



Apex High School
2011-2012
Handbook

**APEX HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT/PARENT
HANDBOOK 2011-2012**

Apex High School
1501 Laura Duncan Road
Apex, NC 27502

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Main Office	387-2208
Student Services	387-2215
Attendance Office	387-2226
Special Programs Office	387-2248
Driver's Education Office	387-3019
School Resource Officer	387-3024
Transportation	387-2230

Welcome/Introduction

Welcome to the 2011-12 Apex High Student/Parent handbook. Our hope is that the handbook will be a valuable resource for you. We have included contact information and pertinent policies and procedures that should assist you with questions throughout the year. The school website is our main vehicle for information and updates throughout the year. I would also encourage you to sign up for weekly PTSA updates known as Cougar Notes at www.ApexHigh.com under Parents, PTSA, Cougar Notes.

If you have questions, comments, or suggestions concerning the handbook, please e-mail me at mwright@wcpss.net.

Best wishes on a successful school year!

Matt Wight

Apex High School Statement of Beliefs:

Learning is a lifelong process. Students learn in many diverse ways; therefore, effective instruction incorporates varied teaching strategies. We believe all students benefit when they are actively involved in their learning. Students, teachers, parents, and community organizations participate in the process. The ultimate goal of Apex High School is to prepare its graduates to make successful life choices.

Mission Statement:

Apex High School's mission is to provide all students with a foundation of academics and technology that will prepare them for a lifetime of learning as productive citizens.

Vision Statement:

At Apex High School graduates will master curriculum knowledge. Our students will embody a core of positive character traits. Meaningful relationships between adults and students will provide the support necessary for students to develop their potential and pursue challenging goals. Our student will combine knowledge and skills in becoming lifelong productive citizens.

Value Statement:

Students, teachers, parents and community will collaborate in the design, implementation and celebration of academic and personal achievement. We will focus on teaching and learning using current data to guide our decision making.

ADMINISTRATIVE/STAFF ASSIGNMENTS

Administrators

Principal	Mr. Matthew Wight
Assistant Principal (Instruction) – Grade 12	Ms. Jeannette Hill
Assistant Principal – Grade 11	Mr. Kevin Sergent
Assistant Principal – Grade 10	Mr. Robert Barbour
Assistant Principal – Grade 9	Ms. Ginger Wooten

Support Staff

Lead Secretary	Ms. O'Neill
Bookkeeper	Ms. Leonard
Main Office Secretary	Ms. Tomlinson
Copy Center Support	Ms. Moss
NCWise Data Manager	Ms. Broddle
Computer Lab Assistant	Mr. Burns
Transportation Operations Manager	Ms. Bullard
Head Custodian	Ms. Lane
Cafeteria Manager	Ms. Geisler

Department Chairpersons

English	Ms. Knall, Ms. Fackler-Bretz
Mathematics	Ms. Bolea, Ms. Farmer
Science	Ms. Thomason
Social Studies	Ms. Wilkie
Foreign Language	Ms. Lasher
Special Programs	Ms. Windle
Visual/Performing Arts	Ms. Brokke
Physical Education	Ms. Spaulding
Career/Technical Education	Ms. Cadavid
Media	Ms. Moog
ESL	Ms. Fahle

School Improvement Team

The School Improvement Team (SIT) acts as a steering committee for programs available in the school. The SIT is also responsible for generating and overseeing the implementation of the School Improvement Plan as required by the state of North Carolina. The SIT consists of one faculty member from each department, at least two at-large members, administrators, and parent representatives. Meetings are the first Monday of each month and are open to all staff. Ideas and input are always welcome.

The SIT members for 2011-2012 are:

Matthew Wight	Principal
Jeannette Hill	Assistant Principal, Instruction
Ashley White	Chair, Social Studies
Gary Austin	Career Tech Ed
Ginger Bate	English
Bonnie Bolea	Math
Diane Cadavid	At Large
Cheryl Chenet	Student Services
Ben Cummins	Science
Patricia Evans	Media
Mary Fahle	ESL
Scott Ferguson	At Large
Paul Maseman	Foreign Language
Janice May	Support Staff
Ken Nagel	At Large
Colleen Williams	At Large
Michelle Windle	At Large
Gina Winter	Fine Arts
Laura Linton	PTSA President
Barbara Walsh	PTSA
Laurie Williams	PTSA
Cathy Wood	PTSA

Apex High School
 2011-2012 Bell Schedules
 2011-2012 Bell Schedule without Homeroom

88 minute classes with an extra 5 minutes for 2nd period announcements, 5 minute class change

		Absent After
1 st Period	7:25 – 8:53	8:00
2 nd Period	8:58 – 10:32	9:45
3A Period	10:37 – 12:05	11:21
1 st lunch	10:32 – 11:12	
3B Period	11:17 – 12:45	12:01
2 nd lunch	12:05 – 12:45	
4 th Period	12:50 – 2:18	1:34

Daily Bell Schedule with Homeroom (Wednesday)

84 minute classes, homeroom is 17 minutes, still 5 minute breaks

		Absent After
1 st Period	7:25 – 8:49	8:07
Homeroom	8:54 – 9:11	
2 nd Period	9:16 – 10:40	9:58
3A Period	10:45 – 12:09	11:27
1 st lunch	10:40 – 11:20	
3B Period	11:25 – 12:49	12:07
2 nd lunch	12:09 – 12:49	
4 th Period	12:54 – 2:18	1:36

Early Release Fridays

September 16 October 7 January 13 February 17 March 16 April 27

Student Services Assignments

The counselors and staff in the Student Services department are ready and willing to assist students with questions and problems related to their educational experience at Apex and their plans for the future.

Dean of Students /Testing Coordinator	Mr. Hayden
Counselor for last names beginning with A-C	Ms. Taylor
Counselor for last names beginning with D, P, Q, V-Z	Ms. Schwartz
Counselor for last names beginning with E-J	Ms. Chenet
Counselor for last names beginning with K-O	Ms. Andrews
Counselor for last names beginning with R-U	Mr. Chancy
Career Development Coordinator	Ms. Cadavid
College/Career Center Coordinator	Ms. Loftin
Student Assistant Program (SAP) Coordinator, 504	Ms. Pittelli
Registrar	Ms. Graham
Intervention	Ms. Margaret Smith

Hours/Appointments

The Student Services department offers an array of services for students. Students needing assistance from the Student Services Department should get permission from their teacher to go schedule an appointment.

Transcripts

Students who wish to request a transcript may obtain a TRANSCRIPT REQUEST FORM from the Student Services office. The student should complete and return the transcript request form to the Student Services office. Transcripts will be mailed out once a week. Please allow sufficient time to process requests. The first three transcripts are free. Each additional transcript will be charged a \$5.00 fee.

Withdrawals

Students who wish to withdraw from Apex High School must meet with a counselor or an administrator. If students are moving during the school year, parents must contact the student's counselor. Students must report to the Student Services office and pick up a transfer form before the start of school on the last day of attendance at Apex. The transfer form must be signed by all teachers, and all books must be turned in/paid for at that time. At the end of

the day, students need to return to Student Services and turn in the signed form. A copy of the withdrawal form will be sent with the student to the new school. Official records will follow when formally requested by the new school.

Scholarship/Financial Aid Information

Any student may pick up applications or additional information on any scholarship for which he/she may qualify. Extra copies of the newsletter and any scholarship applications can be obtained in Student Services from the College/Career Coordinator. Every year a Financial Aid advisor is assigned to Apex High. The advisor can help parents and students complete and answer questions about financial aid forms and/or processes. The advisor usually works at Apex High one day a week from October – April. Students who wish to meet with the financial advisor should contact the College/Career Coordinator at 363-1362.

Extended Illness Assignments

When a student is out sick for three or more days, parents may request assignments by calling the Student Services office at 387-2215. **It is necessary to have 24 hours notice for homework requests so teachers have time to send work to Student Services.** Parents may pick up the assignments in the Student Services office.

Intervention Program

Academic achievement is the foremost goal for Apex High School students. Sometimes students do not experience academic success, so teachers implement intervention strategies to address those needs. In addition to implementing strategies, the faculty is expected to contact parents/guardians if the student is failing or in danger of failing a course. If, after implementing the improvement strategies, the student is still unsuccessful, the student's situation will be forwarded to their regular counselor, the Intervention Coordinator (Student Support Team), or the Student Assistance Program counselor for further action.

Clubs and Organizations

Parent/Teacher/Student Association (PTSA)

Mission: To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before government bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children. To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children; and to encourage parent involvement in the public schools of this nation.

2010-11 PTSA Executive Committee:

President	Laura Linton	dlinton@nc.rr.com
VP-Comm.	Rhonda Riley	smileyrileyNC@yahoo.com
VP-Programs	Cathy Wood	misstaffy@mindspring.com
Secretary	Amy Thomas	amthomas@wakemed.org
Treasurer	Teresa Bowyer	tsbowyer@gmail.com

Meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Apex High School Media Center.

Athletic Booster Club (<http://www.apexcougarclub.org>)

Band Booster Organization (www.apexhighband.org)

Choral Booster Organization (www.apexhigh.com/clubs/chorus)

Drama Booster Organization (<http://www.apexdrama.org/>)

Orchestra Booster Organization
(<http://www.freewebs.com/ahsorchestra/index.htm>)

Media Center

Media Specialist	(Department Head)	Leila Moog
Media Specialist		Patricia Evans
Media Assistant		Geri Baron

Media Center hours are as follows: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 7:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Monday and Friday 7:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Students may use the Media Center during class time if they have a pass from their teacher, as long as seating is available and students follow accepted standards of behavior.

Services

General collection books may be checked out by students for a period of two weeks and renewed as needed. Reference materials may be checked out overnight. Overdue notices are sent to students weekly. Students will be charged an overdue fine of 10 cents per day for general collection materials and 25 cents per period for overnight books and materials. A copy machine is located in the Media Center for the convenience of students at a fee of 10 cents per copy. Access to the Internet, several online research databases, plus state-of-the-art multimedia technology is also available to students.

Student Internet Access and Electronic Mail (Board Policy 6446)

Wake County Public Schools offers Internet access and electronic mail (E-mail) for student use. Access to the Internet enables students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with internet users throughout the world, families are warned that some material accessible via the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. Wake County Public Schools uses advanced software for Internet content filtering and has procedures in place to further block accessibility to material, as necessary. While our intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials as well. We believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed any disadvantages; but ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end, the Wake County Board of Education supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to deny their child's access. Each child will automatically be given access to the Internet and E-mail unless the parent or guardian completes the Parental Request to Deny Access form.

Instructional Program

Grading System/Course Weights

STANDARD COURSES	HONORS COURSES	AP
A	4	5
B	3	4
C	2	3
D	1	2
F	0	0
FF	0	0

Note: College or university non-remedial courses and community college courses approved by the university system for college transfer receive the same quality points as AP courses.

Note: As a result of B.S. 116-11, enacted by the General Assembly of North Carolina in July 1992, the institutions of higher education in cooperation with the State Board of Education have determined that no school may offer an honors course (carrying weighted credit) without offering a corresponding standard level of that course.

Grading scale

A =93-100 B= 85-92 C= 77-84 D= 70-76 F= less than 70
I= incomplete WP = withdrawal, no penalty WF = withdrawal with an F
FF = failed for violation of attendance policy

Academic Honors

Grade point averages are calculated and rounded off to three decimal places. Class rank is calculated based on that three-decimal-place grade point average. **Class rank for seniors is calculated through the third nine weeks of the senior year.** Seniors who take a college course in the winter/spring term will not have the course grade figured into their GPA for class rank purposes because mid-term grades are not communicated to Apex HS from the university/college.

North Carolina End-Of-Course (EOC) Test Requirements

End-of-Course (EOC) will be administered for the following courses:

Algebra I Biology English I

In all courses with an End-of-Course test, the EOC test shall count as 25% of the student's final grade. In courses without an End-of Course test, the final exam shall count as 20% of the student's final grade of each term.

Senior Exam Exemption Procedure

Schools may establish procedures to allow seniors to be exempt from examinations given at the end of a course. Procedures should include, at a minimum, the following attendance and performance criteria:

No more than three (3) absences during the semester/term and an A in the course

- No more than two (2) absences during the semester/term and a B in the course
- No more than one (1) absence during the semester/term and a C in the course

For the purpose of determining exam exemptions (and not regular attendance), tardies will be converted to absences. Seniors will receive one absence for every four tardies. Seniors with no tardies in a given class will earn back one absence toward exam exemption in that class.

Exemption shall NOT be granted for courses culminating in an End-of-Course test or a VoCATS post assessment. Schools may establish additional criteria which reflect individual school goals and procedures.

Graduation Requirements

The following information is from the NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) website (<http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/>). Click on K-12 Curriculum (top left) and the Graduation Requirements link (4th bulleted item).

North Carolina high school students are expected to meet specific course and credit requirements and testing standards in order to receive a high school diploma. These requirements differ depending on when students entered ninth grade for the first time.

Over the past few years, the State Board of Education has changed graduation requirements to better reflect the skills and knowledge needed for success at community colleges, colleges and universities, and in business and industry. The course and credit requirements in place for students entering ninth grade in fall 2009 and later are commonly known as the “Future-Ready Core.”

Every North Carolina high school student must meet:

- **Course and Credit Requirements**

Students must meet specific course and credit requirements that are organized according to the year a student entered ninth grade for the first time. For students who entered ninth grade before fall 2009, look in the column(s) that matches the course of study being pursued (Career Prep, College Tech Prep, College/University Prep, or Occupational). For students who enter ninth grade in fall 2009 or later the only course of study is Future Ready Core. School counselors are available to answer any questions you may have about what you need to graduate.

<http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/curriculum/graduation/table>

- **Testing Requirements**

Students who entered ninth grade in 2006-07 or later must score proficient on three essential End-of-Course tests: Algebra 1 (unless exempted by the student’s Individualized Education Program), Biology and English I. Students also must score proficient on the Computer Skills Test.

- **Local Requirements**

Students must meet any additional requirements adopted by the local board of education. **Wake County students must obtain a minimum of 26 credits to graduate. This includes students who enter as ninth graders in 2009-10**

that must meet the Future Ready Core standards and students who entered as ninth graders between 2000-2008.

According to new North Carolina state law and Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) Board policy, students do not have to meet the Graduation Project requirement.

Homework Policy

Homework is an integral part of the teaching and learning process in every class at Apex High School. It is expected that homework will be assigned on a regular basis by each teacher to fulfill the objectives of the curriculum of the Wake County Public School System.

The purposes of homework are:

- To reinforce learning through the mastery of skills and concepts introduced in class;
- To provide additional opportunities for accepting responsibility and independence through self-directed learning;
- To enrich and extend school experiences through related home activities;
- To provide the opportunity and encouragement for parental involvement in the learning process.

Teachers and parents need to work together monitoring the appropriate amount of homework to accommodate individual differences and circumstances. Student Planners may be purchased in the main office.

SPAN

Procedure to access SPAN will be provided during Cougar Camp, Orientation, school website, and through the guidance office. Parents can view their child's grades and progress.

Blackboard

All teachers are required to keep a Blackboard page with current information and assignments. Students can access Blackboard at home on the internet.

Lockers

We attempt to assign individual lockers but, in reality, most students must share a locker. Each student must provide his/her own lock and should put a lock on his/her locker only. If there is a problem with the locker, students

should notify an assistant principal and it will be repaired or the student will be assigned to another locker. Books or belongings placed in an unassigned locker or in a locker assigned to another student will be removed and the lock cut off. Students must claim their belongings in the main office. Lockers remain at all times the property of the school system and are subject to search and seizure without notice per Wake County Board policy. The school is not responsible for personal items lost or stolen. Lost and found items should be brought to the main office.

Over the past couple of years we have experienced a chronic problem with theft from the PE locker rooms. Lockers are provided for all students during each PE class period, but most students have not used locks to secure their personal items. It is highly recommended that all PE students purchase and use a lock on their PE locker when they are participating in their classes.

Lunch passes

Freshmen and sophomores are not permitted to leave the campus for lunch. **Freshmen and sophomores who leave the campus during the lunch periods are subject to disciplinary action.** Juniors and seniors may leave campus during their lunch period; provided a parent permission slip is on file and an off-campus lunch pass is shown to the parking lot supervisor when the student leaves the campus. Passes will be sold to students who have a signed parent permission form at a cost of \$5.00. If a student loses his/her pass, the replacement pass will cost the student \$10.00.

Parents are reminded that parking spaces for juniors are very limited, and students leaving campus for lunch on foot may choose to cross Highway 64 in order to access local eating establishments. We are concerned for the safety of our students and if they choose to walk off campus for lunch, we urge them to cross the street at the corner and to obey all pedestrian traffic signals. This is particularly important for students crossing Highway 64 at any time.

Lunch prices / AutoPay Lunch Money Program

Wake County Public School System is pleased to offer parents various payment options to take the worry out of remembering your child's lunch money. Options are available at www.myLunchMoney.com. Menus and all other Information is available at www.wcpss.net/child-nutrition or call the Apex High Cafeteria Manager, Ms. Geisler at 387-2222.

High School Lunch Prices: Full Price -\$2.25 Reduced Price- .40
High School Breakfast Prices: Full Price -\$1.25 Reduced Price- .30

*****High School A la Carte Menus are also available at various prices**.***

Attendance Policy and Procedures

Apex High School will follow the Wake County School System attendance policy. Students who exceed ten absences in a course will receive a grade of FF-60 for that course. Parents will be notified as students approach the maximum number of absences.

Absences related to school-sanctioned activities may not account for more than four missed periods of each course taken each semester. All school-sanctioned activities including athletics must have prior approval of the principal. Class attendance will be taken at the beginning of the class period. If a student is absent for more than 1/2 of the class period, the student will be marked absent for that class period.

Notes for absences - Please note the following procedures:

- After an absence the student will bring a note to school explaining the reason for missing school. All absences are coded **UNEXCUSED** until a note has been received. The note must contain – the student's grade, name, date(s) and/or periods of absence(s), reason for being out, parent or guardian signature and a daytime phone number for the parent/guardian.
- Notes for absences will be accepted by the attendance clerk between 7:00 and 7:20 a.m. each morning.
- Students unable to see the attendance clerk before 7:20 a.m. should do so during their lunch period.
- The student must present a note to the Attendance Clerk **within two days of returning from an absence**, otherwise, the absence will remain unexcused.

All notes collected by the attendance clerk will be recorded and filed. **All absences, excused or unexcused, will count toward the ten (10) per semester allowed by the Wake WCPSS Attendance Policy.** The State Board of Education Ten Day Rule states that when a student accumulates more than ten (10) consecutive days of unlawful absences, he/she is to be withdrawn from funded membership as of the first day following his/her last day in attendance.

Students who do not obtain prior approval for an educational absence or a family trip will receive an **UNEXCUSED** absence. To request prior approval for an educational/family trip, a student should see the Attendance Clerk in the Attendance Office at least 3 days in advance of the trip. If a student is out with parental permission and the absence is recorded unexcused for failure to follow school policy no disciplinary action will result. **For all unexcused**

absences, assigning credit for make-up work is at the discretion of the teacher (see WCPSS Board Policy 6000.4 under Make-Up Work).

WCPSS. Policy 6000.4 R & P

An absence is excused if the following conditions exist:

- A. Illness or injury which makes the student physically unable to attend school.
- B. Isolation ordered by the State Board of Health or the Wake County Health Department.
- C. Death in family.
- D. Medical, dental, or other appointment with a health care provider approved in advance.
- E. Court when a student is under subpoena or court order to appear in court.
- F. Religious observance, as suggested by the religion of the student or the student's parents.
- G. Participation in a valid educational opportunity, such as travel with prior approval, as documented on the "Request for Excused Absence for Educational Reasons" form.
- H. A catastrophic Event or natural disaster.

Checking In/Out

When leaving campus during the school day, **a student must check in or out of school through the Attendance Office.** Students who fail to follow this procedure will be considered "skipping school" without their parent's permission and disciplinary action will result.

Students may check out for the following reasons:

- becoming ill during the school day
- scheduled medical appointments
- other scheduled appointments, with approval of a parent/guardian and possibly the school administration
- other reasons as approved by parent/guardian and/or a school administrator

Students who become ill during the day should report to the attendance office where a staff member will speak with a parent to get permission/make arrangements for the student to leave. Students must not leave campus to go home sick without first checking out with the attendance clerk. Students who leave for various appointments **must get a check-out note from the attendance clerk before leaving.**

This note should be obtained before attending the class during which the student will leave. The student may then present the check-out note from attendance to the appropriate teacher, so that he/she may leave at the appropriate time. Upon returning to school, the student must check in with the attendance clerk and present the signed check-out note. Failure to return to class after off-campus lunch will be recorded as “skipping” unless the student’s parent contacts the attendance office at 387-2226 to explain the student’s absence. A note brought in after failure to return will not be an adequate substitute. Students who fail to follow this policy will jeopardize their lunch pass privileges and may be subject to disciplinary action.

Make-up work

Students who have an excused absence must consult with the teacher upon returning to class to arrange for making up the time out of class and/or missed assignments. Students must complete assignments within a time frame designated by the teacher and within county guidelines. All work must be completed within the current 9-week grading period. Extending work into another grading period may only occur in the following circumstances:

- an absence on the last day of the grading period
- a documented illness that occurs in the last week(s) of a grading period, but which does not qualify for homebound instruction

Students with unexcused absences may make-up work according to WCPSS Policy 6000.5 R & P.

Schools shall establish and communicate to students and parents their procedures for making up work following an unexcused absence. In making the determination about credit, the procedures should take into account the following:

- A. The past performance of the student,
- B. Circumstances that may have made the unexcused absence unavoidable,
- C. Unusual family circumstances
- D. Nature of the specific learning activity,
- E. Other issues that the teacher determines to be relevant to the situation.

Absences resulting from out-of-school suspensions are considered unexcused, and the same policy for make-up work applies. Full credit must be given for quarter, semester or grading period examinations in the case of short-term suspensions.

Posting Information

Only posters pertaining to school-related and approved activities may be posted on campus and in the buildings. Students must present all signs, posters, and/or decorations to their sponsor or advisor, who will, in turn, present them to the appropriate administrator for final approval before posting. All posters/signs must be displayed on the designated bulletin boards or bricked areas near the staircases, NOT on glass or painted surfaces. **All items should be removed after an event has taken place.** Students who do not abide by these procedures may be subject to disciplinary action.

Fundraising

Any selling or soliciting for the purpose of raising funds for school activities by the students or staff of any school, in the name of the school, shall have the prior written approval of the principal and the superintendent. All money collected and expended as a result of such activity will be subject to the annual school audit. The soliciting or borrowing of products for school activities shall have the prior approval of the principal or superintendent. All funds should be turned in to the bookkeeper on a daily basis. All fundraising activities should be coordinated with the appropriate administrator. **At no time should any student be engaged in selling anything that has not been subject to the preceding guidelines.**

Parking

All motor vehicles parked on the campus must be registered with the school and must display a current parking permit hanging from the rear-view mirror. Parking permits are sold to seniors and juniors for a price set by the Wake County Public School System at the beginning of each school year. At no time are freshmen/sophomores allowed to park on campus during the school day. Vehicles parked in the wrong place, incorrectly, or without proper permit identification will be towed at the owner's expense.

Parking on campus is a privilege, not a right. It has been our experience that a large percentage of student tardiness comes from students who drive to school. Our expectation is that driving to school should not be a reason for tardiness. There are inherent risks in driving such as heavy traffic, mechanical problems, picking up friends, etc. These are not grounds for excused tardies. Habitual tardiness could result in the suspension or revocation of a parking permit.

Skateboards and roller skates are prohibited on campus at all times.

Discipline Policies and Procedures

Student Responsibilities

All Students are responsible for complying with and are expected to be familiar with the WCPSS Code of Student Conduct and school board policies governing student behavior and conduct. All Code of Student Conduct policies are contained in the WCPSS Student/Parent Handbook, which is distributed to all students and parents at the beginning of each school year or upon enrollment in the WCPSS. If there is a conflict between the rules expressed in this handbook and the Code of Student Conduct policies, the WCPSS Code of Student Conduct policies shall take precedence.

Todos los estudiantes son responsables de cumplir con y familiarizarse con el Código de Conducta Estudiantil de WCPSS y las políticas de la Junta de Educación que gobiernan el comportamiento y la conducta de estudiantes. Todas las políticas del Código de Conducta Estudiantil se encuentran en el manual cada año escolar o al matricularse en el WCPSS. Si hay un conflicto entre las reglas expresadas en este manual de Estudiantes/Padres y el manual/agenda/planificador de la escuela de su hijo(a) las reglas expresadas en este manual deben tomarse prioridad.

Student Identification

The student identification program is a vital part of our safety and security program. The photo ID cards allow building access and checking out of Media Center materials. Each student is provided with a laminated photo ID card.

Students are required to carry their ID at all times while on campus and are expected to show it when requested After a reasonable grace period, a student who fails to show their ID as requested will be subject to disciplinary action, including assignment to lunch detention and after-school detention (ASD). Repeated and chronic failure to show an ID when requested may result in out-of-school suspension (OSS). ID's are non-transferable. Replacement ID's for lost or damaged ID cards must be purchased for \$10.00.

Tardy Policy

We believe that maximizing student learning in any given class begins with students arriving on time and ready to learn. Students should be in their assigned seats or stations and ready to learn when the bell rings to start class. If a student needs to leave class, then permission will be granted by the teacher and the student will carry a hall pass with them.

Students who are tardy will be assigned lunch detention by their teacher for the next day. All students will also receive a written slip for the detention. If a student does not attend lunch detention, then the teacher will assign one day

of after school detention (ASD) for the next day. Students who do not attend ASD will be referred to their grade level administrator and are subject to out-of-school suspension (OSS). Listed below is a progression of consequences:

- Tardies 1-3 – Lunch detention assigned by the teacher
- Tardy #4 - Lunch detention, referral to grade level administrator who will contact home.
- Tardy #5 - Referral to grade level administrator.

In addition to the consequences listed above for chronic tardies, juniors and seniors are also subject to have their lunch and/or parking privileges suspended or revoked.

Lunch Detention

Students will attend lunch detention the following day of a tardy to class. Lunch detention is conducted during the first twenty minutes of each lunch period so students have the opportunity to eat lunch. The location of each lunch detention room is designated at the beginning of each term. Failure to attend lunch detention from a tardy will result in the teacher assigning After School Detention (ASD) upon the student's return to class the next day. The ASD is served the next day.

After School Detention

ASD is conducted Monday through Thursday of each week from 2:35 – 3:35 p.m. Teachers may assign ASD only for failure to serve tardies. All other ASD assignments will result from administrative action. Failure to serve ASD will result in further consequences as deemed appropriate from administrators, including out-of-school suspension (OSS).

Tuancy

Apex High School will not tolerate truancy from school or any class. In the event that a student is truant, disciplinary action will be taken as deemed appropriate by the administration.

6410

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

6410

All students shall comply with the Code of Student Conduct of the Wake County Public School System, state and federal laws, school board policies, and local school rules governing student behavior and conduct. This code

applies to any student who is on school property, who is in attendance at school or at any school-sponsored activity, or whose conduct at any time, place, or cyberspace, on or off campus, has or is reasonably expected to have a direct and immediate impact on the orderly and efficient operation of the schools or the safety of individuals in the school environment..

A.

Student Expectation

Students are expected to be familiar with all rules of behavior in the Code of Student Conduct. Students are to assist in promoting a safe and orderly school environment. Students are encouraged to report to school authorities any serious violation of the Code of Student Conduct.

B. Range of Interventions, Support, and Disciplinary Actions

Violation of Board policies, the Code of Student Conduct, regulations issued by the individual school, or North Carolina General Statutes may result in some level of disciplinary action. Teachers and principals are encouraged to utilize a variety of behavioral interventions and disciplinary consequences to accomplish a positive change in student behavior. When a student violates the Code of Conduct and a behavioral intervention or in-school discipline consequence is imposed, the school will attempt to notify the parent. For out of school suspensions the administration will provide notice to parents as required in Board Policy 6500.

Most behavioral interventions and disciplinary consequences can occur with the student remaining in school. Examples of in-school interventions include but are not limited to: behavior contract, peer mediation, in-school suspension, conflict resolution, detention, restitution, loss of privileges, and school or community service. If the principal deems it appropriate to require a student to stay after school for detention for a disciplinary reason, the principal may authorize such detention provided the parent or guardian has received at least one day's notice and has agreed to assume responsibility for transportation home.

When, after considering potential mitigating factors, the school principal determines a student's behavior warrants an out-of-school suspension,

the principal may impose a short-term suspension (10 days or less) or, for more serious violations of the Code of Conduct, may recommend a long-term suspension (greater than 10 days), a 365-day suspension or expulsion, to the extent permitted by law and this policy. The Superintendent must approve any suspensions of greater than 10 days. The Board of Education must approve any expulsion from school based on a recommendation of both the principal and the Superintendent. Under state law, if a student in grades K-12 brings a firearm on to school property, the student shall be subject to a 365-day suspension from school.

Policies may be modified on a case-by-case basis to conform to the “Policies Governing Services for Student with Disabilities”.

Students in grades K-5 shall not be subject to long-term suspension except as required by law or in cases involving serious injury to students or staff or serious threat to safety or welfare of members of the school community.

The Student Code of Conduct rules are leveled, indicating the severity of violation and type of consequence.

Level I –Level I rule violations should generally result in in-school interventions in lieu of out of school suspensions. In cases where a student refuses to participate in the in-school interventions or engages in persistent violations of a Level One rule, or where there are other aggravating circumstances the principal may impose a short-term suspension that shall not exceed two school days. Level One rule violations shall not result in a long-term suspension.

Level II –Level II rule violations involve more serious misconduct that may warrant a short-term suspension that shall not exceed five school days. Principals may recommend a long-term suspension based upon aggravating factors regarding the severity of the violation and/or safety concerns which may warrant the recommendation of long-term suspension. Any long-term suspension recommendation based on aggravating factors shall be approved by an impartial hearing panel pursuant to Policy 6500D.

Level III – Level III rule violations are more severe in nature and support

long-term suspension. The principal may recommend a short-term suspension (10 days or less) based on mitigating factors. Any reduction to short-term suspension based on mitigating factors shall be approved by a panel of the Discipline Review Committee appointed by the Superintendent.

Level IV– Level IV rule violations compromise the safety and welfare of students and staff and require a suspension under NC General Statutes.

Level V – Level V allows for expulsion of a student, as provided by state statute, for a violation of the Code of Conduct, if the student is fourteen (14) years of age or older and the student’s behavior indicates that his/her continued presence in school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or employees and the Board determines there is no appropriate alternative education program. Additionally, any student who is a registered sex offender under N.C. General Statutes 14-208 may be expelled.

C. Rules of Conduct

LEVEL I – *In-School Discipline / Possible Short-Term Suspension not to exceed 2 days*

- I – 1 Noncompliance** - Students shall comply with all directions of school personnel or volunteers who are authorized to give such directions.
- I – 2 Disrespect** – Students shall exhibit appropriate respect towards school personnel and volunteers.
- I – 3 School/Class Attendance** - Being tardy to class, skipping class/school, leaving campus without permission, or being in an unauthorized area is prohibited. ***Out of school suspension should be used as a last resort as a consequence for violation of this rule.***
- I – 4 Inappropriate Language** - Cursing or use of vulgar, profane, or obscene language is prohibited.

I – 5 Inappropriate Dress - Principals shall exercise appropriate discretion in implementing this policy, including making reasonable accommodations on the basis of students' religious beliefs or medical conditions. Students are expected to adhere to standards of dress and appearance that are compatible with an effective learning environment. Presenting a bodily appearance or wearing clothing which is disruptive, provocative, revealing, profane, vulgar, offensive or obscene, or which endangers the health or safety of the student or others is prohibited. Examples of prohibited dress or appearance include, but are not limited to exposed undergarments; sagging pants; excessively short or tight garments; bare midriff shirts; strapless shirts; attire with messages or illustrations that are lewd, indecent or vulgar or that advertise any product or service not permitted by law to minors; head covering of any kind; see-through clothing; attire that exposes cleavage; any adornment such as chains or spikes that reasonably could be perceived as or used as a weapon; and any attire that is prohibited by Policy 6410 Level III:2, Gang and Gang-Related Activities. Individual schools are free to specify additional examples of dress or appearance that are prohibited at that school under the terms of this policy.

If a student's dress or appearance is such that it constitutes a threat to the health or safety of others, distracts the attention of other students or staff from their work, or otherwise violates this dress code, the principal or principal's designee may require the student to change his or her dress or appearance.

I – 6 Electronic Devices - Except as permitted by this policy, no student shall use, display, transmit or have in the "on" position on school property any wireless communication device or personal entertainment device, including but not necessarily limited to, cell phones, pagers, two-way radios, CD/ MP3 players, and electronic games, or any laser pointer or similar devices until after the conclusion of the instructional day.

Wireless communication devices or laser pointers may be used by students for instructional purposes with the permission and under the supervision of the teacher. School principals may authorize individual students to possess and/or use for personal purposes wireless communication devices if, in the opinion of the

principal, there is a reasonable need for such communication.

Any device possessed or used in violation of this policy shall be confiscated and only returned to the student's parents/guardian. Penalties for violation of this policy are set at the discretion of the principal.

If a student uses a laser pointer in a way that reasonably could or does cause physical harm, the laser pointer may be considered a dangerous instrument and the student may be charged with violation of Policy Level III-3 and disciplined accordingly.

- I – 7 Trespassing** - No student shall be on the campus of any school except the one to which the student is assigned without the knowledge and consent of the officials of that school. Students who remain at school after the close of the school day or come onto school grounds when school is not in session without permission will be considered trespassers. If the student does not leave when instructed to do so, he/ she may be prosecuted. A student under suspension from school is trespassing if he/she appears on the property of any school or at any school sponsored activity during the suspension period without the express permission of the principal.
- I – 8 Tobacco** - No student shall possess, display, or use any tobacco product. This restriction applies even when the student is on school system property or at any school-sponsored activity as a visitor or spectator. For the purpose of this policy:
- a. Tobacco Product: cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff, and any other items containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products.
 - b. Tobacco Use: smoking, chewing, dipping, or any other use of tobacco products.
 - c. Display: having any tobacco product in a location or position that is visible to students or school personnel.

The exceptions to this policy are:

- a. The display of tobacco products does not extend to display that has a legitimate instructional or teaching purpose and is approved by a teacher or school administrator, and
- b. A principal may permit tobacco products to be included in instructional or research activities in the school building if the activity is conducted or supervised by the faculty member overseeing the instruction or research and the activity does not involve smoking, chewing, or otherwise ingesting the tobacco product.

I – 9 Gambling - Students shall not participate in any unauthorized games of chance in which money or items of value may be won or lost.

I – 10 Misconduct on School Vehicle - School transportation service is a privilege, not a right. Students at all times while riding a school bus or other school vehicle shall observe the directives of the school bus driver. The following conduct or violation of any other rule of the Code of Student Conduct while on the school bus or other school vehicle is specifically prohibited:

1. Delaying the bus schedule,
2. Getting off at an unauthorized stop,
3. Failing to observe established safety rules and regulations, and
4. Willfully trespassing upon a school bus.

LEVEL II - *Short-term Suspension not to exceed 5 days / Possible Long-Term Suspension with Aggravating Factors*

II – 1 Integrity - Any student who engages in or attempts to engage in cheating, plagiarism, falsification, violation of software copyright

laws, or violation of computer access shall be subject to disciplinary action. The following actions are specifically prohibited:

1. **Cheating**- giving or receiving of any unauthorized assistance on academic work.
 2. **Plagiarism**- copying the language, structure, or idea of another and representing it as one's own work.
 3. **Falsification**- verbal or written statement of any untruth.
 4. **Violation of software copyright laws**- unauthorized duplication of computer software (computer piracy), printed material related to computer software, and/or the use of pirated computer software.
- II – 2 Inappropriate Literature, Illustrations and Images - **The possession of literature, illustrations, or other images which significantly disrupt the educational process or which are obscene is prohibited.**
- II – 3 Violation of computer access- **No student shall engage in conduct prohibited by Policy 6446. (Reference entire policy)**
- II – 4 Class/Activity Disturbance – **Any physical or verbal disturbance which occurs within the school environment and which interrupts or interferes with teaching or orderly conduct of class/school activities is prohibited.**
- II – 5 School Disturbance- **No student shall, by use of passive resistance, noise, threat, fear, intimidation, coercion, force, violence, or any other form of conduct, cause the disruption of any lawful function, mission, or process of the school.**
- II – 6 School Transportation Disturbance – **Any physical or verbal disturbance which occurs on a school transportation vehicle and which interrupts or interferes with the safe and orderly operation of the vehicle is prohibited.**

- II – 7 Disruptive Protest- **No student on school property or on property adjacent thereto shall engage in any protest, march, picket, sit-in, boycott, walkout, or other activity which has as its purpose the disruption of any lawful function, mission, or process of the school, or in fact creates such a disruption.**

- II – 8 False Fire Alarm - **No student shall set off, attempt to set off, or aid and abet anyone in giving a false fire alarm. No student shall interfere with or damage any part of a fire alarm, fire detection, smoke detection, fire extinguishing system ,or emergency escape system.**

- II – 9 Fire Setting/Incendiary Material- **The possession of any incendiary material (including but not limited to matches, lighters, or lighter fluid) or the use of any material reasonably likely to result in a fire on school property is prohibited.**

- II – 10 Property Damage- **No student shall intentionally damage or attempt to damage or deface school property, or personal property.**

- II – 11 Theft - **No student shall steal, attempt to steal, or knowingly be in possession of stolen property.**

- II – 12 Extortion- **No student shall attempt to extort money, personal property, or personal services.**

- II – 13 Indecent Exposure/Sexual Behavior- **No student shall engage in behavior which is indecent, overly affectionate, or of a sexual nature.**

- II – 14 Harassment/Bullying – **No student shall engage in conduct prohibited by Policy 6414. (*Reference entire policy*)**

- II – 15 Sexual Harassment – **No student shall engage in conduct prohibited by Policy 6415. (*Reference entire policy*)**

II – 16 Threat/False Threat - No student shall make any threat through written or verbal language, sign, or act which conveys a serious expression of intent to cause harm or violence.

Furthermore, no student shall make a false threat of harm or violence, even jokingly, which causes or is reasonably likely to cause fear or a disruption to school activities.

II – 17 Physical Aggression/Fighting – **Physical aggression or fighting toward students and other people is prohibited. A student who is attacked may use reasonable force in self-defense, but only to the extent necessary to get free from the attack and notify proper school authorities. A student who exceeds reasonable force may be disciplined even though someone else provoked the fight.**

No student shall engage in fighting or physical aggression towards others, including but not limited to:

- a. Choking, hitting, slapping, shoving, scratching, spitting, biting, blocking the passage of, or throwing objects at another person in an aggressive, confrontational or dangerous manner.**
- b. Taking any action or making comments or writing messages that might reasonably be expected to result in a fight or physical aggression.**

II – 18 Failure to Report Firearm - **Any student who has knowledge that another student possesses or intends to bring a firearm on any school campus or to any school activity shall report this information to school or law enforcement authorities immediately.**

II – 19 Hazing - Hazing is prohibited. No group or individual shall require a student to wear abnormal dress, play abusive or ridiculous tricks on him/her, frighten, scold, beat, harass, or subject him/her to personal indignity.

II – Search and Seizure - **A student's failure to permit searches and seizures as provided in Policy 6600 is prohibited.**
20 *(Reference entire policy)*

II – **Aiding and Abetting-** No student shall aid or abet another student in violating any rule in the Code of Student Conduct.
21

LEVEL III - Long-Term Suspension / Possible Short-Term Suspension with Mitigating Factors

III – Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages, Controlled Substances, Chemicals, and Drug Paraphernalia - **No student shall possess, use, distribute, sell, possess with intent to distribute or sell, or conspire or attempt to distribute or sell, or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, anabolic steroid, other controlled substance, any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, fortified wine, other intoxicating liquor, drug paraphernalia, counterfeit substance, any unauthorized prescription drug, or any other chemicals or products with the intention of bringing about a state of exhilaration, euphoria, or of otherwise altering the student's mood or behavior. The proper use of a drug authorized by valid medical prescription from a legally authorized health care provider shall not be considered a violation of this rule when the drug is taken by the person for whom the drug was prescribed.**
1

(Refer to Form 1702 Parent Request and Physician's Order Form for Medication)

Possession: having the prohibited substance on the student's person or in another place where the student, either alone or jointly with others, has control over it. This may include, but is not limited to, *possession of a prohibited substance in an automobile, locker, book bag, or desk.*

Use: the consumption, injection, inhalation or absorption of a prohibited substance into a student's body by any means.

Under the influence: the use of any prohibited substance when the prohibited substance would influence a student's mood, behavior, or learning to any degree.

Counterfeit Substance: any substance that is described or presented with the intention of deceiving another into believing that it is a substance prohibited under this policy.

Unauthorized Prescription Drug: Any drug or medication that has not been prescribed for the student.

Drug Paraphernalia: **Objects used for ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing controlled substances into the body, e.g., pipes, rolling papers, "roach" clips. Relevant evidence may be considered in determining whether an object is drug paraphernalia**

Conspiracy: **An agreement by two or more persons to commit an unlawful act in violation of this policy.**

Sell: the exchange of a prohibited substance for money, property, or any other benefit or item of value.

Possess with Intent to Distribute/Sell: **Intent to distribute or sell may be determined from the amount of the prohibited substance found, the manner in which it was packaged, the presence of packaging materials such as scales, baggies or other containers, or from statements or actions of the student that demonstrate an intent to distribute or sell.**

Distribute: to give, share, or pass a prohibited substance for any benefit or item of value, or when the student possessed the substance, at least in part, for the purpose of distribution.

When a first infraction of this policy involves **only** possession, use, and/or being under the influence of a substance prohibited by this policy, an alternative to long-term suspension shall be offered. Failure to meet any requirements of the alternative

program reactivates the long-term suspension.

Note: The alternative shall consist of a short-term suspension and shall also require participation in a corrective education and/or counseling program. The program shall be designed by the superintendent and agreed to in writing by the parent, guardian, student, and school principal. Parents, guardians, and students shall be provided information by school authorities concerning approved alternative programs. This alternative shall be offered only one time to students during their school career unless an exception is made by the superintendent based on mitigating factors.

III – 2 Gang and Gang Related Activity - The Board of Education believes that gangs and gang-related activities pose a serious safety threat to students and staff members of the Wake County Public School System and can significantly disrupt the educational environment.

A. No student shall participate in any gang-related activities. For purposes of this policy:

1. a “gang” is any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of criminal acts, and having a common name or common identifying sign, colors or symbols.
2. “gang-related activities” are any activities engaged in by a student on behalf of an identified gang; to perpetuate the existence of an identified gang; to effect the common purpose and design of an identified gang; or to represent gang affiliation, loyalty, or solidarity.

B. Conduct prohibited by this policy includes:

1. Wearing, possessing, using, distributing, displaying, or selling any clothing, jewelry, emblems, badges,

symbols, signs, visible tattoos and body markings, or other items, with the intent to convey or promote membership or affiliation in any gang;

2. Communicating either verbally or non-verbally (gestures, handshakes, slogans, drawings, etc.), with the intent to convey or promote membership or affiliation in any gang;
 3. Tagging, or otherwise defacing school or personal property with symbols or slogans intended to convey or promote membership or affiliation in any gang;
 4. Requiring payment of protection, money or insurance, or otherwise intimidating or threatening any person in connection with gang-related activity;
 5. Inciting other students to intimidate or to act with physical violence upon any other person in connection with gang-related activity;
 6. Soliciting others for gang membership;
 7. Committing or conspiring to commit illegal act in connection with gang-related activity.
- C. When a first infraction involves only the wearing of gang-related attire, the student shall receive a warning and be allowed to immediately change or remove the attire as an alternative to disciplinary action.
- D. The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall regularly consult with law enforcement officials to identify examples of gang-related items, symbols and behaviors and shall provide each principal with this information. Parents and students shall be notified that such information is maintained in the principal's office, that it is subject to change, and that the principal's office may be consulted for updates. In providing this information for

parents and students, the school system acknowledges that not all potential gang indicators connote actual membership in a gang.

III –
3

Weapons/Dangerous Instruments/Substances – No student shall possess, handle, or transmit any weapon, facsimile of a weapon, dangerous instruments, substances or other object that can reasonably be considered or used as a weapon or dangerous instrument/substances. This does not apply to any student who finds a weapon or dangerous instrument /substances on school property or receives it from another person on school property and who immediately reports the weapon or dangerous instrument/substances to school or law enforcement authorities.

Weapon: any firearm, BB gun, stun gun, mace/pepper spray, air rifle, air pistol, ammunition, power loads, fireworks, knife, slingshot, leaded cane, blackjack, metallic knuckles, razors, razor blades (except cartridge razors used solely for personal shaving), boxcutter and any sharp-pointed or edged instrument except instructional supplies, unaltered nail files and clips and tools used solely for preparation of food, instruction, and maintenance.

Dangerous Instruments/Substances: Any object or substance that is possessed, handled, transmitted, or used for the purpose of causing or attempting to cause physical injury.

Facsimile of a Weapon: any copy of a weapon that could reasonably be perceived to be a real weapon.

Note: Refer to Level IV: Rule IV– 1 for violations involving Firearms/Destructive Devices.

III –
4

Assault on a Student - No student shall cause or attempt to cause serious physical injury to another student. For the purposes of this policy “serious physical injury” shall refer to any significant or aggravated bodily injury, including but not limited to broken bone(s), loss or chipping of teeth, loss or impairment of vision, loss of consciousness, internal injuries, scarring or other disfigurement, significant bleeding, lacerations resulting in

sutures, significant bruising, severe or prolonged pain, any injury requiring hospitalization for any period of time, and/or any injury resulting in medical treatment beyond simple first aid procedures.

- III –
5 **Assault on School Personnel or Other Adult** – No student shall cause or attempt to cause physical injury to any school employee or other adult.

Note: If a teacher is assaulted or injured by a student and as a result the student is reassigned to alternative education services, long-term suspended, or expelled, the student shall not be returned to that teacher's classroom unless the teacher consents.

- III –
6 **Assault Involving Weapon/Dangerous Instrument/Substances** – No student in grades 6-12 shall assault another using a weapon, dangerous instrument, or dangerous substances.

Note: Refer to Level IV: IV– 1 for violations involving Firearms/Destructive Devices.

- III –
7 **Bomb Threat** -No student shall make a bomb threat or hoax by making a false report that a device designed to cause damage or destruction by explosion, blasting, or burning is located on the school premises or at the site of school activities.

No student shall with the intent to perpetrate a hoax, conceal, place or display on school property or the site of school activities any device or artifact so as to cause any person reasonably to believe the same to be a bomb or other destructive device.

- III –
8 **Bomb Threat: Aiding/Abetting** – No student shall aid, and/or abet in making a bomb threat or hoax by making a false report that a device designed to cause damage or destruction by explosion, blasting, or burning is located on the school property or at the site of school activities.

**III – Acts of Terror –
9**

- a. No student shall make a report that he or she knows or should know is false, that any device, substance or material designed to cause harmful or life threatening illness or injury to another person, is located on school property or at the site of a school activity.
- b. No student shall, with intent to perpetrate a hoax, conceal, place, disseminate or display on school property or at the site of a school activity any device, machine, instrument, artifact, letter, package, material, or substance, so as to cause a reasonable person to believe the same to be a substance or material capable of causing harmful or life-threatening illness or injury to another person.
- c. No student shall threaten to commit an act of terror on school property or at a school activity that is designed to cause, or is likely to cause, serious injury or death to another person, when the threat is intended to cause, or actually causes, a significant disruption to the instructional day or a school-sponsored activity.
- d. No student shall make a report that he or she knows is false, that an act of terror designed to cause, or likely to cause, serious injury or death to another person on school property or at the site of a school-sponsored activity is imminent, when that report is intended to cause, or actually causes, a significant disruption to the instructional day or a school-sponsored activity.
- e. No student shall aid, abet, and/or conspire to commit any of the acts described in section 1-4 of this policy.

LEVEL IV – Suspensions Required under State Law

IV--1 Firearm/ Destructive Device K-12- Any student in grades K-12 shall be suspended for 365 calendar days for bringing a firearm

or destructive device onto school property or to a school-sponsored event off school property, or for possessing a firearm or destructive device on school property or at a school-sponsored event off school property. School property includes any property owned, used or leased by the Board of Education, including school buses, other vehicles and school bus stops. Principals are required to refer to the law enforcement system any student who brings a firearm or weapon to school.

Firearm: A weapon, including a starter gun, which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; or any firearm muffler or firearm silencer. The term shall not include an inoperable antique firearm, a BB gun, stun gun, air rifle, or air pistol.

Destructive Device: An explosive, incendiary, or poison gas; bomb; grenade; rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces; missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce; mine; or device similar to any of the devices listed in this definition.

Violation of this section shall result in suspension from school for 365 days unless modified by the Superintendent or Board of Education on a case-by-case basis.

The 365-day suspension does not apply to any student who finds the firearm on school property or receives it from another person on school property and who delivers the weapon, immediately, to school or law enforcement authorities.

LEVEL V – *Expulsion*

A student fourteen (14) years of age or older may be expelled for a violation of this Code of Conduct if the Board determines the student's behavior indicates that the student's continued presence in the school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or employees, and that there is no appropriate alternative educational program. Additionally, any student who is a registered sex offender under N.C.

General Statutes 14-208 may be expelled.