone for which student registration is made.

RESIDENCY VERIFICATION:

Children who are currently enrolled in Yazoo County School District will provide annual updated residency information.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS:

Check one in **Group I** and **Group II** and if applicable check a or b in **Group III**

Group I:

- a) _____ Filed Homestead Exemption Application Form
- b) _____ Mortgage Documents or Property Deed
- c) _____ Apartment or Home Lease/Rental Agreement
** Any unofficial Lease Agreement (handwritten or computer-generated) must be notarized.
- d) _____ 911 information

Group II: Acceptable Bills

- e) _____ Current Utility Bill (Must be dated within thirty days of enrollment, with a service address)
- f) _____ Electricity
- g) _____ Gas
- h) _____ Landline telephone
- i) _____ Cable TV or satellite TV

A driver's license, water bill or voter identification are **not acceptable** as proof of residency.

_____ Other Residency documentation may be approved by YCSD Administration

Group III: Guardianship or Affidavit Guardianship

_____ **a.** Student is living with legal guardian and a certified copy of the Court Decree (or petition), if pending, was received declaring the district resident to be the legal guardian of the student and further declaring that the guardianship was formed for a purpose other than establishing residency for school district attendance purposes.

Affidavit

_____ **b.** Custodial parent(s) residing with an adult in a home not owned or rented by the custodial parent(s) will present documents to show legal custody. The non-custodial adult in the home must prove residency through Group I and Group II (above) and sign the affidavit. Affidavits will be checked every 30 days for updated proofs of residency. **Policy: [JBCAA](#)**

In addition, the custodial parent(s) will present *three of the items below*:

- _____ Doctor's or dentist's bill bank statement
- _____ Automobile license receipt
- _____ Credit card statement
- _____ Cell phone bill
- _____ Insurance policy
- _____ State or federal benefit check Salary check stub
- _____ IRS Documentation
- _____ Other residency documentation approved by YCSD administration

LEGAL REFERENCE: MS Code Annotated 37-15-31 (1993 Supp.) State Board Policy 7301 JFAA 7-17-13

STUDENT LIVING WITH ADULT OTHER THAN PARENT/GUARDIAN:

If a child is living with an adult other than parents or legal guardians, *in loco parentis* authority will be recognized to establish residency of the minor in situations that include, but are not limited to:

- (a) death or serious illness of the child's parent/guardian;
- (b) abandonment of the child;
- (c) child abuse or neglect;
- (d) unstable family relationships or conditions in the home of the parent/guardian having a detrimental effect on the child;
- (e) students enrolled in recognized exchange programs residing with a host family; and
- (f) other appropriate documentation/verification.

TRANSFER STUDENTS:

Must have:

1. Receipt of a withdrawal form/official transcript/cumulative record from the last school attended;
2. Proof of residence in the attendance zone for which student registration/application is made;
3. Completion of a student information profile/emergency card and/or registration packet;

4. Presentation of required valid certificate of compliance for immunization.

Parents/guardians are **required** to accompany a student enrolling in the District for the first time. The enrolling student will not be allowed to stay on the school campus until the registration process is complete and a schedule is issued to the student.

Any guardianship formed for the purpose of establishing residency for school district attendance purpose shall not be recognized by the Board.

Transfer students will be permanently enrolled and placed in a grade or class on the basis of an official transcript from the last school attended. If such has been lost or destroyed, the last school attended shall be responsible for initiating a new record.

If the last school attended is not appropriately accredited, the student seeking enrollment will be required to take an assessment to determine the grade/class assignment. The principal will place the student in the grade/course best suited to his educational achievement level, needs, and abilities. (JG)

Any child in Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade who fails to present a certified birth certificate upon registration shall not be allowed to attend school until in compliance.

Students who attend Yazoo County Schools must be residents of the school district. Non-resident students will only be allowed to attend the YCSD through the legal transfer process and will be required to adhere to all requirements of a resident student. All documents must be provided to the school the day of enrollment or the student will not be allowed to stay or attend until in compliance and registration is complete.

Credits or units through or from a school not accredited by an appropriate state, regional, or national accrediting agency will not be accepted toward graduation or promotion by the Yazoo County School District. Students who transfer to this school system from a non-accredited school or institution must take and pass an assessment for the purpose of placement or retake courses or grades earned from the non-accredited institution in order to gain official credit.

MS Code: 37-15-31, 37-15-33, 37-151-93

EXPELLED STUDENTS REQUESTING INITIAL ENROLLMENT:

Parents, guardians or students **must** indicate on the registration information if the student requesting enrollment has been expelled from a private or public school or is currently a party to an expulsion proceeding. If the expulsion or expulsion proceeding involves an act of violence, weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, or other activity that may result in expulsion, the Yazoo County School District is not required to grant admission before one calendar year after the date of expulsion. Failure to disclose this information may result in immediate denial of enrollment in the Yazoo County School District.

TRANSPORTATION LIABILITY:

Transportation is outsourced for all students who attend the public schools of Yazoo County School District with the exception of pre-kindergarten students who must be transported by their parents or guardians to and from school.

All inquiries in reference to routes, accidents, or problems should be directed to **Mr.**

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE LAWS:

Yazoo County School District believes that regular school attendance is paramount to student success. Research indicates that a student's attendance is directly proportional to the student's graduation from high school. The District is committed to working with the student as well as the parents when the student's attendance is affected by extenuating circumstances. Through collaboration, the student's level of success is greatly enhanced. Mississippi law requires students to attend 63% of his or her individual instructional day as fixed by the local school board for each individual school in order to be considered present.

ATTENDANCE EXEMPTION POLICY:

For all students in grades 9-12, exemption from the second and fourth nine-week exam is an earned privilege. A student will be considered for exemption if he/she has no office referrals in a teacher's class and meets the following requirements regarding total days of attendance and grades:

<u>Attendance per semester</u>	<u>Grades</u>
3 period absences	C
4 period absences	B
5 period absences	A

A student who is exempt has the option to take an exam if he/she feels it will improve his/her grade.

All absences will be counted except those that are school related such as choir, band trips, athletic contests, etc. **It is the student's responsibility to gather and provide documentation of school related absences.** Out of school suspensions will invalidate the privilege of exemption in all classes.

POLICY: COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE/TRUANCY: JBAC

TRUANCY:

"Compulsory-school-age child" means a child who has attained or will attain the age of six (6) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year and who has not attained the age of seventeen (17) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year; and shall include any child who has attained or will attain the age of five (5) years on or before September 1 and has enrolled in a full-day public school kindergarten program. **MS CODE 37-13-91 (2) (f)**

A "truant" is a student who is absent without a valid excuse as identified in **Policy JBA, Compulsory School Attendance.**

Reports of truancy shall be made in accordance with the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law (**MS CODE ' 37-13-91) and Policy JBA.**

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards for this policy is standard 10.
LEGAL REF.: MS CODE as cited *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*
CROSS REF.: Policies JBA Compulsory School Attendance
JCD Alternative School Program

An "unlawful absence" is an absence for an entire school day or during part of a school day by a compulsory-school-age child, which absence is not due to a valid excuse for temporary nonattendance. For purposes of reporting absenteeism under subsection (6) of this section, if a compulsory-school-age child has an absence that is more than fifty percent (63%) of the instructional day, as fixed by the school board for the school at which the compulsory-school-age child is enrolled, the child must be considered absent the entire school day.

As interpreted by the Mississippi Department of Education, each student must be present for 63% of his or her individual instructional day as fixed by the local school board for each individual school in order to be considered in full day attendance. (MDE District Memo Implementation of House Bill 1530, Kent 5/17/13)

Each of the following shall constitute a valid excuse for temporary nonattendance of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in school, provided satisfactory evidence of the excuse is provided to the superintendent of the school district or his/her designee.

- a) An absence is excused when the absence results from the compulsory-school-age child's attendance of an authorized school activity with the prior approval of the superintendent of the school district or his designee. Such activities may include field trips, athletic contests, student conventions, musical festivals and any similar activity.
- b) An absence is excused when the absence results from illness or injury which prevents the compulsory-school-age child from being physically able to attend school.
- c) An absence is excused when isolation of a compulsory-school-age child is ordered by the county health officer or by the state board of health.
- d) An absence is excused when it results from the death or serious illness of a member of the immediate family of a compulsory-school-age child. The immediate family member of a compulsory-school-age child shall include children, spouse, grandparents, parents, brothers and sisters, including stepbrothers and stepsisters.
- e) An absence is excused when it results from a medical or dental appointment of a compulsory-school-age child where an approval of the superintendent of the school district or his designee is gained prior to the absence, except in the case of emergency.
- f) An absence is excused when it results from the attendance of a compulsory school-age child at the proceedings of a court or administrative tribunal if such child is a party to the action or under subpoena as a witness.
- g) An absence may be excused if the religion, to which the compulsory school-age child or such child's parents adhere, requires or suggests the observance of a religious event. The approval of such absence is within the discretion of the superintendent or his designee, but approval should be granted unless the religion's observance is of such duration to interfere with the education of the child.
- h) An absence may be excused when it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the superintendent or his/her designee that the purpose of the absence is to take advantage of a valid educational opportunity such as travel including vacations or other family travel. Approval of such absence must be gained from the superintendent of the school district or his/her designee prior to the absence but such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.
- i) An absence may be excused when it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the

superintendent or his designee that conditions are sufficient to warrant the compulsory-school-age child's nonattendance.

Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child subject to the provisions of this policy who refuses or willfully fails to perform any of the duties imposed upon him or her under the provisions of this policy or who intentionally falsifies any information required to be contained in a certificate of enrollment, shall be guilty of contributing to the neglect of a child and, upon conviction, shall be punished in accordance with the provisions of **Section 97-5-39, MS Code of 1972.**

If a compulsory-school-age child has not been enrolled in a school within fifteen (15) calendar days after the first day of the school year of the school which such child is eligible to attend or such child has accumulated five (5) unlawful absences during the school year, the principal or school superintendent shall report such absences to the school attendance officer of the youth court. **MS CODE: 37-13-91**

LEGAL REF.: Mississippi Code 37-13-91

The Superintendent delegates the authority to report excessive absences to the School Attendance Officer to the building Principal at each campus.

Therefore, each student must be present for 63% of his or her individual instructional day as fixed by the local school board for each individual school in order to be considered in full day attendance.

Compulsory School Attendance Referral Process

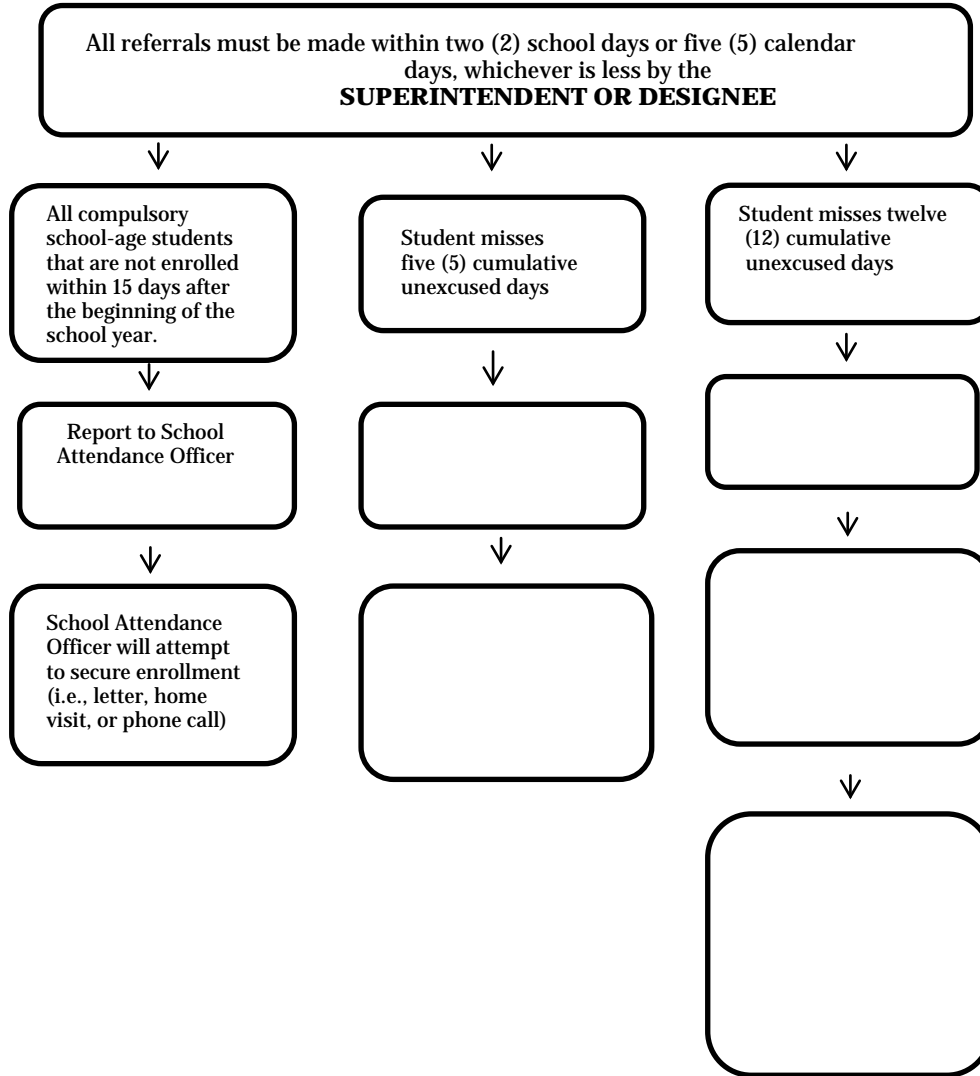
37-13-91(6)

Mississippi law requires all individuals between the ages of six (6) and seventeen (17) to enroll in and attend school. This law also applies to all five-year old students enrolled in a full-time public kindergarten program.



Required Demographics for Reporting Unexcused Absences at 5 and 12 Days

- ✓ **Student's Name, Date of Birth, MSIS or SSN, Grade, Gender**
- ✓ **Parent's/Guardian's Name, Contact Information including phone numbers**
- ✓ **Unexcused Absences-including out-of-school suspension days (suspensions are to be reported to the school attendance officer as they occur)**
- ✓ **Must be signed by superintendent or designee**



Suspensions are unexcused absences and must be reported as they occur.
In-school suspensions should not be considered absent.

EXCUSES:

For an absence to be considered excused, the parent must provide one of the following forms of documentation within three days of school upon their return:

- A written notification shall contain the date written, the date(s) of the absence, the cause of absence(s), and the parent or legal guardian name and contact information (maximum of 5 handwritten notes per semester).

- A note signed by a medical provider including the dates under care.
- Isolation of the student is ordered by the county health officer;
- Death or serious illness of an immediate family member which would include a child, spouse, grandparent, parent, brother, sister, stepbrother or stepsister;
- Attendance at court or administrative proceedings if the student is a party or under subpoena as a witness;
- The religion to which the student or the students' parents adheres, requires or suggests the observance of a religious event; and
- Any other reason deemed appropriate by the school administration.

All absences shall be considered unexcused until proper documentation is provided to the school. If proper documentation is not provided within three days the absence will be considered unexcused and counted toward truancy.

The District Administration recognizes school attendance as one of the important responsibilities of the students, parents/guardian/custodian and staff. Students who attend school regularly have fewer discipline problems and a better opportunity to achieve. Additionally, school attendance affects the District's receipt of State funding and the teacher's ability to effectively control make-up work.

MAKE-UP WORK:

Both the STUDENT AND TEACHER are responsible for making sure that make-up work is completed. If a student misses the day of a test, they will be required to make up the test upon returning to school. If a student is absent the day before a test and no new materials have been introduced, he/she must make up the test upon returning to school; if new materials were introduced before the test was given, they will be given one (1) additional day to make up the test. If a student is absent 2-5 consecutive days, the student will be given one (1) week to make up work. If a student is absent more than 5 consecutive days, the principal or assistant principal will use discretion in setting the time for make-up work to be completed.

COLLEGE AND MILITARY DAYS:

The Board of Trustees of the Yazoo County School District has approved a maximum of two (2) days for a senior to visit a college campus without affecting the attendance policy. The request must be made and approved in advance of the campus trip. As verification of the student's visit to the college campus to discuss admission, degree programs, financial aid, housing, etc., the signature of a college official shall be required. Required forms should be picked up 5 days prior to campus visit from the counselor's office.

RELEASE TIME FOR STUDENTS:

Eleventh and twelfth grade students may be dismissed at the beginning of the **LAST PERIOD** of the school day provided they have a signed note from an employer verifying employment and a notarized permission slip from a parent granting the student permission to leave school for work. Freshmen and sophomore students must remain at school the entire day unless they are properly checked out by an authorized person on the notarized check out form filed in the office.

This handbook does not contain all the rules and regulations governing all co-curricular activities. It is the student's and/or parent's responsibility to obtain those rules and regulations from the leaders and sponsors and adhere to them.

ACADEMICS AND ASSESSMENT

ACADEMIC COURSE CHANGES:

There will be no changing or dropping of courses after ten (10) days from the opening day of school, unless deemed necessary by the principal and counselor.

GRADING SYSTEM:

To evaluate student performance for the purposes of promotion, retention, or alternative programs, the following numerical values shall be used in determining letter grades. Numerical values will be utilized on reports of progress and report cards.

Grades K-12:

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
65-69	D
Below 65	F

The Pre-Kindergarten students will be assessed through a checklist of Early Learning Standards for 4-Year-Olds from Mississippi Department of Education.

Board Policy IHA

The Yazoo County School District utilizes an established grading system to communicate to parents a periodic evaluation summarizing significant factors of the student's success in the educational program.

The grading system is based upon student achievement and performance, bearing in mind that any system incorporates both subjective and objective considerations in student evaluation.

Recording Grades:

Only numbers will be used in recording grades. Grades on report cards will be recorded in numerical form. Semester exam grades and semester averages will be recorded as numerical grades. All grades on permanent records will be recorded as numerical grades.

Weighting of Grades:

In reference to grades, the Yazoo County School District believes that to get an accurate representation of the success of a student in a class, the teacher will implement and utilize the following:

- A minimum of 16 daily grades;
- A minimum of 4 assessment grades with one of the assessment grades being the district common assessment;
- Elementary School: Daily Grades = 60% of average each nine weeks and assessments

- = 40% of average each nine weeks; and
- Middle and High School: Daily Grades = 40% of average each nine weeks and assessments = 60% of average each nine weeks

Grading Changes:

(1) No school board member, school superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, guidance counselor, other teachers, coaches, or other administrative staff members of the school or the central office staff of a local school board shall attempt, directly or indirectly, to change, alter, or otherwise affect the grade received by a student from his teacher except as otherwise specifically allowed by this section.

(2) A teacher's determination of a student's grade as a measure of the academic achievement or proficiency of the student shall not be altered or changed in any manner by any school official or employee other than the teacher except as provided in this subsection.

(3) A school official or employee having authority provided under formally adopted written rules and procedures adopted by the local school board to change a student's grade can take such action only upon it being determined that the grade is an error or that the grade is demonstrably inconsistent with the teacher's grading policy.

(4) Any local school district or personnel employed by the school district that violates the provisions of this act shall cause the local school district or school to be subject to losing its accreditation in the manner determined by the policies and procedures of the State Board of Education.

LEGAL REF.: MS Code 37-11-64

ACTIVE PARENT:

Online access to your student's grades, discipline, attendance, and school news is available through the District's website at www.yazoo.k12.ms.us. Parents must enroll to access this information. Enrollment will take place during registration. If you are already a member of Active Parent, it is not necessary to re-enroll.

REPORT CARDS:

The report card, issued at the end of each grading period, is the official notification to the home of a student's progress.

A student's report card and progress report will be available based on YCSD Board approved school calendar. At the end of each nine-week grading period, a parent/teacher conference will be scheduled for parents/legal guardians to come to the school to meet with teachers and pick up his/her child's report card. If the parent does not pick up the report card from the school within seven (7) days, then the report card will be given to the student. The final (end-of-year) report card is mailed to the home address provided by the student at the time of student registration.

Each report card provides for current grades and class absences.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS: (Board Policy IHE)

A fixed set of criteria, based on student performance, will be used to determine promotion from one

grade level to another at each school level.

Students in grades kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade must pass both math and English Language Arts.

Students in grades 4 through 8 must pass English language arts, math, and science. Students who score “proficient” or “advanced” on their state assessments and do not pass the course will be discussed by a district committee for potential promotion.

Cross Ref.: JBD Absences and Excuses

High School Promotion

A student will be classified as a:

Freshman upon promotion from the 8th grade;

Sophomore after successfully completing a minimum of 6 units;

Junior after successfully completing a minimum of 12 units; and a

Senior after successfully completing a minimum of 18 units.

LISTS of DISTINCTION AND HONOR:

The Yazoo County School District recognizes three types of honor rolls:

- The “**Superintendent’s List**” shall be composed of all students with nine weeks averages no lower than **95**.
- The “**Principal’s List**” shall be composed of all students with nine week averages no lower than **90**.
- The “**A/B Honor Roll List**” shall be composed of all students with nine week averages no lower than 80.

These lists shall be determined at the end of each 9-week grading period.

CLASS RANK AND QUALITY POINT AVERAGE (QPA):

PROCEDURE FOR DETERMINING:

The academic class rank for diploma bound seniors will be determined by averaging the semester grades in all subjects attempted from the date of entry into the 9th grade through the end of the second semester of the senior year. Rank will be computed to the hundredth of a percent except when necessary to break a tie, in which case thousandths of a percent will be use. Averages will be obtained by adding numerical grades using the following scale (Non-academic courses such as physical education, choir, band, JROTC, and remedial math/English and other compensatory or remedial courses **will not** be computed for class rank.)

Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses = 1.20 x grade

Accelerated/Honors courses (as recognized in this handbook) = 1.05 x grade

All other courses = 1.0 x grade

A student’s rank in class will be available after the spring semester of the senior year to determine valedictorian, salutatorian, and other academic achievements. A student must be enrolled for four (4) semesters prior to graduation (summer school does not count) and must have completed a four (4) year course of study to be eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian.

Weighted Grades (AP, Accelerated, etc.) are used for the purpose of determining rank in class and honor graduates only.

STATE MANDATED ASSESSMENTS

LITERACY BASED PROMOTION ACT ASSESSMENTS:

Third Grade ELA Assessment:

The Literacy Based Promotion Act as part of Senate Bill 2347 calls for students scoring at levels one and two in reading on the established state assessment for third grade to not be promoted to fourth grade. Results from the assessment are used to address specific reading deficiencies of students who do not achieve a passing score. Multiple re-test opportunities are provided to students in an effort to support students in earning promotion to fourth grade.

MKAS (Kindergarten):

Mississippi Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (Grade K): This is a baseline assessment to inform parents, teachers, and early childhood providers with a common understanding of what children know and are able to do upon entering school. Results will be used to deploy resources and instructional supports for students in kindergarten and first grade. The assessment is administered during a pre -test window in August/September and a post-test window of April/May.

MAAP (Mississippi Academic Assessment Program) STATE ASSESSMENTS:

MAAP (Grades 3-8) – These are criterion-referenced language arts and mathematics tests that are aligned with the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards.

MAAP (Grades 9-12) - These are criterion-referenced assessments, in Algebra I, English II, Biology I, and US History, are aligned with the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards. Results are utilized for school and district accountability purposes as well as a graduation requirement for students earning a high school diploma. These tests are administered during late April to mid-May.

MAAP-A – (Mississippi Academic Assessment Program - Alternate) Mississippi is required under Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) to provide high-quality alternate assessments for students with significant cognitive disabilities (SCD). These alternate assessments are aligned to academic content standards that apply to all students in reading, writing, and mathematics in grades 3-8 and once in high school. They also align to content standards for science in at least one grade in each of the 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 grade bands.

MAAP Science (Grades 5 and 8) - This is a criterion-referenced assessment that is aligned with the 2018 Mississippi Science Framework. Results are used for school and district accountability purposes as well as to determine individual student progress. This assessment is administered the first two weeks of May.

ACT (Grade 11) - This is a curriculum-and-standards-based educational and career planning tool that assesses student's academic readiness for college. Results are used for college admission and

scholarship purposes as well as to meet mandated state graduation assessment requirements as a component of school and district accountability. A live version is administered at no cost to juniors during regular school hours at the student's home campus.

Please Note: Students can register at their own cost for test administrations on Saturdays in September, October, December, February, April and June at www.act.org.

YAZOO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS

Educational Leadership Solutions Common Assessments (Grades 3-12): These assessments are criterion-referenced and designed to reflect Mississippi state tests in both format and content for the subject areas of Language Arts, Math, Science (5th and 8th grades) and Biology I) and social studies (US History). Results are utilized to guide classroom instruction. These assessments are administered typically at the conclusion of the first three nine-week periods.

STAR Early Literacy (Grades K-1): This is an adaptive assessment where student responses determine the difficulty level of questions. Results can be used to guide classroom instructional decisions as well as to serve as a universal screener, which helps in identification of specific math and reading deficiencies. This assessment is administered typically three times a year during September, January, and April.

I-Ready (Grades K-8): This is an adaptive assessment for reading and mathematics that pinpoints student needs down to the sub-skill level, and ongoing progress monitoring shows whether students are on track to achieve end-of-year targets. Results are used to guide classroom instructions and serves as a universal screener. Administered three times per year.

AP (Advanced Placement) Exams (Grades 10-12): This is a paper-based college-level exam developed and scored by college and university faculty members. AP exams enable students to apply critical thinking skills. Scores are used for college credits and are accepted by most two and four year colleges and universities. Students must take AP courses before taking the AP exam. This is administered late April to early May.

GRADUATION

GRADUATION POLICY:

Participation in any Yazoo County School Graduation is limited to those students who have completed all graduation requirements, as specified by the Yazoo County School Board and the Mississippi State Board of Education. In addition, students participating in graduation shall comply with all rules and regulations regarding attendance at practice for graduation exercises including proper dress and/or attire, and any other regulation deemed appropriate.

Mississippi Diploma Options **Graduation Recognition for Diploma-Bound Students**

TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA OPTION

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English I English II
Mathematics	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I
Science	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology I
Social Studies	3½	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 World History 1 U.S. History ½ U.S. Government ½ Economics ½ Mississippi Studies
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	5 ½	
Total Units Required	24	

Requirements

- Student should identify an endorsement area prior to entering 9th grade. Endorsement requirements can only be changed with parental permission.
- For early release, students must have met College or Career Readiness Benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17 English and 19 Math or earned a Silver level on ACT WorkKeys or SAT equivalency sub scores). Alternately, a student must meet ALL of the following:
 - Have a 2.5 GPA
 - Passed or met all MAAP assessments requirements for graduation
 - On track to meet diploma requirements
 - Concurrently enrolled in Essentials for College Math or Essentials for College Literacy

Recommendations

- For early graduation, a student should successfully complete an area of endorsement.
- A student should take a math or math equivalent course the senior year.

ALTERNATE DIPLOMA OPTION

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternate English Elements I-IV
Mathematics	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternate Math Elements I-III Alternate Algebra Elements
Science	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternate Biology Elements Alternate Science Elements II
Social Studies	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternate History Elements (Strands: U.S. History and World History) Alternate Social Studies Elements (Strands: Economics and U.S. Government)
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternate Health Elements
Arts	1	
Career Readiness	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career Readiness I-IV (Strands: Technology, Systems, Employability, and Social)
Life Skills Development	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life Skills Development I-IV (Strands: Technology, Systems, Personal Care, and Social)
Additional Electives	2	
Total Units Required	24	

Requirements

- The Alternate Diploma is not equivalent to a traditional high school diploma and is not recognized by postsecondary entities that require a traditional high school diploma.
- All students are required to participate in the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program-Alternate (MAAP-A) with a score TBD.
- Students who have met the criteria on their IEP for having a Significant Cognitive Disability (SCD) may participate in a program of study to earn the Alternate Diploma.

TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA ENDORSEMENT OPTIONS:

Students pursuing a Traditional Diploma should identify an endorsement prior to entering 9th grade. There are three endorsement options: Career and Technical, Academic, and Distinguished Academic.

Traditional Diploma Endorsement Options

Students pursuing a Traditional Diploma should identify an endorsement prior to entering ninth grade. There are three endorsement options: Career and Technical, Academic, and Distinguished Academic Endorsement.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I
Science	3	• Biology I
Social Studies	3½	• 1 World History • ½ Economics • 1 U.S. History • ½ Mississippi Studies • ½ U.S. Government
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
CTE Electives	4	• Must complete a four-course sequential program of study
Additional Electives	3 ½	
Total Units Required	26	

Additional Requirements

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5.
- Earn Silver level on ACT WorkKeys.
- Earn two additional Carnegie Units for a total of 26.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
 - One CTE dual credit or earn articulated credit in the high school CTE course
 - Work-Based Learning experience or Career Pathway Experience
 - Earn a State Board of Education-approved national credential

ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I
Science	3	• Biology I + two (2) additional science courses above Biology I
Social Studies	3½	• 1 World History • ½ Economics • 1 U.S. History • ½ Mississippi Studies • ½ U.S. Government
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	7 ½	• Must meet 2 advanced electives of the CPC requirements for MS IHLs
Total Units Required	26	

Additional Requirements

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5.
- Courses must meet Mississippi IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC).
- Earn Mississippi IHL and community college readiness benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17 English and 19 Math as approved by postsecondary for non-remediation at most community colleges and IHL college-ready courses in senior year, or the SAT equivalency subscore).
- Earn two additional Carnegie Units for a total of 26.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
 - One AP course with a C or higher and take the appropriate AP exam
 - One Diploma Program-IB course with a C or higher and take the appropriate IB exams
 - One academic dual credit course with a C or higher in the course

DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English I English II
Mathematics	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I
Science	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology I + two (2) additional science courses above Biology I
Social Studies	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 World History 1 U.S. History ½ U.S. Government ½ Economics ½ Mississippi Studies
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must meet 2 advanced electives of the CPC requirements for MS IHLs
Total Units Required	28	

Additional Requirements

- Earn an overall GPA of 3.0.
- Courses must meet Mississippi IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC).
- Earn national college readiness benchmarks on each subtest established by ACT of 18 in English and 22 in Math or SAT equivalency subscore.
- Earn four additional Carnegie Units for a total of 28.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
 - One AP course with a B or higher and take the appropriate AP exam
 - One Diploma Program-IB course with a B or higher and take the appropriate IB exams
 - One academic dual credit course with a B or higher in the course

August 2018

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

Begins with Incoming Freshmen of 2018-2019)

A Certificate of Completion is not a high school diploma or an Alternate Diploma, but rather an acknowledgement of the student's participation in and completion of his/her Individualized Education Program (IEP). Students eligible to receive a Certificate of Completion must adhere to a fixed set of criteria.

GRADUATION OPTIONS FOR THE SUBJECT AREA TESTING PROGRAM **(SATP2; PARCC; MAAP)**

State Board Policy 3804 and 3803 provides approved options for students to meet the high school end-of-course subject area test graduation requirements through approved alternative measures. State Board Policy 3804 and 3803 applies to past, current, and future Mississippi students.

While it is possible that a student will meet one of these options before taking the subject area test, this policy states that a student is eligible to use any of these options once he or she has failed to pass any required end-of-course subject area test. Specifically, students may meet the graduation requirement outlined in State Board Policy by attaining any one of the measures in the Graduation Options Quick Reference Chart for the Subject Area Testing Program Requirements.

All students who are enrolled in an end-of-course Subject Area Test course for the first time must participate in the assessment in order to earn the Carnegie Unit. The assessment score will constitute 25% of the student’s final grade in the course.

The following graduation options provide opportunities for students to obtain a certain score or level on the ACT, ASVAB, ACT Work Keys, MS-CPAS2, or other state-approved industry certifications. Students also may obtain a grade of “C” or higher in a dual credit/dual enrollment course, corresponding to the end-of-the-year assessment that was not passed.

Assessment Options	Algebra I	Biology I	English II	U.S. History
ACT	17 (ACT Math Sub- Score)	17 (ACT Science Sub- Score)	17 (ACT English Sub- Score)	17 (ACT Reading Sub- Score)
Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment/ College	C or higher in MAT credit-bearing course	C or higher in BIO credit-bearing course	C or higher in ENG credit-bearing course	C or higher in HIS credit-bearing course

Notes:

- ACT sub-scores resulting from non-college reportable accommodations **can** be used for graduation options, but the scores are non-college reportable.
- ACT sub-scores resulting from Residual ACT Testing **cannot** be used for graduation options.
- This option is available regardless of when the student took the SATP2, PARCC, or MAP assessments.

CONCORDANCE TABLES:

The Graduation Options listed below are applicable to any Subject Area Testing Program assessment.

ASVAB + MS-CPAS or Industry Certification	Must have an ASVAB AFQT score of 36 plus one of the following: 1. CPAS score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements (Year 1 and 2 combined for an average of 60 or above) OR 2. Industry certification attainment based upon industry standards (only MDE approved certifications may be used)
ACT Work Keys + MS-CPAS2 or Industry Certification	Must have a Work Keys Silver Level plus one of the following: 1. CPAS score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements (Year 1 and 2 combined for an average of 60 or above) OR 2. Industry certification attainment based upon industry standards (only MDE approved certifications may be used)

Note: The college credit option is only applicable if the student is enrolled in high school and college at the same time.

GRADUATION

PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY:

While participation in the graduation exercise is not a requirement for graduation, seniors who plan to participate in commencement must attend practice and must be on time. A schedule will be given to each senior during the last week of April explaining all details.

Graduates who choose not to participate in the graduation ceremony may pick up their diploma at school the day following the ceremony.

GRADUATION EXPENSES:

There are many expenses associated with one’s senior year. These include, but are not limited to, a class ring, invitations, cap and gown, and senior portraits, which can accumulate! The school does emphasize, however, that it cannot predict nor can it assume responsibility for a senior’s performance in course work. It is, therefore, the student’s responsibility to determine one’s own status relative to graduation and the purchase of any of these items. Invitations, class rings, cap and gown, pictures, and other graduation expenses incurred by the student will not guarantee graduation from high school. Seniors will be permitted to order these materials if it is possible to complete graduation requirements; whether the senior is allowed to graduate is based on successful completion of the year’s program.

Graduation ceremonies are held for all students who have met graduation requirements.

CURRICULUM PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

CREDIT RECOVERY:

Edgenuity is a program that allows a student to participate in credit recovery and it adheres to a self-paced approach to learning. The program includes pre-assessments, reading, models, practice, quizzes, and tests. Courses are divided into units and then lessons within those units. At the end of each unit is a test intended to show mastery of that unit. This program is available to students inside as well as outside of school through the web. The program is designed to help students recover credits that were previously failed. Not all classes are offered through **Edgenuity** and not all students are eligible. Students must consult with their school counselor to determine if they are eligible for the program. Once work is completed, students will earn a 65 and receive credit for the previously failed class. Students may recover credits for up to two courses per year. Only four credits earned through credit recovery may be used.

DUAL CREDIT:

Yazoo County High School will offer Dual Credit courses through Institutions of Higher Learning. The purpose of this program is to provide the opportunity for high school students to earn college credit prior to graduation from high school. Dual credit courses will also count as elective credit toward a high school diploma.

To be eligible for enrollment in dual credit courses, students must:

- Have an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher;
- Have earned 14 core credits or be classified as a junior or senior;
- Passed a minimum of 5 credits from courses taken in the preceding school year;
- Not have any disciplinary infractions resulting in expulsion; and
- Pay the required course fee to the appropriate Institution of Higher Learning.

The grade earned at the Institution of Higher Learning will be the grade assigned for dual credit at the high school. The grade will become a part of the high school GPA and will affect class ranking. Preference will be given to seniors for dual credit classes. Juniors will then be placed according to highest GPA and availability in classes.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION:

Student transportation to and from school and/or school sponsored trips is a privilege. Students are subject to the same student conduct expectation and rules while being transported. This right is maintained whether the YCSD is in charge of transportation of students, or whether the transportation of students has been contracted to a private company or firm.

Reports of inappropriate behavior on the busses are to be directed to the school level. Issues with the driver or safety concerns are to be sent to the **Transportation Director; Mr. Joe Odum @ 662-746-4672 ext. 1210.**

GUIDANCE COUNSELING SERVICES:

The counseling services exist to lead in the development of students as they progress through school. These services are designed to help all students in their educational planning, career

decision-making and personal-social development. Counselors are committed to collaborating with students, parents, and other stakeholders as advocates to help students gain the greatest benefit from their school experiences.

ABSTINENCE POLICY

ABSTINENCE-ONLY SEX EDUCATION: ICG

BELIEF

The **Yazoo County School Board** believes that every student has the right to accurate information concerning the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

The **Yazoo County School Board** is committed to fostering community partnerships that educate both students and parents about this important topic. This School District seeks to affirm its commitment to creating healthy and responsible teens in this School District by fully complying with the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, Section 37-13-171, and by:

- Adopting educational programs designed to help students and parents take action to reduce rates of teen birth and sexually transmitted infections and integrating such programs into already established classes, and
- Establishing principles, guidelines, and strategies for implementing effective sex education programs, referred to in state law as “Abstinence-Only” education programs.

The district shall utilize an age-appropriate, evidenced based, medically accurate, Abstinence-Only curriculum from the list of curricula approved and recommended by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), including as one choice the curricula of Abstinence-Only developed by the Mississippi Department of Human Services and the Mississippi Department of Health, if such curricula are on the MDE’s approved curriculum list.

ABSTINENCE-ONLY EDUCATION:

The **Yazoo County School Board** has adopted a Mississippi Department of Education approved “Abstinence-Only Education Curriculum” and the following applies:

1. Requires the implementation of such program and curriculum in the **Yazoo County School District** in the 7th grade;
2. Requires boys and girls in the 7th grade to be separated into different classes when sex-related education is discussed or taught;
3. Prohibits any teaching that abortion can be used to prevent the birth of a baby; and
4. Prohibits instruction and demonstrations on the application and use of condoms.

Definition:

Abstinence-Only education includes any type of instruction (in the 7th grade) that teaches some or all of the following:

- the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity;
- the likely negative psychological and physical effects of not abstaining;
- the harmful consequences to the child, the child's parents and society that bearing children out of wedlock is likely to produce, including the health, educational, financial and other difficulties the child and his or her parents are likely to face, as well as the inappropriateness of the social and economic burden placed on others;
- that unwanted sexual advances are irresponsible and teaches how to reject sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use increases vulnerability to sexual advances;
- that abstinence from sexual activity before marriage, and fidelity within marriage, is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually-transmitted diseases and related health problems;
- the current state law related to sexual conduct, including forcible rape, statutory rape, paternity establishment, child support and homosexual activity; and
- that a mutually faithful, monogamous relationship in the context of marriage is the only appropriate setting for sexual intercourse.

No program of instruction under this Abstinence-Only curriculum may include anything that contradicts excluded components specified in state law. The instruction program may include a discussion on condoms or contraceptives, but only if that discussion includes a factual presentation of the risks and failure rates of those contraceptives.

Parent's Rights:

Each school providing instruction or any other presentation on human sexuality in the classroom, assembly or other official setting shall be required to provide no less than one (1) week's written notice thereof to the parents of children in such programs of instruction. The written notice must inform the parents of their right to request the inclusion of their child for such instruction or presentation. The notice must also inform the parents of the right, and the appropriate process, to review the curriculum and all materials to be used in the lesson or presentation. Upon the request of any parent, the school shall excuse the parent's child from such instruction or presentation, without detriment to the student.

Procedures:

The superintendent, or his/her designee, shall establish procedures to support this policy. The Superintendent will provide the **Yazoo County School Board** with an annual report on the outcomes of the Abstinence-Only education program. If funding is available, this report shall include quantitative as well as qualitative analysis of the program and shall include the perspective of students, teachers, and parents/guardians.

Review of Policy:

This policy will be reviewed on an on-going basis in accordance with the Board's policy review process. This policy shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, including but not limited to 37-13-171, 37-13-173, 37-13-175, as amended and with all other applicable federal and state laws.

GRADUATION COACH: The graduation coach is responsible for providing assistance to all high school students, individually and in groups, regarding high school graduation and completion, including, but not limited to, analyzing data to identify students or subgroups with potential high school graduation problems; planning, implementing, and tracking individual high school graduation plans; identifying and resolving barriers to graduation; and facilitating career choices and planning.

REQUEST FOR TRANSCRIPT:

Release of any information of the official school record shall be in accordance with regulations governed by **PL93-380**. Upon the written request of a student or parent for transcripts, the transcript shall be sent to any designated college, training agency, or employment office.

STUDENT INSURANCE PROGRAM:

Accident insurance under a group policy shall be made available to students enrolled in the school of the district. Students participating in student athletics are required to have accident insurance coverage. A signed affidavit from the student's parent/guardian stating they have adequate coverage of their own for their child will be a suitable substitute for coverage under the student insurance program.

FIELD TRIP AND OTHER PLANNED ACTIVITIES OFF CAMPUS:

Field trips or excursions have long been a part of the educational program of the Yazoo County School District. The board approves the use of field trips under regulations established by the superintendent and reported to the board.

Administrative Regulations:

The following guidelines are set to implement the planning of field trips and excursions as part of, and directly related to, classroom learning activities:

All trips must be well planned, properly timed, and related to regular learning activities.

Each student who goes on a field trip or excursion must have a "**Yazoo County School District Off Campus Permission Form**" completed and signed by the parent/guardian prior to leaving campus.

Transportation inside and outside the school district is subject to all school policies and regulations. Attention, as well, is paid to the school and classroom discipline procedures in terms of eligibility to attend and off-campus field trip/excursion.

All field trips/excursions are considered educational opportunities and no student will be counted absent from school on the day(s) he/she is on the trip/excursion.

SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Yazoo County School District offers specialized programs and services to those students who are found to show identified needs beyond the regular education classroom setting. These services include Gifted Education classes, Special Education and Related Services, as regulated by the

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act 2004 (IDEA 2004) and services as regulated by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1972. Each of these service options involves a referral process and a determination of eligibility dependent on meeting the program criteria for participation.

GIFTED EDUCATION:

These services are offered to those student(s) grades two through six who meet established criteria. If a parent/guardian feels that his/her student should be considered for gifted education services, she/he should contact the teacher, guidance counselor at the student's school site, or the gifted coordinator at the administrative office at 662-746-4672.

MULTI-TIERED INSTRUCTIONAL SYSTEM OF SUPPORT (MTSS)

State Board Policy IEI:

Yazoo County School District has standardized procedures to ensure that:

- all students can be successful in their learning, and
- all students receive a free and appropriate public education.

CHILD FIND:

It is the policy of the District that the district-wide child identification, location, and evaluation process in Yazoo County be ongoing. If you have questions regarding the collection, maintenance, and use of data about your child, you may contact: Dr. Terri Rhea; Yazoo County School District, 94 Panther Drive, Yazoo City, MS 39194 Phone: (662) 746-4672 extension 1024

SPECIAL EDUCATION: The Yazoo County School District has special education classes, which serve students who have physical, mental, communicative, intellectual, and/or emotional disabilities. Related services such as transportation, physical therapy, occupational therapy, adaptive P.E., counseling, and transitional support are also provided as needed.

SPEECH LANGUAGE SERVICES: Speech language services, a component of special education, is provided to students who qualify for these services through a series of assessments.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM and SERVICES: Pre-kindergarten is available in the Yazoo County School District. The district has the capacity to serve approximately 60 students – with a population of no more than 20 students per classroom. The pre-kindergarten program in the Yazoo County School District is funded through Title I.

HOMELESS STUDENTS:

When a child is determined to be homeless as defined by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendment Act, enrollment action in the best interest of the child shall be taken, pursuant to federal guidelines and **Board policy. (JFABD 4-10-13)**

ELL (ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS):

When a child is determined to be an English Language Learner as defined by Public Law 107-110, enrollment action in the best interest of the child shall be taken, pursuant to Federal guidelines, under section 1112 (G) and 3302 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and **Board policy. (JAB 4-10-13)**

MIGRANT STUDENTS:

When a child is determined to be migrant as set forth under Title I, Part C, Public Law 103-382 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, enrollment action in the best interest of the child shall be

taken, pursuant to federal guidelines and Board policy. The Yazoo County School District is a part of a migrant consortium, which is coordinated by Jackson State University. Any questions may be directed to Marla Rios, 601-212-8013 Mississippi Migrant Education Service Center (MMESC), at MS State University. (JABB 4-10-13)

HEALTH SERVICES

FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

The following requirements are intended to protect your child. Please help us to help you by following these regulations.

A child with any of the following conditions should not be in school:

- 1) Fever and/or vomiting within the last 24 hours;
- 2) Diarrhea;
- 3) Undiagnosed skin and/or eye irritation; and
- 4) Symptoms or any other illnesses not diagnosed by a doctor

MEDICATION:

Do not send medicine to school without completing a medication form. Medication forms are provided in the school office for this purpose.

MEDICATION WILL NOT BE GIVEN BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL WITHOUT THIS COMPLETED FORM. THIS APPLIES TO NON-PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AS WELL. ALL MEDICATION MUST BE IN A PROPERLY LABELED BOTTLE OR CASE WITH THE PRESCRIPTION LABEL MATCHING YOUR DOCTOR'S FORM.

DO NOT SEND PRESCRIBED OR NON-PRESCRIBED MEDICATION WITH A STUDENT.

ALLERGIES:

Parents should complete a food allergies form and turn it into the front school office and the Child Nutrition department in order for alternate items to be served at breakfast and lunch.

Click Here for Form – [Special Dietary Needs for a Non-Disabled Child](#)

Click Here for Form – [Special Dietary Needs for a Disabled Child](#)

HEALTH SCREENING:

All students are eligible for certain types of health screening in grades K-6.

If you choose to not participate in these screenings, you must provide the principal with written notification within the first week of school.

MEDICAL HISTORY:

The school nurse needs to know all medical problems or allergies that your child may have in order to provide the proper treatment, if necessary. **Medical History Forms must be completed on each child.** These forms will be provided during registration, and also will be in the principal's office for parents who enroll their child/children after the registration period.

INHALERS AND EPI-PENS NEED TO BE AT SCHOOL THE FIRST DAY WITH COMPLETED MEDICAL FORMS IN HAND. THESE ITEMS SHOULD BE LEFT AT SCHOOL AT ALL TIMES.

If additional information or explanation is needed, please contact your school nurse.

Linwood Elementary	662-673-9191	Bentonia-Gibbs	662-755-2270
Yazoo Co. Middle School	662-746-1596	Yazoo County High	662-746-1492

HEAD LICE:

First Occurrence: A phone call will be made to the parents or guardian to come and pick up the student and treat the student’s hair and other belongings.

Second Occurrence: (same as first occurrence)

Third Occurrence: The parent will be called to come and pick up the student, treat the student’s hair and all personal belongings as well as gain clearance from the Mississippi Department of Health.

FIRST AID AND MEDICATION:

Minor first aid is provided in the nurse’s station. If a student becomes ill, the office will contact the parent or guardian. Students must obtain a hall pass from the classroom teacher before going to the nurse or office. If a student becomes ill, it will be reported to the office immediately.

All pupils dismissed because of an emergency will be sent home immediately or taken to a doctor only after parents have been notified. If the school is unable to contact either parent, and the emergency warrants such, the school reserves the right to take the pupil to a doctor or hospital.

CHILD ABUSE POLICY:

It shall be the policy of the Yazoo County School District for all employees to be aware of any suspected child abuse within the district.

Each district employee has a responsibility to observe students closely, watching for sudden changes in behavior. Remember that one only has to suspect abuse. Employees are required by law to report any signs of abuse to their immediate superior.

Once the information is reported to the school principal, the school principal will notify the proper authorities as well as the superintendent or his/her designee

STUDENT CONDUCT and BEHAVIOR SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

STUDENT RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION POLICY:

Student Restraint and Seclusion (Cross Ref: BOARD POLICY JCBA, MS CODE: 37-9-69;

37-11-57)

The Yazoo County School District Board of Trustees supports a positive approach to behavior that uses proactive strategies to create a safe school climate that promotes dignity, creates authentic student engagement, and improves student achievement for all students.

In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-9-69 and 37-11-57, it is recognized that staff may intercede in situations wherein students are displaying physically violent behavior or are deemed to be a danger to themselves or others. The use of excessive force or cruel and unusual punishment regarding student management is prohibited. Restraint and/or seclusion shall not be utilized as a punitive measure.

Only school personnel trained in the use of restraint and seclusion should be used to observe and monitor these students. Staff engaged in monitoring students shall have knowledge of effective restraint and seclusion procedures, emergency procedures, and knowledge of how to effectively debrief students after the use of restraint or seclusion. This policy in no way shall inhibit the right of staff to reasonable self-defense in accordance with the provisions of the 5th and 14th amendments to the Constitution of the United States, or the Constitution of Mississippi, nor negate the obligation of the district to provide a safe work environment.

In any situation in which a student is a danger to himself/herself or others, and it becomes necessary to contact law enforcement or emergency medical personnel, nothing in this policy guidance shall be construed to interfere with the duties of law enforcement or emergency medical personnel.

Restraint:

Physical restraint is considered to be an emergency response after all other verbal and non-verbal de-escalation measures have failed in effectiveness. When using physical restraint for students who are a danger to themselves or others, staff should take precautions necessary to ensure the safety of the student and the staff members engaged in restraining the student.

1. Physical restraints that restrict the flow of air are prohibited in all situations;
2. The use of mechanical restraints is prohibited, except by law enforcement; and
3. The use of chemical restraints is prohibited.

Seclusion:

The use of seclusion occurs in a specially designated room or space that is physically isolated from common areas and from which the student is physically prevented from leaving. The room or space used for seclusion may not be locked and staff shall be present to monitor the student. Seclusion shall cease once the student regains control of his or her behavior.

Administrative Procedures:

This policy and the supporting procedures are designed to ensure the safety of all students, school personnel, and visitors. The following provisions shall be adhered to:

- a. Staff and faculty shall be trained at least annually on the use of physical restraint and seclusion. Teachers and other district personnel shall be trained on how to collect and analyze student data to determine the effectiveness of these procedures in increasing appropriate behavior.
- b. Administrators shall document incidents of the use of physical restraint or seclusion by staff or faculty participating in or supervising the restraint or seclusion event.
- c. A review of the use of a restraint and seclusion process shall be conducted by the school to determine if revisions of behavioral strategies are in place to address dangerous behavior or if positive behavioral strategies were not in place at the time of the restraint or seclusion.
- d. The school board shall review this policy and incidents of seclusion and restraint data at a minimum, annually. At a minimum, the Superintendent shall make quarterly reports of incidents of restraint and/or seclusion to the school board. The school district shall report the incidents to Mississippi Department of Education annually.
- e. This policy and supporting procedures shall be reviewed with all staff on an annual basis.
- f. The superintendent or designee shall develop procedures for reporting the use of restraint or seclusion to the local board of education and to the Mississippi Department of Education.
- g. After reviewing the district reports of incidents in which restraint and seclusion were used, if necessary, the superintendent shall make recommendations to the board for possible revisions to this policy. The review and/or revisions to this policy shall be documented on the school board meeting agenda and the subsequent minutes of the school board meeting. The school district or school shall maintain records of its review of and any resulting decisions or actions regarding the use of seclusion and restraint.

Parental Notification:

- a. All parents shall receive, at least annually, written information about the policies and procedures for restraint and seclusion issued by this school district. The written policies shall be included in the code of conduct, student handbook, school board policy manual, and any other appropriate school publication.
- b. Parents or guardians shall be notified verbally or in writing on the day of the restraint or seclusion or no later than 48 hours following the incident. In the event a parent cannot be reached by telephone, a letter shall be sent informing the parent of the incident and the person who can be contacted at the school to address any questions the parent may have. At the time the parent is notified, the school shall schedule a debriefing with the parent to discuss the incident.
- c. A complaint from a parent regarding the physical restraint or seclusion of their child may be submitted in writing to the principal. The written complaint must state the student's name, the nature and date of the restraint or seclusion, the persons involved (teacher, witness, etc.) and requested action. The principal shall provide an initial response to the complainant within five school days. If the parent is not satisfied with the response, he/she may request (in writing) a review by the superintendent. Within 10 days from receiving the request for a review, the superintendent will issue a decision.

STUDENT BULLYING

Policy Link:

<https://yazooco.msbapolicy.org/DistrictPolicies/ViewsAdmin/SelectedDocumentReadOnly/tabid/6639/Default.aspx?docId=105583>

STUDENT BULLYING PROCEDURES

Policy Link:

<https://yazooco.msbapolicy.org/DistrictPolicies/ViewsAdmin/SelectedDocumentReadOnly/tabid/6639/Default.aspx?docId=105583>

The Yazoo County School District does not condone and will not tolerate bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that (a) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, or (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student’s educational performance, opportunities or benefits. A “hostile environment” means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior will not be condoned or tolerated when it takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus, or when it takes place off school property when such conduct, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders the offending person’s presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole.

The Yazoo County School District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no student or school employee is subjected to bullying or harassing behavior by other school employees or students. Likewise, the District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no person engages in any act of reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness or a person with reliable information about an act of bullying or harassing behavior. The District encourages anyone who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or school employee has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior to report the incident to the appropriate school official.

The School Board directs the superintendent or designee to design and implement procedures for reporting, investigating, and addressing bullying and harassing behaviors. The procedures should be appropriately placed in District personnel policy handbooks, school handbooks that include discipline policies and procedures, and any other policy or procedure that deals with student or employee behavior. The discipline policies and procedures must recognize the fundamental right of every student to take “reasonable actions” as may be necessary to defend himself or herself from an attack by another student who has evidenced menacing or threatening behavior through bullying or harassing. Furthermore, the Yazoo County School District defines “reasonable action” as promptly reporting the behavior to a teacher, principal, counselor, or other school employee when subjected to bullying or harassing behavior.

LEVEL A:

These behaviors are usually minor infractions that should be managed by the teacher at the classroom level. However, if a Level A behavior is of a continuous nature, a major nature, or if the teacher’s actions are unsuccessful in correcting the misconduct, then a Level A

misbehavior may be, at the principal’s discretion, upgraded to a Level B misbehavior. A record of the action is to be maintained.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT: Teachers must submit the appropriate disciplinary form.

NOTE: A reasonable effort must be made by the classroom teacher to contact the parent before Level A misbehavior is sent to the Principal to be upgraded a Level B offense.

GRADES Pre-K-5th Grade

ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
Behavior that includes, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Leaving playground without permission. <input type="checkbox"/> Using bathroom on the ground. <input type="checkbox"/> Cheating. <input type="checkbox"/> Disrespect <input type="checkbox"/> Littering. <input type="checkbox"/> Throwing any objects. <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping in class <input type="checkbox"/> Excessive noise in the classroom, hall, or cafeteria. <input type="checkbox"/> Not obeying any posted rules. <input type="checkbox"/> Improper physical contact. <input type="checkbox"/> Disregard of authority. <input type="checkbox"/> Other behavior deemed by the Principal to fall under Level A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> School-Wide Discipline Plan

ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
Behavior that includes, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Dress Code Violation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1ST offense – Student corrects problem or reports to In-School Suspension (ISS). • 2nd offense – Student corrects problem or reports to ISS until the student is in compliance; Parent is contacted. • 3rd offense - Out-of-school suspension and suspension continues until parent returns to the school with the child. • 4th offense – Any offense after the 3rd offense will be level B offense

GRADES 6-12

ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
Behavior that includes, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Attending class without appropriate materials <input type="checkbox"/> Cheating <input type="checkbox"/> Disrespect <input type="checkbox"/> Disruptive conduct <input type="checkbox"/> Littering <input type="checkbox"/> Loitering <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping in class <input type="checkbox"/> Improper physical contact (non-physical or argumentative) <input type="checkbox"/> Not obeying posted rules <input type="checkbox"/> Disregard of authority <input type="checkbox"/> Other behavior deemed by the Principal to fall under Level A. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> School-Wide Discipline Plan

GRADES 6-12

ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
Behavior that includes, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 4 tardies, offenses to be viewed per Semester 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1st Offense – Student reports to school office for tardy slip to enter class. <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Offense – Student reports to school office <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Offense – Parent Contact <input type="checkbox"/> 4th Offense – Upgrade to Level B

ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
Behavior that includes, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Dress Code Violation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1ST offense – Student corrects problem or reports to In-School Suspension (ISS). • 2nd offense – Student corrects problem or reports to ISS until the student is in compliance; Parent is contacted. • 3rd offense - Out-of-School suspension and suspension continues until parent returns to the school with the child. • 4th offense – Any offense after the 3rd offense will upgrade to level B offense

UPGRADE LEVEL A TO LEVEL B

When a student exhibits continuous misbehavior and consequences given by the classroom teacher have failed to correct the misbehavior, a student may be referred to the principal along with documentation of prior strategies used by the teacher to correct the misbehavior. A conference with the principal will determine if an upgrade from Level A to Level B is appropriate.

The principal's list of Level A behavior along with a consistent series of consequences will be used by every teacher to correct this misbehavior. Other Level A behaviors and consequences are determined and posted by grade level teachers. Principals may, at times, exercise their authority concerning designated Level A behaviors and apply consequences whenever necessary.

Parental contact should be a step in every teacher's assertive classroom discipline plan or grade level discipline plan.

LEVEL B

These behaviors are either (1) of a more serious nature than Level A misconduct or (2) Level A misconduct that, due to the frequency of the behavior or ineffectiveness of the teacher's actions, have been upgraded from Level A. Misbehavior classified as Level B or upgraded to Level B requires intervention by the Principal. Students exhibiting Level B behavior shall be referred to the office by teachers for administrative action and may result in the involvement of law enforcement authorities. A record of action is to be maintained in SAMS; the Yazoo County School District student information system.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT: Teachers must submit the appropriate disciplinary form.

GRADES K-5

ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
<p>Behavior that includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Gambling <input type="checkbox"/> Improper touching <input type="checkbox"/> Destroying school property <input type="checkbox"/> Spitting at or on someone <input type="checkbox"/> Obscene gestures <input type="checkbox"/> Cheating <input type="checkbox"/> Profanity <input type="checkbox"/> Indecent exposure <input type="checkbox"/> Fighting <input type="checkbox"/> Strong-arm tactics (intimidate/extortion) <input type="checkbox"/> Theft <input type="checkbox"/> Possession of pornographic material, gang paraphernalia, signs, or symbols <input type="checkbox"/> Disrespect to teacher or staff person <input type="checkbox"/> Intimidation (verbal) <input type="checkbox"/> Unauthorized selling of any items by student while at school (i.e., selling chips; candy; snacks; etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Upgrade from Level A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1st Offense – Principal/parent/student conference <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Offense – 1-3 days of in-school suspension <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd – 5th Offense – 1-3 days in-or-out-of-school suspension

GRADES 6-12

ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
<p>Behavior that includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Skipping class (without leaving campus) <input type="checkbox"/> Gambling <input type="checkbox"/> Throwing inappropriate objects on campus <input type="checkbox"/> Improper driving on campus <input type="checkbox"/> Profanity <input type="checkbox"/> Cheating <input type="checkbox"/> Unauthorized selling of products not approved through the principal's office <input type="checkbox"/> Obscene gesture directed at student <input type="checkbox"/> Improper physical contact <input type="checkbox"/> Strong-arm tactics (intimidate/extortion) <input type="checkbox"/> Theft <input type="checkbox"/> Disrespect to teacher or staff person <input type="checkbox"/> Unauthorized selling of any items by student while at school (i.e., selling chips; candy; snacks; etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Upgrade from Level A <input type="checkbox"/> Other behavior deemed by the Principal to fall under Level B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1st Offense – Principal/parent/student conference <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Offense – 1-3 days of in-school suspension <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd – 5th Offense – 1-3 days in-or-out-of-school suspension

GRADES K-12

ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
<p>Behavior that includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cell phones, “smart” watches, watches with computer or internet features, camera or video devices, radios, tape players, sound reproducing equipment, beepers, video game players and any unauthorized items BEING USED DURING INSTRUCTIONAL TIME <input type="checkbox"/> Additional consequences as noted in the Cellular Telephone/Electronic Device policy may be implemented based on activity occurring at the time of confiscation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1st offense – device held by school for five (5) days; parent/guardian must pick up cell phone <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd offense – device held by school for ten (10) days; parent/guardian must pay \$25 fee (cash only); devices will only be returned to the parent/guardian after fee payment. <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd offense – device held by school for twenty (20) days; parent/guardian must pay \$25 fee (cash only); devices will only be returned to the parent/guardian after fee payment <input type="checkbox"/> 4th offense – Device held by school for the remainder of the school year

GRADES K-12

ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
Behavior that includes, but is not limited to: <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying and/or cyber bullying.	<input type="checkbox"/> Suspension (in/out of school) and/or referral for change of placement.
Behavior that includes, but is not limited to: <input type="checkbox"/> Bus infractions	<p>GRADES KINDERGARTEN THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> First offense – Parent conference and/or loss of bus privileges for three (3) days <input type="checkbox"/> Second offense – Loss of bus privileges for five (5) days <input type="checkbox"/> Third offense – Loss of bus privileges for ten (10) days <input type="checkbox"/> Fourth offense – Loss of bus privileges for twenty (20) days <input type="checkbox"/> Fifth offense – Loss of bus privileges for the remainder of the school year.
	<p>GRADES NINTH GRADE THROUGH TWELFTH GRADE:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> First offense – Parent conference and/or loss of bus privileges for three (3) days <input type="checkbox"/> Second offense – Loss of bus privileges for five (5) days <input type="checkbox"/> Third offense – Loss of bus privileges for ten (10) days <input type="checkbox"/> Fourth offense – Loss of bus privileges for twenty (20) days <input type="checkbox"/> Fifth offense – Loss of bus privileges for the remainder of the school year.

GRADES K-12

ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
Behavior that includes, but is not limited to: <input type="checkbox"/> Possession of pornographic material, gang paraphernalia, signs, or symbols <input type="checkbox"/> Igniting fireworks <input type="checkbox"/> Water guns, toy guns, or any liquid propulsion device <input type="checkbox"/> Falsifying information, not giving correct name; etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism and/or destruction of school property (including school bus) (less than\$ 50.00)	<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to Level C consequences

UPGRADE LEVEL B TO LEVEL C

When a student exhibits continuous misbehavior and consequences for Level B misconduct have failed to correct the misbehavior, a student may be referred to the principal for a conference to determine if an upgrade from Level B to Level C is appropriate.

Students who are suspended at the end of school will be required to take all exams on the last exam day. If suspended days exceed the number of days remaining in the school year, the suspension days will be served at the beginning of the next school year.

LEVEL C

These behaviors are: (1) of a more serious nature than Level B or (2) Level B misconduct that, due to the frequency of the behavior or ineffectiveness of previous actions, has been upgraded from Level B. Students exhibiting Level C behavior shall be referred to the office by teachers for administrative action and may result in the involvement of law enforcement authorities. A record of the action is to be maintained in SAMS; the Yazoo County School District Student Information System.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT: Teachers must submit the appropriate disciplinary form.

GRADES K-5

ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
Behavior that includes, but is not limited to: <input type="checkbox"/> Flagrant disregard for authority <input type="checkbox"/> Upgrade from Level B <input type="checkbox"/> Other behavior deemed by the Principal to fall under Level C	<input type="checkbox"/> Out-of-School suspension for 3 days

GRADES 6-12

ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
Behavior that includes, but is not limited to: <input type="checkbox"/> Obscene gestures directed at teacher or staff <input type="checkbox"/> Profanity directed at teacher or staff <input type="checkbox"/> Indecent exposure – yourself or another <input type="checkbox"/> Possession of a chemical defense device such as mace <input type="checkbox"/> Smoking or possession of products (i.e., matches, lighters, etc.) and/or electronic cigarettes/"vapes" <input type="checkbox"/> Upgrade from Level B <input type="checkbox"/> Other behavior deemed by the Principal to fall under Level C	All Offenses/suspensions may be up to three (3) days based on principal discretion <input type="checkbox"/> 1 st Offense – Suspension and parent conference <input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd Offense – Suspension and/or referral for a change of placement <input type="checkbox"/> 3 rd Offense – Suspension out of school and will be referred for a change of placement

GRADES K-12

ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
<p>Behavior that includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Strong-arm tactics <input type="checkbox"/> Theft (\$ 51 – \$ 299) <input type="checkbox"/> Leaving campus without permission <input type="checkbox"/> Flagrant disregard for authority (extreme insubordination) <input type="checkbox"/> Inappropriate intentional physical contact <input type="checkbox"/> Fighting – physical aggression requiring separation which may result in an injury that may require treatment and/or deemed of a serious nature by the principal <input type="checkbox"/> Falsifying documentation turned into the school office <input type="checkbox"/> Unauthorized engaging of the fire alarm <input type="checkbox"/> Incite/create riot, havoc or disorder <input type="checkbox"/> Upgrade from Level B <input type="checkbox"/> Other behavior deemed by the Principal to fall under Level C 	<p>All Offenses/suspensions may be up to five (5) days based on principal discretion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1st Offense – Suspension and parent conference <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Offense – Suspension and/or referral for a change of placement <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Offense – Suspension out of school and will be referred for a change of placement
<p>Behavior that includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cell phones, “smart” watches, watches with computer or internet features, camera or video devices, radios, tape players, sound reproducing equipment, beepers, video game players and any unauthorized items BEING USED DURING INSTRUCTIONAL TIME. <input type="checkbox"/> Additional consequences as noted in the Cellular Telephone/Electronic Device policy may be implemented based on activity occurring at the time of confiscation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Additional consequences may be implemented based on the activity occurring at the time of confiscation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ If scanning or taking pictures of test, the student may also be recommended for expulsion. ◇ If scanning or taking pictures of any assessment which is a part of the Mississippi Assessment and Accountability system (state testing), the student will be recommended for expulsion and test will be invalidated. ◇ Students who inappropriately video, photograph and/or otherwise record any event during normal school hours and/or school sponsored events may be recommended for change of placement. <p>School personnel will not be held responsible for prohibited items which have been confiscated.</p>

UPGRADE LEVEL C TO LEVEL D

When a student exhibits continuous misbehavior and consequences for Level C misconduct have failed to correct the misbehavior, a student may be referred to the principal for a conference to determine if an upgrade from Level C to Level D is appropriate.

Students who are suspended at the end of school will be required to take all exams on the last exam day. If suspended days exceed the number of days remaining in the school year, the suspension days will be served at the beginning of the next school year.

Proper law enforcement officials will be called when necessary.

LEVEL D

At this level, school resource officers are involved. These behaviors are of a more serious nature than Level C. Administrative action is required and shall result in the involvement of local law enforcement authorities or other agencies or organizations. A record of the action is to be maintained.

The Yazoo County Board of Education recognizes that the possession of pistols, firearms or other weapons on school premises or at school functions by persons other than duly authorized law enforcement officials creates an unreasonable and unwarranted risk of injury or death to district employees, students, visitors and guests. Because of such dangers, the school board hereby prohibits the possession of pistols, firearms or weapons in any form by any person other than duly authorized law enforcement officials on school premises or at school functions, regardless of whether any such person possesses a valid permit to carry such pistols, firearms or weapons. In addition to a school board decision, a report will be filed with Youth Court.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT: Teachers must submit the appropriate disciplinary form.

NOTE: “Student” shall mean a person enrolled in public or private school, college or university, or a person who has been suspended or expelled within the last five (5) years from public or private school, college or university, whether the person is an adult or minor.

GRADES K-12: The following acts of misconduct are considered major and the student will automatically receive Level D.

ACTIONS:

Behavior that includes but is not limited to:

1. **Upgrade from Level C**
2. **Prescription drugs, illegal drugs, alcohol and/or inhalants**
 - a. **Selling or distribution**
 - b. **Unauthorized use (whether on campus or off campus; students with the odor of use; or at school under the influence)**
 - c. **Unauthorized possession**
3. **Arson (willful and malicious burning of any part of a building or its contents)**
4. **Simple Assault or Battery upon a Yazoo County School District employee (the intentional, lawful threat by word or act to do violence to the person of another, coupled with an apparent ability to do so, and the doing of some act which creates a well- formed fear in the other person that violence is imminent; the actual unlawful and intentional touching or striking of a district employee against his or her will, or the intentional causing of bodily harm to district employee)**
5. **Aggravated assault upon a student by a student**
6. **Possession of firearms or other deadly weapons (A weapon is defined as any gun, rifle, pistol or other firearm of any kind, or any dynamite cartridge bomb, grenade, mine, or powerful explosive on educational property A weapon is further defined as any BB gun, air rifle, air pistol, bowie knife, dirk, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, switchblade knife, (continued on next page)**

CONSEQUENCES:

- On the first offense, the student or students will receive an out of school suspension (of up to nine days). The student or students will be referred for a change of placement.**
- State law requires that any student in any school who possesses any controlled substance is in violation of the Uniform Controlled Substance law, a knife, a handgun, other firearm, or any other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm or who commits a violent act on educational property as defined in Section 97-37-17, MS Code of 1972, shall be subject to automatic expulsion by the Superintendent or Principal from such school. Such expulsion shall take place immediately subject to the constitutional rights of due process. If the student was expelled or is a party to any expulsion proceeding for an act of violence, weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, or other activity that may result in expulsion, the school district shall not be required to grant admission or enrollment to the student before one calendar year after the date of expulsion.**
- The parent or guardian will be notified, and a hearing before the District Placement Committee will be scheduled to determine a punishment. The Principal may suspend the student from school until the District Placement Committee has met and determined a punishment. That decision will be forwarded to the school board for further action.**

LEVEL D - continued

GRADES K-12: The following acts of misconduct are considered major and the student will automatically receive Level D.

ACTIONS:	CONSEQUENCES:
<p>Behavior that includes but is not limited to:</p> <p>blackjack, metallic knuckles, razors, and razor blades (except solely for personal shaving), any sharp-pointed or edged instrument except instructional supplies [this does not apply to the blade of a pencil sharpener which has been removed for the purpose of harm to school property and/or others], unaltered nail files and clips, and tools used solely for preparation of food, instruction and maintenance on educational property, and any imitation weapons.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">7. Students who cause, encourage, or aid another individual to possess, use, or transfer a weapon or controlled substance.8. Bomb Threat (Any such communication directed at school district employee, shelter direct or indirect, which has the effect of interrupting the educational environment or creating a safety hazard or unsafe situation.)9. Explosives (Preparing, possessing, or igniting on school district property explosives likely to cause serious bodily injury or property damage.)10. Sexual Acts (Acts of sexual nature including, but not limited to: harassment, battery, intercourse, attempted rape, or rape)11. Aggravated Battery (Intentionally causing great bodily harm, disability, or permanent disfigurement; use of a deadly weapon)12. Inciting or participating in a major student disorder. (Leading, encouraging, or assisting in [major] disruptions that result in destruction or damage of private or public property or personal injury to participants or others)13. Theft or vandalism exceeding \$ 300, replacement cost plus. (Reference: 37-111-19, MS Code of 1972)14. Breaking and entering, pay for damages plus15. Possession and use of chemical weapon such as mace, pepper gas, etc.16. Transmission, downloading, printing, retrieval, or storage of any material from an unauthorized web site.	

The school utilizes discipline forms whenever a student violates any of the rules and regulations of the school. A copy of this form indicating the violation and action taken is sent home with the student.

THE COPY SENT HOME IS FOR PARENTAL NOTIFICATION. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO DELIVER THE PARENTAL NOTIFICATION TO HIS/HER PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

BOARD POLICY for SMOKING AND OTHER USES OF TOBACCO:

<https://yazooco.msbspolicy.org/DistrictPolicies/ViewsAdmin/SelectedDocumentReadOnly/tabid/6639/Default.aspx?docId=200962>

BOARD POLICY for INTERROGATIONS AND SEARCHES

<https://yazooco.msbspolicy.org/DistrictPolicies/ViewsAdmin/SelectedDocumentReadOnly/tabid/6639/Default.aspx?docId=103010>

Interrogations and searches of students will be conducted in accordance with federal and state laws, statutes, and school board policies.

Section I: DESKS

Desks are school property and remain at all times under the control of the school. However, students are responsible for whatever is contained in desks issued to them by the school. School authorities may conduct periodic general inspections at any time for any reason related to school administration. Inspection of desks may occur when there is a reasonable basis to do so, and in those cases, the student or a third party shall be present.

Section II: AUTOMOBILES

The school retains authority to inspect students' automobiles used as transportation to school whether on or off school property. When a school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal or unauthorized materials are contained inside a student vehicle, the student may be required to open the automobile, including the trunk, for further inspection.

Section III: SEARCH OF STUDENTS

A student's person and/or personal effects may be searched whenever a school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student is in possession of illegal or unauthorized materials.

If a pat-down search of a student's person is conducted, it will be conducted in private by a school official of the same sex with an adult witness present. It will be an extremely rare situation that requires a more intrusive search of a student's person than a pat down. Only if extreme emergency conditions exist, and only upon prior approval by the central office, shall a more intrusive search be conducted. If a search is necessary, it will be conducted in private by a

school official of the same sex with an adult witness of the same sex present.

DISCIPLINE AT THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER:

Students attending the Yazoo City School District as a vocational or technical student from the high school in this district will be required to adhere to the rules and regulations established by the Yazoo County School District. Students who received out-of-school suspension from the “home” school or the Vo-Tech Center will not be allowed to attend the other for the duration of the suspension.

DISCIPLINE AT THE YAZOO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL:

The Alternative School has a separate handbook that lists rules and regulations. Upon assignment to the Alternative School, students will be apprised of the guidelines for student behavior as stated in the Alternative School’s student/parent handbook.

STUDENT CONDUCT AFTER SCHOOL/OUT-OF-TOWN SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITIES:

Students traveling in private vehicles to after school activities held either at the high school or out-of town will be the responsibility of their parents. However, once on school property whether at the high school or an event at another school in which the high school is a participant, the students are under the jurisdiction of the school district. Students traveling under school official’s supervision (regardless of means of transportation) are subject to all of the school district’s rules and regulations. *Students should be aware that they and/or their baggage is subject to search before, during and/or after any school-sponsored trip.* School rules apply to any off-campus events regardless of where they are held.

The Mississippi High School Activities Handbook states that the superintendent, principal, coach or other representative of the school shall be responsible for the conduct of those connected with their school, both at home and on trips.

USE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT:

It is the philosophy and belief of the YAZOO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT that the responsibility for managing student discipline violations rests with the faculty, staff, and administration. Thus, we will make every effort to handle such problems in-house, according to the policies and procedures established by the district and the school. However, when violations of state laws or municipal ordinances occur, or when students or parents refuse to work within the established policies of the district and school, or where security of a person or property appear to be in jeopardy, the building level administrators will not hesitate to call the police and initiate arrest and prosecution proceedings.

DRUG USE: YAZOO COUNTY SCHOOLS/JCDAC:

The provisions of this policy statement shall apply to all students during all of the period of time that they are under and subject to the jurisdiction of this school district as defined by the laws of the State of Mississippi, and while participating in or going to or coming from any

school function sponsored by this principal or other authority of this district.

POSSESSION OF DRUGS OR ANY CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES:

No student attending school in the Yazoo County School District shall be permitted to carry on his person or have in his possession in any way controlled substances prohibited by federal and state law; alcoholic beverages, morphine, marijuana, cocaine, opium, heroin or their derivatives or compounds, drugs commonly called LSD, “pep” pills, tranquilizers, or any other narcotic drug, barbiturate, look-alike drugs, substance ingredient or compound which may cause the person to be under the influence thereof, and no person shall use the same at any time while subject to the rules and regulations of the school district.

LIMITATIONS OF THIS POLICY:

This policy shall not apply to any student who is under the care of a licensed physician and who is taking medication which is under the supervision and direction of such physician. However, the student, parent, and school personnel must adhere to the rules and regulations governing medication as outlined in Board Policy: “JGCA – Administering Medication in School” for this limitation to apply.

PENALTIES:

Any student violating any of the provisions of this policy statement shall at the sole discretion of the principal involved and the superintendent of schools, be automatically suspended for a period of ten (10) days and may be expelled in the sole and absolute discretion of the school board. Depending upon the circumstances, the student may be turned over to law enforcement authorities for criminal prosecution. In all such cases of a student found in possession of any substances labeled as “drugs or drug paraphernalia,” the parent or legal guardian must be notified immediately.

DISSEMINATION OF THIS POLICY:

The Yazoo County School Board mandates that this policy be disseminated to all students, parents and school personnel at the beginning of each school year.

WEAPONS ON SCHOOL PREMISES/JCDAE:

The Yazoo County Board of Education prohibits the possession of pistols, firearms, and any other device/object, which is capable of causing bodily harm to another person. This policy applies to all students, parents, and school personnel, as well as, the general public.

The restrictions on weapons not only applies to the school grounds; it applies to buses, school functions (whether at home, in transit, or at another location), and it applies to any situation or circumstance that directly involves the school.

The only exception to this policy is a duly authorized law officer. Anyone having a valid permit to carry a firearm other than an officer of the law shall not be allowed the right to have in his/her possession that weapon which the permit applies on school premises as defined above.

PENALTIES FOR VIOLATING THIS POLICY:

Students will be suspended immediately and may be expelled if the evidence warrants such action. The length of expulsion for a student who is determined to have brought a gun to school is a period no less than one year, except that the chief administrating officer of the Yazoo County School District shall be allowed to modify such expulsions on a case by case basis to accommodate students with disabilities. LEGAL REF.: *No Child Left Behind, Gun-Free Schools*

Any student who brings a firearm or weapon to school must be referred to the appropriate criminal justice and/or juvenile delinquency system.

Staff members will be suspended until an investigation into the matter is concluded. If the evidence clearly indicates that the staff member willfully violated this policy, the staff member's contract shall be terminated at that time, and the incident may become a part of the staff member's record.

Anyone not considered school personnel who violates this policy shall be prosecuted to the full extent of law. LEGAL REF.: ***Tinker v. Des Moines*, 393 U.S. 503 (1969); 37-7-301 (e) 37-9-71**

STUDENT DETENTION AND SUSPENSION:

In-School Suspension -- In-School Suspension (ISS) is designed to minimize the need for out-of school suspension except when the student's presence will lead to violence or further disruption. The ISS classroom students will be required to complete schoolwork and complete all work assigned by the ISS monitor.

Out-of-School Suspension— Out-of-school suspension is the denial of the privilege of attending school. Students under suspension shall not be present upon any school grounds or property or attend any school sponsored activity or event except for a prearranged conference with the principal. Students under suspension who are on school property or attending a school-sponsored event or activity may be suspended for additional days or may be prosecuted for criminal trespass.

In the case of suspension by the school principal, the parent and/or guardian shall be notified within 24 hours of such suspension and advised of the reason thereof. If a student is to be sent home during normal school hours, a parent and/or guardian shall be notified before the student is dismissed. No student shall be sent home during normal school hours until a parent and/or guardian has first been notified.

When unacceptable behavior cannot be corrected by the resources of the school, the board hereby authorizes the school principal or his/her designee, to suspend any student for violation of any published rule or regulation or for any act of misconduct or insubordination as a final effort to influence the student's behavior.

DUE PROCESS:

Students facing suspension shall be given oral or written notice of charges against him/her by the principal or his designee.

If the student denies the charges, he/she shall be given an explanation of the evidence that the principal or his designee has against him/her and shall be given an opportunity to present his/her side of the story.

In all cases of suspension, the parent and/or guardian appointed by the Chancery Court shall be notified in writing within 24 hours of such suspension giving the reason thereof.

Suspension in excess of 10 school days may be given only by the action of the Board of Trustees and then only after such student has been afforded notice, opportunity of a hearing, and other procedural rights consistent with state and federal due process requirements.

A student may request a hearing before the District Disciplinary Committee regarding his/her penalty. Students on suspension for 5 or more days must return to school accompanied by a parent and/or guardian before he/she will be readmitted to school.

A student must complete the suspension before he/she receives credit for previous work done. A second semester suspension, if it occurs at or near the end of the semester, may be completed during the summer. If a student transfers to another school because of suspension, they must serve their suspension before they can re-enter any classes in the Yazoo County School District. Student transfers will not be used to circumvent consequences resulting from suspensions.

During the time a student serving a suspension or expulsion, he/she will not be allowed to participate in or attend extracurricular activities, including graduation, athletic events, band, any school functions, etc.

DUE PROCESS

<https://yazoo.msba.org/DistrictPolicies/ViewsAdmin/SelectedDocumentReadOnly/tabid/6639/Default.aspx?docId=230687>

COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES:

The Board realizes that there may be conditions in the school system that need improvement and that students have some means to effectively express their concerns which will be considered and handled with fairness.

Students' complaints and grievances shall be resolved through orderly processes and at the lowest possible level. However, the Board shall provide channels for eventual hearings, should circumstances dictate.

Complaints and grievances shall be approached in the following manner:

1. the opportunity shall be provided any student or his parents to discuss with his teacher a decision or situation, which he considers unjust or unfair;
2. if the matter remains unresolved, the student or his parents, or the teacher, may bring the matter to the principal's attention for his consideration and action;
3. the student may also bring the matter to the class officers or the student council for possible presentation to the principal;
4. if the matter is still unresolved, it may be brought to the superintendent for his

consideration;

5. complaints that remain unresolved following any action of the superintendent may be referred in writing to the Board.

LEGAL REF.: 1972 Education Amendments, Title IX; 45 CFR Part 86; 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title VI; 1973 Rehabilitation Act, Section 504; 45 CFR Part 84

It is the intent of the Yazoo County School District Board of Trustees to comply with all provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Carl Perkins Vocational Education Act of 1984, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and P.L.94-142. The Board directs that no person shall on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, age, or religion be discriminated against or excluded from or denied the benefits of any program or any opportunity or activity. This action of the Board applies to all applicants for employment in the Yazoo County Schools, present employees, and students. The school board directs the superintendent of schools to serve as the local officer of compliance. The compliance officer will receive complaints directed toward the school system, investigate the complaint, and take necessary action. *Questions may be directed to Ken Barron, Ed. D., Superintendent, 94 Panther Drive, Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194, or by calling 662-746-4672.* Click here for [Complaint and/or Grievance Form](#).

YAZOO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT MANDATORY DRESS CODE

SHIRTS

Colors:

- Navy
- Carolina Blue White
- White
- Grey

Type of Shirt:

- Collared Shirts
- Dress Shirts
- Solid T-Shirts
- T-Shirts that bear the YCSD Panther Logo/emblem

NOTE: White under shirts may not be worn as a school shirt.

PANTS

Colors:

- Blue
- Khaki
- Black
- Grey

Type of Pants:

- Jeans
- Slacks
- Wind pants
- Sweatpants

NOTE: Pants are not to have holes in them exposing excessive skin. There should be NO HOLES in pants 3” above the knee and up. Holes in pants cannot distract from the learning environment and is at the principal’s discretion when in question.

NOTE: Any type of dress code approved pants listed above **CAN NOT** sag, be extremely baggy, or fit extremely tight. Pants worn cannot distract from the learning environment and is at the principal’s discretion when in question.

SHORTS/SKORTS/JUMPERS/DRESSES

Colors:

- Navy Blue
- Carolina Blue
- Khaki
- Black
- White
- Grey

Type:

- Length shall not exceed 3” above the knee for shorts, skorts, jumpers, and/or dresses

COATS/SWEATSHIRTS/JACKETS

- Any form of coat or jacket may be worn.
- Sweatshirts and hoodies may be worn in the color schemes listed above regarding shirts, pants, shorts, skorts, jumpers, and/or dresses.

SHOES

- No Shower shoes
- No slides
- No house shoes
- No slippers
- No beach shoes

SOCKS/TIGHTS

- If worn, solid white, navy, khaki, black, or brown

SCHOOL TEAM UNIFORM

- Jersey with undershirt, warm-up attire, etc., may be worn during the athletic season during which the team is engaged

SCHOOL SPIRIT DAYS

- To be determined by the principal and at the principal's discretion
- School logo may be worn

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Each student has the responsibility to dress appropriately for the school environment. Wearing apparel, hair and general appearance shall not disrupt the classroom atmosphere and/or learning environment, shall not be unusually provocative, or shall not violate health and safety rules of the school. The guideline for dress and grooming are provided to assist parents and shall apply to ALL students. Student's dress and grooming shall be neat, clean, and follow the general guidelines below:

The principal shall have the final decision about the appropriateness of all components of the dress code of the Yazoo County School District.

SUMMARY

- Shirts are to be worn tucked into pants, skirts, shorts, or skorts.
- The length of the shorts, skorts, skirts, and jumpers shall not exceed 3' above the knee.
- Students are prohibited from wearing additional "patches", pins, tattoos, visible body piercing other than the ear lobe, ornate or cumbersome earrings or jewelry, or any other item that may be considered lewd, profane, obscene, suggestive, vulgar, non-school group affiliated or distracting which may harass, threaten, intimidate, or demean other groups; or which display illegal merchandise or contraband; or any item which may distract from the educational process
- Students may not wear sweatshirts, sweaters, vests, jackets or coats around the waist, neck, shoulders, etc.

- Head covering including but not limited to caps, hats, bandannas, “doo” rags, hair curlers, sunglasses, headbands, or any gang symbols are prohibited
- All clothing is to fit appropriately. Oversized and extremely tight-fitting clothing is prohibited.

SPECIFIC RULES OF THE STUDENT DRESS CODE

Students are to be in compliance with the mandatory dress code before entering the building and at all times on campus; from arrival through departure. Bus students must be in compliance at all times on the bus. Additionally, students are to be groomed and dressed neatly.

The principal will determine what constitutes distracting influences in matters of dress and grooming and reserves the right to make modifications as needed.

All components of dress are to be worn in keeping with the intent of the overall dress code. Circumventing the policy is prohibited. If a style of dress or appearance is, in the opinion of the administration, disruptive to the educational process, constitutes a potential threat to the safety or health of the student or other persons, or contradicts the intent of the policy, it shall not be permitted.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Every Student Succeeds Act ESSA Requirement:

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) prohibits the use of funds authorized under this Act to be used to:

- 1) Develop or distribute material, or operate programs or courses of instruction directed at youth, that are designed to promote or encourage sexual activity, whether homosexual or heterosexual,
- 2) Provide sex education or HIV-prevention education in schools unless that instruction is age appropriate and includes the health benefits of abstinence, and
- 3) Operate a program of contraceptive distribution in schools.

Legal Ref: MS Code 37-13-171, 37-13-173, 37-13-175

FEE POLICY:

This school board hereby authorizes the superintendent to charge reasonable fees, but not more than the actual cost, for the following:

- a) Fees designated by the superintendent as fees related to a valid curriculum educational objective, including transportation; e x t r a c u r r i c u l a r

activities and any other educational activities of the school district which are not designated by the superintendent as valid curriculum educational objectives, such as band trips and athletic events.

- 1) All fees authorized to be charged under this policy, except those fees authorized under subsection (1) (c) of this policy, shall be charged only upon the condition that a financial hardship waiver may be granted upon request pursuant to the following.

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP WAIVER POLICY:

All fees authorized to be charged under subsections (a) and (b) of the Fee Policy above shall be charged only upon the following conditions:

- a) Applications for hardship waivers shall be kept in the strictest of confidence with all files and personal disclosures restricted from review by the general public.
- b) Pupils eligible to have any such fee waived as a result of an inability to pay for said fees, shall not be discriminated against nor shall there be any other identification of any pupil who has received a financial hardship waiver by use of special tokens or tickets, announcements, posting or publication of names, physical separation, choice of materials or by any other means.
- c) In no case shall any of this school district's procedures expose any pupil receiving a hardship waiver to any type stigma or ridicule by other pupils or school district personnel.
- d) The confidentiality provisions of this policy shall apply equally to any students who have an inability to pay any fees authorized under section C of the Fee Policy above.

In no case shall the inability to pay the assessment of fees authorized under the provisions of the Fee Policy above result in a pupil being denied or deprived of any academic awards or standards, any class selection, grade, diploma, transcript or the right to participate in any activity related to educational advancement.

INTERNET SAFETY

Yazoo County School District Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy *Approved by the Yazoo County Board of Education*

The Yazoo County Schools' electronic network is available to students and employees, and the goal is to promote educational excellence in schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovations, and communications. As the technological environment is large and varied, the use of technology by students and employees must be legal and ethical; and it should be consistent with the educational vision, mission, and goals of the Board of Education.

The use of the Yazoo County Schools' network and devices is a privilege, not a right, and each user is expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette and the provisions in this document. Violations of these provisions, or applicable laws and regulations, may result in the loss of computer services, disciplinary action to include termination of employment and/or appropriate legal action, and/or assessment of the cost of damages to hardware/software.

The following uses of school -provided Internet access are not permitted:

- a. Accessing, uploading, downloading, or distributing pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit material;
- b. Transmitting obscene, abusive, sexually explicit, or threatening language;
- c. Violating any local, state, or federal statute;
- d. Accessing another individual's materials, information, or files without the permission of that person;
- e. Violating copyright or otherwise using the intellectual property of another individual or organization without permission;
- f. Using passwords other than one's own without written permission from that person;
- g. Vandalizing, defined as any unauthorized access and/or malicious attempt to damage computer hardware/software or networks or destroying the data of another user, including creating, uploading, or intentionally introducing viruses;
- h. Using the network for commercial purposes;
- i. Harassing, insulting, or attacking others;
- j. Giving out personal information on-line such as full name, home address, phone number, etc.;
- k. Gaining unauthorized access ("hacking") to resources or entities;
- l. Invading the privacy of individuals;
- m. Altering the setup of computers as set by the system administrator;
- n. Using software which has not been assigned or approved by staff;
- o. Failing to follow a district policy while using computers or failing to follow any other policies or guidelines established by district administration, teachers, or other appropriate district staff;
- p. Seeking to gain or gaining unauthorized access to information resources or other computing devices; and

q. Accessing chat rooms, and sites selling term papers, book reports and other forms of student coursework

The school district maintains the right to limit the content of material that students read due to legitimate pedagogical concerns.

Because the Internet contains an unregulated collection of resources, the district cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information or the appropriateness of any material that a student/employee may encounter. Therefore, before using the district's on-line resources, each student/employee (and the parents/guardians of the student) shall sign and return an Acceptable Use Agreement. Students/Employees and parents/guardians shall agree to not hold the district responsible for materials acquired on the system, for violations of copyright restrictions, users' mistakes or negligence or any costs incurred by users.

There have been cases of the Internet being used as a tool in credit card fraud, electronic forgeries, and other forms of illegal behavior. Students and employees should be aware that these activities exist, and should exercise extreme caution to prevent themselves from becoming a victim of such scams.

Although the staff will supervise student use of the Internet while at school, we encourage parents to have a discussion with their children about values and how those beliefs should guide student activities while using the Internet.

INTERNET SAFETY:

All users and their parents/guardians are advised that access to the electronic network may include the potential for access to materials inappropriate for school- aged pupils. Every user must take responsibility for his or her use of the computer network and Internet and stay away from these sites. Parents of minors are the best guide to materials to shun. If a student finds that other users are visiting offensive or harmful sites, he or she should report such use to the person designated by the School.

Personal Safety: In using the computer network and Internet, do not reveal personal information such as your home address or telephone number. Do not use your real last name or any other information which might allow a person to locate you without first obtaining the permission of a supervising teacher. Do not arrange a face--to--face meeting with someone you "meet" on the computer network or Internet without your parent's permission (if you are under 18). Regardless of your age, you should never agree to meet a person you have only communicated with on the Internet in a secluded place or in a private setting.

"Hacking" and Other Illegal Activities: It is a violation of this Policy to use the School's computer network or the Internet to gain unauthorized access to other computers or computer systems, or to attempt to gain such unauthorized access. Any use which violates state or federal law relating to copyright, trade secrets, the distribution of obscene or pornographic materials, or which violates any other applicable law or municipal ordinance, is strictly prohibited.

The Yazoo County Schools provides access to electronic mail for all employees and for specific and selected student use. Such access is for his/her use in any educational and instructional

business that they may conduct. Limited personal use of electronic mail is permitted as long as it does not violate Yazoo County Schools policy and/or adversely affect others. Electronic mail shall not be used to promote political, religious, and/or personal gains. The Board cannot guarantee the privacy, security, or confidentiality of any information sent or received via electronic mail. Network administrators can review e-mail, file folders, and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly.

COPYRIGHT RESTRICTIONS:

All copyright laws and regulations, in all formats, including electronic- based works or processes will be enforced. Material that may be copyrighted: "Any tangible medium of expression now known or later developed, which can be perceived, reproduced, or otherwise communicated either directly or with the aid of a machine, i.e. books, videos, pictures, etc." (Public Law 94-553 [U.S. Code 17] January 1, 1978.

Public or private educational institutions must comply with copyright laws. A 1980 amendment to the 1976 Copyright Act gives computer programs the same basic protection as other original works of authorship. All material, including graphics, available on the Internet is copyright protected unless otherwise stated. It is illegal to make or distribute copies of copyrighted material without proper authorization.

SECURITY:

Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you feel you can identify a security problem on the Yazoo County Schools network, please contact IT Dept. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Do not use another individual's account without written permission from that individual. Attempts to login to any system, program, or network as an administrator may result in cancellation of user privileges.

Occasionally, individuals are issued passwords in order to access programs as part of the tasks they perform. It is each individual's responsibility to protect the integrity of those passwords, and password sharing is strictly prohibited.

Any individual identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access.

GOOGLE APPS FOR EDUCATION:

Google Apps for Education (GAFE) is an important tool utilized by teachers and students. GAFE includes Google applications for creating, sharing, and storing documents, assignments, videos, and may include the use of a district student email account. The use of GAFE is at the discretion of the classroom teacher and will only be used when appropriate for the student's learning objectives. The use of GAFE is governed by the district's Technology Acceptable Use Policy. YCSD encourages all parents to share in the GAFE experience by logging in with your child. School staff will monitor the use of technology while at school. Parents are responsible for monitoring their child's use of technology from home. Students and Faculty are responsible for their behavior at all times.

CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATIONS:

Consequences of violations include but are not limited to:

- Suspension of information network access
- Revocation of information network access
- Suspension of network privileges
- Revocation of network privileges
- Suspension of computer access
- Revocation of computer access
- School suspension
- School expulsion
- Fines related to equipment damages
- Legal action and prosecution by the authorities

BOARD POLICIES

<https://yazooco.msbapolicy.org>

CIPA Policy Link:

<https://yazooco.msbapolicy.org/DistrictPolicies/ViewsAdmin/SelectedDocumentReadOnly/tabid/6639/Default.aspx?docId=104491>

Click here for: [Acceptable Use Agreement](#)

FERPA Policy Link:

<https://yazooco.msbapolicy.org/DistrictPolicies/ViewsAdmin/SelectedDocumentReadOnly/tabid/6639/Default.aspx?docId=200991>

PPRA Policy Link:

<https://yazooco.msbapolicy.org/DistrictPolicies/ViewsAdmin/SelectedDocumentReadOnly/tabid/6639/Default.aspx?docId=102100>

CHILD NUTRITION

1. Federally funded programs cannot accrue debt; therefore, students and adults are not allowed to charge meals.
2. Taking food off school premises is prohibited. In order to protect the reputation of the child nutrition personnel, MDE recommends the implementation of the following preventive policies:
 - a. School employees shall not purchase food or other items from vendors who deliver to the food service program,
 - b. Food, leftovers, and scraps shall not be taken from the school premises by school employees except in a school owned vehicle for the purpose of disposal (or taken off the school premises without permission),
 - c. Child nutrition employees are discouraged from using large purses and from carrying large bags and packages from the premises,
 - d. School employees are prohibited from taking cooked or uncooked food from the cafeteria.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH:

Breakfast and lunch are served each day in the cafeteria. Students who bring their lunch may only purchase milk to drink with their lunch. Extra food sales are available daily. Cash only is acceptable. Students are not allowed to leave campus to purchase food for lunch. Outside fast food is not allowed to be delivered to students unless prior administrative approval is given due to special occasions.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX 1

Asbestos Surveillance of All School Buildings

APPENDIX 1

YAZOO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ken Barron, Ed.D., Superintendent

94 Panther Drive

Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194

To: Parents, Teachers, and School Employees

From: Ken Barron, Ed.D., Superintendent

Subject: Asbestos Surveillance of All School Buildings

As part of an annual notification, we are informing all persons of their option of reviewing the asbestos management plan, which would include documentation of any changes of asbestos containing material in these schools.

To provide continuing management of the asbestos in our schools, all asbestos containing materials (ACM) are inspected every six months by an engineering firm from Jackson, Mississippi. Any changes in the ACM are being recorded in a surveillance report as part of the management plan.

A copy of the surveillance report, along with a copy of the management plan, is located in the principal's office at each school. In addition, a copy of all management plans for the district is maintained in the LEA Asbestos Designee's office located at 94 Panther Drive, Yazoo City, Mississippi, 39194. Any interested party should feel free to go to any of these locations to review these reports.