

HARRISON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
AGENDA
June 29, 2026
5:30 PM

- I. Call to Order
- II. Items to be added:
- III. Approve Agenda (BCBH)
- IV. Approve Minutes (BCBH)
 - 06/15/2026 Board Minutes
- V. Public Comments (sign-ins) (BCAF)
- VI. Old Business
 - A. Adopt FY 2026-2027 Budget
 - B. Policy Review & Revisions — Second Reading and Recommendation Adoption
 - **Policy Revisions:**
 - **Section GBA: Prof. Personnel Comp. Guides & Contracts**
 - C. Policy Review & Revisions Leg. Updates — Second Reading & Recommendation 5 Adoption
 - **Policy Revisions:**
 - Policy ABB: Board Powers and Duties
 - Policy JBD: Attendance
 - Policy JCA: Student Conduct
 - Policy JDE: Expulsion
 - Policy JEB: Student Tracking Device
 - Policy JG: School Wellness Policy
 - Policy JNB: Seal of Biliteracy
 - Policy JNB-E(1)– Policy JNB-E(3)
 - Policy KM: Visitors to the Schools
 - Policy LAA: Title I Family and Community Engagement
 - Policy AEA: School Calendar
 - Policy CEE: Superintendent Compensation and Benefits
 - Policy CGA: Administrative Personnel Compensation Guides and Contracts
 - Policy CPL: School Counselors
 - Policy DJC: Payroll Procedure
 - Policy DJEC: Federal Purchasing and Procurement
 - Policy EBBAA: Staff Identification Badges
 - Policy EFC: Use of Artificial Intelligence
 - Policy GBA: Professional Personnel Compensation Guides and Contracts
 - Policy GBA-E-E(1)- Teacher Salary Scale
 - Policy GBDB: Retired Teacher Employment
 - Policy GBRJ: Arrangement for Substitutes
 - Policy IDAG: Dual Enrollment
 - Policy IHE: Promotion and Retention
 - Policy IHF: Graduation Requirements
 - Policy JBA: Compulsory School Attendance/School Age
- VII. New Business
 - A. Frank Bordeaux, Arthur Gallagher - July/August Insurance Renewals Presentation

B. Hardy & Associates/Architect PLLC- Award Bid D.H.S. Cafeteria Addition - Kitchen Equipment Only

Approved the recommendation of Marty Hardy, Architect, to **NOT** award the bid for d'iberville High School Cafeteria Addition - **Kitchen Equipment Only**, Project Number 025-051, to Phoenix Construction, LLC in the amount to \$230,000.00 due to their request to withdraw their bid for the Kitchen Equipment Package. Phoenix Construction, LLC bid on the project as a bundle and not separately. They were not the lowest bidder for the building addition, thus we cannot award the project as a bundle.

It is recommended to award the project to Singer H & R. A copy of all bids and the tabulation are on file in the Superintendent's office. Bidders are as follows: (DJED)

- Singer H & R \$244,640.00
- D.N.P. Inc. \$308,000.00
- Sam B. Day Construction Inc. \$330,000.00
- Phoenix Construction, LLC \$230,000.00

C. Hardy and Associates/Architect PLLC - Award Bid D.H.S. Cafeteria Addition - Building Only

Approved the recommendation of Marty Hardy, Architect, to award the bid for d'iberville High School Cafeteria Addition - **Building Only**, Project Number 025-051, to Starks Contracting Company, for \$1,750,000.00 the lowest and best bidder meeting specifications. A copy of all bids and the tabulation are on file in the Superintendent's office. Bidders are as follows: (DJED)

- Starks Contracting Company \$1,750,000.00
- Phoenix Construction LLC \$1,767,000.00
- D.N.P. Inc \$1,803,000.00
- Sam B. Day Construction, Inc. \$1,910,000.00
- Dan Hensarling, Inc. \$1,948,000.00
- JNB Services LLC \$1,955,000.00
- Dixon Contracting Group LLC \$1,977,680.00

D. Jim Young, Attorney at Law - Approval of the Following

- No Protest Resolution
- Resolution to Enter into a Loan Evidenced by a Limited-Tax Promissory Note to Provide Funds for the Project Described

E. Superintendent Report — District Updates — NO ACTION

- Vacancies as of June 23, 2026

F. United Way of South Mississippi, Inc. — Approval of the following:

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for PreK4 2026-2027
- HCSD PreK4Ward 2026-2027 Proposed Budget for 9 Classrooms
- Invoice 2026-03 - 2026-2027 Pre-K \$575,986.00

G. Consent Agenda Items

The items listed below are consent agenda items, which may be approved in one action of the Board. It is noted that any item may be removed from the consent agenda for separate action or discussion of the Board. An asterisk (*) denotes an item added to the agenda after the original release on Friday.

1. Approve Claim Docket for checks prepared and reconciled by the Accounting Department. (DJ)

- 06/19/2026
- 06/26/2026

2. Authorize payment in the amount of \$14,066.80 to Wynn E. Clark for professional services rendered through June 25, 2026. Specific cases are detailed in the document provided and on file. (FDGB)
 - 16th Section Billings: \$2,799.05
 - HCSD Litigation Billings: \$11,267.75
3. Authorize payment in the amount \$517.50 to Carr Allison for professional services rendered through May 31, 2026. Specific cases are detailed in the document provided and on file. (FDGB)
4. Authorize payment in the amount of \$93,428.70 to Dixon Contracting Group, LLC for pay application #10-DHS Stadium Phase I, Project No:024-054, for work completed through 6/15/2026. The project is currently ninety-nine percent (99%) complete, less withheld retainage.
5. Authorize payment in the amount of \$306,164.00 to Dan Hensarling for pay application #14 — Creekbend Elementary & Middle School Classroom & Cafeteria Addition, Project No.: 023-033, for work completed through 3/31/2026. The project is one hundred percent (100%) complete with withheld retainage.
6. Authorize payment in the amount of \$31,365.54 to St. Clair CPA, PLLC for professional services rendered for 2025 FY Audit Services. Contract SBA 7/28/2025. (FDGB)
7. Approve payment in the amount of \$7,910.97 to the Mississippi Municipal Workers Compensation Group balance due for 2026 Annual Premium.
8. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for 2026-27SY for Dental Services with South Mississippi Smiles LLC. (IDDF)
9. Approve 16th Section Land Lease Agreement with Singing River Hospital, for property located in Township 7, Range 11, Harrison County, 15229 Community Road, Gulfport, MS 39503. (EBJ)
10. Approve 16th Section Amendment to 16th Section Commercial Lease Agreement with Wolf River Canoes and Kayak c/o Joe Feil, 16-6-13.
11. Approve request to compensate EL staff that offers additional support to EL parents during registration.
12. Approve the 2026- 2027 Harrison County School District Professional Development Plan. (CK)
13. Approve transfer request for the 2026-2027 school year for the following HCSD Students transferring into other districts. Student Transfers from HCSD to the following school districts are attached:
 - Bay-Waveland School District
 - Biloxi School District
 - Gulfport School District
 - Hancock County School District
 - Jackson County School District
 - Long Beach School District
 - Pass Christian School District
 - Ocean Springs School District
14. Approve transfer request for the 2026-2027 school year for the out-of-district students. Lists of Transfer Students INTO Harrison County School District from the following Districts are attached:
 - Jackson County
 - Long Beach School District
 - Ocean Springs

15. Approve Harrison County Child Development Center Placement Requirements for the 2026-27SY.
 16. Approve Creekbend Elementary and Middle School list of fundraisers for 2026-2027SY.
 17. Approve North Woolmarket Elementary and Middle School list of fundraisers for 2026-2027SY.
 18. *Approve Child Nutrition to accept a donation from MS Power Co. - Community Connections for \$500.00 for the Summer Feeding Program for Adults.
- H. Approval of the following:
1. Personnel (GBD:GBQ)
 - a. Personnel Recommendations
 - b. 2026-27SY Mentor Teacher Stipend
 - c. 2026-27SY New Teacher Orientation 7/26/2026 Stipend
 2. Lowest Quote, Contract Services, Professional Development and/or Travel (DJED)
 - 12 Quotes
 3. Single Source (DJED)
 - None
- I. Executive Session
1. Parent Request to Speak:
 - Student ID: 001493635 (W.H.H.S.)
 - Student ID: 001507840 (w.H.H.S.)
 2. Litigation/Potential Litigation
 - Lamar Landon Road 16th Section Lease
- VIII. Reminders
- 07/13/26 - 5:30 p.m. School Board Meeting
 - 07/27/26 - 5:30 p.m. School Board Meeting
 - July 18-20, 2026 Southern Region Leadership Conference, Hot Springs, AR
 - 07/29/26 First Day of School
- IX. Adjourn



June 15, 2026

To: Mr. William Bentz
Superintendent of Education

From: Natasha R. Williams, Ph.D.
Director of Research & Development

Re: Approval of Revisions to the following Harrison County School District Policies:

Policy ABB: Board Powers and Duties
Policy AEA: School Calendar
Policy CEE: Superintendent Compensation and Benefits
Policy CGA: Administrative Personnel Compensation Guides and Contracts
Policy CPL: School Counselors
Policy DJC: Payroll Procedure
Policy DJEC: Federal Purchasing and Procurement
Policy EBBAA: Staff Identification Badges
Policy EFC: Use of Artificial Intelligence
Policy GBA: Professional Personnel Compensation Guides and Contracts
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Policy JBA: Compulsory School Attendance/School Age



Policy JBD: Attendance
Policy JCA: Student Conduct
Policy JDE: Expulsion
Policy JEB: Student Tracking Device
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Policy JNB: Seal of Biliteracy
Policy JNB-E(1)– Policy JNB-E(3)
Policy KM: Visitors to the Schools
Policy LAA: Title I Family and Community Engagement

Please find attached the recommended policy revisions. The Harrison County School Board subscribes to the Mississippi School Board Association Policy Service, and it is up to each district that subscribes to this service to adopt, review, revise, and implement policy to ensure compliance with current practices.

Please advise if you have any questions or concerns regarding the attached policies. Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Board Policy Manual - Table of Contents

A. School District Organization (2)

Code	Title	Type	Original Adopted Date	Last Revised Date	Last Reviewed Date
ABB	[DRAFT] Board Powers and Duties	P	09/17/2013	08/05/2024	10/27/2025
AEA	[DRAFT] School Calendar	P	09/17/2013	02/06/2017	10/27/2025

C. General School Administration (3)

CEE	[DRAFT] Superintendent Compensation and Benefits	P	09/17/2013	08/05/2024	04/07/2025
CGA	[DRAFT] Administrative Personnel Compensation Guides and Contracts	P	09/17/2013	01/26/2026	01/26/2026
CPL	[DRAFT] School Counselors	P	03/07/2016	04/07/2025	04/07/2025

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D. Fiscal Management (2)

DJC	[DRAFT] Payroll Procedure	P	09/17/2013	04/22/2024	04/07/2025
DJEC	[DRAFT] Federal Purchasing and Procurement	P	12/18/2017	04/07/2025	04/07/2025

E. Business Management (2)

EBBAA	[DRAFT] Staff Identification Badges	P	09/17/2013	10/27/2025	10/27/2025
EFC	[DRAFT] Use of Artificial Intelligence	P	07/14/2025	07/14/2025	10/27/2025

G. Personnel (4)

GBA	[DRAFT] Professional Personnel Compensation Guides and Contracts	P	09/17/2013	02/23/2026	02/23/2026
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**Board Policy Manual
Harrison County School District**

Code	Title	Type	Original Adopted Date	Last Revised Date	Last Reviewed Date
GBA-E-E(1)	[DRAFT] Teacher Salary Scale	E	03/07/2016	06/02/2025	02/23/2026
GBDB	[DRAFT] Retired Teacher Employment	P	08/05/2024	08/05/2024	05/05/2025
GBRJ	[DRAFT] Arrangements for Substitutes	P	09/17/2013	08/05/2024	05/05/2025

I. Instructional Program (3)

IDAG	[DRAFT] Dual Enrollment	P	09/17/2013	08/05/2024	09/22/2025
IHE	[DRAFT] Promotion and Retention	P	09/17/2013	09/22/2025	09/22/2025
IHF	[DRAFT] Graduation Requirements	P	09/17/2013	08/21/2025	09/22/2025

J. Students (10)

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JBA	[DRAFT] Compulsory School Attendance/School Age	P	09/17/2013	07/12/2021	03/23/2026
JBD	[DRAFT] Attendance	P	09/17/2013	07/12/2021	03/23/2026
JCA	[DRAFT] Student Conduct	P	09/17/2013	06/01/2026	06/01/2026
JDE	[DRAFT] Expulsion	P	09/17/2013	03/23/2026	03/23/2026
JEB	[DRAFT] Student Tracking Safety Devices	P	11/14/2022	11/14/2022	03/23/2026
JG	[DRAFT] School Wellness Policy	P	09/17/2013	03/23/2026	03/23/2026
JNB	[DRAFT] Seal of Biliteracy	P	07/28/2025	07/28/2025	05/04/2026
JNB-E(1)	[DRAFT] Seal of Biliteracy	E			
JNB-E(2)	[DRAFT] Seal of Biliteracy	E			

Code	Title	Type	Original Adopted Date	Last Revised Date	Last Reviewed Date
JNB-E(3)	[DRAFT] Seal of Biliteracy	E			

K. General Public Relations (1)

KM	[DRAFT] Visitors to the Schools	P	09/17/2013	06/23/2025	06/17/2024
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L. Organizational Relations (1)

LAA	[DRAFT] Title I Family and Community Engagement	P	09/17/2013	11/17/2025	11/17/2025
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Harrison County School District

Board Policy Manual

Board Policy Manual

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Policy ABB: Board Powers and Duties

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 08/05/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 10/27/2025

BOARD POWERS AND DUTIES – 37-7-301

HOME RULE

The school board of a school district may adopt any orders, resolutions or ordinances with respect to school district affairs, property and finances which are not inconsistent with the Mississippi Constitution of 1890, the Mississippi Code of 1972, or any other statute or law of the State of Mississippi. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the powers granted to the school boards in this section are complete without the existence of or reference to any specific authority granted in any other statute or law of the State of Mississippi. Unless such actions are specifically authorized by another statute or law of the State of Mississippi, this section shall not authorize a school board to: (a) levy taxes of any kind or increase the levy of any authorized tax; (b) issue bonds of any kind; or (c) enter into collective bargaining agreements. 37-7-301.1

POWERS, AUTHORITY AND DUTIES

The school boards of all school districts shall have the following powers, authority and duties in addition to all others imposed or granted by law, to wit:

- (a) To organize and operate the schools of the district and to make such division between the high school grades and elementary grades as, in their judgment, will serve the best interests of the school;
- (b) To introduce public school music, art, manual training and other special subjects into either the elementary or high school grades, as the board shall deem proper;
- (c) To be the custodians of real and personal school property and to manage, control and care for same, both during the school term and during vacation;
- (d) To have responsibility for the erection, repairing and equipping of school facilities and the making of necessary school improvements;
- (e) To suspend or to expel a pupil or to change the placement of a pupil to the school district's alternative school or home-bound program for misconduct in the school or on school property, as defined in Section 37-11-29, on the road to and from school, or at any school-related activity or event, or for conduct occurring on property other than school property or other than at a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders that pupil'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, and to delegate such authority to the appropriate officials of the school district;
- (f) To visit schools in the district, in their discretion, in a body for the purpose of determining what can be done for the improvement of the school in a general way;

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- (g) To support, within reasonable limits, the superintendent, principal and teachers where necessary for the

proper discipline of the school;

- (h) To exclude from the schools students with what appears to be infectious or contagious diseases; provided, however, such student may be allowed to return to school upon presenting a certificate from a public health officer, duly licensed physician or nurse practitioner that the student is free from such disease;
- (i) To require those vaccinations specified by the State Health Officer as provided in Section 41-23-37, Mississippi Code of 1972;
- (j) To see that all necessary utilities and services are provided in the schools at all times when same are needed;
- (k) To authorize the use of the school buildings and grounds for the holding of public meetings and gatherings of the people under such regulations as may be prescribed by said board;
- (l) To prescribe and enforce rules and regulations not inconsistent with law or with the regulations of the State Board of Education for their own government and for the government of the schools, and to transact their business at regular and special meetings called and held in the manner provided by law;
- (m) To maintain and operate all of the schools under their control for such length of time during the year as may be required;
- (n) To enforce in the schools the courses of study and the use of the textbooks prescribed by the proper authorities;
- (o) To make orders directed to the superintendent of schools for the issuance of pay certificates for lawful purposes on any available funds of the district and to have full control of the receipt, distribution, allotment and disbursement of all funds provided for the support and operation of the schools of such school district whether such funds be derived from state appropriations, local ad valorem tax collections, or otherwise. The local school board shall be authorized and empowered to promulgate rules and regulations that specify the types of claims and set limits of the dollar amount for payment of claims by the superintendent of schools to be ratified by the board at the next regularly scheduled meeting after payment has been made;
- (p) To select all school district personnel in the manner provided by law, and to provide for such employee fringe benefit programs, including accident reimbursement plans, as may be deemed necessary and appropriate by the board;
- (q) To provide athletic programs and other school activities and to regulate the establishment and operation of such programs and activities;
- (r) To join, in their discretion, any association of school boards and other public school-related organizations, and to pay from local funds other than total funding formula funds, any membership dues;

- (s) To expend local school activity funds, or other available school district funds, other than total funding formula funds, for the purposes prescribed under this paragraph. "Activity funds" shall mean all funds received by school officials in all school districts paid or collected to participate in any school activity, such activity being part of the school program and partially financed with public funds or supplemented by public funds. The term "activity funds" shall not include any funds raised and/or expended by any organization unless commingled in a bank account with existing activity funds, regardless of whether the funds were raised by school employees or received by school employees during school hours or using school facilities, and regardless of whether a school employee exercises influence over the expenditure or disposition of such funds. Organizations shall not be required to make any payment to any school for the use of any school facility if, in the discretion of the local school governing board, the organization's function shall be deemed to be beneficial to the official or extracurricular programs of the school. For the purposes of this provision, the term "organization" shall not include any organization subject to the control of the local school governing board. Activity funds may only be expended for any necessary expenses or travel costs, including advances, incurred by students and their chaperons in attending any in-state or out-of-state school-related programs, conventions or seminars and/or any commodities, equipment, travel expenses, purchased services or school supplies which the local school governing board, in its discretion, shall deem beneficial to the official or extracurricular programs of the district, including items which may subsequently become the personal property of individuals, including yearbooks, athletic apparel, book covers and trophies. Activity funds may be used to pay travel expenses of school district personnel. The local school governing board shall be authorized and empowered to promulgate rules and regulations specifically designating for what purposes school activity funds may be expended. The local school governing board shall provide (i) that such school activity funds shall be maintained and expended by the principal of the school generating the funds in individual bank accounts, or (ii) that such school activity funds shall be maintained and expended by the superintendent of schools in a central depository approved by the board. The local school governing board shall provide that such school activity funds be audited as part of the annual audit required in Section 37-9-18. The State Auditor shall prescribe a uniform system of accounting and financial reporting for all school activity fund transactions;
- (t) To contract, on a shared savings, lease or lease-purchase basis, for energy efficiency services and/or equipment as provided for in Section 31-7-14.
- (u) To maintain accounts and issue pay certificates on school food service bank accounts;
- (v) (i) To lease a school building from an individual, partnership, nonprofit corporation or a private for-profit corporation for the use of such school district, and to expend funds therefore as may be available from any sources other than total funding formula funds as set by this act. The school board of the school district desiring to lease a school building shall declare by resolution that a need exists for a school building and that the school district cannot provide the necessary funds to pay the cost or its proportionate share of the cost of a school building required to meet the present needs. The resolution so adopted by the school board shall be published once each week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper having a general circulation in the school district involved, with the first publication thereof to be made not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date upon which the school board is to act on the question of leasing a school building. If no petition requesting an election is filed prior to such meeting as hereinafter provided, then the school board may, by resolution spread upon its minutes, proceed to lease a school building. If at any time prior to said meeting a petition signed by not less than twenty percent (20%) or fifteen hundred (1500), whichever is less, of the qualified electors of the school district involved shall be filed with the school board requesting that an election be called on the question, then the school board shall, not later than the next regular meeting, adopt a resolution calling an election to be held within such school district upon the question of authorizing the school board to lease a school building. Such election shall be called and held, and notice thereof shall be given, in the same manner for elections upon the questions of the issuance of the bonds of school districts, and the results thereof shall be certified to the school board. If at least three-fifths (3/5) of the qualified electors of the school district who voted in such election shall vote in favor of the leasing of a school building, then the school board shall proceed to lease a school building. The term of the lease contract shall not exceed twenty (20) years, and the total cost of such lease shall be either the amount of the lowest and best bid accepted by the school board after advertisement for bids or an amount not to exceed the current fair market value of the lease as determined by the averaging of at least two (2) appraisals by certified general

appraisers licensed by the State of Mississippi. The term "school building" as used in this paragraph (v)(i) shall be construed to mean any building or buildings used for classroom purposes in connection with the operation of schools and shall include the site therefor, necessary support facilities, and the equipment thereof and appurtenances thereto such as heating facilities, water supply, sewage disposal, landscaping, walks, drives and playgrounds. The term "lease" as used in this paragraph (v)(i) may include a lease/purchase contract;

(ii) If two (2) or more school districts propose to enter into a lease contract jointly, then joint meetings of the school boards having control may be held but no action taken shall be binding on any such school district unless the question of leasing a school building is approved in each participating school district under the procedure hereinabove set forth in paragraph (v)(i). All of the provisions of paragraph (v)(i) regarding the term and amount of the lease contract shall apply to the school boards of school districts acting jointly. Any lease contract executed by two (2) or more school districts as joint lessees shall set out the amount of the aggregate lease rental to be paid by each, which may be agreed upon, but there shall be no right of occupancy by any lessee unless the aggregate rental is paid as stipulated in the lease contract. All rights of joint lessees under the lease contract shall be in proportion to the amount of lease rental paid by each;

- (w) To employ all noninstructional and-nonlicensed employees and fix the duties and compensation of such personnel deemed necessary pursuant to the recommendation of the superintendent of schools;
- (x) To employ and fix the duties and compensation of such legal counsel as deemed necessary;
- (y) Subject to rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, to purchase, own and operate trucks, vans and other motor vehicles, which shall bear the proper identification required by law;
- (z) To expend funds for the payment of substitute teachers and to adopt reasonable regulations for the employment and compensation of such substitute teachers;
- (aa) To acquire in its own name by purchase all real property which shall be necessary and desirable in connection with the construction, renovation or improvement of any public school building or structure. Whenever the purchase price for such real property is greater than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), the school board shall not purchase the property for an amount exceeding the fair market value of such property as determined by the average of at least two (2) independent appraisals by certified general appraisers licensed by the State of Mississippi. If the board shall be unable to agree with the owner of any such real property in connection with any such project, the board shall have the power and authority to acquire any such real property by condemnation proceedings pursuant to Section 11-27-1 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972, and for such purpose, the right of eminent domain is hereby conferred upon and vested in said board. Provided further, that the local school board is authorized to grant an easement for ingress and egress over sixteenth section land or lieu land in exchange for a similar easement upon adjoining land where the exchange of easements affords substantial benefit to the sixteenth section land; provided, however, the exchange must be based upon values as determined by a competent appraiser, with any differential in value to be adjusted by cash payment. Any easement rights granted over sixteenth section land under such authority shall terminate when the easement ceases to be used for its stated purpose. No sixteenth section or lieu land which is subject to an existing lease shall be burdened by any such easement except by consent of the lessee or unless the school district shall acquire the unexpired leasehold interest affected by the easement;
- (ab) To charge reasonable fees related to the educational programs of the district, in the manner prescribed in Section 37-7-335;
- (ac) Subject to rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, to purchase relocatable classrooms for the

use of such school district, in the manner prescribed in Section 37-1-13;

- (ad) Enter into contracts or agreements with other school districts, political subdivisions or governmental entities to carry out one or more of the powers or duties of the school board, or to allow more efficient utilization of limited resources for providing services to the public;
- (ae) To provide for in-service training for employees of the district.
- (af) As part of their duties to prescribe the use of textbooks, to provide that parents and legal guardians shall be responsible for the textbooks and for the compensation to the school district for any books which are not returned to the proper schools upon the withdrawal of their dependent child. If a textbook is lost or not returned by any student who drops out of the public school district, the parent or legal guardian shall also compensate the school district for the fair market value of the textbooks;
- (ag) To conduct fund-raising activities on behalf of the school district that the local school board, in its discretion, deems appropriate or beneficial to the official or extracurricular programs of the district; provided that:
 - (i) Any proceeds of the fund-raising activities shall be treated as "activity funds" and shall be accounted for as are other activity funds under this section; and
 - (ii) Fund-raising activities conducted or authorized by the board for the sale of school pictures, the rental of caps and gowns or the sale of graduation invitations for which the school board receives a commission, rebate or fee shall contain a disclosure statement advising that a portion of the proceeds of the sales or rentals shall be contributed to the student activity fund;
- (ah) To allow individual lessons for music, art and other curriculum-related activities for academic credit or nonacademic credit during school hours and using school equipment and facilities, subject to uniform rules and regulations adopted by the school board;
- (ai) To charge reasonable fees for participating in an extracurricular activity for academic or nonacademic credit for necessary and required equipment such as safety equipment, band instruments and uniforms;
- (aj) To conduct or participate in any fund-raising activities on behalf of or in connection with a tax-exempt charitable organization;
- (ak) To exercise such powers as may be reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of this section;
- (al) To expend funds for the services of nonprofit arts organizations or other such nonprofit organizations who provide performances or other services for the students of the school district;
- (am) To expend federal funds, or any other available funds that are expressly designated and authorized for that use, to pay training, educational expenses, salary incentives and salary supplements to employees of local school districts; except that incentives shall not be considered part of the local supplement, nor shall

incentives be considered part of the local supplement paid to an individual teacher for the purposes of Section 37-19-7(1);

- (an) To use any available funds, not appropriated or designated for any other purpose, for reimbursement to the state-licensed employees from both in-state and out-of-state, who enter into a contract for employment in a school district, for the expense of moving when the employment necessitates the relocation of the licensed employee to a different geographical area than that in which the licensed employee resides before entering into the contract. The reimbursement shall not exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the documented actual expenses incurred in the course of relocating, including the expense of any professional moving company or persons employed to assist with the move, rented moving vehicles or equipment, mileage in the amount authorized for county and municipal employees under Section 25-3-41 if the licensed employee used his personal vehicle or vehicles for the move, meals and such other expenses associated with the relocation. No licensed employee may be reimbursed for moving expenses under this section on more than one (1) occasion by the same school district. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the actual residence to which the licensed employee relocates to be within the boundaries of the school district that has executed a contract for employment in order for the licensed employee to be eligible for reimbursement for the moving expenses. However, the licensed employee must relocate within the boundaries of the State of Mississippi. Any individual receiving relocation assistance through the Critical Teacher Shortage Act as provided in Section 37-159-5 shall not be eligible to receive additional relocation funds as authorized in this paragraph;
- (ao) To use any available funds, not appropriated or designated for any other purpose, to reimburse persons who interview for employment as a licensed employee with the district for the mileage and other actual expenses incurred in the course of travel to and from the interview at the rate authorized for county and municipal employees under Section 25-3-41;
- (ap) Consistent with the report of the Task Force to Conduct a Best Financial Management Practices Review, to improve school district management and use of resources and identify cost savings as established in Section 8 of Chapter 610, Laws of 2002, local school boards are encouraged to conduct independent reviews of the management and efficiency of schools and school districts. Such management and efficiency reviews shall provide state and local officials and the public with the following:
 - (i) An assessment of a school district's governance and organizational structure;
 - (ii) An assessment of the school district's financial and personnel management;
 - (iii) An assessment of revenue levels and sources;
 - (iv) An assessment of facilities utilization, planning and maintenance;
 - (v) An assessment of food services, transportation and safety/security systems;
 - (vi) An assessment of instructional and administrative technology;
 - (vii) A review of the instructional management and the efficiency and effectiveness of existing instructional

programs; and

(viii) Recommended methods for increasing efficiency and effectiveness in providing educational services to the public;

(aq) To enter into agreements with other local school boards for the establishment of an educational service agency (ESA) to provide for the cooperative needs of the region in which the school district is located, as provided in Section 37-7-345.

(ar) To implement a financial literacy program for students in Grades 10 and 11. The board may review the national programs and obtain free literature from various nationally recognized programs. After review of the different programs, the board may certify a program that is most appropriate for the school districts' needs. If a district implements a financial literacy program, then any student in Grade 10 or 11 may participate in the program. The financial literacy program shall include, but is not limited to, instruction in the same areas of personal business and finance as required under Section 37-1-3(2)(b). The school board may coordinate with volunteer teachers from local community organizations, including, but not limited to, the following: United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Junior Achievement, bankers and other nonprofit organizations. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as to require school boards to implement a financial literacy program;

(as) To collaborate with the State Board of Education, Community Action Agencies or the Department of Human Services to develop and implement a voluntary program to provide services for a full-day prekindergarten program that addresses the cognitive, social, and emotional needs of four-year-old and three-year-old children. The school board may utilize any source of available revenue to fund the voluntary program. Effective with the 2013-2014 school year, to implement voluntary prekindergarten programs under the Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013 pursuant to state funds awarded by the State Department of Education on a matching basis;

(at) With respect to any lawful, written obligation of a school district, including, but not limited to, leases (excluding leases of sixteenth section public school trust land), bonds, notes, or other agreement, to agree in writing with the obligee that the Department of Revenue or any state agency, department or commission created under state law may:

(i) Withhold all or any part (as agreed by the school board) of any monies which such local school board is entitled to receive from time to time under any law and which is in the possession of the Department of Revenue, or any state agency, department or commission created under state law; and

(ii) Pay the same over to any financial institution, trustee or other obligee, as directed in writing by the school board, to satisfy all or part of such obligation of the school district.

The school board may make such written agreement to withhold and transfer funds irrevocable for the term of the written obligation and may include in the written agreement any other terms and provisions acceptable to the school board. If the school board files a copy of such written agreement with the Department of Revenue, or any state agency, department or commission created under state law then the Department of Revenue or any state agency, department or commission created under state law shall immediately make the withholdings provided in such agreement from the amounts due the local school board and shall continue to pay the same over to such financial institution, trustee or obligee for the term of the agreement.

This paragraph (tt) shall not grant any extra authority to a school board to issue debt in any amount exceeding statutory limitations on assessed value of taxable property within such school district or the statutory limitations on debt maturities, and shall not grant any extra authority to impose, levy or collect a tax which is not otherwise expressly provided for, and shall not be construed to apply to sixteenth section public school trust land;

- (au) With respect to any matter or transaction that is competitively bid by a school district, to accept from any bidder as a good faith deposit or bid bond or bid surety, the same type of good faith deposit or bid bond or bid surety that may be accepted by the state or any other political subdivision on similar competitively bid matters or transactions. This paragraph (uu) shall not be construed to apply to sixteenth section public school trust land. The school board may authorize the investment of any school district funds in the same kind and manner of investments, including pooled investments, as any other political subdivision, including community hospitals;
- (av) To utilize the alternate method for the conveyance or exchange of unused school buildings and/or land, reserving a partial or other undivided interest in the property, as specifically authorized and provided in Section 37-7-485, Mississippi Code of 1972;
- (aw) To delegate, privatize or otherwise enter into a contract with private entities for the operation of any and all functions of nonacademic school process, procedures and operations including, but not limited to, cafeteria workers, janitorial services, transportation, professional development, achievement and instructional consulting services materials and products, purchasing cooperatives, insurance, business manager services, auditing and accounting services, school safety/risk prevention, data processing and student records, and other staff services; however, the authority under this paragraph does not apply to the leasing, management or operation of sixteenth section lands. Local school districts, working through their regional education service agency, are encouraged to enter into buying consortia with other member districts for the purposes of more efficient use of state resources as described in Section 37-7-345.
- (ax) To partner with entities, organizations and corporations for the purpose of benefiting the school district; and
- (ay) To borrow funds from the Rural Economic Development Authority for the maintenance of school buildings.
- (az) To fund and operate voluntary early childhood education programs, defined as programs for children less than five (5) years of age on or before September 1, and to use any source of revenue for such early childhood education programs. Such programs shall not conflict with the Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013 and;
- (ba) To issue and provide for the use of procurement cards by school board members, superintendents and licensed school personnel consistent with the rules and regulations of the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration under Section 31-7-9; and
- (bb) To conduct an annual comprehensive evaluation of the superintendent of schools consistent with the assessment components of paragraph (ap) of this section and the assessment benchmarks established by the Mississippi School Boards Association to evaluate the success the superintendent has attained in meeting district goals and objectives, the superintendent's leadership skills and whether or not the superintendent has established appropriate standards for performance, is monitoring success and is using data for improvement.

MS Code

37-151-200

37-7-301

Description[Title](#)[General powers and duties.](#)**Other References**

MPSAS

Description[Public School Accountability Standards](#)**Cross References**

AA

ABBA

ABCB

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ACC

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AFA

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BBABA

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Description[School District Legal Status](#)[General Home Rule Authority](#)[Board Members Qualifications](#)[School District Organization Plan](#)[Trademark Policy](#)[School Day](#)[Flag Display](#)[Board Operations Goals and Objectives Mission Statement](#)[Duties of Board President](#)[Duties of Board Secretary](#)[Orientation of New Board Members](#)[Board Member Development \(Training\) Opportunity](#)[Board-School Superintendent Relations](#)[Advisory Committees to the Board](#)[Consultants to the Board](#)[Board/Staff Relations](#)[Review of Board Procedures](#)[Board Policy Development](#)[Review of Administrative Rules](#)[Administration in Policy Absence](#)[Suspension of Board Policies](#)[School Board Membership](#)[General School Administration Goals and Objectives](#)[Duties of Superintendent](#)[Superintendent Evaluation](#)[Debt Limitation](#)[School Properties Disposal Procedure](#)[School Property Development Act of 2005](#)[Fundraising - Students](#)[Relations With Nonpublic Schools](#)

Policy ABB: Board Powers and Duties

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 08/05/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 10/27/2025

BOARD POWERS AND DUTIES – 37-7-301

HOME RULE

The school board of a school district may adopt any orders, resolutions or ordinances with respect to school district affairs, property and finances which are not inconsistent with the Mississippi Constitution of 1890, the Mississippi Code of 1972, or any other statute or law of the State of Mississippi. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the powers granted to the school boards in this section are complete without the existence of or reference to any specific authority granted in any other statute or law of the State of Mississippi. Unless such actions are specifically authorized by another statute or law of the State of Mississippi, this section shall not authorize a school board to: (a) levy taxes of any kind or increase the levy of any authorized tax; (b) issue bonds of any kind; or (c) enter into collective bargaining agreements. 37-7-301.1

POWERS, AUTHORITY AND DUTIES

The school boards of all school districts shall have the following powers, authority and duties in addition to all others imposed or granted by law, to wit:

- (a) To organize and operate the schools of the district and to make such division between the high school grades and elementary grades as, in their judgment, will serve the best interests of the school;
- (b) To introduce public school music, art, manual training and other special subjects into either the elementary or high school grades, as the board shall deem proper;
- (c) To be the custodians of real and personal school property and to manage, control and care for same, both during the school term and during vacation;
- (d) To have responsibility for the erection, repairing and equipping of school facilities and the making of necessary school improvements;
- (e) To suspend or to expel a pupil or to change the placement of a pupil to the school district's alternative school or home-bound program for misconduct in the school or on school property, as defined in Section 37-11-29, on the road to and from school, or at any school-related activity or event, or for conduct occurring on property other than school property or other than at a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders that pupil'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, and to delegate such authority to the appropriate officials of the school district;
- (f) To visit schools in the district, in their discretion, in a body for the purpose of determining what can be done for the improvement of the school in a general way;

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- (g) To support, within reasonable limits, the superintendent, principal and teachers where necessary for the

proper discipline of the school;

- (h) To exclude from the schools students with what appears to be infectious or contagious diseases; provided, however, such student may be allowed to return to school upon presenting a certificate from a public health officer, duly licensed physician or nurse practitioner that the student is free from such disease;
- (i) To require those vaccinations specified by the State Health Officer as provided in Section 41-23-37;
~~Mississippi Code of 1972;~~
- (j) To see that all necessary utilities and services are provided in the schools at all times when same are needed;
- (k) To authorize the use of the school buildings and grounds for the holding of public meetings and gatherings of the people under such regulations as may be prescribed by said board;
- (l) To prescribe and enforce rules and regulations not inconsistent with law or with the regulations of the State Board of Education for their own government and for the government of the schools, and to transact their business at regular and special meetings called and held in the manner provided by law;
- (m) To maintain and operate all of the schools under their control for such length of time during the year as may be required;
- (n) To enforce in the schools the courses of study and the use of the textbooks prescribed by the proper authorities;
- (o) To make orders directed to the superintendent of schools for the issuance of pay certificates for lawful purposes on any available funds of the district and to have full control of the receipt, distribution, allotment and disbursement of all funds provided for the support and operation of the schools of such school district whether such funds be derived from state appropriations, local ad valorem tax collections, or otherwise. The local school board shall be authorized and empowered to promulgate rules and regulations that specify the types of claims and set limits of the dollar amount for payment of claims by the superintendent of schools to be ratified by the board at the next regularly scheduled meeting after payment has been made;
- (p) To select all school district personnel in the manner provided by law, and to provide for such employee fringe benefit programs, including accident reimbursement plans, as may be deemed necessary and appropriate by the board;
- (q) To provide athletic programs and other school activities and to regulate the establishment and operation of such programs and activities;
- (r) To join, in their discretion, any association of school boards and other public school-related organizations, and to pay from local funds other than total funding formula funds, any membership dues;

- (s) To expend local school activity funds, or other available school district funds, other than total funding formula funds, for the purposes prescribed under this paragraph. "Activity funds" shall mean all funds received by school officials in all school districts paid or collected to participate in any school activity, such activity being part of the school program and partially financed with public funds or supplemented by public funds. The term "activity funds" shall not include any funds raised and/or expended by any organization unless commingled in a bank account with existing activity funds, regardless of whether the funds were raised by school employees or received by school employees during school hours or using school facilities, and regardless of whether a school employee exercises influence over the expenditure or disposition of such funds. Organizations shall not be required to make any payment to any school for the use of any school facility if, in the discretion of the local school governing board, the organization's function shall be deemed to be beneficial to the official or extracurricular programs of the school. For the purposes of this provision, the term "organization" shall not include any organization subject to the control of the local school governing board. Activity funds may only be expended for any necessary expenses or travel costs, including advances, incurred by students and their chaperons in attending any in-state or out-of-state school-related programs, conventions or seminars and/or any commodities, equipment, travel expenses, purchased services or school supplies which the local school governing board, in its discretion, shall deem beneficial to the official or extracurricular programs of the district, including items which may subsequently become the personal property of individuals, including yearbooks, athletic apparel, book covers and trophies. Activity funds may be used to pay travel expenses of school district personnel. The local school governing board shall be authorized and empowered to promulgate rules and regulations specifically designating for what purposes school activity funds may be expended. The local school governing board shall provide (i) that such school activity funds shall be maintained and expended by the principal of the school generating the funds in individual bank accounts, or (ii) that such school activity funds shall be maintained and expended by the superintendent of schools in a central depository approved by the board. The local school governing board shall provide that such school activity funds be audited as part of the annual audit required in Section 37-9-18. The State Auditor shall prescribe a uniform system of accounting and financial reporting for all school activity fund transactions;
- (t) To contract, on a shared savings, lease or lease-purchase basis, for energy efficiency services and/or equipment as provided for in Section 31-7-14.
- (u) To maintain accounts and issue pay certificates on school food service bank accounts;
- (v) (i) To lease a school building from an individual, partnership, nonprofit corporation or a private for-profit corporation for the use of such school district, and to expend funds therefore as may be available from any sources other than total funding formula funds as set by this act. The school board of the school district desiring to lease a school building shall declare by resolution that a need exists for a school building and that the school district cannot provide the necessary funds to pay the cost or its proportionate share of the cost of a school building required to meet the present needs. The resolution so adopted by the school board shall be published once each week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper having a general circulation in the school district involved, with the first publication thereof to be made not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date upon which the school board is to act on the question of leasing a school building. If no petition requesting an election is filed prior to such meeting as hereinafter provided, then the school board may, by resolution spread upon its minutes, proceed to lease a school building. If at any time prior to said before the meeting a petition signed by not less than twenty percent (20%) or fifteen hundred (1500), whichever is less, of the qualified electors of the school district involved shall be filed with the school board requesting that an election be called on the question, then the school board shall, not later than the next regular meeting, adopt a resolution calling an election to be held within such school district upon the question of authorizing the school board to lease a school building. Such election shall be called and held, and notice thereof shall be given, in the same manner for elections upon the questions of the issuance of the bonds of school districts, and the results thereof shall be certified to the school board. If at least three-fifths (3/5) of the qualified electors of the school district who voted in such election shall vote in favor of the leasing of a school building, then the school board shall proceed to lease a school building. The term of the lease contract shall not exceed twenty (20) years, and the total cost of such lease shall be either the amount of the lowest and best bid accepted by the school board after advertisement for bids or an amount not to exceed the current fair market value of the lease as determined by the averaging of at least two (2) appraisals by certified general

appraisers licensed by the State of Mississippi. The term "school building" as used in this paragraph (v)(i) shall be construed to mean any building or buildings used for classroom purposes in connection with the operation of schools and shall include the site therefor, necessary support facilities, and the equipment thereof and appurtenances thereto such as heating facilities, water supply, sewage disposal, landscaping, walks, drives and playgrounds. The term "lease" as used in this paragraph (v)(i) may include a lease/purchase contract;

(ii) If two (2) or more school districts propose to enter into a lease contract jointly, then joint meetings of the school boards having control may be held but no action taken shall be binding on any such school district unless the question of leasing a school building is approved in each participating school district under the procedure hereinabove set forth in paragraph (v)(i). All of the provisions of paragraph (v)(i) regarding the term and amount of the lease contract shall apply to the school boards of school districts acting jointly. Any lease contract executed by two (2) or more school districts as joint lessees shall set out the amount of the aggregate lease rental to be paid by each, which may be agreed upon, but there shall be no right of occupancy by any lessee unless the aggregate rental is paid as stipulated in the lease contract. All rights of joint lessees under the lease contract shall be in proportion to the amount of lease rental paid by each;

- (w) To employ all noninstructional and-nonlicensed employees and fix the duties and compensation of such personnel deemed necessary pursuant to the recommendation of the superintendent of schools;
- (x) To employ and fix the duties and compensation of such legal counsel as deemed necessary;
- (y) Subject to rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, to purchase, own and operate trucks, vans and other motor vehicles, which shall bear the proper identification required by law;
- (z) To expend funds for the payment of substitute teachers and to adopt reasonable regulations for the employment and compensation of such substitute teachers;
- (aa) To acquire in its own name by purchase all real property which shall be necessary and desirable in connection with the construction, renovation or improvement of any public school building or structure. Whenever the purchase price for such real property is greater than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), the school board shall not purchase the property for an amount exceeding the fair market value of such property as determined by the average of at least two (2) independent appraisals by certified general appraisers licensed by the State of Mississippi. If the board shall be unable to agree with the owner of any such real property in connection with any such project, the board shall have the power and authority to acquire any such real property by condemnation proceedings pursuant to Section 11-27-1 et seq., ~~Mississippi Code of 1972~~, and for such purpose, the right of eminent domain is hereby conferred upon and vested in said ~~the~~ board. ~~Provided further, that the~~ ~~The~~ local school board is authorized to grant an easement for ingress and egress over sixteenth section land or lieu land in exchange for a similar easement upon adjoining land where the exchange of easements affords substantial benefit to the sixteenth section land; ~~provided~~, however, the exchange must be based upon values as determined by a competent appraiser, with any differential in value to be adjusted by cash payment. Any easement rights granted over sixteenth section land under such authority shall terminate when the easement ceases to be used for its stated purpose. No sixteenth section or lieu land which is subject to an existing lease shall be burdened by any such easement except by consent of the lessee or unless the school district shall acquire the unexpired leasehold interest affected by the easement;
- (ab) To charge reasonable fees related to the educational programs of the district, in the manner prescribed in Section 37-7-335;

- (ac) Subject to rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, to purchase relocatable classrooms for the use of such school district, in the manner prescribed in Section 37-1-13;
- (ad) Enter into contracts or agreements with other school districts, political subdivisions or governmental entities to carry out one or more of the powers or duties of the school board, or to allow more efficient utilization of limited resources for providing services to the public;
- (ae) To provide for in-service training for employees of the district.
- (af) As part of their duties to prescribe the use of textbooks, to provide that parents and legal guardians shall be responsible for the textbooks and for the compensation to the school district for any books which are not returned to the proper schools upon the withdrawal of their dependent child. If a textbook is lost or not returned by any student who drops out of the public school district, the parent or legal guardian shall also compensate the school district for the fair market value of the textbooks;
- (ag) To conduct fund-raising activities on behalf of the school district that the local school board, in its discretion, deems appropriate or beneficial to the official or extracurricular programs of the district;~~provided~~
that: **subject to the following:**
 - (i) Any proceeds of the fund-raising activities shall be treated as "activity funds" and shall be accounted for as are other activity funds under this section; and
 - (ii) Fund-raising activities conducted or authorized by the board for the sale of school pictures, the rental of caps and gowns or the sale of graduation invitations for which the school board receives a commission, rebate or fee shall contain a disclosure statement advising that a portion of the proceeds of the sales or rentals shall be contributed to the student activity fund;
- (ah) To allow individual lessons for music, art and other curriculum-related activities for academic credit or nonacademic credit during school hours and using school equipment and facilities, subject to uniform rules and regulations adopted by the school board;
- (ai) To charge reasonable fees for participating in an extracurricular activity for academic or nonacademic credit for necessary and required equipment such as safety equipment, band instruments and uniforms;
- (aj) To conduct or participate in any fund-raising activities on behalf of or in connection with a tax-exempt charitable organization;
- (ak) To exercise such powers as may be reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of this section;
- (al) To expend funds for the services of nonprofit arts organizations or other such nonprofit organizations who provide performances or other services for the students of the school district;

use, to pay training, educational expenses, salary incentives and salary supplements to employees of local school districts; except that incentives shall not be considered part of the local supplement, nor shall incentives be considered part of the local supplement paid to an individual teacher for the purposes of Section 37-19-7(1);

- (an) To use any available funds, not appropriated or designated for any other purpose, for reimbursement to the state-licensed employees from both in-state and out-of-state, who enter into a contract for employment in a school district, for the expense of moving when the employment necessitates the relocation of the licensed employee to a different geographical area than that in which the licensed employee resides before entering into the contract. The reimbursement shall not exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the documented actual expenses incurred in the course of relocating, including the expense of any professional moving company or persons employed to assist with the move, rented moving vehicles or equipment, mileage in the amount authorized for county and municipal employees under Section 25-3-41 if the licensed employee used his personal vehicle or vehicles for the move, meals and such other expenses associated with the relocation. No licensed employee may be reimbursed for moving expenses under this section on more than one (1) occasion by the same school district. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the actual residence to which the licensed employee relocates to be within the boundaries of the school district that has executed a contract for employment in order for the licensed employee to be eligible for reimbursement for the moving expenses. However, the licensed employee must relocate within the boundaries of the State of Mississippi. Any individual receiving relocation assistance through the Critical Teacher Shortage Act as provided in Section 37-159-5 shall not be eligible to receive additional relocation funds as authorized in this paragraph;
- (ao) To use any available funds, not appropriated or designated for any other purpose, to reimburse persons who interview for employment as a licensed employee with the district for the mileage and other actual expenses incurred in the course of travel to and from the interview at the rate authorized for county and municipal employees under Section 25-3-41;
- (ap) Consistent with the report of the Task Force to Conduct a Best Financial Management Practices Review, to improve school district management and use of resources and identify cost savings as established in Section 8 of Chapter 610, Laws of 2002, local school boards are encouraged to conduct independent reviews of the management and efficiency of schools and school districts. Such management and efficiency reviews shall provide state and local officials and the public with the following:
 - (i) An assessment of a school district's governance and organizational structure;
 - (ii) An assessment of the school district's financial and personnel management;
 - (iii) An assessment of revenue levels and sources;
 - (iv) An assessment of facilities utilization, planning and maintenance;
 - (v) An assessment of food services, transportation and safety/security systems;
 - (vi) An assessment of instructional and administrative technology;

- (vii) A review of the instructional management and the efficiency and effectiveness of existing instructional programs; and
- (viii) Recommended methods for increasing efficiency and effectiveness in providing educational services to the public;
- (aq) To enter into agreements with other local school boards for the establishment of an educational service agency (ESA) to provide for the cooperative needs of the region in which the school district is located, as provided in Section 37-7-345.
- (ar) To implement ~~incorporate~~ a financial literacy program for ~~components within the curriculum offered to~~ students in Grades 10 and 11. ~~The board may review the national programs and obtain free literature from various nationally recognized programs. After review of the different programs, the board may certify a program that is most appropriate for the school districts' needs. If a district implements a financial literacy program, then any student in Grade 10 or 11 may participate in the program.~~ **6-8. Current curriculum for Grades 6-12 shall include content on financial literacy education. Each student, during Grade 9, 10, 11, or 12, shall take and pass a one-half Carnegie Unit course in personal finance, or a full Carnegie Unit course where at least one-half of the course standards concern financial literacy, in order to earn a high school diploma.** The financial literacy program shall include, but is not limited to, instruction in the same areas of personal business and finance as required under Section 37-1-3(2)(b). The school board may coordinate with volunteer teachers from local community organizations, including, but not limited to, the following: United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Junior Achievement, bankers and other nonprofit organizations. ~~Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as to require school boards to implement a financial literacy program;~~ **In addition to any financial literacy standards administratively required by the State Department of Education's College -and-Career Readiness course, the financial literacy program for grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 may include, without limitation;**
 - i. Financial decision-making;
 - i i. Earning an income, tax obligations and withholding;
 - iii. Personal budgeting, saving, spending and cash flow management;
 - iv. Financial services, including types of credit, using credit, credit reports and interest calculations;
 - v. Postsecondary education financing, including loans, repayment and cost-benefit analysis for expected employment; and
 - vi. Consumer rights, identify protection and fraud avoidance
- (as) To collaborate with the State Board of Education, Community Action Agencies or the Department of Human Services to develop and implement a voluntary program to provide services for a full-day prekindergarten program that addresses the cognitive, social, and emotional needs of four-year-old and three-year-old children. The school board may utilize any source of available revenue to fund the voluntary program. Effective with the 2013-2014 school year, to implement voluntary prekindergarten programs under the Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013 pursuant to state funds awarded by the State Department of Education on a matching basis;
- (at) With respect to any lawful, written obligation of a school district, including, but not limited to, leases (excluding leases of sixteenth section public school trust land), bonds, notes, or other agreement, to agree in writing with the obligee that the Department of Revenue or any state agency, department or commission

created under state law may:

- (i) Withhold all or any part (as agreed by the school board) of any monies which such local school board is entitled to receive from time to time under any law and which is in the possession of the Department of Revenue, or any state agency, department or commission created under state law; and
- (ii) Pay the same over to any financial institution, trustee or other obligee, as directed in writing by the school board, to satisfy all or part of such obligation of the school district.

The school board may make such written agreement to withhold and transfer funds irrevocable for the term of the written obligation and may include in the written agreement any other terms and provisions acceptable to the school board. If the school board files a copy of such written agreement with the Department of Revenue, or any state agency, department or commission created under state law then the Department of Revenue or any state agency, department or commission created under state law shall immediately make the withholdings provided in such agreement from the amounts due the local school board and shall continue to pay the same over to such financial institution, trustee or obligee for the term of the agreement.

This paragraph (tt) shall not grant any extra authority to a school board to issue debt in any amount exceeding statutory limitations on assessed value of taxable property within such school district or the statutory limitations on debt maturities, and shall not grant any extra authority to impose, levy or collect a tax which is not otherwise expressly provided for, and shall not be construed to apply to sixteenth section public school trust land;

- (au) With respect to any matter or transaction that is competitively bid by a school district, to accept from any bidder as a good faith deposit or bid bond or bid surety, the same type of good faith deposit or bid bond or bid surety that may be accepted by the state or any other political subdivision on similar competitively bid matters or transactions. This paragraph (uu) shall not be construed to apply to sixteenth section public school trust land. The school board may authorize the investment of any school district funds in the same kind and manner of investments, including pooled investments, as any other political subdivision, including community hospitals;
- (av) To utilize the alternate method for the conveyance or exchange of unused school buildings and/or land, reserving a partial or other undivided interest in the property, as specifically authorized and provided in Section 37-7-485, Mississippi Code of 1972;
- (aw) To delegate, privatize or otherwise enter into a contract with private entities for the operation of any and all functions of nonacademic school process, procedures and operations including, but not limited to, cafeteria workers, janitorial services, transportation, professional development, achievement and instructional consulting services materials and products, purchasing cooperatives, insurance, business manager services, auditing and accounting services, school safety/risk prevention, data processing and student records, and other staff services; however, the authority under this paragraph does not apply to the leasing, management or operation of sixteenth section lands. Local school districts, working through their regional education service agency, are encouraged to enter into buying consortia with other member districts for the purposes of more efficient use of state resources as described in Section 37-7-345.
- (ax) To partner with entities, organizations and corporations for the purpose of benefiting the school district; and

- (ay) To borrow funds from the Rural Economic Development Authority for the maintenance of school buildings.
- (az) To fund and operate voluntary early childhood education programs, defined as programs for children less than five (5) years of age on or before September 1, and to use any source of revenue for such early childhood education programs. Such programs shall not conflict with the Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013 and;
- (ba) To issue and provide for the use of procurement cards by school board members, superintendents and licensed school personnel consistent with the rules and regulations of the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration under Section 31-7-9; and
- (bb) To conduct an annual comprehensive evaluation of the superintendent of schools consistent with the assessment components of paragraph (ap) of this section and the assessment benchmarks established by the Mississippi School Boards Association to evaluate the success the superintendent has attained in meeting district goals and objectives, the superintendent's leadership skills and whether or not the superintendent has established appropriate standards for performance, is monitoring success and is using data for improvement.

MS Code

37-151-200

Description

[Title](#)

37-7-301

[General powers and duties.](#)

Other References

MPSAS

Description

[Public School Accountability Standards](#)

Cross References

AA

[School District Legal Status](#)

ABBA

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ABCB

[Board Members Qualifications](#)

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BBABA

[Duties of Board President](#)

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[Board-School Superintendent Relations](#)

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[Advisory Committees to the Board](#)

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Cross References

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Description

[Review of Board Procedures](#)
[Board Policy Development](#)
[Review of Administrative Rules](#)
[Administration in Policy Absence](#)
[Suspension of Board Policies](#)
[School Board Membership](#)
[General School Administration Goals and Objectives](#)
[Duties of Superintendent](#)
[Superintendent Evaluation](#)
[Debt Limitation](#)
[School Properties Disposal Procedure](#)
[School Property Development Act of 2005](#)
[Fundraising - Students](#)
[Relations With Nonpublic Schools](#)

Policy AEA: School Calendar	Status: ADOPTED
Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 Last Revised Date: 02/06/2017 Last Reviewed Date: 10/27/2025	

SCHOOL CALENDAR

-

The Board of Trustees of the Harrison County School District shall review and approve a school calendar annually.

The minimum school term shall be at least one hundred eighty (180) days of school in which both teachers and pupils are in regular attendance for scheduled classroom instruction for not less than sixty-three percent (63%) of the instructional day, as defined by the school board for each school in the school district. Please see student handbook for the instructional day of each school.

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard for this policy is standard 13.

MS Code	Description
37-13-67	Length of scholastic month; length of school day.
Other References	Description
MPSAS	Public School Accountability Standards
Cross References	Description
AEAB	Holidays
CEB	Duties of Superintendent

Policy AEA: School Calendar

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | Last Revised Date: 02/06/2017 | Last Reviewed Date: 10/27/2025

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The Board of Trustees of the Harrison County School District shall review and approve a school calendar annually.

The minimum school term shall be at least one hundred and eight (180) days of school in which both teachers and pupils are in regular attendance for scheduled classroom instruction for not less than sixty-three ~~six~~ percent (63%) ~~66%~~ of the instructional ~~student's school~~ day, as defined by the school board for each school in the school district. ~~State Board of Education~~. Please see student handbook for the instructional day of each school.

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard for this policy is standard 13.

MS Code	Description
37-13-67	Length of scholastic month; length of school day.
Other References	Description
MPSAS	Public School Accountability Standards
Cross References	Description
AEAB	Holidays
CEB	Duties of Superintendent

Policy CEE: Superintendent Compensation and Benefits

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 08/05/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/26/2026

SUPERINTENDENTS COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

If the superintendent, has been selected and approved shall not execute and return the contract within ten (10) days after same has been tendered to him for execution, then, at the option of the school board the election of the superintendent and the contract tendered to him shall be void and of no effect. 37-9-23

COMPLIANCE WITH TOTAL FUNDING FORMULA

In employing and contracting with an appointed superintendent, the school board shall in all cases determine whether the amount of salary is in compliance with the provisions of this chapter and Section 37-19-7. No contract shall be entered into where the salary of a superintendent is to be paid in whole or in part from total funding formula funds except where the statutory requirements as to the amount of such salary are fully met. Nothing herein shall be construed, however, to prohibit any school district from increasing the salaries of appointed superintendents above the amount fixed by Section 37-9-33.

LEGISLATIVE INTENT

The amount of the salary to be paid any appointed superintendent shall be fixed by the school board, in the manner prescribed by law. In employing superintendents and in fixing their salaries, the school boards shall take into consideration the character, professional training, experience, executive ability and teaching capacity of the superintendent. Whenever the salary of the school district superintendent is set by the school board, the board shall take into consideration the amount of money that the district spends per pupil, and shall attempt to insure that the administrative cost of the district and the amount of the salary of the superintendent are not excessive in comparison to the per pupil expenditure of the district. 37-9-37

SALARY PAY SCHEDULE

This school district shall process a single monthly payroll for licensed employees with electronic settlement of payroll checks secured through direct deposit of net pay. In December, salaries or wages shall be paid by the last working day.

Licensed employees shall earn a salary payable in equal monthly installments beginning in the first month of employment, regardless of the number of days worked in any particular month by the employee.

Any employee failing to complete the contractual obligation of service, and who receives payment in excess of the installment for the period which such employee ceases employment with the school district, shall become liable immediately to the Board of trustees of the Harrison County School District for the sum of all amounts received in payment less the corresponding amount of any compensation paid for which service has been rendered, plus interest accruing at the current Stafford Loan rate at the time the person discontinues his or her service.

Any school employee whose employment ends during a school term, regardless of the reason(s) the employment ended, shall be paid salary or wages only for that portion of the school term that employee actually worked. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to entitle any employee to payment of salary or wages when no work has been

performed. 37-9-39

PAY CERTIFICATES

The salaries of licensed employees shall be paid by pay certificates issued by the school district superintendent. All pay certificates shall be preserved as a part of the official records of his/her office for the same time and in the same manner as other records are preserved. All pay certificates and warrants issued shall show the gross amount of the salary and all authorized deductions therefrom for income taxes, social security, retirement contributions and other lawful purposes.

EXECUTED CONTRACT REQUIRED

It shall be unlawful for any appointed superintendent to be paid for any services as such until a written contract has been executed as is provided and required by this chapter. If any school district superintendent or administrative superintendent shall make any such payment prior to the execution of the contract he shall be civilly liable for the amount thereof, and, in addition, shall be liable upon his bond. If any appointed superintendent shall willfully and without just cause breach his contract and abandon his employment he shall not be entitled to any further salary payments either for services rendered prior to such breach or for services which were thereafter to have been rendered. 37-9-43

SALARY DEDUCTIONS

All deductions from salaries shall be in accordance with all state and federal laws, regulations, and school board policies.

MS Code	Description
37-151-200	Title
37-19-7	Scale of teachers' salaries; experience increases; salary supplement for certain school employees.
37-9-23	Form and execution of contracts with superintendents, principals, licensed employees, and others anticipating graduation from approved programs; conditional contracts.
37-9-33	Amount of salaries to be in compliance with minimum education program law.
37-9-37	Factors considered in fixing salaries of superintendents, principals or licensed employees.
37-9-39	Time of payment of salaries.
37-9-43	Payment of salary prior to execution of written contract; effect of breach of contract.
37-9-49	Deduction of dues, etc., from salaries.
Cross References	Description
DJC	Payroll Procedure

Cross References

DJCA

Description

[Pay Day Schedule](#)

Policy CEE: Superintendent Compensation and Benefits

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 08/05/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 04/07/2025

SUPERINTENDENTS COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

If the superintendent, has been selected and approved shall not execute and return the contract within ten (10) days after same has been tendered to him for execution, then, at the option of the school board the election of the superintendent and the contract tendered to him shall be void and of no effect. 37-9-23

COMPLIANCE WITH TOTAL FUNDING FORMULA

In employing and contracting with an appointed superintendent, the school board shall in all cases determine whether the amount of salary is in compliance with the provisions of this chapter and Section 37-19-7. No contract shall be entered into where the salary of a superintendent is to be paid in whole or in part from total funding formula funds except where the statutory requirements as to the amount of such salary are fully met. Nothing herein shall be construed, however, to prohibit any school district from increasing the salaries of appointed superintendents above the amount fixed by Section 37-9-33.

LEGISLATIVE INTENT

The amount of the salary to be paid any appointed superintendent shall be fixed by the school board, in the manner prescribed by law. In employing superintendents and in fixing their salaries, the school boards shall take into consideration the character, professional training, experience, executive ability and teaching capacity of the superintendent. Whenever the salary of the school district superintendent is set by the school board, the board shall take into consideration the amount of money that the district spends per pupil, and shall attempt to ensure that the administrative cost of the district and the amount of the salary of the superintendent are not excessive in comparison to the per pupil expenditure of the district. 37-9-37

SALARY PAY SCHEDULE

This school district shall process a single monthly payroll for licensed employees with electronic settlement of payroll checks secured through direct deposit of net pay. ~~In December, salaries or wages shall be paid by the last working day:~~

Licensed employees shall earn a salary payable in equal monthly installments beginning in the first month of employment, regardless of the number of days worked in any particular month by the employee.

Any employee failing to complete the contractual obligation of service, and who receives payment in excess of the installment for the period which such employee ceases employment with the school district, shall become liable immediately to the Board of trustees of the Harrison County School District for the sum of all amounts received in payment less the corresponding amount of any compensation paid for which service has been rendered, plus interest accruing at the current Stafford Loan rate at the time the person discontinues his or her service.

Any school employee whose employment ends during a school term, regardless of the reason(s) the employment ended, shall be paid salary or wages only for that portion of the school term that employee actually worked. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to entitle any employee to payment of salary or wages when no work has been performed. 37-9-39

PAY CERTIFICATES

The salaries of licensed employees shall be paid by pay certificates issued by the school district superintendent. All pay certificates shall be preserved as a part of the official records of his/her office for the same time and in the same manner as other records are preserved. All pay certificates and warrants issued shall show the gross amount of the

salary and all authorized deductions therefrom for income taxes, social security, retirement contributions and other lawful purposes.

EXECUTED CONTRACT REQUIRED

It shall be unlawful for any appointed superintendent to be paid for any services as such until a written contract has been executed as is provided and required by this chapter. If any school district superintendent or administrative superintendent shall make any such payment prior to the execution of the contract he shall be civilly liable for the amount thereof, and, in addition, shall be liable upon his bond. If any appointed superintendent shall willfully and without just cause breach his contract and abandon his employment he shall not be entitled to any further salary payments either for services rendered prior to such breach or for services which were thereafter to have been rendered. 37-9-43

SALARY DEDUCTIONS

All deductions from salaries shall be in accordance with all state and federal laws, regulations, and school board policies.

MS Code	Description
37-151-200	Title
37-19-7	Scale of teachers' salaries; experience increases; salary supplement for certain school employees.
37-9-23	Form and execution of contracts with superintendents, principals, licensed employees, and others anticipating graduation from approved programs; conditional contracts.
37-9-33	Amount of salaries to be in compliance with minimum education program law.
37-9-37	Factors considered in fixing salaries of superintendents, principals or licensed employees.
37-9-39	Time of payment of salaries.
37-9-43	Payment of salary prior to execution of written contract; effect of breach of contract.
37-9-49	Deduction of dues, etc., from salaries.
Cross References	Description
DJC	Payroll Procedure
DJCA	Pay Day Schedule

Policy CGA: Administrative Personnel Compensation Guides and Contracts

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 01/26/2026 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/26/2026

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL COMPENSATION GUIDES AND CONTRACTS

It is the policy of this board to attempt to pay its administrators at a level which will attract and hold people with administrative ability who can exercise professional leadership in the school system.

If, at the commencement of the scholastic year, any licensed employee shall present to the superintendent a license of a higher grade than that specified in such individual's contract, such individual may, if funds are available from total funding formula funds of the district, or from district funds, be paid from such funds the amount to which such higher grade license would have entitled the individual, had the license been held at the time the contract was executed.
37-9-17

CONTRACT FORM AND EXECUTION

The superintendent shall enter into a contract with each assistant superintendent, principal, licensed employee in the manner prescribed by law and the State Board of Education.

If any principal, licensed employee or other person recommended for a licensed position who has been elected and approved shall not execute and return the contract within ten (10) days after same has been tendered to him for execution, then, at the option of the school board, the election of the licensed employee and the contract tendered to him shall be null and void and of no effect.

LENGTH OF CONTRACT

All contracts shall include the exact period of time for which the licensed person shall be employed.

AMOUNT OF SALARY

In employing and contracting with principals and licensed employees, the school board shall determine and fix the amount of salary and ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

In employing principals and licensed employees and in fixing their salaries, the school board shall take into consideration the character, professional training, experience, executive ability and teaching capacity of the licensed employee or principal.

SALARY PAY SCHEDULE

This school district shall process a single monthly or a bimonthly (DISTRICT MUST CHOOSE ONE) payroll for licensed employees with electronic settlement of payroll checks secured through direct deposit of net pay. In December, salaries or wages shall be paid by the last working day.

Licensed employees shall earn a salary payable in equal monthly or bimonthly (CHOOSE SAME AS ABOVE) installments beginning in the first month of employment, regardless of the number of days worked in any particular month by the employee.

Any employee failing to complete the contractual obligation of service, and who receives payment in excess of the installment for the period which such employee ceases employment with the school district, shall become liable immediately to the board of trustees of the Harrison County School District for the sum of all amounts received in payment less the corresponding amount of any compensation paid for which service has been rendered, plus interest accruing at the current Stafford Loan rate at the time the person discontinues his or her service.

ended, shall be paid salary or wages only for that portion of the school term that employee actually worked. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to entitle any employee to payment of salary or wages when no work has been performed.

PAY CERTIFICATES

The salaries of principals and licensed employees shall be paid by pay certificates issued by the school district superintendent. All pay certificates shall be preserved as a part of the official records of his/her office for the same time and in the same manner as other records are preserved. All pay certificates and warrants issued shall show the gross amount of the salary and all authorized deductions therefrom for income taxes, social security, retirement contributions and other lawful purposes.

EXECUTED CONTRACT REQUIRED

It is unlawful for any principal or licensed employee to be paid for any services as such until a written contract has been executed. If the school district superintendent shall make any such payment prior to the execution of the contract, he shall be civilly liable for the amount thereof, and, in addition, shall be liable upon his bond. If any licensed employee, or principal shall willfully and without just cause breach his contract and abandon his employment, he shall not be entitled to any further salary payments either for services rendered prior to such breach or for services which were thereafter to have been rendered.

SALARY DEDUCTIONS

All deductions from salaries shall be in accordance with all state and federal laws, regulations, and school board policies.

RELEASE FROM CONTRACT

All contracted licensed employees desiring to be released from contract shall submit a written request to the superintendent for release. The request shall include clearly stated reasons for the release. If the superintendent acts favorably upon the request for release, the licensed employee shall be brought forward to the board. If the board acts favorably, the licensed employee shall be released from his/her contract, and said contract shall be null and void on the date specified in the school board's order.

BREACH OF CONTRACT

If a licensed employee in this school district shall arbitrarily or willfully breach his or her contract and abandon his or her employment without being released therefrom as provided by law, the contract of such principal or licensed employee shall be null and void. In addition, upon the written recommendation of the majority of the members of the school board, the license or certificate of the licensed employee may be suspended by the State Board of Education for a period of one (1) school year as provided by law.

MS Code

37-151-200

37-3-2

37-9-1

37-9-17

Description

[Title](#)

[Certification of teachers and administrators.](#)

37-9-1

[Selection of licensed employees or non-instructional employees to be employed for one school year; increase in compensation of certain licensed employees; fingerprinting and criminal background checks for applicants.](#)

MS Code**Description**

37-9-23	Form and execution of contracts with superintendents, principals, licensed employees, and others anticipating graduation from approved programs; conditional contracts.
37-9-24	Contracts with licensed personnel for not less than 187 employment days
37-9-25	Contracts for periods greater than one scholastic year.
37-9-33	Amount of salaries to be in compliance with minimum education program law.
37-9-37	Factors considered in fixing salaries of superintendents, principals or licensed employees.
37-9-39	Time of payment of salaries.
37-9-43	Payment of salary prior to execution of written contract; effect of breach of contract.
37-9-49	Deduction of dues, etc., from salaries.
37-9-55	Release from contract.
37-9-57	Effect of abandonment of employment.
37-9-59	Grounds and procedure for dismissal or suspension of licensed employee; attendance of different school system by child as ground for denying employment or reemployment of superintendent, principal or licensed employee.

Cross References**Description**

CBG	Administrative and Supervisory Personnel Positions
CG	Administrative Personnel
CGD	Administrative Personnel Hiring

Policy CGA: Administrative Personnel Compensation Guides and Contracts

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 01/26/2026 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/26/2026

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL COMPENSATION GUIDES AND CONTRACTS

It is the policy of this board to attempt to pay its administrators at a level which will attract and hold people with administrative ability who can exercise professional leadership in the school system.

If, at the commencement of the scholastic year, any licensed employee shall present to the superintendent a license of a higher grade than that specified in such individual's contract, such individual may, if funds are available from total funding formula funds of the district, or from district funds, be paid from such funds the amount to which such higher grade license would have entitled the individual, had the license been held at the time the contract was executed.
37-9-17

CONTRACT FORM AND EXECUTION

The superintendent shall enter into a contract with each assistant superintendent, principal, licensed employee in the manner prescribed by law and the State Board of Education.

If any principal, licensed employee or other person recommended for a licensed position who has been elected and approved shall not execute and return the contract within ten (10) days after same has been tendered to him for execution, then, at the option of the school board, the election of the licensed employee and the contract tendered to him shall be null and void and of no effect.

LENGTH OF CONTRACT

All contracts shall include the exact period of time for which the licensed person shall be employed.

AMOUNT OF SALARY

In employing and contracting with principals and licensed employees, the school board shall determine and fix the amount of salary and ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

In employing principals and licensed employees and in fixing their salaries, the school board shall take into consideration the character, professional training, experience, executive ability and teaching capacity of the licensed employee or principal.

SALARY PAY SCHEDULE

This school district shall process a single monthly payroll for licensed employees with electronic settlement of payroll checks secured through direct deposit of net pay. ~~In December, salaries or wages shall be paid by the last working day.~~

Licensed employees shall earn a salary payable in equal monthly installments beginning in the first month of employment, regardless of the number of days worked in any particular month by the employee.

Any employee failing to complete the contractual obligation of service, and who receives payment in excess of the installment for the period which such employee ceases employment with the school district, shall become liable immediately to the board of trustees of the Harrison County School District for the sum of all amounts received in payment less the corresponding amount of any compensation paid for which service has been rendered, plus interest accruing at the current Stafford Loan rate at the time the person discontinues his or her service.

Any school employee whose employment ends during a school term, regardless of the reason(s) the employment ended, shall be paid salary or wages only for that portion of the school term that employee actually worked. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to entitle any employee to payment of salary or wages when no work has been performed.

PAY CERTIFICATES

The salaries of principals and licensed employees shall be paid by pay certificates issued by the school district superintendent. All pay certificates shall be preserved as a part of the official records of his/her office for the same time and in the same manner as other records are preserved. All pay certificates and warrants issued shall show the gross amount of the salary and all authorized deductions therefrom for income taxes, social security, retirement contributions and other lawful purposes.

EXECUTED CONTRACT REQUIRED

It is unlawful for any principal or licensed employee to be paid for any services as such until a written contract has been executed. If the school district superintendent shall make any such payment prior to the execution of the contract, he shall be civilly liable for the amount thereof, and, in addition, shall be liable upon his bond. If any licensed employee, or principal shall willfully and without just cause breach his contract and abandon his employment, he shall not be entitled to any further salary payments either for services rendered prior to such breach or for services which were thereafter to have been rendered.

SALARY DEDUCTIONS

All deductions from salaries shall be in accordance with all state and federal laws, regulations, and school board policies.

RELEASE FROM CONTRACT

All contracted licensed employees desiring to be released from contract shall submit a written request to the superintendent for release. The request shall include clearly stated reasons for the release. If the superintendent acts favorably upon the request for release, the licensed employee shall be brought forward to the board. If the board acts favorably, the licensed employee shall be released from his/her contract, and said contract shall be null and void on the date specified in the school board's order.

BREACH OF CONTRACT

If a licensed employee in this school district shall arbitrarily or willfully breach his or her contract and abandon his or her employment without being released therefrom as provided by law, the contract of such principal or licensed employee shall be null and void. In addition, upon the written recommendation of the majority of the members of the school board, the license or certificate of the licensed employee may be suspended by the State Board of Education for a period of one (1) school year as provided by law.

MS Code

Description

37-151-200

[Title](#)

37-3-2

[Certification of teachers and administrators.](#)

37-9-1

37-9-1

37-9-17

[Selection of licensed employees or non-instructional employees to be employed for school year; increase in compensation of certain licensed employees; fingerprinting and criminal background checks for applicants.](#)

37-9-23

[Form and execution of contracts with superintendents, principals, licensed employees, and others anticipating graduation from approved programs; conditional contracts.](#)

37-9-24

[Contracts with licensed personnel for not less than 187 employment days](#)

MS Code

37-9-25

37-9-33

37-9-37

37-9-39

37-9-43

37-9-49

37-9-55

37-9-57

37-9-59

Description[Contracts for periods greater than one scholastic year.](#)[Amount of salaries to be in compliance with minimum education program law.](#)[Factors considered in fixing salaries of superintendents, principals or licensed employees.](#)[Time of payment of salaries.](#)[Payment of salary prior to execution of written contract; effect of breach of contract.](#)[Deduction of dues, etc., from salaries.](#)[Release from contract.](#)[Effect of abandonment of employment.](#)[Grounds and procedure for dismissal or suspension of licensed employee; attendance of different school system by child as ground for denying employment or reemployment of superintendent, principal or licensed employee.](#)**Cross References**

CBG

CG

CGD

Description[Administrative and Supervisory Personnel Positions](#)[Administrative Personnel](#)[Administrative Personnel Hiring](#)

Policy CPL: School Counselors	Status: ADOPTED
Original Adopted Date: 03/07/2016 Last Revised Date: 01/26/2026 Last Reviewed Date: 01/26/2026	

School Counselors

Professional school counselors must spend a minimum of eighty percent (80%) of their contractual time to the delivery of services to students as outlined by the American School Counselor Association. Delivery of services is the direct service provided to students, parents, school staff and the community which are interaction between professional school counselors and students. These direct services may include the delivery of the following:

- School counseling core curriculum: This curriculum is designed to help students attain the desired competencies and to provide all students with the knowledge, attitudes and skills appropriate for their developmental level. The school counseling core curriculum is delivered throughout the school's overall curriculum and may be presented by professional school counselors in collaboration with other professional educators and other resources. Collaborative efforts may be implemented to enhance the services provided.
- Individual student planning: Professional school counselors coordinate ongoing systemic activities or individual/group sessions designed to assist students in establishing personal/social goals and developing future career plans.
- Responsive services: Responsive services are designed to meet students' immediate needs and concerns in regard to social/personal issues. Responsive services may include counseling in individual, small-group settings, or crisis responses.
- Indirect Student Services: Indirect services are provided on behalf of students as a result of the school counselors' interactions with others including referrals for additional assistance, consultation and collaboration with parents, teachers, other educators and community organizations.
- Professional school counselors shall abide by the American School Counselor Association Code of Ethics.

Last Review Date: **January 26, 2026**
Review History: [02/15/16] [03/07/16][10/24/16][11/07/16][11/06/17][11/27/17][01/28/19][02/04/19] [9/9/19][9/23/19][12/14/20][01/19/21][12/06/21][12/13/21][03/20/23][04/03/23][04/08/24][04/22/24] [04/07/25][01/26/2026]

MS Code	Description
37-9-79	Professional school counselors; qualifications; comprehensive counseling services; code of ethics

Policy CPL: School Counselors

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 03/07/2016 | Last Revised Date: 01/26/2026 | Last Reviewed Date: 01/26/2026

School Counselors

Professional school counselors must spend a minimum of eighty percent (80%) of their contractual time to the delivery of services to students. ~~as outlined by the American School Counselor Association.~~ Delivery of services is the direct service provided to students, parents, school staff and the community which is interaction between professional school counselors and students. These direct services may include the delivery of the following:

- School counseling core curriculum: This curriculum is designed to help students attain the desired competencies and to provide all students with the knowledge, attitudes and skills appropriate for their developmental level. The school counseling core curriculum is delivered throughout the school's overall curriculum and may be presented by professional school counselors in collaboration with other professional educators and other resources. Collaborative efforts may be implemented to enhance the services provided.
- Individual student planning: Professional school counselors coordinate ongoing systemic activities or individual/group sessions designed to assist students in establishing personal/social goals and developing future career plans.
- Responsive services: Responsive services are designed to meet students' immediate needs and concerns in regard to social/personal issues. Responsive services may include counseling in individual, small-group settings, or crisis responses.
- Indirect Student Services: Indirect services are provided on behalf of students as a result of the school counselors' interactions with others, including referrals for additional assistance, consultation and collaboration with parents, teachers, other educators and community organizations.
- ~~Professional school counselors shall abide by the American School Counselor Association Code of Ethics.~~

Last Review Date: **January 26, 2026**
Review History: [02/15/16] [03/07/16][10/24/16][11/07/16][11/06/17][11/27/17][01/28/19][02/04/19] [9/9/19][9/23/19][12/14/20][01/19/21][12/06/21][12/13/21][03/20/23][04/03/23][04/08/24][04/22/24] [04/07/25][01/26/2026]

MS Code	Description
37-9-79	Professional school counselors; qualifications; comprehensive counseling services; code of ethics

Policy DJC: Payroll Procedure

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | Last Revised Date: 04/22/2024 | Last Reviewed Date: 05/18/2026

PAYROLL PROCEDURE

Licensed employees of this district shall be paid through a single monthly payroll and non-licensed employees shall be paid through a single monthly payroll or a bimonthly payroll, with electronic settlement of payroll checks secured through direct deposit of net pay. All district personnel shall be paid in accordance with the Mississippi Code Section 37-9-41.

SALARY PAY SCHEDULE

This school district shall process a single monthly payroll for licensed employees and may process a single monthly or a bimonthly payroll for non-licensed employees, in the discretion of the local school board, with electronic settlement of payroll checks secured through direct deposit of net pay for all school district employees. In December, salaries or wages shall be paid by the last working day before the Christmas break.

The standard contract for school district employees prescribed by the State Board of Education shall provide that school district employees shall earn a salary payable in equal monthly or bimonthly installments beginning in the first month of employment, regardless of the number of days worked in any particular month by the employee.

Any employee failing to complete the contractual obligation of service, and who receives payment in excess of the installment for the period which such employee ceases employment with the school district, shall become liable immediately to the board of trustees of the Harrison County School District for the sum of all amounts received in payment less the corresponding amount of any compensation paid for which service has been rendered, plus interest accruing at the current Stafford Loan rate at the time the person discontinues his or her service.

Any school employee whose employment ends during a school term, regardless of the reason(s) the employment ended, shall be paid salary or wages only for that portion of the school term that employee actually worked. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to entitle any employee to payment of salary or wages when no work has been performed. 37-9-39

PAY CERTIFICATES

The superintendent or designee shall develop procedure to support this policy.

Refer to the [Public School Districts Financial Accounting Manual](#)

MS Code	Description
37-9-39	Time of payment of salaries.
37-9-41	37-9-41

Other References

Accounting Manual

Cross References

CEE

DJCB

Description

[Accounting Manual for MPS Districts](#)

Description

[Superintendent Compensation and Benefits](#)

[Salary Deductions / Reductions](#)

Policy DJC: Payroll Procedure

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | Last Revised Date: 04/22/2024 | Last Reviewed Date: 04/07/2025

PAYROLL PROCEDURE

Licensed employees of this district shall be paid through a single monthly payroll and non-licensed employees shall be paid through a single monthly payroll or a bimonthly payroll, with electronic settlement of payroll checks secured through direct deposit of net pay. All district personnel shall be paid in accordance with the Mississippi Code Section 37-9-41.

SALARY PAY SCHEDULE

This school district shall process a single monthly payroll for licensed employees and may process a single monthly or a bimonthly payroll for non-licensed employees, in the discretion of the local school board, with electronic settlement of payroll checks secured through direct deposit of net pay for all school district employees. ~~In December, salaries or wages shall be paid by the last working day before the Christmas break.~~

The standard contract for school district employees prescribed by the State Board of Education shall provide that school district employees shall earn a salary payable in equal monthly or bimonthly installments beginning in the first month of employment, regardless of the number of days worked in any particular month by the employee.

Any employee failing to complete the contractual obligation of service, and who receives payment in excess of the installment for the period which such employee ceases employment with the school district, shall become liable immediately to the board of trustees of the Harrison County School District for the sum of all amounts received in payment less the corresponding amount of any compensation paid for which service has been rendered, plus interest accruing at the current Stafford Loan rate at the time the person discontinues his or her service.

Any school employee whose employment ends during a school term, regardless of the reason(s) the employment ended, shall be paid salary or wages only for that portion of the school term that employee actually worked. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to entitle any employee to payment of salary or wages when no work has been performed. 37-9-39

PAY CERTIFICATES

The superintendent or designee shall develop procedure to support this policy.

Refer to the [Public School Districts Financial Accounting Manual](#)

MS Code	Description
37-9-39	Time of payment of salaries.
37-9-41	37-9-41
Other References	Description
Accounting Manual	Accounting Manual for MPS Districts

Cross References

CEE

DJCB

Description[Superintendent Compensation and Benefits](#)[Salary Deductions / Reductions](#)

Policy DJEC: Federal Purchasing and Procurement

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 12/18/2017 | **Last Revised Date:** 04/07/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 05/18/2026

FEDERAL PURCHASING AND PROCUREMENT

The Harrison County School District shall comply with all state and federal laws regarding purchasing and procurement. The implementation of this guidance is to reduce administrative burden and risk of waste, fraud, and abuse for federal awards.

When utilizing federal funds, district staff must strictly adhere to the guidance and rules outlined by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in the Uniformed Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 Part 200); including but not limited to the following:

- Federal purchases of services under \$10,000 are considered "micro purchases." The purchase orders for micro purchases may be awarded without soliciting any competitive quotes if the costs are deemed reasonable. To the extent practicable, these purchases should be distributed equitably among qualified suppliers.
- All federal purchases of services between the amounts of \$10,000 to \$250,000 must have at least two (2) price or rate quotes. Any services over \$250,000 will need to follow the competitive bidding process.

The state of Mississippi is **more restrictive** on the purchase of goods (commodities); therefore, district staff must also adhere strictly to the guidance and rules outlined by the Mississippi State Purchase Law Summary, including the following:

- Purchases which do not involve an expenditure of more than \$5,000, exclusive of freight and shipping charges, may be made without advertising or otherwise requesting competitive bids.
- For all (irrespective of funding source) purchases of goods (commodities) between the amounts of \$5,000 and \$75,000, exclusive of freight and shipping charges, districts must have at least two (2) price quotes.
- For all (irrespective of funding source) purchases of goods (commodities) over \$75,000, exclusive of freight and shipping charges, must adhere to the Mississippi State Purchase Law Summary which requires the application of competitive bidding process.

The superintendent or designee shall develop procedures for the support of this policy.

The Harrison County Procurement Procedures Manual can be found as an exhibit in this policy.

Last Review Date: **April 7, 2025**

Review History: [12/18/17] [08/06/18] [08/20/18] [12/03/18] [12/17/18] [09/23/19] [10/07/19] [12/14/20] [01/19/21] [02/21/22] [03/07/22][11/07/22][11/14/22][03/20/23][04/03/23][4/08/24][4/22/24][04/07/25]

Policy DJEC: Federal Purchasing and Procurement

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 12/18/2017 | **Last Revised Date:** 04/07/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 04/07/2025

FEDERAL PURCHASING AND PROCUREMENT

The Harrison County School District shall comply with all state and federal laws regarding purchasing and procurement. The implementation of this guidance is to reduce administrative burden and risk of waste, fraud, and abuse for federal awards.

When utilizing federal funds, district staff must strictly adhere to the guidance and rules outlined by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in the Uniformed Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 Part 200); including but not limited to the following:

- Federal purchases of services under \$10,000 are considered "micro purchases." The purchase orders for micro purchases may be awarded without soliciting any competitive quotes if the costs are deemed reasonable. To the extent practicable, these purchases should be distributed equitably among qualified suppliers.
- All federal purchases of services between the amounts of \$10,000 to \$250,000 must have at least two (2) price or rate quotes. Any services over \$250,000 will need to follow the competitive bidding process.
- All federal purchases are subject to 200.214 the non-procurement debarment and suspension regulations implementing Executive Orders 12549 and 12689, as well as 2 CFR part 180. The regulations in 2 CFR part 180 restrict making Federal awards, subawards, and contracts with certain parties that are debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from receiving or participating in Federal awards.
- The district will fulfill all requirements under 2 CFR 200.332 including verifying that a subrecipient is not excluded or disqualified in accordance with § 180.300. Verification methods are provided in § 180.300, which include confirming in SAM.gov that a potential subrecipient is not suspended, debarred, or otherwise excluded from receiving Federal funds.
- In the event of a termination of a federal award, the Harrison County School District shall adhere to the notification requirements outlined in 2 CFR Part 200.341, including providing written notice of termination, documenting the reasons for termination, and fulfilling all necessary reporting requirements to federal systems such as SAM.gov and USAspending.gov. The district will also establish a process to respond to any information placed into SAM.gov regarding a termination.
- All procurement transactions under the Federal award, as defined by § 200.1, must be conducted in a manner that provides full and open competition and is consistent with the standards of § 200.319 and § 200.320.

The state of Mississippi is **more restrictive** on the purchase of goods (commodities); therefore, district staff must also adhere strictly to the guidance and rules outlined by the Mississippi State Purchase Law Summary, including the following:

- Purchases which do not involve an expenditure of more than \$5,000, exclusive of freight and shipping charges, may be made without advertising or otherwise requesting competitive bids.
- For all (irrespective of funding source) purchases of goods (commodities) between the amounts of \$5,000 and \$75,000, exclusive of freight and shipping charges, districts must have at least two (2) price quotes.
- For all (irrespective of funding source) purchases of goods (commodities) over \$75,000, exclusive of freight and shipping charges, must adhere to the Mississippi State Purchase Law Summary which requires the application of competitive bidding process.
- The state of Mississippi allows for certain exceptions to the bidding requirements under Miss Code Section 31-7-13.

The superintendent or designee shall develop procedures for the support of this policy.

The Harrison County Procurement Procedures Manual can be found as an exhibit in this policy.

Last Review Date: **April 7, 2025**

Review History: [12/18/17] [08/06/18] [08/20/18] [12/03/18] [12/17/18] [09/23/19] [10/07/19] [12/14/20] [01/19/21] [02/21/22] [03/07/22] [11/07/22] [11/14/22] [03/20/23] [04/03/23] [4/08/24] [4/22/24] [04/07/25]

Policy EBBA: Staff Identification Badges

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | Last Revised Date: 10/27/2025 | Last Reviewed Date: 10/27/2025

EMPLOYEE IDENTIFICATION BADGES

All employees are required to wear official school district employee identification badges when entering any school campus in the district. Official identification badges will bear the employee's name, department/school, and picture. Any individual identified on a school campus in this school district not wearing an employee identification badge shall be reported to the school office and to security.

The badge is to be worn during working hours in an easily observed location on the blouse, coat, shirt, or uniform. Stickers or decals are not allowed to be attached to the identification badge.

Badges that are lost or stolen may be replaced for a fee that covers the cost of replacement materials. All employee identification badges are the property of this school district and must be returned to the District Personnel Office upon resignation or termination.

Last Review Date: **October 27, 2025**

Review History: [05/16/16] [06/06/16][02/20/17][03/06/17][12/18/17][01/08/18][02/18/19][03/11/19]
[11/04/19][11/18/19][03/01/21][03/15/21][02/21/22][03/07/22][4/17/2023][5/1/2023][5/6/2024]
[5/20/2024][10/27/25]

Policy EBBAA: Staff Identification Badges

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | Last Revised Date: 10/27/2025 | Last Reviewed Date: 10/27/2025

Staff Identification Badge Use Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure workplace security, accurate timekeeping, and individual accountability by establishing clear expectations for the proper use of Harrison County School District Identification (ID) Badges.

Scope

This policy applies to anyone who works within the Harrison County School District. This includes but is not limited to full-time, part-time, temporary, contract/title, coaches, volunteers, paraprofessionals, and substitute personnel, regardless of clock in/out status.

Policy Statement

Each employee is issued a unique ID badge for identification, building access, and timekeeping purposes. Badges are mandatory. ID badges are assigned to individual employees and are to be used **only by the employee to whom the badge is issued**. All badges are the property of the Harrison County School District.

Prohibitions

The following actions are strictly prohibited:

- Allowing another individual to use your ID badge for any purpose. This includes giving, lending, or sharing an ID badge with another person, regardless of intent or circumstance.
- Using another employee's ID badge.
- Clocking in or out on behalf of another employee ("buddy punching").
- Not reporting non-functional, lost, stolen or damaged badges
- Possession of multiple badges

Badge Agreement

Employees who receive their initial badge on their hire date, must read and sign the Badge Agreement. The original copy of the Badge Agreement must be sent to the Risk Management department for proper record retention. Copies can be kept at each Harrison County School District campus/offices at the request of Administrators for record retention.

Non-Functional Badges

Employees must immediately report when their ID Badge does not allow them to clock in or out to their supervisor or designated department. The supervisor or designated department will notify the bookkeeper immediately. The bookkeeper will notify the designated person in Risk Management to reset the badge. If resetting the badge will not work, a replacement will be issued to the employee without penalty. A grace period of 1–2 weeks is needed for the badge to be sent back to the employee through the bookkeeper. The use of fingerprints to clock in and out will be used until the new badge arrives. Once the new badge arrives, the bookkeeper will send back the non-functional badge to the Risk Management Department for proper destruction.

Lost, Stolen, or Damaged Badges

Employees must immediately report any lost or damaged ID badges to their supervisor or designated department. The supervisor or designated department will notify the designated person in Risk Management to replace the badge. A grace period of 1–2 weeks is needed for the badge to be sent back to the employee through the bookkeeper. The use of fingerprints to clock in and out will be used until the new badge arrives. If the badge is damaged, the bookkeeper will send the damaged badge to the Risk Management Department for proper destruction when the replacement for proper destruction when the replacement arrives. Employees are allowed one (1) free replacement badge. Any badge after will be a \$5 charge that can be paid by cash or money order. Payment will need to be collected at the district office by a designated person from Risk Management. A receipt will be given upon receiving payment. All lost, stolen, or damaged badges must be reported within 48 hours. Failure to comply may result in restricted access and removal of access options normally available to employees.

Possession of Badges

Employees are only allowed to always have one(1) badge at a time in their possession. This badge must be the currently issued badge. Any other badges in the possession of the employee must be turned in to the bookkeeper. The bookkeeper will send the badge/s to the Risk Management Department for proper destruction. Employees will

not be issued more than one(1). It is the responsibility of the employee to keep track and safeguard their badge.

Surrender of Badges

Employees must surrender their badge upon resignation, retirement, or termination of their employment or contract. This includes but is not limited to full-time, part-time, temporary, contract/title, coaches, volunteers, paraprofessionals, and substitute personnel, regardless of clock in/out status. Administrators or the bookkeeper will send the badge to the Risk Management Department for proper destruction.

Violations and Disciplinary Action

Misuse of an ID/badge is considered a serious violation of district policy. Violating may result in disciplinary action, up to and including **termination of employment**, depending on the severity and circumstances of the offense. Employees are responsible for understanding and complying with this policy. Failure to adhere to these requirements does not exempt an employee from disciplinary action.

EMPLOYEE IDENTIFICATION BADGES

All employees are required to wear official school district employee identification badges when entering any school campus in the district. Official identification badges will bear the employee's name, department/school, and picture. Any individual identified on a school campus in this school district not wearing an employee identification badge shall be reported to the school office and to security.

The badge is to be worn during working hours in an easily observed location on the blouse, coat, shirt, or uniform. Stickers or decals are not allowed to be attached to the identification badge.

Badges that are lost or stolen may be replaced for a fee that covers the cost of replacement materials. All employee identification badges are the property of this school district and must be returned to the District Personnel Office upon resignation or termination.

Last Review Date: **October 27, 2025**

Review History: [05/16/16] [06/06/16][02/20/17][03/06/17][12/18/17][01/08/18][02/18/19][03/11/19]
[11/04/19][11/18/19][03/01/21][03/15/21][02/21/22][03/07/22][4/17/2023][5/1/2023][5/6/2024]
[5/20/2024][10/27/25]

Policy EFC: Use of Artificial Intelligence

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 07/14/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 10/27/2025

USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The Harrison County School District acknowledges the potential benefits and challenges involved with using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in educational settings. The use of AI can, when used appropriately, enhance student learning by improving the efficiency of education, providing new and creative ways to support learning, and encourage independent research, curiosity, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

Any use of AI within the district, whether in the classroom or administrative operations, should be transparent and well-communicated to all stakeholders, including students, parents, educators, and staff and must align with district policy and state and federal law. Users are prohibited from:

1. Sharing confidential information or personally identifiable information with any AI system of another student, staff member, or other person.
2. Inputting sensitive district data into any AI system.
3. Using any AI system to access, create, or display harmful or inappropriate matter that is threatening, obscene, or sexually explicit, or that could be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based on their race/ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, or political beliefs or interact with the AI in a manner that supports any of the above.
4. Using any AI system in a way that would manipulate, harass, or bully another individual in any way.
5. Using any AI system in a way that would create a disruption in the classroom.

The district authorizes staff members to permit students to utilize ethical and legal use of AI as a supplemental tool to support and expand on classroom instruction, facilitate personalized learning opportunities, and increase educational and learning opportunities, in accordance with the terms of this policy.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE USE BY STAFF

The use of AI in the classroom must be done with care. Any AI tool used by a teacher shall be vetted and approved by the district before use and must have strong privacy controls in place. Teachers must ensure that students are aware of the use of AI tools and how they are being used in the classroom. Staff are responsible for any negative effects of their AI use. Individuals in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE USE BY STUDENTS

Students are expected to use all technology responsibly and ethically. Any misuse of technology for academic purposes will be considered a violation of school board policy. Obtaining improper assistance from artificial intelligence tools including, but not limited to, Chat GPT is strictly prohibited. Any attempt to obtain improper assistance from AI tools will be considered a violation of school board policy. Students in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline up to and including suspension or expulsion.

Cross References

JCA

Description

[Student Conduct](#)

Policy EFC: Use of Artificial Intelligence

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 07/14/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 10/27/2025

USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The Harrison County School District acknowledges the potential benefits and challenges involved with using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in educational settings. The use of AI can, when used appropriately, enhance student learning by improving the efficiency of education, providing new and creative ways to support learning, and encourage independent research, curiosity, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

"Artificial Intelligence" is defined as a machine-based system that can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, make predictions, recommendations or decisions influencing real or virtual environments. Artificial intelligence systems use machine and human-based inputs to perceive real and virtual environments; abstract such perceptions into models through analysis in an automated manner; and use model inference to formulate options for information or actions.

Any use of AI within the district, whether in the classroom or administrative operations, should be transparent and well-communicated to all stakeholders, including students, parents, educators, and staff and must align with district policy and state and federal law. Users are prohibited from:

1. Sharing confidential information or personally identifiable information with any AI system of another student, staff member, or other person.
2. Inputting sensitive district data into any AI system.
3. Using any AI system to access, create, or display harmful or inappropriate matter that is threatening, obscene, or sexually explicit, or that could be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based on their race/ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, or political beliefs or interact with the AI in a manner that supports any of the above.
4. Using any AI system in a way that would manipulate, harass, or bully another individual in any way.
5. Using any AI system in a way that would create a disruption in the classroom.

The district authorizes staff members to permit students to utilize ethical and legal use of AI as a supplemental tool to support and expand on classroom instruction, facilitate personalized learning opportunities, and increase educational and learning opportunities, in accordance with the terms of this policy.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE USE BY STAFF

The use of AI in the classroom must be done with care. Any AI tool used by a teacher shall be vetted and approved by the district before use and must have strong privacy controls in place. Teachers must ensure that students are aware of the use of AI tools and how they are being used in the classroom. Staff are responsible for any negative effects of their AI use. Individuals in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Students are expected to use all technology responsibly and ethically. Any misuse of technology for academic purposes will be considered a violation of school board policy. Obtaining improper assistance from artificial intelligence tools, including, but not limited to, Chat GPT is strictly prohibited. Any attempt to obtain improper assistance from AI tools will be considered a violation of school board policy. Students in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline up to and including suspension or expulsion.

Cross References

JCA

Description

[Student Conduct](#)

Policy GBA: Professional Personnel Compensation Guides and Contracts

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 02/23/2026 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 02/23/2026

PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL COMPENSATION GUIDES AND CONTRACTS

LEVEL OF PAY

This school district shall not pay any teacher less than the state minimum salary. 37-151-87

The minimum base pay for all classroom teachers may be increased by the district from any funds available to it. 37-151-89

It is the policy of this school board to attempt to pay its licensed employees at a level which will attract and hold people with ability who can exercise professionalism in the school district.

If, at the commencement of the scholastic year, any licensed employee shall present to the superintendent a license of a higher grade than that specified in such individual's contract, such individual may, if funds are available from the total funding formula funds of the district, or from district funds, be paid from such funds the amount to which such higher grade license would have entitled the individual, had the license been held at the time the contract was executed. 37-9-17

CONTRACT REQUIRED

The superintendent shall enter into a contract with each licensed employee in the manner prescribed by law and the State Board of Education.

If any licensed employee or other person recommended for a licensed position who has been elected and approved shall not execute and return the contract within ten (10) days after same has been tendered to him for execution, then, at the option of the school board, the election of the licensed employee and the contract tendered to him shall be null and void and of no effect. 37-9-23

LENGTH OF CONTRACT

All contracts shall include the exact period of time for which the licensed person shall be employed.

FIXING OF SALARY

In employing and contracting with licensed employees, the school board shall determine and fix the amount of salary and ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

In employing licensed employees and in fixing their salaries, the school board shall take into consideration the character, professional training, experience, executive ability and teaching capacity of the licensed employee. ' 37-9-37

SALARY PAY SCHEDULE

This school district shall process a single monthly payroll for licensed employees with electronic settlement of payroll checks secured through direct deposit of net pay. In December, salaries or wages shall be paid by the last working day.

Licensed employees shall earn a salary payable in equal monthly installments beginning in the first month of employment, regardless of the number of days worked in any particular month by the employee.

Any employee failing to complete the contractual obligation of service, and who receives payment in excess of the installment for the period which such employee ceases employment with the school district, shall become liable immediately to the board of trustees of the Harrison School District for the sum of all amounts received in payment

less the corresponding amount of any compensation paid for which service has been rendered, plus interest accruing at the current Stafford Loan rate at the time the person discontinues his or her service.

Any school employee whose employment ends during a school term, regardless of the reason(s) the employment ended, shall be paid salary or wages only for that portion of the school term that employee actually worked. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to entitle any employee to payment of salary or wages when no work has been performed. 37-9-39

PAY CERTIFICATES

The salaries of licensed employees shall be paid by pay certificates issued by the school district superintendent. All pay certificates shall be preserved as a part of the official records of his/her office for the same time and in the same manner as other records are preserved. All pay certificates and warrants issued shall show the gross amount of the salary and all authorized deductions therefrom for income taxes, social security, retirement contributions and other lawful purposes.

EXECUTION OF WRITTEN CONTRACT

It is unlawful for any licensed employee to be paid for any services as such until a written contract has been executed. If the school district superintendent shall make any such payment prior to the execution of the contract, he shall be civilly liable for the amount thereof, and, in addition, shall be liable upon his bond. If any licensed employee shall willfully and without just cause breach his contract and abandon his employment, he shall not be entitled to any further salary payments either for services rendered prior to such breach or for services which were thereafter to have been rendered. 37-9-43

SALARY DEDUCTIONS

All deductions from salaries shall be in accordance with all state and federal laws, regulations, and school board policies.

RELEASE FROM CONTRACT

All contracted licensed employees desiring to be released from contract shall submit a written request to the superintendent for release. The request shall include clearly stated reasons for the release. If the superintendent acts favorably upon the request for release, the licensed employee shall be brought forward to the board. If the board acts favorably, the licensed employee shall be released from his/her contract, and said contract shall be null and void on the date specified in the school board's order. 37-9-55

BREACH OF CONTRACT

If any licensed employee in this school district shall arbitrarily or willfully breach his or her contract and abandon his or her employment without being released therefrom as provided by law, the contract of such licensed employee shall be null and void. In addition, upon the written recommendation of the majority of the members of the school board, the license or certificate of the licensed employee may be suspended by the State Board of Education for a period of one (1) school year as provided by law.

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard for this policy is Standard 2.

MS Code	Description
37-151-200	Title
37-151-87	⁶² Reduction of local supplement or support from ad valorem taxation.

MS Code

37-151-89

37-3-2

37-9-1

37-9-17

37-9-23

37-9-25

37-9-33

37-9-37

37-9-39

37-9-43

37-9-49

37-9-55

37-9-57

37-9-59

Description[Salary payments from other funds](#)[Certification of teachers and administrators.](#)

37-9-1

[Selection of licensed employees or non-instructional employees to be employed for school year; increase in compensation of certain licensed employees; fingerprinting and criminal background checks for applicants.](#)[Form and execution of contracts with superintendents, principals, licensed employees, and others anticipating graduation from approved programs; conditional contracts.](#)[Contracts for periods greater than one scholastic year.](#)[Amount of salaries to be in compliance with minimum education program law.](#)[Factors considered in fixing salaries of superintendents, principals or licensed employees.](#)[Time of payment of salaries.](#)[Payment of salary prior to execution of written contract; effect of breach of contract.](#)[Deduction of dues, etc., from salaries.](#)[Release from contract.](#)[Effect of abandonment of employment.](#)[Grounds and procedure for dismissal or suspension of licensed employee; attendance of different school system by child as ground for denying employment or reemployment of superintendent, principal or licensed employee.](#)**Cross References**

GBA-E

GBA-E-E(1)

GBP

Description[Teacher Salary Scale](#)[Teacher Salary Scale](#)[Professional Personnel Reemployment](#)

Policy GBA: Professional Personnel Compensation Guides and Contracts

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 02/23/2026 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 02/23/2026

PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL COMPENSATION GUIDES AND CONTRACTS

LEVEL OF PAY

This school district shall not pay any teacher less than the state minimum salary. 37-151-87

The minimum base pay for all classroom teachers may be increased by the district from any funds available to it. 37-151-89

It is the policy of this school board to attempt to pay its licensed employees at a level which will attract and hold people with ability who can exercise professionalism in the school district.

If, at the commencement of the scholastic year, any licensed employee shall present to the superintendent a license of a higher grade than that specified in such individual's contract, such individual may, if funds are available from the total funding formula funds of the district, or from district funds, be paid from such funds the amount to which such higher grade license would have entitled the individual, had the license been held at the time the contract was executed. 37-9-17

CONTRACT REQUIRED

The superintendent shall enter into a contract with each licensed employee in the manner prescribed by law and the State Board of Education.

If any licensed employee or other person recommended for a licensed position who has been elected and approved shall not execute and return the contract within ten (10) days after same has been tendered to him for execution, then, at the option of the school board, the election of the licensed employee and the contract tendered to him shall be null and void and of no effect. 37-9-23

LENGTH OF CONTRACT

All contracts shall include the exact period of time for which the licensed person shall be employed.

FIXING OF SALARY

In employing and contracting with licensed employees, the school board shall determine and fix the amount of salary and ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

In employing licensed employees and in fixing their salaries, the school board shall take into consideration the character, professional training, experience, executive ability and teaching capacity of the licensed employee. ' 37-9-37

SALARY PAY SCHEDULE

This school district shall process a single monthly payroll for licensed employees with electronic settlement of payroll checks secured through direct deposit of net pay. ~~In December, salaries or wages shall be paid by the last working day:~~

Licensed employees shall earn a salary payable in equal monthly installments beginning in the first month of employment, regardless of the number of days worked in any particular month by the employee.

Any employee failing to complete the contractual obligation of service, and who receives payment in excess of the installment for the period which such employee ceases employment with the school district, shall become liable immediately to the board of trustees of the Harrison School District for the sum of all amounts received in payment less the corresponding amount of any compensation paid ~~for~~ which service has been rendered, plus interest accruing at the current Stafford Loan rate at the time the person discontinues his or her service.

Any school employee whose employment ends during a school term, regardless of the reason(s) the employment ended, shall be paid salary or wages only for that portion of the school term that employee actually worked. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to entitle any employee to payment of salary or wages when no work has been performed. 37-9-39

PAY CERTIFICATES

The salaries of licensed employees shall be paid by pay certificates issued by the school district superintendent. All pay certificates shall be preserved as a part of the official records of his/her office for the same time and in the same manner as other records are preserved. All pay certificates and warrants issued shall show the gross amount of the salary and all authorized deductions therefrom for income taxes, social security, retirement contributions and other lawful purposes.

EXECUTION OF WRITTEN CONTRACT

It is unlawful for any licensed employee to be paid for any services as such until a written contract has been executed. If the school district superintendent shall make any such payment prior to the execution of the contract, he shall be civilly liable for the amount thereof, and, in addition, shall be liable upon his bond. If any licensed employee shall willfully and without just cause breach his contract and abandon his employment, he shall not be entitled to any further salary payments either for services rendered prior to such breach or for services which were thereafter to have been rendered. 37-9-43

SALARY DEDUCTIONS

All deductions from salaries shall be in accordance with all state and federal laws, regulations, and school board policies.

RELEASE FROM CONTRACT

All contracted licensed employees desiring to be released from contract shall submit a written request to the superintendent for release. The request shall include clearly stated reasons for the release. If the superintendent acts favorably upon the request for release, the licensed employee shall be brought forward to the board. If the board acts favorably, the licensed employee shall be released from his/her contract, and said contract shall be null and void on the date specified in the school board's order. 37-9-55

BREACH OF CONTRACT

If any licensed employee in this school district shall arbitrarily or willfully breach his or her contract and abandon his or her employment without being released therefrom as provided by law, the contract of such licensed employee shall be null and void. In addition, upon the written recommendation of the majority of the members of the school board, the license or certificate of the licensed employee may be suspended by the State Board of Education for a period of one (1) school year as provided by law.

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard for this policy is Standard 2.

MS Code

37-151-200

37-151-87

37-151-89

37-3-2

37-9-1

Description

[Title](#)

[Reduction of local supplement or support from ad valorem taxation.](#)

[Salary payments from other funds](#)

[Certification of teachers and administrators.](#)

37-9-1

65

MS Code**Description**

37-9-17	Selection of licensed employees or non-instructional employees to be employed for school year; increase in compensation of certain licensed employees; fingerprinting and criminal background checks for applicants.
37-9-23	Form and execution of contracts with superintendents, principals, licensed employees, and others anticipating graduation from approved programs; conditional contracts.
37-9-25	Contracts for periods greater than one scholastic year.
37-9-33	Amount of salaries to be in compliance with minimum education program law.
37-9-37	Factors considered in fixing salaries of superintendents, principals or licensed employees.
37-9-39	Time of payment of salaries.
37-9-43	Payment of salary prior to execution of written contract; effect of breach of contract.
37-9-49	Deduction of dues, etc., from salaries.
37-9-55	Release from contract.
37-9-57	Effect of abandonment of employment.
37-9-59	Grounds and procedure for dismissal or suspension of licensed employee; attendance of different school system by child as ground for denying employment or reemployment of superintendent, principal or licensed employee.

Cross References**Description**

GBA-E	Teacher Salary Scale
GBA-E-E(1)	Teacher Salary Scale
GBP	Professional Personnel Reemployment

Exhibit GBA-E-E(1): Teacher Salary Scale

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 03/07/2016 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/02/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 02/23/2026

See PDF on the next page.

**HARRISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
2025-2026 CERTIFIED SALARY SCHEDULE**

"A" CERTIFICATION (Bachelors)				"AA" CERTIFICATION (Masters)			
EXP	STATE MAEP SALARY	LOCAL DISTRICT SUPPLEMENT	TOTAL SALARY	EXP	STATE MAEP SALARY	LOCAL DISTRICT SUPPLEMENT	TOTAL SALARY
0	41,500.00	4,915.00	46,415.00	0	43,000.00	4,940.00	47,940.00
1	41,900.00	4,940.00	46,840.00	1	43,525.00	4,965.00	48,490.00
2	42,300.00	4,965.00	47,265.00	2	44,050.00	4,990.00	49,040.00
3	42,700.00	4,990.00	47,690.00	3	44,575.00	5,015.00	49,590.00
4	43,100.00	5,015.00	48,115.00	4	45,100.00	5,040.00	50,140.00
5	44,300.00	5,065.00	49,365.00	5	46,350.00	5,090.00	51,440.00
6	44,700.00	5,115.00	49,815.00	6	46,875.00	5,140.00	52,015.00
7	45,100.00	5,165.00	50,265.00	7	47,400.00	5,190.00	52,590.00
8	45,500.00	5,215.00	50,715.00	8	47,925.00	5,240.00	53,165.00
9	45,900.00	5,290.00	51,190.00	9	48,450.00	5,315.00	53,765.00
10	47,100.00	5,365.00	52,465.00	10	49,700.00	5,415.00	55,115.00
11	47,500.00	5,440.00	52,940.00	11	50,225.00	5,515.00	55,740.00
12	47,900.00	5,515.00	53,415.00	12	50,750.00	5,615.00	56,365.00
13	48,300.00	5,590.00	53,890.00	13	51,275.00	5,715.00	56,990.00
14	48,700.00	5,665.00	54,365.00	14	51,800.00	5,815.00	57,615.00
15	49,900.00	5,740.00	55,640.00	15	53,050.00	5,915.00	58,965.00
16	50,300.00	5,815.00	56,115.00	16	53,575.00	6,015.00	59,590.00
17	50,700.00	5,890.00	56,590.00	17	54,100.00	6,115.00	60,215.00
18	51,100.00	5,965.00	57,065.00	18	54,625.00	6,215.00	60,840.00
19	51,500.00	6,040.00	57,540.00	19	55,150.00	6,315.00	61,465.00
20	52,700.00	6,115.00	58,815.00	20	56,400.00	6,415.00	62,815.00
21	53,100.00	6,190.00	59,290.00	21	56,925.00	6,515.00	63,440.00
22	53,500.00	6,265.00	59,765.00	22	57,450.00	6,615.00	64,065.00
23	53,900.00	6,340.00	60,240.00	23	57,975.00	6,715.00	64,690.00
24	54,300.00	6,415.00	60,715.00	24	58,500.00	6,815.00	65,315.00
25	56,800.00	6,490.00	63,290.00	25	61,000.00	6,915.00	67,915.00
26	57,200.00	6,565.00	63,765.00	26	61,525.00	7,015.00	68,540.00
27	57,600.00	6,640.00	64,240.00	27	62,050.00	7,115.00	69,165.00
28	58,000.00	6,715.00	64,715.00	28	62,575.00	7,215.00	69,790.00
29	58,400.00	6,790.00	65,190.00	29	63,100.00	7,315.00	70,415.00
30	58,800.00	6,865.00	65,665.00	30	63,625.00	7,415.00	71,040.00
31	59,200.00	6,965.00	66,165.00	31	64,150.00	7,515.00	71,665.00
32	59,600.00	6,965.00	66,565.00	32	64,675.00	7,515.00	72,190.00
33	60,000.00	6,965.00	66,965.00	33	65,200.00	7,515.00	72,715.00
34	60,400.00	6,965.00	67,365.00	34	65,725.00	7,515.00	73,240.00
35	60,800.00	6,965.00	67,765.00	35	66,250.00	7,515.00	73,765.00

**HARRISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
2025-2026 CERTIFIED SALARY SCHEDULE**

"AAA" CERTIFICATION (Specialist)					"AAAA" CERTIFICATION (Doctorate)			
EXP	STATE MAEP SALARY	LOCAL DISTRICT SUPPLEMENT	TOTAL SALARY		EXP	STATE MAEP SALARY	LOCAL DISTRICT SUPPLEMENT	SALARY TOTAL
0	44,000.00	4,940.00	48,940.00		0	45,500.00	4,940.00	50,440.00
1	44,550.00	4,965.00	49,515.00		1	46,100.00	4,965.00	51,065.00
2	45,100.00	4,990.00	50,090.00		2	46,700.00	4,990.00	51,690.00
3	45,650.00	5,015.00	50,665.00		3	47,300.00	5,015.00	52,315.00
4	46,200.00	5,040.00	51,240.00		4	47,900.00	5,040.00	52,940.00
5	47,500.00	5,115.00	52,615.00		5	49,250.00	5,115.00	54,365.00
6	48,050.00	5,190.00	53,240.00		6	49,850.00	5,190.00	55,040.00
7	48,600.00	5,265.00	53,865.00		7	50,450.00	5,265.00	55,715.00
8	49,150.00	5,340.00	54,490.00		8	51,050.00	5,340.00	56,390.00
9	49,700.00	5,440.00	55,140.00		9	51,650.00	5,440.00	57,090.00
10	51,000.00	5,540.00	56,540.00		10	53,000.00	5,540.00	58,540.00
11	51,550.00	5,640.00	57,190.00		11	53,600.00	5,640.00	59,240.00
12	52,100.00	5,740.00	57,840.00		12	54,200.00	5,740.00	59,940.00
13	52,650.00	5,840.00	58,490.00		13	54,800.00	5,840.00	60,640.00
14	53,200.00	5,940.00	59,140.00		14	55,400.00	5,940.00	61,340.00
15	54,500.00	6,040.00	60,540.00		15	56,750.00	6,040.00	62,790.00
16	55,050.00	6,140.00	61,190.00		16	57,350.00	6,140.00	63,490.00
17	55,600.00	6,240.00	61,840.00		17	57,950.00	6,240.00	64,190.00
18	56,150.00	6,340.00	62,490.00		18	58,550.00	6,340.00	64,890.00
19	56,700.00	6,440.00	63,140.00		19	59,150.00	6,440.00	65,590.00
20	58,000.00	6,540.00	64,540.00		20	60,500.00	6,540.00	67,040.00
21	58,550.00	6,640.00	65,190.00		21	61,100.00	6,640.00	67,740.00
22	59,100.00	6,740.00	65,840.00		22	61,700.00	6,740.00	68,440.00
23	59,650.00	6,840.00	66,490.00		23	62,300.00	6,840.00	69,140.00
24	60,200.00	6,940.00	67,140.00		24	62,900.00	6,940.00	69,840.00
25	62,700.00	7,040.00	69,740.00		25	65,400.00	7,040.00	72,440.00
26	63,250.00	7,140.00	70,390.00		26	66,000.00	7,140.00	73,140.00
27	63,800.00	7,240.00	71,040.00		27	66,600.00	7,240.00	73,840.00
28	64,350.00	7,340.00	71,690.00		28	67,200.00	7,340.00	74,540.00
29	64,900.00	7,440.00	72,340.00		29	67,800.00	7,440.00	75,240.00
30	65,450.00	7,540.00	72,990.00		30	68,400.00	7,540.00	75,940.00
31	66,000.00	7,640.00	73,640.00		31	69,000.00	7,640.00	76,640.00
32	66,550.00	7,640.00	74,190.00		32	69,600.00	7,640.00	77,240.00
33	67,100.00	7,640.00	74,740.00		33	70,200.00	7,640.00	77,840.00
34	67,650.00	7,640.00	75,290.00		34	70,800.00	7,640.00	78,440.00
35	68,200.00	7,640.00	75,840.00		35	71,400.00	7,640.00	79,040.00

MS Code	Description
37-151-87	Reduction of local supplement or support from ad valorem taxation.
37-151-89	Salary payments from other funds
37-151-91	Salary schedules.
37-19-7	Scale of teachers' salaries; experience increases; salary supplement for certain school employees.
Cross References	Description
GBA	Professional Personnel Compensation Guides and Contracts
GBD	Professional Personnel Hiring
IFBA	Assistant Teachers

Exhibit GBA-E-E(1): Teacher Salary Scale

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 03/07/2016 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/02/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 02/23/2026

See PDF on the next page.

HARRISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2026-2027 CERTIFIED SALARY SCHEDULE						HARRISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2026-2027 CERTIFIED SALARY SCHEDULE				
"A" CERTIFICATION (Bachelors)						"AA" CERTIFICATION (Masters)				
EXP	MSFF	LOCAL DISTRICT SUUPPLEMENT	Daily Rate 187 Days	TOTAL SALARY	EXTRA DAYS If applicable*	EXP	MSFF	LOCAL DISTRICT SUUPPLEMENT	Daily Rate 187 Days	TOTAL SALARY
0	\$43,500.00	\$4,915.00	\$258.90	\$48,415.00	\$232.62	0	\$45,000.00	\$4,940.00	\$267.06	\$49,940.00
1	\$43,900.00	\$4,940.00	\$261.18	\$48,840.00	\$234.76	1	\$45,525.00	\$4,965.00	\$270.00	\$50,490.00
2	\$44,300.00	\$4,965.00	\$263.45	\$49,265.00	\$236.90	2	\$46,050.00	\$4,990.00	\$272.94	\$51,040.00
3	\$44,700.00	\$4,990.00	\$265.72	\$49,690.00	\$239.04	3	\$46,575.00	\$5,015.00	\$275.88	\$51,590.00
4	\$45,100.00	\$5,015.00	\$267.99	\$50,115.00	\$241.18	4	\$47,100.00	\$5,040.00	\$278.82	\$52,140.00
5	\$46,300.00	\$5,065.00	\$274.68	\$51,365.00	\$247.59	5	\$48,350.00	\$5,090.00	\$285.78	\$53,440.00
6	\$46,700.00	\$5,115.00	\$277.09	\$51,815.00	\$249.73	6	\$48,875.00	\$5,140.00	\$288.85	\$54,015.00
7	\$47,100.00	\$5,165.00	\$279.49	\$52,265.00	\$251.87	7	\$49,400.00	\$5,190.00	\$291.93	\$54,590.00
8	\$47,500.00	\$5,215.00	\$281.90	\$52,715.00	\$254.01	8	\$49,925.00	\$5,240.00	\$295.00	\$55,165.00
9	\$47,900.00	\$5,290.00	\$284.44	\$53,190.00	\$256.15	9	\$50,450.00	\$5,315.00	\$298.21	\$55,765.00
10	\$49,100.00	\$5,365.00	\$291.26	\$54,465.00	\$262.57	10	\$51,700.00	\$5,415.00	\$305.43	\$57,115.00
11	\$49,500.00	\$5,440.00	\$293.80	\$54,940.00	\$264.71	11	\$52,225.00	\$5,515.00	\$308.77	\$57,740.00
12	\$49,900.00	\$5,515.00	\$296.34	\$55,415.00	\$266.84	12	\$52,750.00	\$5,615.00	\$312.11	\$58,365.00
13	\$50,300.00	\$5,590.00	\$298.88	\$55,890.00	\$268.98	13	\$53,275.00	\$5,715.00	\$315.45	\$58,990.00
14	\$50,700.00	\$5,665.00	\$301.42	\$56,365.00	\$271.12	14	\$53,800.00	\$5,815.00	\$318.80	\$59,615.00
15	\$51,900.00	\$5,740.00	\$308.24	\$57,640.00	\$277.54	15	\$55,050.00	\$5,915.00	\$326.02	\$60,965.00
16	\$52,300.00	\$5,815.00	\$310.78	\$58,115.00	\$279.68	16	\$55,575.00	\$6,015.00	\$329.36	\$61,590.00
17	\$52,700.00	\$5,890.00	\$313.32	\$58,590.00	\$281.82	17	\$56,100.00	\$6,115.00	\$332.70	\$62,215.00
18	\$53,100.00	\$5,965.00	\$315.86	\$59,065.00	\$283.96	18	\$56,625.00	\$6,215.00	\$336.04	\$62,840.00
19	\$53,500.00	\$6,040.00	\$318.40	\$59,540.00	\$286.10	19	\$57,150.00	\$6,315.00	\$339.39	\$63,465.00
20	\$54,700.00	\$6,115.00	\$325.21	\$60,815.00	\$292.51	20	\$58,400.00	\$6,415.00	\$346.60	\$64,815.00
21	\$55,100.00	\$6,190.00	\$327.75	\$61,290.00	\$294.65	21	\$58,925.00	\$6,515.00	\$349.95	\$65,440.00
22	\$55,500.00	\$6,265.00	\$330.29	\$61,765.00	\$296.79	22	\$59,450.00	\$6,615.00	\$353.29	\$66,065.00
23	\$55,900.00	\$6,340.00	\$332.83	\$62,240.00	\$298.93	23	\$59,975.00	\$6,715.00	\$356.63	\$66,690.00
24	\$56,300.00	\$6,415.00	\$335.37	\$62,715.00	\$301.07	24	\$60,500.00	\$6,815.00	\$359.97	\$67,315.00
25	\$58,800.00	\$6,490.00	\$349.14	\$65,290.00	\$314.44	25	\$63,000.00	\$6,915.00	\$373.88	\$69,915.00
26	\$59,200.00	\$6,565.00	\$351.68	\$65,765.00	\$316.58	26	\$63,525.00	\$7,015.00	\$377.22	\$70,540.00
27	\$59,600.00	\$6,640.00	\$354.22	\$66,240.00	\$318.72	27	\$64,050.00	\$7,115.00	\$380.56	\$71,165.00
28	\$60,000.00	\$6,715.00	\$356.76	\$66,715.00	\$320.86	28	\$64,575.00	\$7,215.00	\$383.90	\$71,790.00
29	\$60,400.00	\$6,790.00	\$359.30	\$67,190.00	\$322.99	29	\$65,100.00	\$7,315.00	\$387.25	\$72,415.00
30	\$60,800.00	\$6,865.00	\$361.84	\$67,665.00	\$325.13	30	\$65,625.00	\$7,415.00	\$390.59	\$73,040.00
31	\$61,200.00	\$6,965.00	\$364.52	\$68,165.00	\$327.27	31	\$66,150.00	\$7,515.00	\$393.93	\$73,665.00
32	\$61,600.00	\$6,965.00	\$366.66	\$68,565.00	\$329.41	32	\$66,675.00	\$7,515.00	\$396.74	\$74,190.00
33	\$62,000.00	\$6,965.00	\$368.80	\$68,965.00	\$331.55	33	\$67,200.00	\$7,515.00	\$399.55	\$74,715.00
34	\$62,400.00	\$6,965.00	\$370.94	\$69,365.00	\$333.69	34	\$67,725.00	\$7,515.00	\$402.35	\$75,240.00
35	\$62,800.00	\$6,965.00	\$373.07	\$69,765.00	\$335.83	35	\$68,250.00	\$7,515.00	\$405.16	\$75,765.00
*Extra Days is a Daily Rate paid by MSFF only						*Extra Days is a Daily Rate paid by MSFF only				

HARRISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2026-2027 CERTIFIED SALARY SCHEDULE					AAA	HARRISON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2026-2027 CERTIFIED SALARY SCHEDULE				
"AAA" CERTIFICATION (Specialist)						"AAAA" CERTIFICATION (Doctorate)				
EXP	MSFF	LOCAL DISTRICT SUUPPLEMENT	Daily Rate 187 Days	TOTAL SALARY	EXTRA DAYS If applicable*	EXP	MSFF	LOCAL DISTRICT SUUPPLEMENT	Daily Rate 187 Days	TOTAL SALARY
0	\$46,000.00	\$4,940.00	\$272.41	\$50,940.00	\$245.99	0	\$47,500.00	\$4,940.00	\$280.43	\$52,440.00
1	\$46,550.00	\$4,965.00	\$275.48	\$51,515.00	\$248.93	1	\$48,100.00	\$4,965.00	\$283.77	\$53,065.00
2	\$47,100.00	\$4,990.00	\$278.56	\$52,090.00	\$251.87	2	\$48,700.00	\$4,990.00	\$287.11	\$53,690.00
3	\$47,650.00	\$5,015.00	\$281.63	\$52,665.00	\$254.81	3	\$49,300.00	\$5,015.00	\$290.45	\$54,315.00
4	\$48,200.00	\$5,040.00	\$284.71	\$53,240.00	\$257.75	4	\$49,900.00	\$5,040.00	\$293.80	\$54,940.00
5	\$49,500.00	\$5,115.00	\$292.06	\$54,615.00	\$264.71	5	\$51,250.00	\$5,115.00	\$301.42	\$56,365.00
6	\$50,050.00	\$5,190.00	\$295.40	\$55,240.00	\$267.65	6	\$51,850.00	\$5,190.00	\$305.03	\$57,040.00
7	\$50,600.00	\$5,265.00	\$298.74	\$55,865.00	\$270.59	7	\$52,450.00	\$5,265.00	\$308.64	\$57,715.00
8	\$51,150.00	\$5,340.00	\$302.09	\$56,490.00	\$273.53	8	\$53,050.00	\$5,340.00	\$312.25	\$58,390.00
9	\$51,700.00	\$5,440.00	\$305.56	\$57,140.00	\$276.47	9	\$53,650.00	\$5,440.00	\$315.99	\$59,090.00
10	\$53,000.00	\$5,540.00	\$313.05	\$58,540.00	\$283.42	10	\$55,000.00	\$5,540.00	\$323.74	\$60,540.00
11	\$53,550.00	\$5,640.00	\$316.52	\$59,190.00	\$286.36	11	\$55,600.00	\$5,640.00	\$327.49	\$61,240.00
12	\$54,100.00	\$5,740.00	\$320.00	\$59,840.00	\$289.30	12	\$56,200.00	\$5,740.00	\$331.23	\$61,940.00
13	\$54,650.00	\$5,840.00	\$323.48	\$60,490.00	\$292.25	13	\$56,800.00	\$5,840.00	\$334.97	\$62,640.00
14	\$55,200.00	\$5,940.00	\$326.95	\$61,140.00	\$295.19	14	\$57,400.00	\$5,940.00	\$338.72	\$63,340.00
15	\$56,500.00	\$6,040.00	\$334.44	\$62,540.00	\$302.14	15	\$58,750.00	\$6,040.00	\$346.47	\$64,790.00
16	\$57,050.00	\$6,140.00	\$337.91	\$63,190.00	\$305.08	16	\$59,350.00	\$6,140.00	\$350.21	\$65,490.00
17	\$57,600.00	\$6,240.00	\$341.39	\$63,840.00	\$308.02	17	\$59,950.00	\$6,240.00	\$353.96	\$66,190.00
18	\$58,150.00	\$6,340.00	\$344.87	\$64,490.00	\$310.96	18	\$60,550.00	\$6,340.00	\$357.70	\$66,890.00
19	\$58,700.00	\$6,440.00	\$348.34	\$65,140.00	\$313.90	19	\$61,150.00	\$6,440.00	\$361.44	\$67,590.00
20	\$60,000.00	\$6,540.00	\$355.83	\$66,540.00	\$320.86	20	\$62,500.00	\$6,540.00	\$369.20	\$69,040.00
21	\$60,550.00	\$6,640.00	\$359.30	\$67,190.00	\$323.80	21	\$63,100.00	\$6,640.00	\$372.94	\$69,740.00
22	\$61,100.00	\$6,740.00	\$362.78	\$67,840.00	\$326.74	22	\$63,700.00	\$6,740.00	\$376.68	\$70,440.00
23	\$61,650.00	\$6,840.00	\$366.26	\$68,490.00	\$329.68	23	\$64,300.00	\$6,840.00	\$380.43	\$71,140.00
24	\$62,200.00	\$6,940.00	\$369.73	\$69,140.00	\$332.62	24	\$64,900.00	\$6,940.00	\$384.17	\$71,840.00
25	\$64,700.00	\$7,040.00	\$383.64	\$71,740.00	\$345.99	25	\$67,400.00	\$7,040.00	\$398.07	\$74,440.00
26	\$65,250.00	\$7,140.00	\$387.11	\$72,390.00	\$348.93	26	\$68,000.00	\$7,140.00	\$401.82	\$75,140.00
27	\$65,800.00	\$7,240.00	\$390.59	\$73,040.00	\$351.87	27	\$68,600.00	\$7,240.00	\$405.56	\$75,840.00
28	\$66,350.00	\$7,340.00	\$394.06	\$73,690.00	\$354.81	28	\$69,200.00	\$7,340.00	\$409.30	\$76,540.00
29	\$66,900.00	\$7,440.00	\$397.54	\$74,340.00	\$357.75	29	\$69,800.00	\$7,440.00	\$413.05	\$77,240.00
30	\$67,450.00	\$7,540.00	\$401.02	\$74,990.00	\$360.70	30	\$70,400.00	\$7,540.00	\$416.79	\$77,940.00
31	\$68,000.00	\$7,640.00	\$404.49	\$75,640.00	\$363.64	31	\$71,000.00	\$7,640.00	\$420.53	\$78,640.00
32	\$68,550.00	\$7,640.00	\$407.43	\$76,190.00	\$366.58	32	\$71,600.00	\$7,640.00	\$423.74	\$79,240.00
33	\$69,100.00	\$7,640.00	\$410.37	\$76,740.00	\$369.52	33	\$72,200.00	\$7,640.00	\$426.95	\$79,840.00
34	\$69,650.00	\$7,640.00	\$413.32	\$77,290.00	\$372.46	34	\$72,800.00	\$7,640.00	\$430.16	\$80,440.00
35	\$70,200.00	\$7,640.00	\$416.26	\$77,840.00	\$375.40	35	\$73,400.00	\$7,640.00	\$433.37	\$81,040.00
*Extra Days is a Daily Rate paid by MSFF only						*Extra Days is a Daily Rate paid by MSFF only				

AA
EXTRA DAYS If applicable*
\$240.64
\$243.45
\$246.26
\$249.06
\$251.87
\$258.56
\$261.36
\$264.17
\$266.98
\$269.79
\$276.47
\$279.28
\$282.09
\$284.89
\$287.70
\$294.39
\$297.19
\$300.00
\$302.81
\$305.61
\$312.30
\$315.11
\$317.91
\$320.72
\$323.53
\$336.90
\$339.71
\$342.51
\$345.32
\$348.13
\$350.94
\$353.74
\$356.55
\$359.36
\$362.17
\$364.97
y

AAAA
EXTRA DAYS If applicable*
\$254.01
\$257.22
\$260.43
\$263.64
\$266.84
\$274.06
\$277.27
\$280.48
\$283.69
\$286.90
\$294.12
\$297.33
\$300.53
\$303.74
\$306.95
\$314.17
\$317.38
\$320.59
\$323.80
\$327.01
\$334.22
\$337.43
\$340.64
\$343.85
\$347.06
\$360.43
\$363.64
\$366.84
\$370.05
\$373.26
\$376.47
\$379.68
\$382.89
\$386.10
\$389.30
\$392.51
y

MS Code	Description
37-151-87	Reduction of local supplement or support from ad valorem taxation.
37-151-89	Salary payments from other funds
37-151-91	Salary schedules.
37-19-7	Scale of teachers' salaries; experience increases; salary supplement for certain school employees.
Cross References	Description
GBA	Professional Personnel Compensation Guides and Contracts
GBD	Professional Personnel Hiring
IFBA	Assistant Teachers

Policy GBDB: Retired Teacher Employment

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 08/05/2024 | Last Reviewed Date: 05/05/2025

RETIRED TEACHER EMPLOYMENT

The Harrison County School District may allow retired teachers to return to the classroom to teach if at any time the district is designated by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) as having critical shortages and/or critical subject-area shortages. Teachers may return to employment after retirement if they meet certain criteria under law. A retired teacher must:

- 1. Have at least 30 years of credible service at the time of their retirement;
- 2. Have been employed as a public school teacher at the time of retirement;
- 3. Have been retired at least 90 days;
- 4. Be currently receiving a retirement allowance; AND
- 5. Have a standard Mississippi teaching license.

Teachers who retired with 25 years of creditable services as of July 1, 2024, may also qualify if they meet all other requirements above. Retired teachers may return to employment for a total of five (5) consecutive or intermittent years. If any reemployed retiree works for any portion of a scholastic year less than a full contractual term of traditional teachers, the time worked by the retired teacher shall constitute one of the five allowable years of post-retirement teaching eligibility.

The person considered for reemployment must also meet other conditions such as the possession of adequate licensure and endorsement in the applicable subject area and certification by the local superintendent that the teacher possesses the requisite experience, training and expertise relevant to the position to be filled. The teacher must have possessed a satisfactory performance review before retirement and cannot have any preexisting arrangement of employment.

The district shall rely on the salary schedule in Section 37-19-7 in considering the salary for a retired teacher; provided, however, that the district may allocate up to 125% of the amount provided under the salary schedule comparable to the teacher's years of service and license type as salary and assessment under the program. After determining the retired teacher's compensation, the district may pay no more than 50% of the retired teacher's compensation as salary to the retired teacher. The remaining 50% of the retired teacher's compensation as salary shall be paid by the district to PERS as a pension liability participation assessment. The retiree will continue receiving his or her retirement allowance and be a contributing member of the system without accruing additional retirement benefits for five years of participation.

A retired teacher shall be entitled to work in any applicable school district and shall not be obligated to remain in any one district for the entirety of his or her post retirement teaching eligibility.

MS Code	Description
25-11-127	Benefits upon reemployment of retired persons.
37-19-7	Scale of teachers' salaries; experience increases; salary supplement for certain school employees.

Policy GBDB: Retired Teacher Employment

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 08/05/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 05/05/2025

RETIRED TEACHER EMPLOYMENT

The Harrison County School District may employ any Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) retiree for a period of time as agreed to between the employee and the school district. Compensation for this service shall be in an amount not to exceed eighty percent (80%) of the salary in effect for the position at the time of employment.

CONTRACT

A written agreement for employment may only be executed after the conclusion of a thirty (30) day separation period following the employee's retirement. The written agreement must detail:

1. The covered employment position
2. The full salary of the position
3. The percentage of salary the returning employee will receive as compensation.

Both the District and the employee must sign the agreement and provide a copy to the retirement system. Any subsequent amendments to the terms and conditions must be in writing, signed by both parties, and provided to the system within twenty (20) working days of the execution of the agreement.

The District is responsible for the entire amount of required contributions to the system. This amount shall be equal to the sum of the current employer contribution rate and the current employee contribution rate in effect in the year of the return-to-work employment.

The agreement shall state that the employee shall not gain any additional rights or benefits toward retirement from returning to work under Miss Code 25-11-127(4)(c). Employer contributions are designed solely to offset any pension liability created by this employment.

RESTRICTIONS

No retiree may return to work under Miss Code 25-11-127(4)(c) as a superintendent.

No retiree whose retirement allowance is subject to an actuarial reduction (other than as a result of taking a partial lump-sum distribution or any other optional benefit under Miss Code 25-11-115) may return to work under Miss Code 25-11-127(4)(c).

The Harrison County School District may allow retired teachers to return to the classroom to teach if at any time the district is designated by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) as having critical shortages and/or critical subject-area shortages. Teachers may return to employment after retirement if they meet certain criteria under law. A retired teacher must:

1. Have at least 30 years of credible service at the time of their retirement;
2. Have been employed as a public school teacher at the time of retirement;
3. Have been retired at least 90 days;
4. Be currently receiving a retirement allowance; AND
5. Have a standard Mississippi teaching license.

Teachers who retired with 25 years of creditable services as of July 1, 2024, may also qualify if they meet all other requirements above. Retired teachers may return to employment for a total of five (5) consecutive or intermittent years. If any reemployed retiree works for any portion of a scholastic year less than a full contractual term of

traditional teachers, the time worked by the retired teacher shall constitute one of the five allowable years of post-retirement teaching eligibility.

The person considered for reemployment must also meet other conditions such as the possession of adequate licensure and endorsement in the applicable subject area and certification by the local superintendent that the teacher possesses the requisite experience, training and expertise relevant to the position to be filled. The teacher must have possessed a satisfactory performance review before retirement and cannot have any preexisting arrangement of employment.

The district shall rely on the salary schedule in Section 37-19-7 in considering the salary for a retired teacher; provided, however, that the district may allocate up to 125% of the amount provided under the salary schedule comparable to the teacher's years of service and license type as salary and assessment under the program. After determining the retired teacher's compensation, the district may pay no more than 50% of the retired teacher's compensation as salary to the retired teacher. The remaining 50% of the retired teacher's compensation as salary shall be paid by the district to PERS as a pension liability participation assessment. The retiree will continue receiving his or her retirement allowance and be a contributing member of the system without accruing additional retirement benefits for five years of participation.

A retired teacher shall be entitled to work in any applicable school district and shall not be obligated to remain in any one district for the entirety of his or her post retirement teaching eligibility.

MS Code	Description
25-11-127	Benefits upon reemployment of retired persons.
37-19-7	Scale of teachers' salaries; experience increases; salary supplement for certain school employees.

Policy GBRJ: Arrangements for Substitutes	Status: ADOPTED
Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 Last Revised Date: 08/05/2024 Last Reviewed Date: 05/05/2025	

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUBSTITUTES

A roster of teachers approved for substitute teaching on a per diem basis shall be issued annually by the superintendent of schools, which shall contain the names of approved teachers who shall have made formal application to the office of the superintendent to serve as emergency teachers. Principals shall use the roster of approved substitute teachers in selecting teachers for emergency service as required. Retired teachers may substitute-teach. 25-11-127

CRIMINAL RECORDS BACKGROUND CHECK Superintendents/directors of schools under the purview of the State Board of Education, the superintendent of the local school district and any private firm under contract with the local public school district to provide substitute teachers to teach during the absence of a regularly employed schoolteacher shall require, through the appropriate governmental authority, that current criminal records background checks and current child abuse registry checks are obtained, and that such criminal record information and registry checks are on file for any new hires applying for employment as a licensed or nonlicensed employee at a school and not previously employed in such school under the purview of the State Board of Education or at such local school district prior to July 1, 2000. In order to determine the applicant's suitability for employment, the applicant shall be fingerprinted. 37-9-17(2)

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT AND COMPENSATION

Substitute teachers are approved by the school board for one academic year. Substitute teacher applicants are screened. The applicants with the most educational training are selected. Temporary service teachers are at-will employees and have no property rights in their employment which may be terminated at any time by either the employee or the employer without notice.

PAYMENT FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

School boards may include in their budgets provisions for the payment of substitute employees, necessitated because of the absence of regular licensed employees. All such substitute employees shall be paid wholly from district funds. Such school boards, in their discretion, also may pay, from district funds other than the total funding formula funds, the whole or any part of the salaries of all employees granted leaves for the purpose of special studies or training. 37-7-307(7)

MS Code	Description
25-11-127	Benefits upon reemployment of retired persons.
37-151-200	Title
37-7-307	Regulation of leaves for licensed and nonlicensed employees; employment of substitute teachers; donations of leave to other employees; accumulated leave; conversion of certain vacation days to sick leave; definitions.
37-9-17	Selection of licensed employees or non-instructional employees to be employed for school year; increase in compensation of certain licensed employees; fingerprinting and criminal background checks for applicants.
Cross References	Description
GBQ	Professional Personnel Retirement
GCD	Classified Personnel Hiring
GCD-E(1)	Classified Personnel Hiring

Policy GBRJ: Arrangements for Substitutes	Status: DRAFT
Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 Last Revised Date: 08/05/2024 Last Reviewed Date: 05/05/2025	

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUBSTITUTES

A roster of teachers approved for substitute teaching on a per diem basis shall be issued annually by the superintendent of schools, which shall contain the names of approved teachers who shall have made formal application to the office of the superintendent to serve as emergency teachers. Principals shall use the roster of approved substitute teachers in selecting teachers for emergency service as required. Retired teachers may substitute teach. 25-11-127

Harrison County School District shall contract with a private firm to make arrangements for qualified substitutes. All required laws, rules, and regulations shall be followed by the private firm. Retired teachers may substitute teach. 25-22 127

CRIMINAL RECORDS BACKGROUND CHECK

Superintendents/directors of schools under the purview of the State Board of Education, the superintendent of the local school district and any private firm under contract with the local public school district to provide substitute teachers to teach during the absence of a regularly employed schoolteacher shall require, through the appropriate governmental authority, that current criminal records background checks and current child abuse registry checks are obtained, and that such criminal record information and registry checks are on file for any new hires applying for employment as a licensed or nonlicensed employee at a school and not previously employed in such school under the purview of the State Board of Education or at such local school district prior to July 1, 2000. In order to determine the applicant's suitability for employment, the applicant shall be fingerprinted. 37-9-17(2)

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MS Code	Description
25-11-127	Benefits upon reemployment of retired persons.
37-151-200	Title
37-7-307	Regulation of leaves for licensed and nonlicensed employees; employment of substitute teachers; donations of leave to other employees; accumulated leave; conversion of certain vacation days to sick leave; definitions.
37-9-17	Selection of licensed employees or non-instructional employees to be employed for school year; increase in compensation of certain licensed employees; fingerprinting and criminal background checks for applicants.
Cross References	Description
GBQ	Professional Personnel Retirement
GCD	Classified Personnel Hiring
GCD-E(1)	Classified Personnel Hiring

Policy IDAG: Dual Enrollment

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 08/05/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 09/22/2025

Dual Enrollment Credit

Eligible students may participate in the dual enrollment program established by this school district in compliance with the Mississippi Code of 1972, Section 37-15-38.

A dual enrolled student is a student who is enrolled in a community or junior college or state institution of higher learning while enrolled in high school.

A dual credit student is a student who is enrolled in a community or junior college or state institution of higher learning while enrolled in high school and who is receiving high school and college credit for postsecondary coursework.

(1) *Dual credit program allowances.* A student may be granted credit delivered through the following means:

- a. Examination preparation taught at a high school by a qualified teacher. A student may receive credit at the secondary level after completion of an approved course and passing the standard examination, such as an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate course through which a high school student is allowed CLEP credit by making a three (3) or higher on the end-of-course examination.
- b. College or university courses taught at a high school or designated postsecondary site by a qualified teacher who is an employee of the school district and approved as an instructor by the collaborating college or university.
- c. College or university courses taught at a college, university or high school by an instructor employed by the college or university and approved by the collaborating school district.
- d. Online courses of any public university, community or junior college in Mississippi.

(2) *Admission criteria for dual enrollment in community and junior college or university programs.* Students may be admitted to enroll in community or junior college courses under the dual enrollment programs if they meet that individual institution's stated dual enrollment admission requirements.

(3) *Tuition and cost responsibility.* Tuition and costs for university-level courses and community and junior college courses offered under a dual enrollment program shall be the responsibility of the parents or legal guardians of the student. Payment for tuition and any other costs shall be made directly to the credit-granting institution.

(4) *Transportation responsibility.* Any transportation required by a student to participate in the dual enrollment program is the responsibility of the parent, custodian or legal guardian of the student.

(5) *School district net enrollment credit.* When dually enrolled, the student shall be counted, for total funding formula purposes, in the net enrollment of the public school district in which the student attends high school.

(6) *High school student transcript transfer requirements.* Grades and college credits earned by a student admitted to a dual credit program must be recorded on the high school student record and on the college transcript at the university or community or junior college where the student attends classes.

(7) *Eligible courses for dual credit programs.* Courses eligible for dual credit include, but are not necessarily limited to, foreign languages, advanced math courses, advanced science courses, performing arts, advanced business and technology, and career and technical courses. Distance Learning Collaborative Program courses shall be fully eligible for dual credit. All courses being considered for dual credit must receive unconditional approval from the superintendent of the local school district and the chief instructional officer at the participating community or junior college or university in order for college credit to be awarded. A university or community or junior college shall make the final decision on what courses are eligible for semester hour credits.

(8) *High school Carnegie unit equivalency.* One (1) three-hour university or community or junior college course is equal to one (1) high school Carnegie unit.

(9) *Maximum dual credits allowed.* It is the intent of the **dual enrollment** program to make it possible for every eligible student who desires to earn a semester's worth of college credit in high school to do so. A qualified dually enrolled high school student must be allowed to earn an unlimited number of college or university credits for dual credit.

(10) *Qualifications of dual credit instructors.* A dual credit academic instructor must meet the requirements set forth by the regional accrediting association (Southern Association of College and Schools). University and community and junior college personnel have the sole authority in the selection of dual credit instructors. A dual credit career and technical education instructor must meet the requirements set forth by the Mississippi Community College Board in the qualifications manual for postsecondary career and technical personnel.

The superintendent and/or designee shall develop procedures to support this policy.

MS Code

37-106-85
37-106-87
37-106-89
37-106-91
37-106-93
37-151-200

Description

37-106-85
37-106-87
37-106-89
37-106-91
37-106-93
[Title](#)

Cross References

IN

Description

[Vocational /Career Technical Education](#)

Policy IDAG: Dual Enrollment

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 08/05/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 09/22/2025

Dual Enrollment Credit

Eligible students may participate in the dual enrollment program established by this school district in compliance with the Mississippi Code of 1972, Section 37-15-38.

A dual enrolled student is a student who is enrolled in a community or junior college or state institution of higher learning while enrolled in high school.

A dual credit student is a student who is enrolled in a community or junior college or state institution of higher learning while enrolled in high school and who is receiving high school and college credit for postsecondary coursework.

(1) *Dual credit program allowances.* A student may be granted credit delivered through the following means:

- a. Examination preparation taught at a high school by a qualified teacher. A student may receive credit at the secondary level after completion of an approved course and passing the standard examination, such as an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate course through which a high school student is allowed CLEP credit by making a three (3) or higher on the end-of-course examination.
- b. College or university courses taught at a high school or designated postsecondary site by a qualified teacher who is an employee of the school district and approved as an instructor by the collaborating college or university.
- c. College or university courses taught at a college, university or high school by an instructor employed by the college or university and approved by the collaborating school district.
- d. Online courses of any public university, community or junior college in Mississippi.

(2) *Admission criteria for dual enrollment in community and junior college or university programs.* Students may be admitted to enroll in community or junior college courses under the dual enrollment programs if they meet that individual institution's stated dual enrollment admission requirements.

(3) *Tuition and cost responsibility.* Tuition and costs for university-level courses and community and junior college courses offered under a dual enrollment program shall be the responsibility of the parents or legal guardians of the student. Payment for tuition and any other costs shall be made directly to the credit-granting institution.

(4) *Transportation responsibility.* Any transportation required by a student to participate in the dual enrollment program is the responsibility of the parent, custodian or legal guardian of the student.

(5) *School district net enrollment credit.* When dually enrolled, the student shall be counted, for total funding formula purposes, in the net enrollment of the public school district in which the student attends high school.

(6) *High school student transcript transfer requirements.* Grades and college credits earned by a student admitted to a dual credit program must be recorded on the high school student record and on the college transcript at the university or community or junior college where the student attends classes.

(7) *Eligible courses for dual credit programs.* Courses eligible for dual credit include, but are not necessarily limited to, foreign languages, advanced math courses, advanced science courses, performing arts, advanced business and technology, and career and technical courses. Distance Learning Collaborative Program courses shall be fully eligible for dual credit. All courses being considered for dual credit must receive unconditional approval from the superintendent of the local school district and the chief instructional officer at the participating community or junior college or university in order for college credit to be awarded. A university or community or junior college shall make the final decision on what courses are eligible for semester hour credits.

(8) *High school Carnegie unit equivalency.* One (1) three-hour university or community or junior college course is equal to one (1) high school Carnegie unit.

(9) *Maximum dual credits allowed.* It is the intent of the **dual enrollment** program to make it possible for every eligible student who desires to earn a semester's worth of college credit in high school to do so. A qualified dually enrolled high school student must be allowed to earn an unlimited number of college or university credits for dual credit.

(10) *Qualifications of dual credit instructors.* A dual credit academic instructor must meet the requirements set forth by the regional accrediting association (Southern Association of College and Schools). University and community and junior college personnel have the sole authority in the selection of dual credit instructors. A dual credit career and technical education instructor must meet the requirements set forth by the Mississippi Community College Board in the qualifications manual for postsecondary career and technical personnel.

(11) *Valedictorian/Salutatorian – Students in Collegiate Academy will not be considered for Valedictorian/Salutatorian.*

The superintendent and/or designee shall develop procedures to support this policy.

MS Code	Description
37-106-85	37-106-85
37-106-87	37-106-87
37-106-89	37-106-89
37-106-91	37-106-91
37-106-93	37-106-93
37-151-200	Title

Cross References	Description
IN	Vocational /Career Technical Education

Policy IHE: Promotion and Retention

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 09/22/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 09/22/2025

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

Promotion and retention shall be based upon the mastery of objectives.

1. The Harrison County School District School Board shall establish standards for graduation from its schools which shall include, as a minimum:
 - a. Mastery of minimum academic skills as measured by assessments developed and administered by the State Board of Education.
 - b. Completion of a minimum number of academic credits, and all other applicable requirements prescribed by the district school board.
2. A student who meets all requirements prescribed in subsection (1) of this section shall be awarded a standard diploma in a form prescribed by the state board.
3. The State Board of Education may establish student proficiency standards for promotion to grade levels leading to graduation. 37-16-7

KINDERGARTEN

Students may be retained if adequate progress is not demonstrated toward the mastery of the Kindergarten Standards. The decision to retain will be based on the best interest of the student as determined by a review of all data by the principal and teacher.

FIRST AND SECOND GRADES

Students must pass reading, mathematics, and language arts with a minimum average of 65.

THIRD GRADE STUDENTS

Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, if a student's reading deficiency is not remedied by the end of the student's Third-Grade year, as demonstrated by the student scoring above the lowest two (2) achievement levels in reading on the state annual accountability assessment or on an approved alternative standardized assessment for Third Grade, the student shall not be promoted to Fourth Grade. 37-177-9

Students must pass reading, mathematics, and language arts with a minimum average of 65. In accordance with the Literacy-Based Promotion Act, third grade students who are not reading on grade level by the end of the third grade will be retained unless they qualify for a Good Cause Exemption.

FOURTH THROUGH SIXTH GRADES

Students must pass English Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies with a minimum average of 65, or they will be retained.

MID-YEAR PROMOTION

Students in fourth and fifth grade that failed to meet the Harrison County School District's Promotion Policy and are one or more years behind are eligible for mid-year promotion if they meet the required criteria and are approved by the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum. Please see Building Administrator for details. Third-graders are not eligible for mid-year promotion due to the Literacy-Based Promotion Act.

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE PROMOTION AND RETENTION

Students must pass each course taken with a minimum average of 65 or they will be retained.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

The State Department of Education shall establish goals for the performance of students with disabilities that will promote the purpose of IDEA and are consistent, to the maximum extent appropriate, with other goals and standards for students established by the State Department of Education. Performance indicators used to assess progress toward achieving those goals that, at a minimum, address the performance of students with disabilities on assessments, drop-out rates, and graduation rates shall be developed. Every two (2) years, the progress toward

meeting the established performance goals shall be reported to the public. 37-23-133 and 37-23-1

For information on the awarding of a special diploma, please refer to MS Code 37-16-11.

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard for this policy is standard 21.

MS Code	Description
37-16-11	Special diploma or certificate of completion for handicapped students; occupational diploma for students with disabilities.
37-16-7	Establishment of graduation standards established by district school boards; standard diploma.
37-177-9	37-177-9
37-23-1	Purpose of §§ 37-23-1 through 37-23-159; design of programs and services; accountability system.
37-23-133	37-23-133
Other References	Description
MPSAS	Public School Accountability Standards
Cross References	Description
IB	Instructional Goals
ICHI	Literacy Based Promotion
IDDF	Special Education Programs
IHA	Grading System
IHF	Graduation Requirements

Policy IHE: Promotion and Retention

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 09/22/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 09/22/2025

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

Promotion and retention shall be based upon the mastery of objectives.

1. The Harrison County School District School Board shall establish standards for graduation from its schools which shall include, as a minimum:
 - a. Mastery of minimum academic skills as measured by assessments developed and administered by the State Board of Education; ~~and~~
 - b. Completion of a minimum number of academic credits, ~~including a one-half Carnegie Unit credit course in personal finance or a full Carnegie Unit course where half the course standards are financial literacy as set forth under Mississippi law,~~ and all other applicable requirements prescribed by the district school board.
2. A student who meets all requirements prescribed in subsection (1) of this section shall be awarded a standard diploma in a form prescribed by the state board.
3. The State Board of Education may establish student proficiency standards for promotion to grade levels leading to graduation. 37-16-7

KINDERGARTEN

Students may be retained if adequate progress is not demonstrated toward the mastery of the Kindergarten Standards. The decision to retain will be based on the best interest of the student as determined by a review of all data by the principal and teacher.

FIRST AND SECOND GRADES

Students must pass reading, mathematics, and language arts with a minimum average of 65.

THIRD GRADE STUDENTS

Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, if a student's reading deficiency is not remedied by the end of the student's Third-Grade year, as demonstrated by the student scoring above the lowest two (2) achievement levels in reading on the state annual accountability assessment or on an approved alternative standardized assessment for Third Grade, the student shall not be promoted to Fourth Grade. 37-177-9

Students must pass reading, mathematics, and language arts with a minimum average of 65. In accordance with the Literacy-Based Promotion Act, third grade students who are not reading on grade level by the end of the third grade will be retained unless they qualify for a Good Cause Exemption.

FOURTH THROUGH SIXTH GRADES

Students must pass English Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies with a minimum average of 65, or they will be retained.

MID-YEAR PROMOTION

Students in fourth and fifth grade that failed to meet the Harrison County School District's Promotion Policy and are one or more years behind are eligible for mid-year promotion if they meet the required criteria and are approved by the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum. Please see Building Administrator for details. Third-graders are not eligible for mid-year promotion due to the Literacy-Based Promotion Act.

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE PROMOTION AND RETENTION

Students must pass each course taken with a minimum average of 65 or they will be retained.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

The State Department of Education shall establish goals for the performance of students with disabilities that will promote the purpose of IDEA and are consistent, to the maximum extent appropriate, with other goals and standards for students established by the State Department of Education. Performance indicators used to assess progress toward achieving those goals that, at a minimum, address the performance of students with disabilities on

assessments, drop-out rates, and graduation rates shall be developed. Every two (2) years, the progress toward meeting the established performance goals shall be reported to the public. 37-23-133 and 37-23-1

For information on the awarding of a special diploma, please refer to MS Code 37-16-11.

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard for this policy is standard 21.

MS Code	Description
37-16-11	Special diploma or certificate of completion for handicapped students; occupational diploma for students with disabilities.
37-16-7	Establishment of graduation standards established by district school boards; standard diploma.
37-177-9	37-177-9
37-23-1	Purpose of §§ 37-23-1 through 37-23-159; design of programs and services; accountability system.
37-23-133	37-23-133
Other References	Description
MPSAS	Public School Accountability Standards
Cross References	Description
IB	Instructional Goals
ICHI	Literacy Based Promotion
IDDF	Special Education Programs
IHA	Grading System
IHF	Graduation Requirements

Policy IHF: Graduation Requirements	Status: ADOPTED
Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 Last Revised Date: 08/21/2025 Last Reviewed Date: 09/22/2025	

Graduation Requirements

Students in this School District shall graduate from this district utilizing one Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) graduation options and by meeting all other requirements as defined by the Mississippi Department of Education.

Graduation/diploma options shall be listed in the student handbook.

Any person who has withdrawn from high school before graduation may be granted a diploma from the Mississippi public high school that the person last attended if the person has:

- (a) Completed all requisite graduation course work requirements and has achieved the equivalent requirements a passing score on an assessment reasonably comparable to the respective assessments that would qualify the person for high school graduation that as such assessments existed at the time that the student would have graduated;
- (b) Made a request to the public high school district that the person last attended in Mississippi that includes relevant transcripts of course work completed.

The superintendent or designee shall establish procedures to support this policy. Please refer to the student handbook for specific information regarding graduation.

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Process Standards for this policy are Standards 14 and 21.

MS Code	Description
37-16-11	Special diploma or certificate of completion for handicapped students; occupational diploma for students with disabilities.
37-16-7	Establishment of graduation standards established by district school boards; standard diploma.
37-23-1	Purpose of §§ 37-23-1 through 37-23-159; design of programs and services; accountability system.
Other References	Description
MPSAS	Public School Accountability Standards

Cross References

IB

IDDF

IHE

Description

[Instructional Goals](#)

[Special Education Programs](#)

[Promotion and Retention](#)

Policy IHF: Graduation Requirements	Status: DRAFT
Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 Last Revised Date: 08/21/2025 Last Reviewed Date: 09/22/2025	

Graduation Requirements

Students in Harrison County School District shall graduate from this district utilizing one Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) graduation option and by meeting all other requirements as defined by the Mississippi Department of Education.

Valedictorian/Salutatorian – Students in Collegiate Academy will not be considered for Valedictorian/Salutatorian.

Graduation/diploma options shall be listed in the student handbook.

Any person who has withdrawn from high school before graduation may be granted a diploma from the Mississippi public high school that the person last attended if the person has:

- (a) Completed all requisite graduation course work requirements and has achieved the equivalent requirements: a passing score on an assessment reasonably comparable to the respective assessments that would qualify the person for high school graduation that as such assessments existed at the time that the student would have graduated;
- (b) Made a request to the public high school district that the person last attended in Mississippi that includes relevant transcripts of course work completed.

The superintendent or designee shall establish procedures to support this policy. Please refer to the student handbook for specific information regarding graduation.

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37-16-11	Special diploma or certificate of completion for handicapped students; occupational diploma for students with disabilities.
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37-23-1	Purpose of §§ 37-23-1 through 37-23-159; design of programs and services; accountability system.
Other References	Description
MPSAS	Public School Accountability Standards
Cross References	Description
IB	Instructional Goals
IDDF	Special Education Programs
IHE	Promotion and Retention

Policy JBA: Compulsory School Attendance/School Age

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 07/12/2021 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 03/23/2026

COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The term "minor" when used in any statute, shall include any person, male or female, under twenty-one years of age. MS Code ' 1-3-27

This school district shall comply with the requirements of the "Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law" (' 37-13-91). Appropriate reports as required by law shall be provided to the Mississippi Department of Education's Office of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement.

COMPULSORY- SCHOOL-AGE CHILD

"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. ' 37-13-91 (2) (f) (2013)

Compulsory-school-age children must be enrolled in school unless the child is:

1. Physically, mentally or emotionally incapable of attending school as determined by the appropriate school official based upon sufficient medical documentation;
2. Enrolled in and pursuing a course of special education, remedial education or education for handicapped or physically or mentally disadvantaged children; or
3. Being educated in a legitimate home instruction program. ' 37-13-91 (3)

REPORTS

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 child has accumulated five (5) unlawful absences during the school year, the superintendent shall or his designee, within two (2) school days or within five (5) calendar days, whichever is less, report, on the form provided by the State Department of Education, the absences to the school attendance officer. The superintendent, or his designee, shall report any student suspensions or student expulsions to the school attendance officer when they occur. ' 37-13-91 (6)

School districts shall maintain accurate records documenting enrollment and attendance in a manner that allows the State Department of Education to make an assessment of changes in enrollment and attendance, including dropout rates.

The State Department of Education shall compile annually a statewide report on school district effectiveness in reducing absentee problems, dropout rates, and other attendance-related problems during the previous school year, incorporate the information into the annual Mississippi Report Card required by Section 37-3-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, on school district performance and offer technical assistance and coordination services to assist districts in improving performance.

UNLAWFUL ABSENCES / VALID EXCUSES

An "unlawful absence" is an absence during a school day by a compulsory-school-age child, which absence is not due to a valid excuse for temporary nonattendance. Days missed from school due to disciplinary suspension shall not be considered an "excused" absence under this section. Each of the following shall constitute a valid excuse for temporary nonattendance, provided satisfactory evidence of the excuse is provided to the superintendent or his designee:

1. Attendance at an authorized school activity with the prior approval of the superintendent of the school district or his designee.
2. Illness or injury which prevents the student from being physically able to attend school.

3. When isolation is ordered by the county health officer, by the State Board of Health or appropriate school official.
4. Death or serious illness of a member of the immediate family, which includes children, spouse, grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters, stepbrothers and stepsisters.
5. A medical or dental appointment with prior approval of the superintendent or his designee, except in the case of emergency.
6. Attendance at the proceedings of a court or an administrative tribunal if the student is a party to the action or under subpoena as a witness.
7. Observance of a religious event, with the prior approval of the superintendent or his designee. (Approval should not be withheld unless, in the professional judgment of the superintendent or his designee, the extent of the absence would adversely affect the student's education.)
8. Participation in a valid educational opportunity, such as travel including vacations or other family travel, with the prior approval of the superintendent or his designee. (Approval shall be based on the professional judgment of the superintendent or his designee but shall not be withheld unless the extent of the absence would adversely affect the student's education.)
9. Other conditions sufficient to warrant nonattendance, with prior approval of the superintendent or his designee. However, no absences shall be excused when any student suspensions or expulsions circumvent the intent and spirit of the compulsory attendance law. ' 37-13-91 (4)
10. An absence is excused when it results from the attendance of a compulsory-school-age child participating in official organized events sponsored by the 4-H or Future Farmers of America (FFA). The excuse for the 4-H or FFA event must be provided in writing to the appropriate school superintendent by the Extension Agent or High School Agricultural Instructor/FFA Advisor.
11. An absence is excused when it results from the compulsory-school-age child officially being employed to serve as a page at the State Capitol for the Mississippi House of Representatives or Senate.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICER

The superintendent and principals shall cooperate with the school attendance officer employed by the State Department of Education, pursuant to ' 37-13-85.

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards for this policy are Standards 10 and 11.

MS Code	Description
1-3-27	Minor.
37-13-85	37-13-85
37-13-91	Compulsory school attendance requirements generally; enforcement of law.
MS Attorney General	Description
MS Attorney General	Opinion, Carter, 1-9-98 (#183) (97-0817)
Other References	Description
MPSAS	Public School Accountability Standards

Cross References

JBAC

JBD

JQH

Description[Truancy](#)[Attendance](#)[Drop-Out Prevention](#)

Policy JBA: Compulsory School Attendance/School Age

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 07/12/2021 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 03/23/2026

COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The term "minor" when used in any statute, shall include any person, male or female, under twenty-one years of age. MS Code ' 1-3-27

This school district shall comply with the requirements of the "Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law" (' 37-13-91). Appropriate reports as required by law shall be provided to the Mississippi Department of Education's Office of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement.

COMPULSORY- SCHOOL-AGE CHILD

"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. ~~37-13-91 (2) (f) (2013)~~

Compulsory-school-age children must be enrolled in school unless the child is:

1. Physically, mentally or emotionally incapable of attending school as determined by the appropriate school official based upon sufficient medical documentation;
2. Enrolled in and pursuing a course of special education, remedial education or education for **children with handicapped** or physically or mentally disadvantages or **disabilities; children or**
3. Being educated in a legitimate home instruction program. ~~37-13-91 (3)~~

REPORTS

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 child has accumulated five (5) unlawful absences during the school year, the superintendent shall or his designee, ~~within two (2) school days or within five (5) calendar days, whichever is less,~~ **shall** report, on the form provided by the State Department of Education, **by close of the business of the next business day**, the **unlawful** absences to the school attendance officer. The superintendent, or his designee, shall report any student suspensions or student expulsions to the school attendance officer when they occur. ~~37-13-91 (6)~~

School districts shall maintain accurate records documenting enrollment and attendance in a manner that allows the State Department of Education to make an assessment of changes in enrollment and attendance, including dropout rates.

The State Department of Education shall compile annually a statewide report on school district effectiveness in reducing absentee problems, dropout rates, and other attendance-related problems during the previous school year, incorporate the information into the annual Mississippi Report Card required by Section 37-3-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, on school district performance and offer technical assistance and coordination services to assist districts in improving performance.

UNLAWFUL ABSENCES / VALID EXCUSES

An "unlawful absence" is an absence during a school day by a compulsory-school-age child, which absence is not due to a valid excuse for temporary nonattendance. Days missed from school due to disciplinary suspension shall not be considered an "excused" absence under this section. Each of the following shall constitute a valid excuse for temporary nonattendance, provided satisfactory evidence of the excuse is provided to the superintendent or his designee:

1. Attendance at an authorized school activity with the prior approval of the superintendent of the school district or his designee. **These activities may include field trips, athletic contests, student conventions, musical festivals, and any similar activity.**

2. Illness or injury which prevents the student from being physically able to attend school- , and any absence after the third must be documented by a written excuse by a medical provider.
3. When isolation is ordered by the county health officer, by the State Board of Health or appropriate school official.
4. Death or serious illness of a member of the immediate family, which includes children, spouse, grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters, stepbrothers and stepsisters.
5. A medical or dental appointment with a documented excuse from the medical provider. with prior approval of the superintendent or his designee, except in the case of emergency.
6. Attendance at the proceedings of a court or an administrative tribunal if the student is a party to the action or under subpoena as a witness.
7. Observance of a religious event, with the prior approval of the superintendent or his designee. (Approval should not be withheld unless, in the professional judgment of the superintendent or his designee, the extent of the absence would adversely affect the student's education.)
8. Participation in a valid educational opportunity, such as travel including vacations or other family travel, with the prior approval of the superintendent or his designee. (Approval shall be based on the professional judgment of the superintendent or his designee. ~~but shall not be withheld unless the extent of the absence would adversely affect the student's education.~~)
9. Other conditions sufficient to warrant nonattendance, with prior approval of the superintendent or his designee. However, no absences shall be excused when any student suspensions or expulsions circumvent the intent and spirit of the compulsory attendance law. – 37-13-91 (4)
10. An absence is excused when it results from the attendance of a compulsory-school-age child participating in official organized events sponsored by the 4-H or Future Farmers of America (FFA). The excuse for the 4-H or FFA event must be provided in writing to the appropriate school superintendent by the Extension Agent or High School Agricultural Instructor/FFA Advisor.
11. An absence is excused when it results from the compulsory-school-age child officially being employed to serve as a page at the State Capitol for the Mississippi House of Representatives or Senate.

LIMITATION ON EXCUSED ABSENCES

Unless an exception applies, no student shall be granted more than five (5) excused absences per semester. Any additional excused absences beyond this limit must be specifically approved by the superintendent, or his or her designee, upon a showing of extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

1. Prolonged illness or injury supported by medical documentation,
2. Extended religious observance,
3. Participation in education opportunities of substantial merit, including out-of-state educational travel.

Any absence in excess of this limit, and not approved by the superintendent, shall be considered unexcused.

School-sanctioned events, such as athletics, band, choir, or other events sponsored by the Mississippi High School Activities Association, shall not be counted as absences. School-sanctioned academic or club events shall not be counted as absences.

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

A compulsory-school-age child shall be considered chronically absent if the child is absent from school for ten percent (10%) or more of the student's school days in a school year, regardless of whether such absences are excused or unexcused.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICER

The superintendent and principals shall cooperate with the school attendance officer employed by the State Department of Education, pursuant to ~~37-13-85~~.

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards for this policy are Standards 10 and 11.

MS Code	Description
1-3-27	Minor.
37-13-85	37-13-85
37-13-91	Compulsory school attendance requirements generally; enforcement of law.
MS Attorney General	Description
MS Attorney General	Opinion, Carter, 1-9-98 (#183) (97-0817)
Other References	Description
MPSAS	Public School Accountability Standards
Cross References	Description
JBAC	Truancy
JBD	Attendance
JQH	Drop-Out Prevention

Policy JBD: Attendance	Status: ADOPTED
Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 Last Revised Date: 07/12/2021 Last Reviewed Date: 03/23/2026	

STUDENT ATTENDANCE, REPORTING OF STUDENT ATTENDANCE, TARDINESS AND EXCUSES

The school board believes that good attendance, with a minimum of tardiness and absenteeism, is essential if students are to gain maximum benefit from the school district’s instructional program. The school board thusly directs the superintendent to develop administrative regulations governing tardiness and absences (excused and non-excused).

The administrative regulations shall be based on all applicable state laws governing absenteeism and tardiness and shall include (but not limited to) the counting and reporting of students to the Mississippi Department of Education for attendance purposes, expectations for good student attendance, parent responsibility, excused and unexcused absences, and tardiness. Initial administrations regulations and any future changes to such administrative regulations shall be reviewed by the school board before implementation.

Make-up Assignments: The administrative regulations shall specify that no absence will be excused when it is due to suspension, expulsion or other disciplinary action. However, to avoid adopting a policy or administrative rule that would ensure a student’s failure, the district shall adopt a provision that permits or requires suspended students who are not immediately placed in an alternative school program to make up work within specified deadlines.

Attendance Reporting: In order for a student to be considered as having attended school for a full day, the school board specifies that 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. For purposes of reporting absenteeism, a student who has an absence that is more than thirty-seven percent (37%) of the student’s instructional day, as fixed by the school board for the school at which the student is enrolled, shall be considered absent the entire school day.

The superintendent shall develop and submit for board adoption a policy which includes:

- 1. a definition of the instructional day for each individual school so that the 63% of the instructional day can be computed for each student within the school district’s individual schools, and
- 2. a process for computing 63% of the instructional day for each student within the school district’s individual schools.

Definitions

Full Day Attendance: When a student is present for 63% of his or her individual Instructional day as fixed by the local school board for each individual school.

Unlawful Absence: An absence for an entire school day or during part of a school day when such absence is not due to a valid excuse.

MS Code	Description
37-13-9	Curriculum committee.
37-13-91	Compulsory school attendance requirements generally; enforcement of law.
MS Attorney General	Description
MS Attorney General	Opinion, Carter, 1-9-98 (#183) (97-0817)
Other References	Description
MPSAS	Public School Accountability Standards

Cross References

CED

JBA

JBAC

Description[Appointed Superintendent - Appointment](#)[Compulsory School Attendance/School Age](#)[Truancy](#)

Policy JBD: AttendanceStatus: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | Last Revised Date: 07/12/2021 | Last Reviewed Date: 03/23/2026

STUDENT ATTENDANCE, REPORTING OF STUDENT ATTENDANCE, TARDINESS AND EXCUSES

The school board believes that good attendance, with a minimum of tardiness and absenteeism, is essential if students are to gain maximum benefit from the school district’s instructional program. The school board thusly directs the superintendent to develop administrative regulations governing tardiness and absences (excused and non-excused).

The administrative regulations shall be based on all applicable state laws governing absenteeism and tardiness and shall include (but not limited to) the counting and reporting of students to the Mississippi Department of Education for attendance purposes, expectations for good student attendance, parent responsibility, excused and unexcused absences, and tardiness. Initial administrations regulations and any future changes to such administrative regulations shall be reviewed by the school board before implementation.

Make-up Assignments: The administrative regulations shall specify that no absence will be excused when it is due to suspension, expulsion or other disciplinary action. However, to avoid adopting a policy or administrative rule that would ensure a student’s failure, the district shall adopt a provision that permits or requires suspended students who are not immediately placed in an alternative school program to make up work within specified deadlines.

Attendance Reporting: In order for a student to be considered as having attended school for a full day, the school board specifies that each student must be present for 63% ~~66%~~ of his or her individual instructional ~~school~~ day as ~~defined by the State Board of Education~~ fixed by the local school board for each individual school. For purposes of reporting absenteeism, a student who has an absence that is more than thirty-seven ~~three~~ percent (37%) ~~(33%)~~ of the student’s ~~school~~ instructional day, as fixed by the school board for the school at which the student is enrolled, shall be considered absent the entire school day.

The superintendent shall develop and submit for board adoption a policy which includes:

- 1. a definition of the instructional ~~school~~ day for each individual school so that the 63% ~~66%~~ of the instructional ~~school~~ day can be computed for each student within the school district's individual schools, and
- 2. a process for computing 63% ~~66%~~ of the instructional ~~school~~ day for each student within the school district's individual schools.

Definitions

Full Day Attendance: When a student is present for 63% ~~66%~~ of his or her individual instructional ~~school~~ day as fixed by the local school board for each individual school.

Unlawful Absence: An absence for an entire school day or during part of a school day when such absence is not due to a valid excuse.

MS Code	Description
37-13-9	Curriculum committee.
37-13-91	Compulsory school attendance requirements generally; enforcement of law.
MS Attorney General	Description
MS Attorney General	Opinion, Carter, 1-9-98 (#183) (97-0817)
Other References	Description
MPSAS	Public School Accountability Standards

Cross References

CED

JBA

JBAC

Description[Appointed Superintendent - Appointment](#)[Compulsory School Attendance/School Age](#)[Truancy](#)

Policy JCA: Student Conduct

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/01/2026 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 06/01/2026

STUDENT CONDUCT

The term minor when used in any statute, shall include any person, male or female, under twenty-one years of age. MS Code ' 1-3-27

All employees will be provided with an explanation of both their responsibilities and their rights under law in terms of actions they may take to maintain order, discipline, and an appropriate educational environment. Training will be provided that defines approved actions, and informs employees that they may be liable for harm when they engage in criminal, grossly negligent or reckless conduct, or act with flagrant indifference to the rights and safety of another person who suffers harm as a result. The superintendent will develop rules that prescribe the circumstances under which the district administration and/or parents/guardians are to be notified of actions taken, any written documentation of actions taken that is necessary, and other appropriate procedures, including staff training.

A student code of conduct, developed under the leadership of the district administration, and in cooperation with staff, will be made available and distributed to parents and students outlining student conduct expectations and possible disciplinary actions, including consequences for disorderly conduct. In addition, each school may publish a student/parent handbook detailing additional rules specific to that school. *[All rules applying to student conduct shall be posted in a prominent place in each school building.]*

Students in violation of Board policy, administrative regulation and/or code of conduct provisions will be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion. Students may be denied participation in extracurricular activities. Titles and/or privileges available to or granted to students may also be denied and/or revoked (e.g., valedictorian, salutatorian, student body, class or club office positions, senior trip, prom, etc.). A referral to law enforcement may also be made.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The administration of the Harrison County School District is based on the theory that junior and senior high students are young ladies and young gentlemen and, as such, should be capable of conducting themselves in accordance with accepted standards of conduct. Every student is expected at all times to keep in mind that his conduct should not interfere with others, rather that it should be an example to others.

The primary emphasis of this school system is to provide the best quality education for the boys and girls of the district. The school system feels strongly that a basic prerequisite for any successful instructional program is that a clear understanding of the operation is based upon the policies and resulting rules. Therefore, it is imperative that policies and resulting rules be understood and followed without exception.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Helping children to develop self-discipline and to conduct themselves in an acceptable manner is a major behavioral objective of the school as well as of the home. Parents may assume that a student's behavior is satisfactory or better unless they are notified by telephone or by letter. In most cases, it is believed that the call or letter will suffice — if not, the parents may be asked to come to the school for a conference in order to affect an acceptable solution to the problem.

The school will expect and demand nothing less than good conduct on the part of students. It is believed that the above-described procedure will be effective in achieving a desirable learning atmosphere and in guiding students toward assuming a greater degree of responsibility for their behavior. It should be fully understood that any student whose conduct interferes with the learning process of others will be removed from the classroom and dealt with accordingly.

GENERAL RULES OF STUDENT CONDUCT

1. Students are expected to conduct themselves in all school activities in such a manner that will promote development rather than inhibit it.
2. A teaching situation which is conducive to learning must be maintained. Therefore, any student whose actions make it impossible for the teacher to devote full attention to the class will be disciplined, including but not limited to being sent to the principal's office. The counselor and principal will review the case and try to resolve the problem. A student who has been sent from class repeatedly will be suspended from school.
3. Any student who starts a disturbance or who participates in one will be suspended from school immediately and will be able to re-enter only after satisfactory assurance has been given in writing to the principal by the student and by his parents or guardians that there will not be a recurrence of this sort of behavior.
4. Corridor courtesy requires that students walk in an orderly manner on the right side of the corridor.
5. Profanity, cheating, stealing, and gambling can never be accepted by the schools of this system. Such offenses can result in suspension or expulsion.
6. Radios and/or other sound reproducers shall be forbidden on campus unless specifically requested by the teacher in charge.
7. All schools in the District are smoke-free zones. Smoking is prohibited on property owned or used by the school, whether during school, after school or at school-related events. Students caught smoking in unauthorized areas will be suspended.
8. A student is strictly prohibited by law from possessing a weapon, as identified in Policy JCDAE, while on school property, going to school, going from school or during school-related activities. Any student violating this rule shall be subject to immediate suspension and recommendation of expulsion by the principal, his designee or the superintendent and subject to all other penalties and requirements provided by law and District policies.
9. A student is strictly prohibited by law from possessing, using or selling any controlled substance, including drugs and alcohol as identified in Policy JCDAC, while on school property, going to school, going from school or during school-related activities. Any student violating this rule shall be subject to immediate suspension and recommendation of expulsion by the principal, his designee or the superintendent and subject to all other penalties and requirements provided by law and District policies.
10. A student who uses or is under the influence of any alcohol or drugs shall be subject to an immediate suspension for a minimum of 3 days or expulsion and subject to all other penalties and requirements provided by law and District policies.
11. A student who commits an unlawful or violent act, as defined by Policy JCBE, shall be subject to immediate suspension and recommendation of expulsion by the principal, his designee or the superintendent and subject to all other penalties and requirements provided by law and District policies.
12. A student who carries or otherwise has in his possession a firearm on campus, in violation of Policy JCBH, shall be subject to immediate suspension and recommendation of expulsion for a minimum of one calendar year by the principal, his designee or the superintendent and subject to all other penalties and requirements provided by law and District policies.
13. A student, upon his second suspension for a disciplinary reason, will be informed that his third such suspension may result in expulsion.

14. Student behavior that harasses or threatens other students or school personnel will not be tolerated. This district shall treat hazing, as defined in MS Code 97-3-105, and stalking, as defined in MS Code 97-3-107, as serious offenses subject to criminal prosecution.
15. Student-to-student sexual harassment will not be tolerated. Complaints of student-to-student sexual harassment will be handled in accordance with Policy JB-E(1), Students Complaints of Sexual Discrimination/Harassment C Title IX Procedures.
16. Any student in any school who possesses any controlled substance in violation of the Uniform Controlled Substance Law, a knife, 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, Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be subject to automatic expulsion for a calendar year by the superintendent or principal of the school in which the student is enrolled; provided, however, that the superintendent is authorized to modify the period of time for such expulsion on a case by case basis. Such expulsion shall take effect immediately subject to the constitutional rights of due process, which shall include the student's right to appeal to the local school board. 37-11-18
17. Any student who looks through a window, hole or opening, or otherwise views by means of any instrumentality, including, but not limited to, a periscope, telescope, binoculars, drones, camera, motion-picture camera, camcorder or mobile phone, into the interior of a bathroom, changing room, fitting room, locker room, dressing room, spa, massage room or therapy room or the interior of any other area in which the occupant has a reasonable expectation of privacy, with the intent to invade the privacy of a person or persons inside and without the consent or knowledge of every person present, for the lewd, licentious and indecent purpose of spying upon the occupant or occupants thereof, shall be Subject to immediate suspension and recommendation of expulsion by the principal, his designee or the superintendent subject to all other penalties provided by law and District policies.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Students are expected to use all technology responsibly and ethically. Any misuse of technology for academic purposes will be considered a violation of school board policy. Obtaining improper assistance from artificial intelligence tools, including, but not limited to, ChatGPT is strictly prohibited. Any attempt to obtain improper assistance from AI tools will be considered a violation of school board policy. Students in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline up to and including suspension or expulsion.

BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENTS

All behavioral assessment forms or reports (teacher completed rating scales, school observations, or similar documentation) requested by a physician or clinical staff must be returned directly to the requesting medical office by school personnel. Acceptable return methods include secure email to a designated medical/clinical staff's email address, fax to the medical/clinic office's designated fax number, or mailing address using the medical office/clinic contact information provided.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT PROHIBITED

If any person eighteen (18) years or older who is employed by any public school district or private school in this state is accused of fondling or having any type of sexual involvement with any child under the age of eighteen (18) years who is enrolled in such school, the principal of such school and the superintendent of such school district shall timely notify the district attorney with jurisdiction where the school is located of such accusation, the Mississippi Department of Education and the Department of Human Services, provided that such accusation is reported to the principal and to the school superintendent and that there is a reasonable basis to believe that such accusation is true.

Any superintendent, or his designee, who fails to make a report required by this section shall be subject to the penalties provided in Section 37-11-35. Any superintendent, principal, teacher or other school personnel participating in the making of a required report pursuant to this section or participating in any judicial proceeding resulting therefrom shall be presumed to be acting in good faith. Any person reporting in good faith shall be immune from any civil liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed. ' 97-5-24

If any teacher and any pupil under eighteen (18) years of age of such teacher, not being married to each other, shall have sexual intercourse, each with the other, they shall, for every such offense, be fined in any sum, not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) each, and the teacher may be imprisoned not less than three (3) months nor more than six (6) months. ' 97-29-3

HARASSMENT PROHIBITED

This school district affirms employee protection provided under Title VII, and therefore shall not tolerate verbal or physical conduct by any employee, male or female, which harasses, disrupts, or interferes with another's work performance or which creates an intimidating, offensive, or hostile environment.

Further, this school district prohibits sexual harassment of or by any student. This policy applies to conduct during and relating to school and school-sponsored activities. Sexual harassment is inappropriate behavior and offensive. Any student who engages in the sexual harassment of anyone in the school setting may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

Special education students are responsible for adhering to the same rules of conduct as nondisabled students. All special education students are entitled to a free appropriate public education, even those who have been suspended or expelled. Whenever a special education student is removed for disciplinary reasons from his/her current education setting and placed in an interim alternative setting, the setting must be one which enables the student to continue to participate in the general curriculum, to continue to receive those services and modifications described in the student's current IEP, and to receive services and modifications designed to address the student's behavior. The special education director/coordinator or designee should be contacted immediately when a special education student commits a violation of the rules of conduct which may result in the removal from the classroom by suspension or expulsion. All procedural safeguards described in the IDEA shall be followed whenever a special education student is disciplined.

As provided under '37-23-135, Educational services for children with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled from school shall be provided based on the requirements of IDEA, applicable federal regulations and state regulations.

STUDENT CONDUCT AND GRADES

Criteria used in the evaluation process to determine a student's grade must be supported by rationale. The criteria must be in writing and must include the following:

- a. Class work
- b. Homework
- c. Test scores

d. Participation

e. Skill application

f. Preparation for class

1. Course content (goals, objectives, materials, etc.) as outlined in the curriculum guides
2. Methods of evaluation grades will reflect some combination of the areas listed below:
3. The effect of absence on grades
4. Procedures for making up assigned work and tests
5. Other criteria as approved by the superintendent and school board

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

For information related to student conduct and disciplinary action, please refer to Mississippi CODE Section 37-11-55 and policy JCB, Code of Conduct.

MS Code

1-3-27

Description

[Minor.](#)

37-11-18

[Expulsion of student possessing controlled substance or weapon or committing violent act on school property.](#)

37-11-29

[Reporting of unlawful activity or violent act on educational property or during school related activity; authority of law enforcement officers; reporting of disposition of charges against student; liability of school personnel participating in reporting.](#)

37-11-35

[Penalties for failure to file reports pursuant to Section 37-11-29 or 97-5-24.](#)

37-11-55

[Code of student conduct.](#)

37-23-133

37-23-133

37-23-135

[Eligibility standards for assistance under Individuals with Disabilities Act](#)

97-29-3

[Adultery and fornication; between teacher and pupil.](#)

97-3-105

[Hazing; initiation into organization.](#)

97-3-107

[Stalking; aggravated stalking; penalties; definitions.](#)

97-5-24

[Sexual involvement of school employee with student; duty to report; penalties for failure to report; immunity from civil liability for report made in good faith.](#)

MS Attorney General

MS Attorney General

Description

Opinion, Carter, 1-9-98 (#183) (97-0817)

US Code

20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 et seq.

Description

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Case Law

Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education
(1999)

Other References

1972 Education Amendments

1972 Education Amendments

Mattie T Consent Decree

Cross References

EFC

IAC

IAC-E(1)

JB

JB-E(1)

JCB

JCBA

JCBB

JCBE

JCBF

JCBH

JCDAC

JCDAD

JCDAE

JDA

JDC

JDC-E(1)

JDD

JDE

JHCAA

Description

Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education (1999)

Description

Title VII

Title IX

Mattie T Consent Decree

Description

[Use of Artificial Intelligence](#)

[Virtual Learning Days](#)

[Virtual Learning Days](#)

[Students Complaints of Sexual Discrimination / Harassment -- Title IX](#)

[Students Complaints of Sexual Discrimination / Harassment -- Title IX](#)

[Code of Conduct](#)

[Student Restraint & Seclusion](#)

[Gang Activity](#)

[Unlawful or Violent Acts](#)

[Reporting of Unlawful or Violent Acts](#)

[Gun-Free Schools](#)

[Drugs and Alcohol \(Possession or Reasonable Suspicion\)](#)

[Bus Conduct](#)

[Weapons](#)

[Discipline Plan](#)

[Detention of Students](#)

[Detention of Students](#)

[Suspension](#)

[Expulsion](#)

[Secret Societies](#)

Policy JCA: Student Conduct

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/01/2026 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 06/01/2026

STUDENT CONDUCT

The term minor when used in any statute, shall include any person, male or female, under twenty-one years of age. MS Code ' 1-3-27

All employees will be provided with an explanation of both their responsibilities and their rights under law in terms of actions they may take to maintain order, discipline, and an appropriate educational environment. Training will be provided that defines approved actions, and informs employees that they may be liable for harm when they engage in criminal, grossly negligent or reckless conduct, or act with flagrant indifference to the rights and safety of another person who suffers harm as a result. The superintendent will develop rules that prescribe the circumstances under which the district administration and/or parents/guardians are to be notified of actions taken, any written documentation of actions taken that is necessary, and other appropriate procedures, including staff training.

A student code of conduct, developed under the leadership of the district administration, and in cooperation with staff, will be made available and distributed to parents and students outlining student conduct expectations and possible disciplinary actions, including consequences for disorderly conduct. In addition, each school may publish a student/parent handbook detailing additional rules specific to that school. *[All rules applying to student conduct shall be posted in a prominent place in each school building.]*

Students in violation of Board policy, administrative regulation and/or code of conduct provisions will be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion. Students may be denied participation in extracurricular activities. Titles and/or privileges available to or granted to students may also be denied and/or revoked (e.g., valedictorian, salutatorian, student body, class or club office positions, senior trip, prom, etc.). A referral to law enforcement may also be made.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The administration of the Harrison County School District is based on the theory that junior and senior high students are young ladies and young gentlemen and, as such, should be capable of conducting themselves in accordance with accepted standards of conduct. Every student is expected at all times to keep in mind that his conduct should not interfere with others, rather that it should be an example to others.

The primary emphasis of this school system is to provide the best quality education for the boys and girls of the district. The school system feels strongly that a basic prerequisite for any successful instructional program is that a clear understanding of the operation is based upon the policies and resulting rules. Therefore, it is imperative that policies and resulting rules be understood and followed without exception.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Helping children to develop self-discipline and to conduct themselves in an acceptable manner is a major behavioral objective of the school as well as of the home. Parents may assume that a student's behavior is satisfactory or better unless they are notified by telephone or by letter. In most cases, it is believed that the call or letter will suffice — if not, the parents may be asked to come to the school for a conference in order to affect an acceptable solution to the problem.

The school will expect and demand nothing less than good conduct on the part of students. It is believed that the above-described procedure will be effective in achieving a desirable learning atmosphere and in guiding students toward assuming a greater degree of responsibility for their behavior. It should be fully understood that any student whose conduct interferes with the learning process of others will be removed from the classroom and dealt with accordingly.

GENERAL RULES OF STUDENT CONDUCT

1. Students are expected to conduct themselves in all school activities in such a manner that will promote development rather than inhibit it.
2. A teaching situation which is conducive to learning must be maintained. Therefore, any student whose actions make it impossible for the teacher to devote full attention to the class will be disciplined, including but not limited to being sent to the principal's office. The counselor and principal will review the case and try to resolve the problem. A student who has been sent from class repeatedly will be suspended from school.
3. Any student who starts a disturbance or who participates in one will be suspended from school immediately and will be able to re-enter only after satisfactory assurance has been given in writing to the principal by the student and by his parents or guardians that there will not be a recurrence of this sort of behavior.
4. Corridor courtesy requires that students walk in an orderly manner on the right side of the corridor.
5. Profanity, cheating, stealing, and gambling can never be accepted by the schools of this system. Such offenses can result in suspension or expulsion.
6. Radios and/or other sound reproducers shall be forbidden on campus unless specifically requested by the teacher in charge.
7. All schools in the District are smoke-free zones. Smoking is prohibited on property owned or used by the school, whether during school, after school or at school-related events. Students caught smoking in unauthorized areas will be suspended.
8. A student is strictly prohibited by law from possessing a weapon, as identified in Policy JCDAE, while on school property, going to school, going from school or during school-related activities. Any student violating this rule shall be subject to immediate suspension and recommendation of expulsion by the principal, his designee or the superintendent and subject to all other penalties and requirements provided by law and District policies.
9. A student is strictly prohibited by law from possessing, using or selling any controlled substance, including drugs and alcohol as identified in Policy JCDAC, while on school property, going to school, going from school or during school-related activities. Any student violating this rule shall be subject to immediate suspension and recommendation of expulsion by the principal, his designee or the superintendent and subject to all other penalties and requirements provided by law and District policies.
10. A student who uses or is under the influence of any alcohol or drugs shall be subject to an immediate suspension for a minimum of 3 days or expulsion and subject to all other penalties and requirements provided by law and District policies.
11. A student who commits an unlawful or violent act, as defined by Policy JCBE, shall be subject to immediate suspension and recommendation of expulsion by the principal, his designee or the superintendent and subject to all other penalties and requirements provided by law and District policies.
12. A student who carries or otherwise has in his possession a firearm on campus, in violation of Policy JCBH, shall be subject to immediate suspension and recommendation of expulsion for a minimum of one calendar year by the principal, his designee or the superintendent and subject to all other penalties and requirements provided by law and District policies.
13. A student, upon his second suspension for a disciplinary reason, will be informed that his third such suspension may result in expulsion.

14. Student behavior that harasses or threatens other students or school personnel will not be tolerated. This district shall treat hazing, as defined in MS Code 97-3-105, and stalking, as defined in MS Code 97-3-107, as serious offenses subject to criminal prosecution.
15. Student-to-student sexual harassment will not be tolerated. Complaints of student-to-student sexual harassment will be handled in accordance with Policy JB-E(1), Students Complaints of Sexual Discrimination/Harassment C Title IX Procedures.
16. Any student in any school who possesses any controlled substance in violation of the Uniform Controlled Substance Law, a knife, 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, Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be subject to automatic expulsion for a calendar year by the superintendent or principal of the school in which the student is enrolled; provided, however, that the superintendent is authorized to modify the period of time for such expulsion on a case by case basis. Such expulsion shall take effect immediately subject to the constitutional rights of due process, which shall include the student's right to appeal to the local school board. 37-11-18
17. Any student who looks through a window, hole or opening, or otherwise views by means of any instrumentality, including, but not limited to, a periscope, telescope, binoculars, drones, camera, motion-picture camera, camcorder or mobile phone, into the interior of a bathroom, changing room, fitting room, locker room, dressing room, spa, massage room or therapy room or the interior of any other area in which the occupant has a reasonable expectation of privacy, with the intent to invade the privacy of a person or persons inside and without the consent or knowledge of every person present, for the lewd, licentious and indecent purpose of spying upon the occupant or occupants thereof, shall be Subject to immediate suspension and recommendation of expulsion by the principal, his designee or the superintendent subject to all other penalties provided by law and District policies.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

"Artificial Intelligence" is defined as a machine-based system that can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, make predictions, recommendations or decisions influencing real or virtual environments. Artificial intelligence systems use machine and human-based inputs to perceive real and virtual environments; abstract such perceptions into models through analysis in an automated manner; and use model inference to formulate options for information or actions.

Students are expected to use all technology responsibly and ethically. Any misuse of technology for academic purposes will be considered a violation of school board policy. Obtaining improper assistance from artificial intelligence tools, including, but not limited to, ChatGPT is strictly prohibited. Any attempt to obtain improper assistance from AI tools will be considered a violation of school board policy. Students in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline up to and including suspension or expulsion. **Students are prohibited from engaging in the following uses of AI:**

1. Using AI in a way that violates district policy or applicable law;
2. Inputting into any AI any confidential data or personally identifiable information;
3. Using AI to violate the instructions or requirements of any assignment;
4. Obtaining or attempting to obtain improper assistance from AI tools;
5. Representing AI-generated content as their own work;
6. Using AI to disrupt district operations;
7. Using any AI system to access, create, or display harmful or inappropriate matter that is threatening, obscene, disruptive, or sexually explicit, or that could be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based on their race/ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, or political beliefs or interact with the AI in a manner that supports any of the above.
8. Using AI to negatively affect the district or in a way that causes harm.

BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENTS

All behavioral assessment forms or reports (teacher completed rating scales, school observations, or similar documentation) requested by a physician or clinical staff must be returned directly to the requesting medical office by school personnel. Acceptable return methods include secure email to a designated medical/clinical staff's email address, fax to the medical/clinic office's designated fax number, or mailing address using the medical office/clinic contact information provided.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT PROHIBITED

If any person eighteen (18) years or older who is employed by any public school district or private school in this state is accused of fondling or having any type of sexual involvement with any child under the age of eighteen (18) years who is enrolled in such school, the principal of such school and the superintendent of such school district shall timely notify the district attorney with jurisdiction where the school is located of such accusation, the Mississippi Department of Education and the Department of Human Services, provided that such accusation is reported to the principal and to the school superintendent and that there is a reasonable basis to believe that such accusation is true.

Any superintendent, or his designee, who fails to make a report required by this section shall be subject to the penalties provided in Section 37-11-35. Any superintendent, principal, teacher or other school personnel participating in the making of a required report pursuant to this section or participating in any judicial proceeding resulting therefrom shall be presumed to be acting in good faith. Any person reporting in good faith shall be immune from any civil liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed. ' 97-5-24

If any teacher and any pupil under eighteen (18) years of age of such teacher, not being married to each other, shall have sexual intercourse, each with the other, they shall, for every such offense, be fined in any sum, not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) each, and the teacher may be imprisoned not less than three (3) months nor more than six (6) months. ' 97-29-3

HARASSMENT PROHIBITED

This school district affirms employee protection provided under Title VII, and therefore shall not tolerate verbal or physical conduct by any employee, male or female, which harasses, disrupts, or interferes with another's work performance or which creates an intimidating, offensive, or hostile environment.

Further, this school district prohibits sexual harassment of or by any student. This policy applies to conduct during and relating to school and school-sponsored activities. Sexual harassment is inappropriate behavior and offensive. Any student who engages in the sexual harassment of anyone in the school setting may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

Special education students are responsible for adhering to the same rules of conduct as nondisabled students. All special education students are entitled to a free appropriate public education, even those who have been suspended or expelled. Whenever a special education student is removed for disciplinary reasons from his/her current education setting and placed in an interim alternative setting, the setting must be one which enables the student to continue to participate in the general curriculum, to continue to receive those services and modifications described in the student's current IEP, and to receive services and modifications designed to address the student's behavior. The special education director/coordinator or designee should be contacted immediately when a special education student commits a violation of the rules of conduct which may result in the removal from the classroom by suspension or expulsion. All procedural safeguards described in the IDEA shall be followed whenever a special education student is disciplined.

As provided under '37-23-135, Educational services for children with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled from school shall be provided based on the requirements of IDEA, applicable federal regulations and state regulations.

STUDENT CONDUCT AND GRADES

Criteria used in the evaluation process to determine a student's grade must be supported by rationale. The criteria must be in writing and must include the following:

1. Course content (goals, objectives, materials, etc.) as outlined in the curriculum guides
2. Methods of evaluation grades will reflect some combination of the areas listed below:
 - a. Class work
 - b. Homework
 - c. Test scores
 - d. Participation
 - e. Skill application
 - f. Preparation for class
3. The effect of absence on grades
4. Procedures for making up assigned work and tests

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

For information related to student conduct and disciplinary action, please refer to Mississippi CODE Section 37-11-55 and policy JCB, Code of Conduct.

MS Code	Description
1-3-27	Minor.
37-11-18	Expulsion of student possessing controlled substance or weapon or committing violent act on school property.
37-11-29	Reporting of unlawful activity or violent act on educational property or during school related activity; authority of law enforcement officers; reporting of disposition of charges against student; liability of school personnel participating in reporting.
37-11-35	Penalties for failure to file reports pursuant to Section 37-11-29 or 97-5-24.
37-11-55	Code of student conduct.

MS Code

37-23-133

37-23-135

97-29-3

97-3-105

97-3-107

97-5-24

MS Attorney General

MS Attorney General

US Code

20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 et seq.

Case LawDavis v. Monroe County Board of Education
(1999)**Other References**

1972 Education Amendments

1972 Education Amendments

Mattie T Consent Decree

Cross References

EFC

IAC

IAC-E(1)

JB

JB-E(1)

JCB

JCBA

JCBB

JCBE

JCBF

JCBH

JCDAC

JCDAD

JCDAE

JDA

JDC

JDC-E(1)

JDD

Description

37-23-133

[Eligibility standards for assistance under Individuals with Disabilities Act](#)[Adultery and fornication; between teacher and pupil.](#)[Hazing; initiation into organization.](#)[Stalking; aggravated stalking; penalties; definitions.](#)[Sexual involvement of school employee with student; duty to report; penalties for failure to report; immunity from civil liability for report made in good faith.](#)**Description**

Opinion, Carter, 1-9-98 (#183) (97-0817)

Description

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

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Description[Use of Artificial Intelligence](#)[Virtual Learning Days](#)[Virtual Learning Days](#)[Students Complaints of Sexual Discrimination / Harassment -- Title IX](#)[Students Complaints of Sexual Discrimination / Harassment -- Title IX](#)[Code of Conduct](#)[Student Restraint & Seclusion](#)[Gang Activity](#)[Unlawful or Violent Acts](#)[Reporting of Unlawful or Violent Acts](#)[Gun-Free Schools](#)[Drugs and Alcohol \(Possession or Reasonable Suspicion\)](#)[Bus Conduct](#)[Weapons](#)[Discipline Plan](#)[Detention of Students](#)[Detention of Students](#)[Suspension](#)

Cross References

JDE

JHCAA

Description

[Expulsion](#)

[Secret Societies](#)

Policy JDE: Expulsion

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 03/23/2026 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 03/23/2026

EXPULSION

A student may be expelled for committing any of the offenses identified as expellable offenses in the discipline plan.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Expulsion" is the denial of school attendance for a specified minimum period of time or for an unspecified period of time, but in no event less than one calendar year, after which time a student may be readmitted only upon application and with approval by the board in accordance with Policy JDG.
2. "Limited expulsion" is the denial of school attendance for the remainder of the school year. A principal may recommend a limited expulsion when a student who has been suspended 3 times during the same school year commits a fourth offense or in circumstances otherwise proper for such action. The student may be readmitted the following school year only upon application and with approval by the board in accordance with Policy JDG.

AUTHORITY TO EXPEL

As provided by statute, this superintendent has the power, authority and duty to delegate student disciplinary matters to appropriate school personnel. ' 37-9-14 (r)

The superintendent and principal of a school shall have the power to suspend or expel a pupil for good cause, including misconduct in the school or on school property, as defined in Section 37-11-29, on the road to and from school, or at any school-related activity or event, or for conduct occurring on property other than school property or other than at a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil, in the determination of the superintendent or principal, renders that pupil'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, or for any reason for which such pupil might be suspended, dismissed, or expelled by the school board under state or federal law or any rule, regulation or policy of the local school district.

For any suspension of more than ten (10) days or expulsions, a student shall have the right to a due process hearing, be represented by legal counsel, to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses presented by the district. The student and the student's parent, legal guardian or person in custody of the student may appeal suspension of more than ten (10) days and expulsions to the school board. The standard of proof in all disciplinary proceedings shall be substantial evidence.

The parent or guardian of the child shall be advised of this right to a hearing by the appropriate superintendent or principal and the proper form shall be provided for requesting such a hearing. 37-9-71

As provided by statute, this school board has the power, authority and duty:

1. To suspend or to expel a pupil or to change the placement of a pupil to the school district's alternative school or home-bound program for misconduct in the school or on school property, as defined in Section 37-11-29, on the road to and from school, or at any school-related activity or event, or for conduct occurring on property other than school property or other than at a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders that pupil'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, and to delegate such authority to the appropriate officials of the school district. 37-7-301(e)

2. To support, within reasonable limits, the superintendent, principal and teachers where necessary for the proper discipline of the school. ' 37-7-301 (g)

NOTICE

The student handbooks shall include specific grounds for disciplinary action and procedures to be followed for acts requiring discipline. Students and legal guardians shall be required to provide the school with a written statement verifying that they have received notice of the discipline plan in accordance with Policy JDA.

DUE PROCESS

All expulsions shall be handled in accordance with the procedures in the student handbook.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

As provided under 37-23- 135, Educational services for children with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled from school shall be provided based on the requirements of IDEA, applicable federal regulations and state regulations.

REPORTS

When a student is expelled, the parent, legal guardians or custodians must be notified immediately on a form provided by the superintendent for such purpose. When a student is expelled for the commission of a crime or other unlawful activity or violent act, the reporting requirements of Policies JCBF and JCBF-P are applicable.

The superintendent or his designee shall report all expulsions to the school attendance officer when they occur.

READMISSION

Any student who has been expelled for any reason must schedule an appointment with the school principal to be considered for readmission to the regular school program, in accordance with Policy JDG. If readmission is denied, the student has the right to appeal the decision to the school board.

MS Code	Description
37-11-18	Expulsion of student possessing controlled substance or weapon or committing violent act on school property.
37-11-29	Reporting of unlawful activity or violent act on educational property or during school related activity; authority of law enforcement officers; reporting of disposition of charges against student; liability of school personnel participating in reporting.
37-13-91	Compulsory school attendance requirements generally; enforcement of law.
37-13-92	Alternative school program for compulsory-school-age students; transportation of students; expenses.
37-23-135	Eligibility standards for assistance under Individuals with Disabilities Act
37-7-301	General powers and duties.

MS Code

37-9-14

37-9-71

MS Attorney General

MS Attorney General

Case Law

Goss v. Lopez

Cross References

JCA

JCAA

JCBE

JDA

JDD

JDG

JDG-E(1)

Description

[General duties and powers of superintendent of school district.](#)

[Suspension of pupils.](#)

Description

Opinion, Carter, 1-9-98 (#183) (97-0817)

Description

419 U.S. 565 (1975)

Description

[Student Conduct](#)

[Due Process](#)

[Unlawful or Violent Acts](#)

[Discipline Plan](#)

[Suspension](#)

[Readmission and Denial of Admission](#)

[Readmission and Denial of Admission](#)

Policy JDE: Expulsion

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 03/23/2026 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 03/23/2026

EXPULSION

A student may be expelled for committing any of the offenses identified as expellable offenses in the discipline plan.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Expulsion" is the denial of school attendance for a specified minimum period of time or for an unspecified period of time, but in no event less than one calendar year, after which time a student may be readmitted only upon application and with approval by the board in accordance with Policy JDG.
2. "Limited expulsion" is the denial of school attendance for the remainder of the school year. A principal may recommend a limited expulsion when a student who has been suspended 3 times during the same school year commits a fourth offense or in circumstances otherwise proper for such action. The student may be readmitted the following school year only upon application and with approval by the board in accordance with Policy JDG.

AUTHORITY TO EXPEL

As provided by statute, this superintendent has the power, authority and duty to delegate student disciplinary matters to appropriate school personnel. ' 37-9-14 (r)

The superintendent and principal of a school shall have the power to suspend or expel a pupil for good cause, including misconduct in the school or on school property, as defined in Section 37-11-29, on the road to and from school, or at any school-related activity or event, or for conduct occurring on property other than school property or other than at a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil, in the determination of the superintendent or principal, renders that pupil'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, or for any reason for which such pupil might be suspended, dismissed, or expelled by the school board under state or federal law or any rule, regulation or policy of the local school district.

For any suspension of more than ten (10) days or expulsions, a student shall have the right to a due process hearing, be represented by legal counsel, to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses presented by the district. **Audio recordings of the District Disciplinary Committee Hearings will be retained until the next School Board Meeting when the Harrison County School Board reviews the committee's decision.** The student and the student's parent, legal guardian or person in custody of the student may appeal suspension of more than ten (10) days and expulsion to the school board. The standard of proof in all disciplinary proceedings shall be substantial evidence.

The parent or guardian of the child shall be advised of this right to a hearing by the appropriate superintendent or principal and the proper form shall be provided for requesting such a hearing. 37-9-71

As provided by statute, this school board has the power, authority and duty:

1. To suspend or to expel a pupil or to change the placement of a pupil to the school district's alternative school or home-bound program for misconduct in the school or on school property, as defined in Section 37-11-29, on the road to and from school, or at any school-related activity or event, or for conduct occurring on property other than school property or other than at a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders that pupil'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, and to delegate such authority to the appropriate officials of the school district. 37-7-301(e)

2. To support, within reasonable limits, the superintendent, principal and teachers where necessary for the proper discipline of the school. ' 37-7-301 (g)

NOTICE

The student handbooks shall include specific grounds for disciplinary action and procedures to be followed for acts requiring discipline. Students and legal guardians shall be required to provide the school with a written statement verifying that they have received notice of the discipline plan in accordance with Policy JDA.

DUE PROCESS

All expulsions shall be handled in accordance with the procedures in the student handbook.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

As provided under 37-23- 135, Educational services for children with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled from school shall be provided based on the requirements of IDEA, applicable federal regulations and state regulations.

REPORTS

When a student is expelled, the parent, legal guardians or custodians must be notified immediately on a form provided by the superintendent for such purpose. When a student is expelled for the commission of a crime or other unlawful activity or violent act, the reporting requirements of Policies JCBF and JCBF-P are applicable.

The superintendent or his designee shall report all expulsions to the school attendance officer when they occur.

READMISSION

Any student who has been expelled for any reason must schedule an appointment with the school principal to be considered for readmission to the regular school program, in accordance with Policy JDG. If readmission is denied, the student has the right to appeal the decision to the school board.

MS Code

Description

37-11-18

[Expulsion of student possessing controlled substance or weapon or committing violent act on school property.](#)

37-11-29

[Reporting of unlawful activity or violent act on educational property or during school related activity; authority of law enforcement officers; reporting of disposition of charges against student; liability of school personnel participating in reporting.](#)

37-13-91

[Compulsory school attendance requirements generally; enforcement of law.](#)

37-13-92

[Alternative school program for compulsory-school-age students; transportation of students; expenses.](#)

37-23-135

[Eligibility standards for assistance under Individuals with Disabilities Act](#)

MS Code

37-7-301

37-9-14

37-9-71

MS Attorney General

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[General powers and duties.](#)

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[Student Conduct](#)

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[Discipline Plan](#)

[Suspension](#)

[Readmission and Denial of Admission](#)

[Readmission and Denial of Admission](#)

Policy JEB: Student Tracking Safety Devices	Status: ADOPTED
Original Adopted Date: 11/14/2022 Last Reviewed Date: 03/23/2026	

STUDENT TRACKING SAFETY DEVICES

In order to protect the privacy of all students and to comply with the Federal Education Right to Privacy Act (FERPA), only student-safety tracking devices without the capability to transmit and/or record audio and video will be allowed on school campus, on District provided transportation, and at school events. The District prohibits unauthorized audio or visual recordings or transmission of audio or images of other students.

A parent/guardian shall obtain approval from the building principal before operating a student-tracking safety device on any school property.

Approval shall be in the form of an approved user agreement that:

- 1. Documents a need for the use of a student-tracking safety device;
- 2. Provides the product information for the device (make, model, serial number, etc.) to verify device capabilities; and
- 3. Acknowledges the parent/guardian is responsible for maintenance, proper use, and any cost associated with the device.

The District is not responsible for damage, loss, theft, or any cost associated with the tracking device.

The District reserves the right to deny any request for the use of a student-safety tracking device that does not meet the requirements of the District. The District reserves the right to require proof of compliance with this policy by the parent/guardian within a reasonable amount of time after such request is made by the District in writing. The District reserves the right to rescind approval of the use of the student-tracking safety device for any violations.

US Code

20 U.S.C. § 1232g

Description

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Other References

34 CFR Part 99

Description

34 CFR Part 99

Policy JEB: Student Tracking Safety Devices

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 11/14/2022 | Last Reviewed Date: 03/23/2026

STUDENT TRACKING SAFETY DEVICES

In order to protect the privacy of all students and to comply with the Federal Education Right to Privacy Act (FERPA), only student-safety tracking devices without the capability to transmit and/or record audio and/or video will be allowed on school campus, on Harrison County School District provided transportation, and at school events. The Harrison County School District prohibits unauthorized audio or visual recordings or transmission of audio or images of other students.

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The Harrison County School District is not responsible for damage, loss, theft, or any cost associated with the tracking device.

The Harrison County School District reserves the right to deny any request for the use of a student-safety tracking device that does not meet the requirements of the Harrison County School District. The Harrison County School District reserves the right to require proof of compliance with this policy by the parent/guardian within a reasonable amount of time after such request is made by the Harrison County School District in writing. The Harrison County School District reserves the right to rescind approval of the use of the student-tracking safety device for any violations.

US Code	Description
20 U.S.C. § 1232g	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
Other References	Description
34 CFR Part 99	34 CFR Part 99

Policy JG: School Wellness Policy

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 03/23/2026 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 03/23/2026

SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICY

The Harrison County School Board affirms its commitment to providing a healthy environment for students and staff. The board directs the superintendent to coordinate the components of the district's wellness policy. The wellness policy shall be developed with the involvement of the school health council. This wellness policy shall be reviewed and approved by the school board annually.

All students in the Harrison County School District shall possess the knowledge and skills necessary to make healthy choices that promote healthy lifestyles. All staff members in Harrison County School District are encouraged to model a lifestyle of healthy eating patterns and moderate physical activity as a valuable part of their daily lives.

To meet this goal, the Harrison County School District adopts this school wellness policy with the following commitments to implementing a coordinated approach to school health. This policy is designed to effectively utilize school and community resources and to equitably serve the needs and interests of all students and staff, taking into consideration differences in culture.

Specifically, the federal legislation requires:

- Specific goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness. LEA's are required to review and consider evidenced-based strategies in determining these goals.
- Standards and nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages sold to students on the school campus during the school day are consistent with Federal regulations for school meal nutrition standards and Smart Snacks in School Nutrition standards.
- Standards for all foods and beverages provided but not sold to students during the school day (e.g., in classroom parties, classroom snacks brought by parents, or other foods given as incentives).
- Policies for food and beverage marketing that allow marketing and advertising of only those foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks in School Nutrition standards.

Nutrition Environment and Services

The Harrison County School District will:

- Offer a school lunch program with menus that meet the meal patterns and nutrition standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition Programs.
- Offer school breakfast and snack programs (where approved and applicable) with menus that meet the meal patterns and nutrition standards established by the USDA and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition Programs.
- Promote participation in school meal programs to families and staff.
- Operate all Child Nutrition Programs with school food service staff who are properly qualified according to current professional standards (Mississippi Board of Education Policy, Code 2001).
- Follow State Board of Education policies on competitive foods and extra food sales (Mississippi Board of Education Policy, Code 2002).
- Include goals for nutrition promotion, nutrition education, physical activity and other school-based activities to promote student wellness.
- Implement Nutrition Standards as adopted by the State Board of Education in accordance with the Mississippi Healthy Students Act (State Board of Education Policy Rule 4011),
 - a. Healthy food and beverage choices;
 - b. Healthy food preparation;
 - c. Marketing of healthy food choices to students, staff and parents;
 - d. Food preparation ingredients and products;
 - e. Minimum/maximum time allotted for students and staff lunch and breakfast;
 - f. Availability of food items during the lunch and breakfast periods of the Child Nutrition Breakfast and Lunch Programs;
 - g. Methods to increase participation in the Child Nutrition School Breakfast and Lunch Programs.

- Establish guidelines in accordance with USDA Smart Snacks in Schools for all foods available on the school campus during the school day with the objective of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity. (see Nutrition Environment and Services section of the Tools That Work-Your Guide to Success for Building a Healthy School Toolkit that is found on the Office of Healthy Schools website at <http://www.mdek12.org/OHS>.)
- Establish standards for all foods and beverages provided but not sold to students during the school day (e.g. in classroom parties, classroom snacks brought by parents, or other foods given as incentives).
- Establish guidelines in accordance with USDA Smart Snacks in Schools for the sale of food items for fundraising.
- Use Smart Snacks Resources to educate the school community about the importance of offering healthy snacks for students and staff members www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools-schools-focusing-smart-snacks. Smart Snacks Product Calculator.
- The Alliance for a Healthier Generation Smart Snacks Product Calculator is an effective online instrument that has been determined by the USDA, Food and Nutrition Service to be accurate in assessing product compliance with the federal requirements for Smart Snacks in Schools. The calculator can be used for food and beverage products. <https://www.healthiergeneration.org>

Food Safe Schools

- Implement a food safety program based on HACCP principles for all school meals, as required by the USDA and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition Programs and ensure that the food service permit is current for the school sites. HACCP Principles for K-12 schools can be downloaded at: https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/Food_Safety_HACCPGuidance.pdf
- Develop a food safety education plan for all staff and students, consistent with Fight Bac (<http://www.fightbac.org/>) and other national standards for safe food handling at home and in schools.
- Ensure that all staff has received instructions to support food safety on the school campus. Food Safety resources have been developed by the Office of Child Nutrition to assist with the training of school staff members. These resources which include a training power-point presentation, food Safety Post Test and Food Safety Post Test Answer Key can be found on the Office of Healthy Schools website at www.mdek12.org/OHS
- All school personnel (school board members, administrators, teachers, school nurses, instructional and health services paraprofessionals, food service staff, custodians and facilities managers, and administrative support staff) will receive copies of the Local School Wellness Policy that includes food safety policies and procedures and provides for relevant professional development.
- Adequate access to hand-washing facilities and supplies will be available whenever and wherever students, staff, and families prepare, handle, or consume food.
- The food safety assurance plan must address strategies that minimize risks for students and staff who have food allergies and intolerances.

Physical Education/Physical Activity

The Harrison County School District will:

- Provide 150 minutes per week of activity-based instruction for all students in grades K-8 (in accordance with Section 37-13-134, 2014 Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards 27.1.
- Provide Physical Education/Activity in accordance with the Physical Education Rules and Regulations as approved by the State Board of Education in compliance with the Mississippi Healthy Students Act (State Board of Education Policy Rule 4012).
- Require fitness testing for all 5th grade students.
- Require fitness testing for high school students; during the year they acquire the ½ Carnegie unit in physical education as required for graduation by the Mississippi Healthy Students Act (State Board of Education Policy Rule 4012).
- Offer a planned sequential program of physical education instruction incorporating individual and group activities, which are student-centered and taught in a positive environment.
- Instruction must be based on Mississippi Physical Education Frameworks.
- Implement the requirements of the Mississippi Healthy Students Act of 2007. Graduation requirements for 9th through 12th grade students shall include ½ Carnegie unit in physical education.
- Provide instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and use of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for students in grades 9–12 in the school year they earn their ½ Carnegie Unit for physical education or health Education. MS Code 37-13-134.
- Address concussions by adopting and implementing a policy for students in grades 7-12 who participate in

activities sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA). This policy will include a concussion recognition course that has been endorsed by the Mississippi Department of Health. This course will provide information on the nature and risk of concussions for students participating in athletics. Also included in the policy, parents/guardians will be provided with a concussion policy before the start of the regular school athletic season.

- Links to resources to aid policy development and the Office of Healthy Schools website:
 - a. www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/high_school.html#5
 - b. <http://www.misshsaa.com/GeneralInfo/SportsMedicine.aspx>
 - c. <http://www.mdek12.org/ohs>

Health Education

The Harrison County School District will:

- Provide ½ Carnegie unit of health education for graduation (Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards).
- Instruction must be based on the Mississippi Contemporary Health for grades 9-12 (Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards).
- Implement the requirements of the Mississippi Healthy Students Act of 2007, which requires 45 minutes per week of health education instruction as defined by the State Board of Education for grades K through 8.
- Instruction must be based on the Mississippi Contemporary Health for grades K-8.
- Implement the requirements of MS Code 37-13-171, which requires the development of a sex-related education policy and instruction on medically accurate or evidenced-based abstinence-only or abstinence-plus curricula.
- Provide instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and use of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for students in grades 9-12 in the school year they earn their ½ Carnegie Unit for health education or physical education. MS Code 37-13-134.
- Participate in USDA nutrition programs such as Team Nutrition Schools and the Healthier U.S. School Challenge. The school will conduct nutrition education activities and promotions that involve students, parents, and the community. The school team responsible for planning nutrition activities will include school child nutrition staff, school nurses, health and PE teachers, coaches, and additional staff, as appropriate.
- Integrate Health Education into other subject areas (<http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ohs/home>) Click on Health in Action.
- Provide Universal Precautions training for all staff and Universal Precautions Kits for each school.
- Provide students with quality disease prevention instruction based on the Contemporary Health Education Framework and other selected materials approved by the district.
- Encourage a School Health Fair for students.

Health Services

The Harrison County School District will:

- Ensure all school nurses are working under the guidelines of the 2013 Mississippi School Nurse Procedures and Standards of Care.
- Provide for teachers and staff training regarding signs and symptoms of asthma. (MS Code Sections 37-11-71 and 73-25-37)
- Every child who has been diagnosed with asthma must have an asthma action plan on file in the school office.
- Know the district anaphylaxis policy. Providing training by a healthcare professional, preferably a school nurse, for the individuals that will be responsible for implementing the policy at the school site. (MS Code Sections 37-11-71 and 73-25-37)

Counseling, Psychological and Social Services/Social and Emotional Climate

The Harrison County School District will:

- Adhere to the details outlined in the Licensure Guidelines (436 or 451) when hiring guidance counselors and psychologists. The state does not have a policy specifically outlining the requirements for a school social worker. For licensure as a social worker in the state of Mississippi, a candidate must: provide verification of a baccalaureate degree in social work from a college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work

Education (CSWE) or Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and score a minimum of 70 on the ASWB basic exam.

- Abide by Mississippi Code 37-9-79 as the school provides for counseling and guidance for students.
- Hire school guidance counselors with a minimum of a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling, or in an emergency situation, an appropriate certification as determined by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development MS Code 37-9-79.
- Hire school counselors who agree to abide by the American School Counselor Association Code of Ethics.
- Ensure that all school guidance counselors provide comprehensive counseling services such as:

1. Academic and personal/social counseling.
2. Student assessment and assessment counseling.
3. Career and educational counseling.
4. Individual and group counseling.
5. Crisis intervention and preventive counseling.
6. Provide all licensed teachers and principals with in-service suicide prevention training as directed by MS Code 37-3-101.
7. Referrals to community agencies.
8. Educational consultations and collaborations with teachers, administrators, parents and community leaders.
9. Education and career placement services.
10. Follow-up counseling services.
11. Conflict resolution.
12. Professional school counselors must spend a minimum of eighty percent (80%) of their contractual time to the delivery of services to students as outlined by the American School Counselor Association.
13. Offer counseling, group assessments, interventions and other mental health services, as well as referrals to community health professionals.

Family Engagement and Community Involvement

The Harrison County School District will:

- Invite parents and community members to participate in school health planning by serving on the local School Health Council.
- Establish methods to inform and update the public regarding the LSWP and the assessment of the LSWP.

Marketing a Healthy School Environment

The Harrison County School District will:

- Eliminate advertising or promoting unhealthy food choices on the school campus. Advertising must be restricted to only those foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks in school Nutrition Standards.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Harrison County School District will:

- Establish a plan for implementation of the school wellness policy.
- Designate one or more persons to ensure that the school wellness policy is implemented as written.
- Establish and support a School Health Council (SHC) that addresses all aspects of a coordinated school health program, including a school wellness policy (Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated, Section 37-13-134).
- Conduct a review of the progress toward school wellness policy goals each year to identify areas for improvement.
- Prepare and submit a yearly report to the school board regarding the progress toward implementation of the school wellness policy and recommendations for any revisions to the policy as necessary.
- Use monitoring instruments, developed by the Office of Healthy Schools, to conduct a self-assessment that identifies strengths and weaknesses toward implementation of the minimum requirements. Monitoring instruments can be downloaded at <http://www.mdek12.org/OHS> - Click on Resources.

USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866)632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. Fax: (202) 690-7442; OR
3. Email: program.intake@usda.gov

Last Review Date: **March 23, 2026**

Review History:[03/07/16] [06/06/16] [06/20/16][06/05/17][06/19/17][05/21/18][06/04/18][04/15/19]
[05/06/19][03/23/20][04/06/20][06/28/21][07/12/21][05/16/22][06/06/22][06/26/23][05/20/2024]
[06/03/2024][06/16/25][03/23/26]

MS Code	Description
37-11-71	Self-administration of Asthma and Anaphylaxis Medication
37-13-134	Comprehensive School Health Education Program
37-13-171	Implementation of abstinence-only or abstinence-plus education; State Department of Education approval of curriculum for sex-related education required; components of abstinence-only and abstinence plus education; parent programs; separation of students by gender during sex-related education instruction
37-3-101	Local school districts to adopt policy on student suicide prevention and provide in-service training on suicide prevention education for all school district employees.
37-9-79	Professional school counselors; qualifications; comprehensive counseling services; code of ethics
73-25-37	73-25-37 128

Cross References

EDAH

Description

[Bus Idling/Idle Reduction for Buses](#)

Policy JG: School Wellness Policy

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 03/23/2026 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 03/23/2026

SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICY

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Specifically, the federal legislation requires:

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- Standards and nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages sold to students on the school campus during the school day are consistent with Federal regulations for school meal nutrition standards and Smart Snacks in School Nutrition standards.
- Standards for all foods and beverages provided but not sold to students during the school day (e.g., in classroom parties, classroom snacks brought by parents, or other foods given as incentives).
- Policies for food and beverage marketing that allow marketing and advertising of only those foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks in School Nutrition standards.

Nutrition Environment and Services

The Harrison County School District will:

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- Offer school breakfast and snack programs (where approved and applicable) with menus that meet the meal patterns and nutrition standards established by the USDA and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition Programs.
- Promote participation in school meal programs to families and staff.
- Operate all Child Nutrition Programs with school food service staff who are properly qualified according to current professional standards (Mississippi Board of Education Policy, Code 2001).
- Follow State Board of Education policies on competitive foods and extra food sales (Mississippi Board of Education Policy, Code 2002).
- Include goals for nutrition promotion, nutrition education, physical activity and other school-based activities to promote student wellness.
- Implement Nutrition Standards as adopted by the State Board of Education in accordance with the Mississippi Healthy Students Act (State Board of Education Policy Rule 4011),
 - a. Healthy food and beverage choices;
 - b. Healthy food preparation;
 - c. Marketing of healthy food choices to students, staff and parents;
 - d. Food preparation ingredients and products;
 - e. Minimum/maximum time allotted for students and staff lunch and breakfast;
 - f. Availability of food items during the lunch and breakfast periods of the Child Nutrition Breakfast and Lunch Programs;
 - g. Methods to increase participation in the Child Nutrition School Breakfast and Lunch Programs.

- Establish guidelines in accordance with USDA Smart Snacks in Schools for all foods available on the school campus during the school day with the objective of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity. (see Nutrition Environment and Services section of the Tools That Work-Your Guide to Success for Building a Healthy School Toolkit that is found on the Office of Healthy Schools website at <http://www.mdek12.org/OHS>.)
- Establish standards for all foods and beverages provided but not sold to students during the school day (e.g. in classroom parties, classroom snacks brought by parents, or other foods given as incentives).
- Establish guidelines in accordance with USDA Smart Snacks in Schools for the sale of food items for fundraising.
- Use Smart Snacks Resources to educate the school community about the importance of offering healthy snacks for students and staff members www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools-schools-focusing-smart-snacks. Smart Snacks Product Calculator.
- The Alliance for a Healthier Generation Smart Snacks Product Calculator is an effective online instrument that has been determined by the USDA, Food and Nutrition Service to be accurate in assessing product compliance with the federal requirements for Smart Snacks in Schools. The calculator can be used for food and beverage products. <https://www.healthiergeneration.org>

Food Safe Schools

- Implement a food safety program based on HACCP principles for all school meals, as required by the USDA and the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition Programs and ensure that the food service permit is current for the school sites. HACCP Principles for K-12 schools can be downloaded at: https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/Food_Safety_HACCPGuidance.pdf
- Develop a food safety education plan for all staff and students, consistent with Fight Bac (<http://www.fightbac.org/>) and other national standards for safe food handling at home and in schools.
- Ensure that all staff has received instructions to support food safety on the school campus. Food Safety resources have been developed by the Office of Child Nutrition to assist with the training of school staff members. These resources which include a training power-point presentation, food Safety Post Test and Food Safety Post Test Answer Key can be found on the Office of Healthy Schools website at www.mdek12.org/OHS
- All school personnel (school board members, administrators, teachers, school nurses, instructional and health services paraprofessionals, food service staff, custodians and facilities managers, and administrative support staff) will receive copies of the Local School Wellness Policy that includes food safety policies and procedures and provides for relevant professional development.
- Adequate access to hand-washing facilities and supplies will be available whenever and wherever students, staff, and families prepare, handle, or consume food.
- The food safety assurance plan must address strategies that minimize risks for students and staff who have food allergies and intolerances.

Physical Education/Physical Activity

The Harrison County School District will:

- Provide 150 minutes per week of activity-based instruction for all students in grades K-8 (in accordance with Section 37-13-134, 2014 Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards 27.1.
- Provide Physical Education/Activity in accordance with the Physical Education Rules and Regulations as approved by the State Board of Education in compliance with the Mississippi Healthy Students Act (State Board of Education Policy Rule 4012).
- Require fitness testing for all 5th grade students.
- Require fitness testing for high school students; during the year they acquire the ½ Carnegie unit in physical education as required for graduation by the Mississippi Healthy Students Act (State Board of Education Policy Rule 4012).
- Offer a planned sequential program of physical education instruction incorporating individual and group activities, which are student-centered and taught in a positive environment.
- Instruction must be based on Mississippi Physical Education Frameworks.
- Implement the requirements of the Mississippi Healthy Students Act of 2007. Graduation requirements for 9th through 12th grade students shall include ½ Carnegie unit in physical education.
- Provide instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and use of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for students in grades 9–12 in the school year they earn their ½ Carnegie Unit for physical education or health Education. MS Code 37-13-134.
- Address concussions by adopting and implementing a policy for students in grades 7-12 who participate in

activities sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA). This policy will include a concussion recognition course that has been endorsed by the Mississippi Department of Health. This course will provide information on the nature and risk of concussions for students participating in athletics. Also included in the policy, parents/guardians will be provided with a concussion policy before the start of the regular school athletic season.

- Links to resources to aid policy development and the Office of Healthy Schools website:
 - a. www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/high_school.html#5
 - b. <http://www.misshsaa.com/GeneralInfo/SportsMedicine.aspx>
 - c. <http://www.mdek12.org/ohs>

Health Education

The Harrison County School District will:

- Provide ½ Carnegie unit of health education for graduation (Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards).
- Instruction must be based on the Mississippi Contemporary Health for grades 9-12 (Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards).
- Implement the requirements of the Mississippi Healthy Students Act of 2007, which requires 45 minutes per week of health education instruction as defined by the State Board of Education for grades K through 8.
- Instruction must be based on the Mississippi Contemporary Health for grades K-8.
- Implement the requirements of MS Code 37-13-171, which requires the development of a sex-related education policy and instruction on medically accurate or evidenced-based abstinence-only or abstinence-plus curricula.
- Provide instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and use of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for students in grades 9-12 in the school year they earn their ½ Carnegie Unit for health education or physical education. MS Code 37-13-134.
- Participate in USDA nutrition programs such as Team Nutrition Schools and the Healthier U.S. School Challenge. The school will conduct nutrition education activities and promotions that involve students, parents, and the community. The school team responsible for planning nutrition activities will include school child nutrition staff, school nurses, health and PE teachers, coaches, and additional staff, as appropriate.
- Integrate Health Education into other subject areas (<http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ohs/home>) Click on Health in Action.
- Provide Universal Precautions training for all staff and Universal Precautions Kits for each school.
- Provide students with quality disease prevention instruction based on the Contemporary Health Education Framework and other selected materials approved by the district.
- Encourage a School Health Fair for students.

Health Services

The Harrison County School District will:

- Ensure all school nurses are working under the guidelines of the 2013 Mississippi School Nurse Procedures and Standards of Care.
- Provide for teachers and staff training regarding signs and symptoms of asthma. (MS Code Sections 37-11-71 and 73-25-37)
- Every child who has been diagnosed with asthma must have an asthma action plan on file in the school office.
- Know the district anaphylaxis policy. Providing training by a healthcare professional, preferably a school nurse, for the individuals that will be responsible for implementing the policy at the school site. (MS Code Sections 37-11-71 and 73-25-37)

Counseling, Psychological and Social Services/Social and Emotional Climate

The Harrison County School District will:

- Adhere to the details outlined in the Licensure Guidelines (436 or 451) when hiring guidance counselors and psychologists. The state does not have a policy specifically outlining the requirements for a school social worker. For licensure as a social worker in the state of Mississippi, a candidate must: provide verification of a baccalaureate degree in social work from a college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work

Education (CSWE) or Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and score a minimum of 70 on the ASWB basic exam.

- Abide by Mississippi Code 37-9-79 as the school provides for counseling and guidance for students.
- Hire school guidance counselors with a minimum of a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling, or in an emergency situation, an appropriate certification as determined by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development MS Code 37-9-79.
- ~~Hire school counselors who agree to abide by the American School Counselor Association Code of Ethics.~~
- Ensure that all school guidance counselors provide comprehensive counseling services such as:
 1. Academic and personal/social counseling.
 2. Student assessment and assessment counseling.
 3. Career and educational counseling.
 4. Individual and group counseling.
 5. Crisis intervention and preventive counseling.
 6. Provide all licensed teachers and principals with in-service suicide prevention training as directed by MS Code 37-3-101.
 7. Referrals to community agencies.
 8. Educational consultations and collaborations with teachers, administrators, parents and community leaders.
 9. Education and career placement services.
 10. Follow-up counseling services.
 11. Conflict resolution.
 12. Professional school counselors must spend a minimum of eighty percent (80%) of their contractual time to the delivery of services to students. ~~as outlined by the American School Counselor Association.~~
 13. Offer counseling, group assessments, interventions and other mental health services, as well as referrals to community health professionals.

Family Engagement and Community Involvement

The Harrison County School District will:

- Invite parents and community members to participate in school health planning by serving on the local School Health Council.
- Establish methods to inform and update the public regarding the LSWP and the assessment of the LSWP.

Marketing a Healthy School Environment

The Harrison County School District will:

- Eliminate advertising or promoting unhealthy food choices on the school campus. Advertising must be restricted to only those foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks in school Nutrition Standards.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Harrison County School District will:

- Establish a plan for implementation of the school wellness policy.
- Designate one or more persons to ensure that the school wellness policy is implemented as written.
- Establish and support a School Health Council (SHC) that addresses all aspects of a coordinated school health program, including a school wellness policy (Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated, Section 37-13-134).
- Conduct a review of the progress toward school wellness policy goals each year to identify areas for improvement.
- Prepare and submit a yearly report to the school board regarding the progress toward implementation of the school wellness policy and recommendations for any revisions to the policy as necessary.
- Use monitoring instruments, developed by the Office of Healthy Schools, to conduct a self-assessment that identifies strengths and weaknesses toward implementation of the minimum requirements. Monitoring instruments can be downloaded at <http://www.mdek12.org/OHS> - Click on Resources.

USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866)632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. Fax: (202) 690-7442; OR
3. Email: program.intake@usda.gov

Last Review Date: **March 23, 2026**

Review History:[03/07/16] [06/06/16] [06/20/16][06/05/17][06/19/17][05/21/18][06/04/18][04/15/19]
[05/06/19][03/23/20][04/06/20][06/28/21][07/12/21][05/16/22][06/06/22][06/26/23][05/20/2024]
[06/03/2024][06/16/25][03/23/26]

MS Code	Description
37-11-71	Self-administration of Asthma and Anaphylaxis Medication
37-13-134	Comprehensive School Health Education Program
37-13-171	Implementation of abstinence-only or abstinence-plus education; State Department of Education approval of curriculum for sex-related education required; components of abstinence-only and abstinence plus education; parent programs; separation of students by gender during sex-related education instruction
37-3-101	Local school districts to adopt policy on student suicide prevention and provide in-service training on suicide prevention education for all school district employees.
37-9-79	Professional school counselors; qualifications; comprehensive counseling services; code of ethics
73-25-37	73-25-37 134

Cross References

EDAH

Description

[Bus Idling/Idle Reduction for Buses](#)

Policy JNB: Seal of Biliteracy

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 07/28/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 05/04/2026

In order to recognize its high-achieving students, Harrison County School District offers to those students who are proficient in more than one language the Seal of Biliteracy. The Seal of Biliteracy recognizes and awards students who have attained proficiency in one or more world languages and English by high school graduation. Recognition for demonstrating a level of biliteracy shall be indicated on the high school transcript for students.

All students, including those whose native language is English or another world language and a student with disabilities, are eligible to attain one of the two levels of Seals. This accomplishment is based on evidence of the student achieving the designated level of language proficiency in English plus one or more other languages during their high school years. For the purpose of this policy, world languages may be viewed as any natural human language other than English. Students may attain one of the following levels of biliteracy:

1. Silver Seal of Biliteracy – which demonstrates a functional fluency at the intermediate-mid range,
2. Gold Seal of Biliteracy – which demonstrates a working fluency at the advanced-low range.

Students are only recognized and awarded at one level of biliteracy. Minimal score requirements and acceptable assessments for both levels of biliteracy are identified by MDE in the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Acceptable Evidence for Silver and Gold. The most updated version provided by MDE will be used to determine awards.

Seal of Biliteracy Eligibility

Every Seal of Biliteracy student candidate needs to complete an application with his/her counselor in order to begin the process to obtain the Seal of Biliteracy.

Native or non-native English speakers who meet the following criteria before the senior year or the spring semester before graduation:

1. Show evidence of proficiency in literacy in English by meeting the current MDE minimum score requirements in one of the following assessments (see full list in Appendix A of the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines):
 - a. English section of the ACT, or
 - b. AP English Language and Composition, or
 - c. AP English Literature and Composition, or
 - d. English section of the SAT, or
 - e. MDE State English II test, or
 - f. Current MDE English Language Proficiency Test.
2. Show evidence of proficiency in literacy in a world language other than English by meeting the current MDE minimum score requirements in one of the following assessments (see full list in Appendix A of the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines):
 1. AP French, German, Italian, or Spanish Language and Culture Exam, or
 2. AAPPL ACTFL Proficiency test in the following languages: Spanish, French, Arabic, Mandarin, Hindi, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Thai, or
 3. Avant Proficiency Test in the following languages: Spanish, French, Arabic, Mandarin, Hebrew, Hindi, Korean, Polish, Russian, and Cantonese, or
 4. American Sign Language Proficiency Interview.

Standards

Students shall demonstrate a minimal level of proficiency in English, and one or more additional languages, whether it be a native language, heritage language, a language learned in school or another setting. Standards for the award include:

1. The Seal shall be completed by an eligible student's high school graduation date.
2. The Seal shall be noted on the high school transcript as a credential that can be viewed by colleges, universities, and future employers.
3. Students shall be informed of the Seal in the 7th and 8th grade along with MDE requirements.

4. Students should meet regularly with their high school counselor to track their progress towards biliteracy. This tracking should include requirements for both English and a world language.
5. After meeting the requirements for the Seal, the counselor and student should work together to complete and submit an application where the evidence will then be verified by the counselor.
6. The school will submit seal reporting form to MDE.

Awarding

Awarding of the Silver Seal of Biliteracy or the Gold Seal of Biliteracy shall be completed by high school graduation, and shall include the following:

1. The seal shall be added to the high school transcript as it is the credential that is viewed by post- secondary institutions and future employers.
2. The achievement of biliteracy shall be recognized at graduation and awards ceremonies.

Reporting

The Superintendent shall devise procedures for collecting, recording, and maintaining student data for those recognized for biliteracy and the evidence upon which it is based. This data shall be reported to MDE and shall include:

1. Languages other than English in which students earned the seal,
2. Number earning the seal who are former English Learners, and
3. Seal level earned by each student.

Other References

Guidelines

Description

[Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines](#)

Policy JNB: Seal of Biliteracy

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 07/28/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 05/04/2026

In order to recognize its high-achieving students, Harrison County School District offers to those students who are proficient in more than one language the Seal of Biliteracy. **The Seal of Biliteracy is a statement of accomplishment that helps to signal evidence of a student's readiness for college and career and for engagement as a global citizen.** The Seal of Biliteracy recognizes and awards students who have attained proficiency in one or more world languages and English by high school graduation. Recognition for demonstrating a level of biliteracy shall be indicated on the high school transcript for students.

All students, including those whose native language is English or another world language and a student with disabilities, are eligible to attain one of the two **following** levels of Seals: **biliteracy**: This accomplishment is based on evidence of the student achieving the designated level of language proficiency in English plus one or more other languages during their high school years. For the purpose of this policy, world languages may be viewed as any natural human language other than English. Students may attain one of the following levels of biliteracy:

1. Silver Seal of Biliteracy – which demonstrates a functional fluency at the intermediate-mid range,
2. Gold Seal of Biliteracy – which demonstrates a working fluency at the advanced-low range.

Students are only recognized and awarded at one level of biliteracy. Minimal score requirements and acceptable assessments for both levels of biliteracy are identified by MDE in the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Acceptable Evidence for Silver and Gold. **In order to encourage and recognize linguistic proficiency and cultural literacy, the district will present a Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy as a recognition on a student's transcript, to each graduating high school student who demonstrates proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English.** The most updated version provided by MDE will be used to determine awards.

Seal of Biliteracy Eligibility **SEAL OF BILITERACY ELIGIBILITY**

Every Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy student candidate needs to complete an application with his/her counselor in order to begin the process to obtain the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy. Native or non-native English speakers who meet the following criteria before the senior year or the spring semester before graduation:

- 1. Show evidence of proficiency in literacy in English by meeting the current MDE minimum score requirements as outlined on the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy website.**
- 2. Show evidence of proficiency in literacy in a world language other than English by meeting the criteria as outlined on the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy website.**

Every Seal of Biliteracy student candidate needs to complete an application with his/her counselor in order to begin the process to obtain the Seal of Biliteracy.

Native or non-native English speakers who meet the following criteria before the senior year or the spring semester before graduation:

1. Show evidence of proficiency in literacy in English by meeting the current MDE minimum score requirements in one of the following assessments (see full list in Appendix A of the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines):
 - a. English section of the ACT, or
 - b. AP English Language and Composition, or
 - c. AP English Literature and Composition, or
 - d. English section of the SAT, or
 - e. MDE State English II test, or
 - f. Current MDE English Language Proficiency Test.
2. Show evidence of proficiency in literacy in a world language other than English by meeting the current MDE minimum score requirements in one of the following assessments (see full list in Appendix A of the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines):
 1. AP French, German, Italian, or Spanish Language and Culture Exam, or
 2. AAPPL ACTFL Proficiency test in the following languages: Spanish, French, Arabic, Mandarin, Hindi,

- Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Thai, or
3. Avant Proficiency Test in the following languages: Spanish, French, Arabic, Mandarin, Hebrew, Hindi, Korean, Polish, Russian, and Cantonese, or
4. American Sign Language Proficiency Interview.

Standards **STANDARDS**

Students shall demonstrate a minimal level of proficiency in English, and one or more additional languages, whether it be a native language, heritage language, a language learned in school or another setting. Standards for the award include:

1. The Seal shall be completed by an eligible student's high school graduation date.
2. The Seal shall be noted on the high school transcript as a credential that can be viewed by colleges, universities, and future employers.
3. Students shall be informed of the Seal in the 7th-5th and or 8th 6th grade along with MDE requirements.
4. Students should meet regularly with their high school counselor to track their progress towards biliteracy. ~~This tracking should include requirements for both English and a world language.~~
5. After meeting the requirements for the Seal, the counselor and student should work together to complete and submit an application where the evidence will then be verified by the counselor.
6. The school will submit seal reporting form to MDE. ~~then be required to report the information to MDE.~~

Awarding **AWARDING**

Awarding of the Silver Seal of Biliteracy or the Gold Seal of Biliteracy shall be completed by high school graduation. and shall include the following ~~In addition to other awarding and recognizing processes set by the district, the district will perform the following:~~

1. The seal shall be added to the high school transcript as it is the credential that is viewed by post- secondary institutions and future employers.
2. The achievement of biliteracy shall be recognized at graduation and awards ceremonies.

Reporting **REPORTING**

The Superintendent shall devise procedures for collecting, recording, and maintaining student data for those recognized for biliteracy and the evidence upon which it is based. This data shall be reported to MDE and shall include: ~~The district must report their District Participation form, local board policy, and agenda with approved board minutes adopting their local seal of biliteracy to MDE. When recognizing students for earning a seal of biliteracy, the district must also determine practical methods for identifying and recording the name(s) of students who have met the requirements. The district must report this information to the MDE through MSIS.~~

1. ~~Languages other than English in which students earned the seal,ica~~
2. ~~Number earning the seal who are former English Learners, and~~
3. ~~Seal level earned by each student.~~

Other References

Guidelines

Description

[Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines](#)

Exhibit JNB-E(1): Seal of Biliteracy	Status: DRAFT
Original Adopted Date: Pending	

See PDF on the next page.

STUDENT APPLICATION MISSISSIPPI SEAL OF BILITERACY

Directions to Applicants:

1. Please type or print legibly all information.
2. Complete all sections of the application.
3. Submit application and documentation of qualifying scores to your school counselor at your high school no later than (Date): _____.

Name _____ Date _____

Current Grade Level _____ Expected Year of Graduation _____

Counselor Name _____

Recommending Teacher Name _____

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Assessment information used to document proficiency in English and at least one other language.

Language	Name of Assessment	Date Completed	Score*
English			
Other Language:			
Other Language:			

*Attach a copy of the score report.

Some exams do not give results until after June. Students and advisors may need to plan accordingly.

FOR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR USE ONLY

Qualifications checklist for a Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy:

- ☐ Passed all required end-of-course English/Reading assessments at the proficient or higher level.
- ☐ Completed all graduation requirements for a standard or advanced studies diploma.
- ☐ Acceptable evidence of proficiency at the Intermediate-Mid or higher level in at least one language in addition to English.

Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Awarded

- ☐ Silver Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy
- ☐ Gold Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy

☐ No Seal Awarded

Reason:

Counselor Signature

Date

Recommending Teacher Signature

Date

Other References

Guidelines

Description

[Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines](#)

Exhibit JNB-E(2): Seal of Biliteracy

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: Pending

See PDF on the next page.

**MISSISSIPPI SEAL OF BILITERACY
DISTRICT PARTICIPATION FORM**

This form must be completed and uploaded to MSIS upon initial determination to participate in the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy program.

District Name: _____

District Address: _____

County: _____

District Seal of Biliteracy Contact Name: _____

District Seal of Biliteracy Contact Email: _____

Our district agrees to abide by the Mississippi Department of Education's Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Policy 28.8 and guidance as outlined in the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines. We also agree to submit required information as listed on the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy website www.mdek12.org/ese/Mississippi-Seal-of-Biliteracy.

Superintendent Signature

Date

Other References

Guidelines

Description

[Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines](#)

Exhibit JNB-E(3): Seal of Biliteracy

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: Pending

See PDF on the next page.

**INCOMING STUDENT NOTIFICATION OF
MISSISSIPPI SEAL OF BILITERACY**

This form may be used to assist students in notifying the school that they wish to pursue the
Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy.

Student Name: _____

School: _____

Expected Year of Graduation: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

We have been notified of the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy and the requirements for earning this
credential.

- ☐ My child would like to pursue coursework and/or other requirements to work towards
attaining this seal upon graduation.

Language of Interest: _____

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Other References

Guidelines

Description

[Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy Guidelines](#)

Policy KM: Visitors to the Schools	Status: ADOPTED
Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 Last Revised Date: 06/23/2025 Last Reviewed Date: 11/17/2025	

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOLS

All visitors to schools shall report immediately to the school office, sign in and obtain a visitor's badge so that visitors can be readily identified by school personnel. All visitor ID's will be scanned through the National Sex Offender Registry database before a visitor's badge is issued. Exceptions to this requirement are when visitors are attending a general school function such as a pep rally, assembly program, athletic event, etc. Unauthorized persons shall not be permitted in school buildings or on school grounds. School principals are authorized to take appropriate action to prevent such persons from entering buildings or from loitering on grounds. Such persons will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOL VISITATION

Any person desiring to visit a school must report upon arrival at the school to the principal's office for clearance. The principal shall have the right to deny visitation rights to any individual if in the judgment of the principal the visit might negatively affect school procedures.

Members of the supervisory or administrative staff who have invited professional visitors may elect to serve as hosts to the visitors whom they have invited, as well as to other visitors who may have a mutual interest and area of competency.

Parents and other persons who wish to visit the public schools should be routed to the school office, be greeted by the principal and guide services. All visitors are to be made to feel welcome. Parents and visitors are requested to wear appropriate attire that meets dress code standards. There shall be no solicitation of teachers or pupils on personal matters on the school premises by salesmen or agents. Out-of-town visitors who have made arrangements through the superintendent's office will have a member of the superintendent's staff or a principal as host for the visitor or delegation.

PUPIL VISITATION

The schools, because of space factors in the classrooms, will not be able to allow school pupils to have pupil visitors accompany them as visiting guests in the school. Younger children will not be allowed to attend any activities/events held during the school day unless it is designated as a family event.

CLASSROOM VISITATION

As part of the district's safety and security program, only school or district personnel, law enforcement officials, or educational professionals designing an individual educational program shall be allowed to visit classrooms during instructional times.

VENDORS AND CONTRACTORS

Any individual who purports to be a vendor, temporary worker, contractor, or who has an appointment to do work at the district shall be verified before being allowed access to the campus. The identity of the visitor and the reason for the visit must be verified directly by a district administrator. If the visitor cannot be verified, he/she shall be turned away and denied access. Verified vendors shall be issued a vendor pass or vendor identification badge to be presented to any district staff on request and returned to the district administration at the close of the visit.

Cross References

EBA
JRAA
KBB
LEB

Description

[Public Conduct Policy](#)
[Student Recruitment and Student Directory Information](#)
[Media Access to School Campuses](#)
[Relations With Parent Organizations](#)

Policy KM: Visitors to the Schools

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/23/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 06/17/2024

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOLS

All visitors to schools shall report immediately to the school office, sign in and obtain a visitor's badge so that visitors can be readily identified by school personnel. All visitor ID's will be scanned through the National Sex Offender Registry database before a visitor's badge is issued. Exceptions to this requirement are when visitors are attending a general school function such as a pep rally, assembly program, athletic event, etc. Unauthorized persons shall not be permitted in school buildings or on school grounds. School principals are authorized to take appropriate action to prevent such persons from entering buildings or from loitering on grounds. Such persons will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOL VISITATION

Any person desiring to visit a school must report upon arrival at the school to the principal's office for clearance. The principal shall have the right to deny visitation rights to any individual if in the judgment of the principal the visit might negatively affect school procedures.

Members of the supervisory or administrative staff who have invited professional visitors may elect to serve as hosts to the visitors whom they have invited, as well as to other visitors who may have a mutual interest and area of competency.

Parents and other persons who wish to visit the public schools should be routed to the school office, be greeted by the principal and guide services. All visitors are to be made to feel welcome. Parents and visitors are requested to wear appropriate attire that meets dress code standards. There shall be no solicitation of teachers or pupils on personal matters on the school premises by salesmen or agents. Out-of-town visitors who have made arrangements through the superintendent's office will have a member of the superintendent's staff or a principal as host for the visitor or delegation.

PUPIL VISITATION

The schools, because of space factors in the classrooms, will not be able to allow school pupils to have pupil visitors accompany them as visiting guests in the school. Younger children will not be allowed to attend any activities/events held during the school day unless it is designated as a family event.

CLASSROOM VISITATION

As part of the district's safety and security program, only school or district personnel, law enforcement officials, or educational professionals designing an individual educational program shall be allowed to visit classrooms during instructional times. **However, scheduled visits may be requested at the discretion of the principal.**

VENDORS AND CONTRACTORS

Any individual who purports to be a vendor, temporary worker, contractor, or who has an appointment to do work at the district shall be verified before being allowed access to the campus. The identity of the visitor and the reason for the visit must be verified directly by a district administrator. If the visitor cannot be verified, he/she shall be turned away and denied access. Verified vendors shall be issued a vendor pass or vendor identification badge to be presented to any district staff on request and returned to the district administration at the close of the visit.

TRESPASSING

Unauthorized presence on school district property and grounds will constitute trespassing. Such persons may be requested to leave the premises by school district personnel or by a law enforcement officer. Failing to comply with any of the above regulations shall be considered trespassing and in violation of the rules and regulations of the school district. Such persons shall be liable and prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Cross References

EBA

JRAA

KBB

LEB

Description

[Public Conduct Policy](#)

[Student Recruitment and Student Directory Information](#)

[Media Access to School Campuses](#)

[Relations With Parent Organizations](#)

Policy LAA: Title I Family and Community Engagement

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 11/17/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 11/17/2025

TITLE I PARENT ENGAGEMENT

The Harrison County School District Board of Education endorses the parent engagement goals of Title I and encourages the regular participation by parents of Title I eligible children in all aspects of the program. The education of children is viewed as a cooperative effort among the parents, school, and community. In this policy, the word "parent" also includes guardians and other family members involved in supervising the child's education.

Pursuant of federal law, this district will develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to parents of children participating in the Title I program a written parent engagement policy.

A meeting of the parents of participating Title I students will be held annually to explain the goals and purposes of the Title I program.

Parents will be given the opportunity to participate in the design, development, operation, and evaluation of the program for the next school year and to participate in planning activities, to offer suggestions, and to ask questions regarding policies and programs. Parents will be encouraged to attend the meeting and to become involved.

In addition to the required annual meeting, at least three (3) additional parent meetings shall be held, at various times of the day and/or evenings, for the parents of children participating in the Title I program. Notices will be sent to the parents advising of the meetings. These meetings shall be used to provide parents with:

1. Information about programs provided under Title I;
2. A description and explanation of the curriculum in use, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet;
3. Opportunities to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children; and
4. The opportunity to bring parent comments, if they are dissatisfied with the school's Title I program, to the district level.

Title I funding, if sufficient, may be used to facilitate parent attendance at meetings through payment of transportation and childcare costs.

The parents of children identified to participate in Title I programs shall receive from the school principal and Title I staff an explanation of the reasons supporting each child's selection for the program, a set of objectives to be addressed, and a description of the services to be provided. Parents will be advised of their children's progress on a regular basis. Opportunities will be provided for the parents to meet with the classroom and Title I teachers to discuss their children's progress. Parents will also receive information and training that will assist them in helping their children at home and at school.

Each school in the district receiving Title I funds shall jointly develop with parents of children served in the program a "School-Parent Compact" outlining the manner in which parents, school staff and students share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement in meeting state standards. The School-Parent Compact shall:

Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment enabling children in the Title I program to meet the state's academic achievement standards;

Indicate the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, monitoring television watching, volunteering in the classroom, and participating, as appropriate, in decisions related to their child's education and positive use of extracurricular time; and

Address the importance of parent-teacher communication on an ongoing basis, with, at a minimum, parent-teacher conference, frequent reports to parents, and reasonable access to staff.

NOTE: Districts with more than one school participating in a Title I program may wish to consider the establishment of a district-wide parent advisory council.

Cross References	Description
GAH	Community / Parent Relations
LA	Parental Engagement
LAB	Regulations for Title I Parent Engagement

Policy LAA: Title I Family and Community Engagement

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 11/17/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 11/17/2025

PURPOSE

The Harrison County School District recognizes that meaningful Family and Community Engagement (FACE) is essential for improving academic outcomes and strengthening school–family–community partnerships. This policy outlines the district’s expectations and objectives for FACE in accordance with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended by ESSA, Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) FACE guidance, and evidence-based best practices.

The Harrison County School District is committed to building and sustaining meaningful, equitable, and collaborative partnerships between schools, families, and communities. Through shared responsibility and continued improvement, the district ensures that all students are supported in reaching their highest potential.

This policy is jointly developed with parents, families, and community members, is distributed annually, and is incorporated into the district’s Local Educational Agency (LEA) Plan.

JOINT DEVELOPMENT, AGREEMENT, AND DISTRIBUTION OF FACE POLICY

The district shall jointly develop the district FACE Policy with parents, families, and community stakeholders through meetings, surveys, public forums, and/or online feedback mechanisms. The district shall agree upon the policy with participating parents and families prior to Board adoption.

The policy shall be distributed annually to all families of participating Title I students.

The policy shall be accessible to families with limited English proficiency, disabilities, or limited literacy.

INCORPORATION INTO LEA PLAN & ESTABLISHING EXPECTATIONS & OBJECTIVES

The FACE Policy shall be incorporated into the LEA Plan and establishes district-wide expectations for:

- Meaningful two-way communication
- Family and community participation in decision-making
- Removal of engagement barriers
- Integration of FACE across programs
- Evidence-based engagement strategies
- Shared responsibility for student academic success

PARENT & FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN DISTRICT & IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

The district will involve families in the joint development of:

- The LEA Title I Plan
- Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) Plans
- Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) Plans
- Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) Plans

This will be accomplished through annual planning meetings, online input opportunities, surveys, advisory councils, and/or documented parent consultation.

COORDINATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, & CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SCHOOL

The district will provide all Title I schools with the support needed to implement effective FACE practices by:

1. Conducting annual and/or as requested Title I technical-assistance meetings with all participating schools, specifically addressing:

- a. Evidence-based family and community engagement strategies

- b. Progress monitoring of FACE practices
 - c. Best practice sharing
- 2. Ensuring schools have adequate resources (funding, tools, training, communication supports) to implement scheduled FACE activities. Offering professional development to strengthen staff capacity in:
 - a. Building relationships with families
 - b. Collaborating with community organizations
 - c. Cultural responsiveness
 - d. Effective communication strategies
- 3. Coordination and Integration with Other Programs – To the extent feasible and appropriate, the district will coordinate and integrate FACE strategies with other district, state, and federal programs by:
 - a. Holding annual and/or as requested coordination meetings to create a unified FACE activity calendar across
 - i. IDEA / Special Education
 - ii. Career & Technical Education (CTE)
 - iii. Early Childhood Education
 - iv. Head Start
 - v. English Learners (EL) / Title III
 - vi. Homeless Education / McKinney-Vento
 - vii. Other federal, state, and local initiatives
 - b. Sharing communication tools, training resources, and joint engagement opportunities across programs

ANNUAL EVALUATION OF FACE POLICY CONTENT & EFFECTIVENESS

The district, with meaningful participation of families and community members, will annually evaluate the FACE Policy to determine:

1. Effectiveness of current FACE activities
2. Impact on academic achievement and school performance
3. Barriers preventing effective engagement
4. Needs of families to support their children academically
5. Strategies that strengthen school-family relationship

To conduct the evaluation, the district will:

1. Host an annual district-wide Family & Community Engagement meeting each year.
2. Provide online and paper surveys / feedback forms for families to evaluate FACE activities and identify needs.
3. Collect and analyze data from school-based events, advisory groups, and parent input sessions.

IDENTIFICATION OF BARRIERS, NEEDS, & STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

As part of the annual evaluation, the district will identify:

1. Barriers to participation, especially for families who are:

- a. Economically disadvantaged
- b. Limited English proficient
- c. Disabled
- d. From racial or ethnic minority backgrounds
- e. Experiencing homelessness
- f. Migratory

Method: Surveys, interviews, focus groups, and open-comment opportunities

2. Family needs to support their children's learning

Method: Annual surveys assessing academic support needs, communication needs, and family resource gaps.

3. Strategies to support positive school–family interactions

Method: Surveys, reflection tools, and feedback sessions to identify what families need from schools to improve partnership quality.

USING EVALUATION RESULTS TO STRENGTHEN & REVISE FACE POLICY

The district will use annual evaluation findings to:

- Develop evidence-based strategies for more effective engagement.
- Allocate Title I FACE funds based on identified needs.
- Strengthen school-level family engagement plans.
- Improve district communication systems.
- Revise the district FACE Policy as needed.

To ensure transparency and accountability, the district will establish an LEA Planning Committee that will include family and community members. The committee will:

1. Review evaluation results
2. Recommend improvements
3. Participate in revisions to the FACE Policy
4. Provide ongoing guidance to district leadership

The committee will include parents, guardians, community partners, educators, and district staff.

RESERVATION & USE OF TITLE I ENGAGEMENT FUNDS

In accordance with ESSA §1116:

1. The district will reserve at least 1% of its Title I allocation for FACE.
2. Families will participate in decision-making regarding the use of these funds.

3. Funds will be distributed to schools and used for:

- Capacity-building
- Training
- Communication tools
- FACE events and workshops
- Removing engagement barriers

SCHOOL-LEVEL FACE POLICIES & COMPACTS

Each Title I school will:

- Jointly develop and annually update a School-Level FACE Policy with families
- Distribute the policy to all families each year
- Develop and annually review a School-Family Compact
- Maintain consistent communication with families about student progress, curriculum, and assessments
- Ensure FACE activities are timely, accessible, and inclusive

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INPUT

The district will ensure multiple opportunities for families and community members to provide input on the:

- District FACE Policy
- LEA Plan
- Use of Title I FACE funds
- School improvement efforts
- Evaluation findings

Input will be collected through meetings, forums, surveys, email submissions, and public comment periods.

TITLE I PARENT ENGAGEMENT

The Harrison County School District Board of Education endorses the parent engagement goals of Title I and encourages the regular participation by parents of Title I eligible children in all aspects of the program. The education of children is viewed as a cooperative effort among the parents, school, and community. In this policy, the word "parent" also includes guardians and other family members involved in supervising the child's education.

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Pursuant of federal law, this district will develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to parents of children participating in the Title I program a written parent engagement policy.

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A meeting of the parents of participating Title I students will be held annually to explain the goals and purposes of the Title I program.

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Parents will be given the opportunity to participate in the design, development, operation, and evaluation of the program for the next school year and to participate in planning activities, to offer suggestions, and to ask questions regarding policies and programs. Parents will be encouraged to attend the meeting and to become involved.

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In addition to the required annual meeting, at least three (3) additional parent meetings shall be held, at various times of the day and/or evenings, for the parents of children participating in the Title I program. Notices will be sent to the parents advising of the meetings. These meetings shall be used to provide parents with:

1. Information about programs provided under Title I;
2. A description and explanation of the curriculum in use, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet;
3. Opportunities to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children; and
4. The opportunity to bring parent comments, if they are dissatisfied with the school's Title I program, to the district level.

Title I funding, if sufficient, may be used to facilitate parent attendance at meetings through payment of transportation and childcare costs.

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The parents of children identified to participate in Title I programs shall receive from the school principal and Title I staff an explanation of the reasons supporting each child's selection for the program, a set of objectives to be addressed, and a description of the services to be provided. Parents will be advised of their children's progress on a regular basis. Opportunities will be provided for the parents to meet with the classroom and Title I teachers to discuss their children's progress. Parents will also receive information and training that will assist them in helping their children at home and at school.

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