

SOUTHAMPTON MIDDLE SCHOOL



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23450 Southampton Parkway

Courtland, VA 23837

757-653-9250

Administrators

Ms. Jasmine Galloway, Grade 6 Principal

Mrs. Tiffany Matteson, Grade 7 Principal

Dr. Mark Barfield, Grade 8 Principal

2025-2026

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Southampton County School Board

Dr. Deborah Goodwyn, Chair
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT
(BOYKINS)

Mrs. Orris Lane, Vice Chair
AT-LARGE

Mrs. Denise Bunn
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT
(NEWSOMS)

Mrs. Cassandra Hobbs
NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Mr. Brandon Rodgers
NORTHEAST DISTRICT

Mrs. Natalie King
AT-LARGE

Mr. Gregory Scott
AT-LARGE

Mr. Christopher Smith, Sr.
JERUSALEM DISTRICT

Dr. Jennifer Tindle
SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

Dr. Gwendolyn P. Shannon
Division Superintendent

MISSION

The mission of Southampton County Public Schools through the combined efforts of staff, students, families, and the community is to ensure a quality education in a safe environment that will prepare students to be successful learners and productive citizens in an ever-changing society.

VISION

The Vision of Southampton County Public Schools is that all students will be successful, productive, lifelong learners in an ever-changing world

SOUTHAMPTON MIDDLE SCHOOL GOAL

Southampton Middle School is committed to creating a safe and respectful environment where students grow and learn by developing their character, intellect, well-being, and a desire for lifelong learning.

SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Post Office Box 96 · Courtland, Virginia 23837
Phone (757) 653-2692 · Fax (757) 653-9422

Dr. Gwendolyn P. Shannon, Division Superintendent

Dr. Deborah Goodwyn, Chair

Orris Lane, Vice-Chair

Dear SCPS Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2025–2026 school year! Our dedicated teachers, principals, and staff are excited to embark on another year of academic and personal growth alongside your children.

At Southampton County Public Schools, we are deeply committed to creating safe, clean, and welcoming environments where every student feels seen, supported, and empowered to succeed. Our focus remains on providing high-quality education and equitable access to resources in a caring, inclusive community.

Students are essential partners in this journey. The SCPS Student Code of Conduct outlines students' rights and responsibilities, setting clear expectations that support both academic achievement and personal development. We encourage families to review the Code with their children and keep it as a useful resource throughout the year.

At the beginning of the school year, all students and their parents/guardians are required to electronically acknowledge receipt of the handbook. This is also a perfect time to talk with your child about digital citizenship and the responsibility of caring for their school-issued device.

Thank you for partnering with us in support of student learning and well-being. Together, let us make the 2025–2026 school year a positive, productive, and inspiring one.

Sincerely,



Dr. Gwendolyn P. Shannon, Division Superintendent

Board of Education					
Northeast District	Southwest District	Northwest District	Southeast District	Jerusalem District	At Large
Brandon Rodgers	Deborah Goodwyn	Cassandra Hobbs	Jennifer Tindle	Christopher Smith, Sr.	Orris Lane
	Denise Bunn				Gregory Scott



2025 - 2026 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

AUGUST 2025						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

- Holiday (Schools closed for students & staff)
- Staff Days (Schools closed for students)
- Interim Reports Distributed
- Report Cards Distributed
- Elementary Parent/Teacher Conference Day
- Secondary Parent/Teacher Conference Day
- End of Grading Period
- Early Dismissal Day

SEPTEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Teaching Days 21/Cumulative Days 21

OCTOBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1/22	2/12	3/24	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Teaching Days 23/Cumulative Days 44

NOVEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29

Teaching Days 17/Cumulative Days 61

DECEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Teaching Days 15/Cumulative Days 76

JANUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Teaching Days 18/Cumulative Days 94

FEBRUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Teaching Days 19/Cumulative Days 113

MARCH 2026						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Teaching Days 22/Cumulative Days 135

APRIL 2026						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1/156	2/157	3/158	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Teaching Days 17/Cumulative Days 152

MAY 2026						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1/155	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Teaching Days 20/Cumulative Days 172

JUNE 2026						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1/175	2/174	3/175	4/176	5/177	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Teaching Days 10/Cumulative Days 182



ACADEMIC SCHOOL CALENDAR 2025 - 2026

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL **SEPTEMBER 2**



STAFF DAYS (SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR STUDENTS)

AUGUST 18-19 (NEW TEACHER ORIENTATION)
AUGUST 20-28 (PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT / WORK DAYS)
JANUARY 27 (WORK DAY)
JUNE 15 & 16 (WORK DAYS)



HOLIDAYS (SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF)

SEPTEMBER 1 (LABOR DAY)
NOVEMBER 26 - 28 (FALL HOLIDAY)
DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 2 (WINTER HOLIDAY)
JANUARY 19 (MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY)
FEBRUARY 16 (PRESIDENT'S DAY)
APRIL 6 - APRIL 10 (SPRING BREAK)
MAY 25 (MEMORIAL DAY)
JUNE 18 (JUNETEENTH OBSERVED)



INTERIM REPORT DISTRIBUTED

OCTOBER 2
DECEMBER 10
FEBRUARY 26
MAY 12



REPORT CARDS DISTRIBUTED

NOVEMBER 11
FEBRUARY 3
APRIL 16
JUNE 12



EARLY DISMISSALS - 12PM SECONDARY STUDENTS, 1:15 PM ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

TEACHER WORK DAYS

OCTOBER 1	OCTOBER 31 & NOVEMBER 3
DECEMBER 9	JANUARY 23 & 26
FEBRUARY 25	APRIL 2
MAY 12	JUNE 11 & 12

DIVISION EARLY CLOSURE

NOVEMBER 4 (ELECTION DAY)
DECEMBER 19
APRIL 3 (GOOD FRIDAY)



ELEMENTARY PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 6
MARCH 2



SECONDARY PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 7
MARCH 3

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

JUNE 13

This calendar represents 194 Teacher Days (196 for new teachers) and 182 Instructional Days. Teachers are contracted for 200 days.

Inclement weather days will be virtual / synchronous school days.

SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

<i>Capron Elementary School</i>	Mrs. Devonda Gary, Principal	(434) 658-4348
<i>Meherrin Elementary School</i>	Mrs. Susan Fowler, Principal	(757) 654-6461
<i>Nottoway Elementary School</i>	Ms. Susan Street, Principal	(757) 859-6539
<i>Riverdale Elementary School</i>	Mr. Paul Kea, Co-Principal Mrs. Amesheia Warren, Co-Principal	(757) 562-3007
<i>Southampton Middle School</i>	Ms. Jasmine Galloway, 6th Grade Principal Mrs. Tiffany Matteson, 7th Grade Principal Dr. Mark Barfield, 8th Grade Principal	(757) 653-9250
<i>Southampton High School</i>	Mr. Jafar Baraka, Principal Ms. Wendy Williams, Assistant Principal Mr. Sharone Bailey, Assistant Principal	(757) 653-2751
<i>Fresh Start Center</i>	Mr. Alfred Charity, Alternative Education Specialist	(757) 562-2903
<i>Career and Technical Education</i>	Mrs. Melissa Edwards, Manager	(757) 653-9170

CENTRAL OFFICE

<i>Superintendent of Schools</i>	Dr. Gwendolyn Shannon	(757) 653-2692
<i>Chief Operations Officer</i>	Mr. Will Melbye	(757) 653-2692
<i>Director of Finance</i>	Mrs. Joy Carr	(757) 653-2692
<i>Director of Curriculum and Instruction</i>	Mrs. Kelli Gillette	(757) 653-2692
<i>Director of Special Education & Student Services</i>	Dr. Tonia Taylor	(757) 653-2692
<i>Director of Technology</i>	Mr. Bill Hatch	(757) 653-2692
<i>Director of Accountability & School Improvement</i>	Dr. McChelle Blunt	(757) 653-2692
<i>Supervisor of Transportation</i>	Mr. Emmanuel Vincent	(757) 653-2692
<i>Supervisor of Food Services</i>	Mr. Mark Ruffin	(757) 653-2692
<i>Coordinator of Human Resources & Marketing</i>	Mrs. LaTonia Hutcheson	(757) 653-2692
<i>Coordinator of Pupil Personnel</i>	Dr. Shonda Harris-Muhammed	(757) 653-2692
<i>STEM Innovation Coordinator & Division Data Analyst</i>	Ms. Rachel Boag	(757) 653-2692

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SCHOOL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ABSENCES/ATTENDANCE

The Southampton County Public School Division is committed to preparing students to progress academically, to achieve success and to accept responsibility for themselves. As a part of this commitment, the school division has established attendance performance guidelines for all students in grades K-12.

The *Code of Virginia* §22.1-254 requires every parent, guardian or other person in the Commonwealth having control or charge of any child who will have reached the fifth birthday on or before September 30th of any school year and who has not passed the 18th birthday shall, during the period of each year the public schools are in session and for the same number of days and hours per day as the public schools, send each child to a public school or to a private denominational or parochial school or have such child taught by a tutor or teacher of qualifications prescribed by the Board of Education and approved by the Division Superintendent or provide for home instruction of that child as described in §22.1-254.1. The *Code* further explains in §22.1-258 what action must be taken when a student fails to attend School.

Absence

Absence - For state reporting purposes, a student is considered to be absent if the student does not attend school for at least a portion of the regularly scheduled school day.

Excused absence - Absences which include circumstances beyond the control of students, parent/guardians, and the school may be grounds for an absence to be excused. Legitimate reasons for excused absences include: illness, quarantine, natural disaster, religious holiday, death in immediate family, legal or medical appointments, and school sponsored/related activities.

Current *Code of Virginia* regulations also allow for one excused absence per school year with appropriate documentation for the following reasons: participation in civic event, participation in 4-H activity, and participation in tribal gathering for members of a recognized tribal nation.

Exceptional circumstances may be excused up to a maximum of 5 days per student, per school year.

Unexcused absence - Any absence which keeps a student away from school AND is not excused for the reasons above. Examples of unexcused absences include, but are not limited to, vacation, personal travel (including travel sports), missing the bus, child care, and truancy (student is absent from class and the school has not received notification from the parent that they are aware and support the absence).

Documentation of Absence

The parent or legal guardian shall provide a written letter or other requested documentation for an absence to be excused. If circumstances permit, the parent/guardian should provide the school administration with the reason for the nonattendance prior to the absence.

A student who is absent from school without advance notice or approval will automatically be coded as unexcused. In instances where advance notification is not possible, a note or documentation explaining the reason for the absence should be submitted to the school within 5 school days of the student returning from the absence.

Up to 10 absences per student per year may be excused with a note from parent/guardian. Additional absences may require medical or other external documentation to support the absence. All notes or other documentation related to student attendance will be kept on file in the attendance office or other designated location as appropriate.

Parent Notification Procedures

Phone calls will be used to notify parents/guardians of absences each day.

After two (2) consecutive absences without parent contact, designated school staff shall make reasonable efforts to ensure direct contact with parents to obtain reason for the absences and remind parents/guardians to provide appropriate documentation upon the student's return to school.

In accordance with §22.1-258, the school principal or designee will track attendance concerns and send written notification to the parent/guardian to document attendance requirements as follows:

1. Third Unexcused Absence - When a student accumulates three (3) daily unexcused absences (i.e., no indication has been received by the school that the student's parent is aware of and supports the absence) and a reasonable effort to contact the parent has failed, an initial letter will be sent home from the school documenting the absences and reminding parents/guardians to submit documentation supporting absences. The letter will also inform of the consequences of continued non-attendance.
2. Fifth Unexcused Absence - For any student who accumulates five (5) unexcused absences, the principal or designee will send home a meeting notice to the parent/guardian within three (3) school days following the fifth (5th) unexcused absence inviting the parent/guardian to a required attendance meeting in order to jointly develop an Attendance Improvement Plan (AIP).
3. Seventh Unexcused Absence - If the student has more than one additional unexcused absence (i.e., 7th accumulated day) after an AIP is developed, a follow up conference shall be held within ten (10) days of the 7th unexcused absence. The principal or designee shall send parents appropriate written notice to inform them of the required attendance meeting.
4. Tenth Unexcused Absence - If a student accumulates ten (10) unexcused absences, the principal or designee shall inform the parent/guardian in writing of the school division's intent to enforce *Code of Virginia* §22.1-258 attendance requirements through either of the following:
 - i. Filing a complaint with the juvenile and domestic relations court alleging the student is a child in need of supervision (CHINS) as defined in §16.1-228 or
 - ii. Instituting proceedings against the parent pursuant to §22.1-262 (i.e., refusal to comply with law and/or refusal to participate in AIP conferences).

Chronically Absent

A student is considered to be chronically absent if they are absent from school, whether excused or unexcused, for more than 10% of the days which they are enrolled. As chronic absenteeism negatively impacts student progress as well as school accreditation, the school division will implement the following measures:

1. Chronically absent letter to parents - Students who meet thresholds of trending toward chronically absent, excused or unexcused, will receive a letter notifying the parent/guardian that their student is at risk of being chronically absent and what that entails.
2. Attendance Improvement Plan (AIP) - When a student meets the threshold for chronic absences in any quarter, the school principal or designee will be responsible for working with the student and parent/guardian to develop an attendance improvement plan. The purpose of the Attendance Improvement Plan will be to identify barriers and work collaboratively on strategies for improving attendance. The attendance improvement plan may include: additional documentation requirements for excusing absences, loss of privileges or participation in school activities, or other interventions or administrative consequences as appropriate.

3. Withdraw from School - In accordance with *Code of Virginia* §22.1-258, at fifteen (15) days of consecutive absences, excused or unexcused, a student will be unenrolled from school. Parents/guardians will be notified of this action in writing and be provided with information on how to re-enroll the student or provide evidence of the student's enrollment in another school.

Grade Reduction or Retention

Any student who exceeds the annual threshold for chronic absenteeism may be denied course credit or grade level promotion.

1. Elementary and Middle School - Students who exceed the threshold for chronic absenteeism for the school year will be required to participate in a student assistance plan to address attendance. Students who do not successfully meet the conditions agreed to in the student assistance plan may be denied promotion to the next grade level.

i. The principal will convene a meeting with the student's teacher, school counselor and parents/guardians within 30 days prior to the end of the school year to review progress on the student assistance plan for any student who is passing their classes but has exceeded the threshold for chronic absenteeism for the current school year.

ii. At the conclusion of the meeting, the parent/guardian will be notified in writing whether the student will be retained, promoted, or required to attend summer school as a condition of promotion to the next grade level.

2. High School (and credit bearing courses taken in middle school) - Students with 4 (for quarter courses) or 8 (for semester courses) absences or greater in any course within a given semester will receive a failing grade (59/F) for that semester or the actual grade, whichever is lower unless a waiver is obtained as described below or attendance recovery is successfully completed.

i. A parent or guardian may request a waiver of the grade reduction or retention by completing and submitting the SCPS Attendance Waiver Request form. All waivers must be received by the building principal at least one week prior to the close of the semester.

ii. Each waiver will be considered on a case-by-case basis and the parent or guardian will receive a decision in writing within 10 business days of submitting the waiver to the building principal.

iii. To be eligible for an attendance waiver, the student must have a passing grade in the class for which the waiver is submitted. Attendance waivers will not be considered for any class in which the student does not have a passing grade.

Make Up Work

When a student is absent from school, an opportunity will be provided for the student to make-up work. At the elementary level, teachers will provide make-up work directly to the student. Middle and high school students have the responsibility to check with the teacher to get the missing assignment(s). All make-up work should be turned in within 5 days of returning from absence. Students who are absent due to suspension will have the opportunity to access and complete the missing work.

Excessive absences may lead to academic failure and the inability to be promoted.

ATHLETICS AT SMS

We are most fortunate to be able to offer athletics at SMS. Athletics enable students to become better students by teaching discipline, leadership, teamwork, and dedication. Students must have a completed athletic physical to participate; further, students must also be in good academic and behavior standing to earn the privilege to participate. We offer the following teams:

1. Girl's Basketball
2. Boy's Basketball
3. Baseball
4. Softball
5. Track
6. Football
7. Cheerleaders
8. Soccer

ATTENDANCE - MCKINNEY-VENTO POLICY

If your child(ren) lack(s) fixed, regular, and adequate housing please contact your school principal immediately.

- You do not need a permanent address to enroll your child in school.
- Your child cannot be denied school enrollment when school records or other enrollment documentation are not immediately available.
- Your child may be able to remain in the same school (school of origin) even if you move.
- You have the right to request transportation to the school of origin.
- If you and the school disagree about school enrollment, you may have the right to appeal.
- Your child automatically qualifies to participate in free school meals.
- Your child has the right to participate in federal, state, or local programs for which they are eligible.
- Youth not accompanied by a parent or guardian and lacking fixed, regular, and adequate housing have these same rights.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at school is an important part of every student's success and is necessary in order to gain the greatest benefit from the educational experience. Students who are frequently absent from school miss direct instruction and regular contact with their teachers.

The instructional day begins at 7:30 a.m. Students transported to school by car in the morning may not enter the building prior to 7:15 a.m. Students will be dismissed from school at 2:30 p.m. All students must be in attendance for 182 days for the given school year unless he/she has an illness or legitimate reason for not being in school. However, when he/she returns to school, a note from the parents or guardians should accompany the student stating the reason for their absence.

Daily attendance is very important for all students. If for any reason a pupil is absent for 15 consecutive days, on the 16th day the pupil will be withdrawn from school. When a pupil returns to school, he/she will be re-entered. If a student is absent repeatedly or for long periods of time, he/she may not benefit from the instruction presented. The student who is so far behind in their assignments due to absences risks the possibility of not being promoted to the next grade level.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with teachers to do make-up work. This should be done promptly on the day the student returns to school. Students who have excused absences should complete and return any make-up work promptly upon their return to school. If an excuse note is not presented by the fifth day, the absence will be recorded as unexcused.

CONSECUTIVE ABSENCES

Parents must notify the school **before** 9:00 a.m. if they wish to have homework collected for three or more consecutive days of absences. Requests must be sent to the main office. Parents may pick up assignment sheets and books in the office **after** 3:00 p.m.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

In the event of repeated unexcused absences, the privilege of participation in co-curricular and/or other activities **shall be** curtailed for the student. Parents or guardians will be contacted by telephone or in writing about the serious impact excessive absences have on student performance and academic progress.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT EXCESSIVE ABSENCES MAY LEAD TO ACADEMIC FAILURE AND THE INABILITY TO BE PROMOTED

TRUANCY PROCEDURES

Number of Absences:	ACTION:
<p>AT EACH ABSENCE:</p> <p>Absences are cumulative throughout the year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● File JED ● Documentation of Absence ● The parent or legal guardian shall provide a written letter or other requested documentation for ● an absence to be excused. If circumstances permit, the parent/guardian should provide the ● school administration with the reason for the nonattendance prior to the absence. ● A student who is absent from school without advance notice or approval will automatically be ● coded as unexcused. In instances where advance notification is not possible, a note or ● documentation explaining the reason for the absence should be submitted to the school within 5 ● school days of the student returning from the absence. ● Up to 10 absences per student per year may be excused with a note from parent/guardian. ● Additional absences may require medical or other external documentation to support the ● absence. All notes or other documentation related to student attendance will be kept on file in ● the attendance office or other designated location as appropriate. ● Parent Notification Procedures ● Phone calls will be used to notify parents/guardians of absences each day. ● After two (2) consecutive absences without parent contact, designated school staff shall make ● reasonable efforts to ensure direct contact with parents to obtain reason for the absences and ● remind parents/guardians to provide appropriate documentation upon the student's return to ● school. ● In accordance with § 22.1-258, the school principal or designee will track attendance concerns

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • and send written notification to the parent/guardian to document attendance requirements as follows: • 1. Third Unexcused Absence - When a student accumulates three (3) daily unexcused absences (i.e., no indication has been received by the school that the student's parent is aware of and supports the absence) and a reasonable effort to contact the parent has failed, an initial letter will be sent home from the school documenting the absences and reminding parents/guardians to submit documentation supporting absences. The letter will also inform of the consequences of continued non-attendance. • 2. Fifth Unexcused Absence - For any student who accumulates five (5) unexcused absences, the principal or designee will send home a meeting notice to the parent/guardian within three (3) school days following the fifth (5th) unexcused absence inviting the parent/guardian to a required attendance meeting in order to jointly develop an Attendance Improvement Plan (AIP). • 3. Seventh Unexcused Absence - If the student has more than one additional unexcused absence (i.e., 7th accumulated day) after an AIP is developed, a follow up conference shall be held within ten (10) days of the 7th unexcused absence. The principal or designee shall send parents appropriate written notice to inform them of the required attendance meeting. • • The alert system will notify parents regardless of notifying the school advance.
5 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 1st letter will be sent home after the 5th unexcused absence. • Keep copies of all correspondence/contacts if 5 unexcused

	days are missed in the same nine weeks.
6 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents will be called directly and a 2nd letter will be sent. • A meeting will be scheduled with the principal/designee to create a Truancy Prevention Plan (TPP).
9 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An additional phone call will be made to the parents. • A 3rd letter will be sent home. • 2nd conference will be scheduled. (Violation of TPP: Warning of Children in Need of Services).
12 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A direct phone call to the parents. • A 4th letter will be sent home and a referral to the Attendance Review Committee (ARC).

BULLYING

Code of Virginia: §22.1-276.01

Defining Bullying Behavior

Every School division policy should include a definition of bullying, which at a minimum, is consistent to that adapted by Virginia's 2013 General Assembly (§22.1-276.01 the Code of Virginia):

"Bullying means any aggressive and unwanted behavior that is intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate the victim; involves a real or perceived power imbalance between the aggressor or aggressor and victim; and is repeated over time or causes severe emotional trauma. 'Bullying' includes cyber bullying. 'Bullying does not include ordinary teasing, horseplay, argument, or peer conflict"

Students, either individually or as part of a group, shall not harass, intimidate or bully others. The following conduct is illustrative of bullying:

- Physical intimidation, taunting, name calling, and insults
- Comments regarding the race, gender, religion, physical abilities or characteristics of another person and associates (friends and family) of the targeted person
- Falsifying statements about other persons.

Consequences will be aligned with the *Southampton County Public Schools Code of Conduct*.

CAFETERIA/FOOD SERVICES

Employees of Southampton County School Board are forbidden from requiring a student who cannot pay for a meal at school or who owes a school meal debt to throw away or discard a meal after it has been served to the student, do chores or other work to pay for such meals or wear a wristband or hand stamp.

The School Board is prohibited from filing lawsuits against a student or the student's parent because the student cannot pay for a meal at school or owes a school debt.

The Southampton County school division provides free and reduced price breakfasts, lunches and milk to students according to the terms of the National School Lunch Program, the National School Breakfast Program, and the Special Milk Program. Competitive foods, as defined herein, comply with state and federal requirements.

The Southampton County School Board may solicit and receive any donation or other funds for the purpose of eliminating or offsetting any school meal debt at any time and will use any such funds solely for such purpose.

Free and Reduced Price Food Services

School officials determine student eligibility based on guidelines established by federal law. Eligible students are provided nutritionally acceptable meals and milk free or at a reduced cost if state and

federal resources for school food programs are available. The superintendent or superintendent's designee establishes regulations or procedures as needed to implement this policy.

The criteria for determining a student's eligibility and the procedures for securing free and reduced price meals and milk is publicly announced at the beginning of each school year and provided to parents of all children in attendance at Southampton County Public Schools.

If the School Board collects information to determine eligibility for participation in the National School Breakfast Program or the National School Lunch Program, it posts prominently on its website a web-based application for student participation in such a program and provides a paper-based application.

Employees of Southampton County School Board do not physically segregate, overtly identify, or otherwise discriminate against any child eligible for free or reduced price meals.

The superintendent is responsible for establishing procedures by which excess food may be distributed to enrolled students eligible for the School Breakfast Program or National School Lunch Program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, saving excess food for later consumption, or donating food. The superintendent's procedures identify which students are eligible to receive excess food.

Definitions

"Competitive food" means all food and beverages other than meals reimbursed under programs authorized by the National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 available for sale to students on the school campus during the school day. Competitive foods meet the nutrient guidelines established by the Board of Education, including the guidelines for calories, fat, sugar and sodium.

"Excess food" means any remaining unexpired, unopened, and unconsumed food intended to be served as part of a reimbursable meal that was unable to be utilized for a current or future meal provision after a school has served breakfast and lunch to students during a school day.

"Fundraiser" means a school-sponsored activity where food or nonfood items are sold on the school campus during regular school hours by a school-sponsored organization to raise money for a school-related program or activity. One fundraiser is defined as one or more fundraising activities by one or more school-sponsored organizations that last one school day. If multiple school-sponsored organizations conduct fundraisers on the same day, the combined activities are counted as one fundraiser. If a fundraising activity lasts more than one school day, each subsequent day's activity is considered as one fundraiser and counts toward the total number of permitted fundraisers.

"School campus" means all areas of the property under the jurisdiction of the school that are accessible to students during the school day.

"School day" means the period from the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.

School Sponsored Fundraisers

Fundraisers involving the sale of foods that can be immediately consumed, whether Smart Snack compliant or not, shall not take place during the instructional day (any time before school until 30 minutes after dismissal) on any SCPS school campus. All fundraisers must have approval, from the building principal or designee and the superintendent or designee, prior to conducting any advertisements or sales of fundraising events or products.

Principals must maintain the "Fundraiser Tracking Tool" for all fundraisers and are responsible for

ensuring that all fundraisers comply with all federal and state regulations, and in accordance with the Southampton County Public Schools Wellness Policy.

Unpaid Meal Charges

Students who do not have money on account or in hand to cover the cost of a meal at the time of service may be permitted to charge the meal or may be given an alternative meal. Students may charge no more than \$25.00 or 10 meals to their accounts.

A student carrying a negative balance of \$ 25.00 or more is not permitted to charge any additional amounts. A student who is not permitted to charge any additional amounts is permitted to buy a meal if the student has cash on hand. Reasonable efforts are used to avoid calling attention to a student's inability to pay.

Notice of low or negative balances in a student's meal account are sent to parents and the school principal. Parents are expected to pay all meal charges in full by the last day of the school year.

The school board or any school board employee is prohibited from denying a student the opportunity to participate in any extracurricular school activity because the student cannot pay for a meal or owes a school meal debt.

If a parent regularly fails to provide meal money or send food to school with the student and the student does not qualify for free or reduced benefits, the child nutrition director will inform the principal, who will determine the next course of action, which may include notifying the department of social services of suspected child neglect.

The superintendent or superintendent's designee ensures that federal child nutrition funds are not used to offset the cost of unpaid meals and that the child nutrition program is reimbursed for bad debt. In order to accomplish those goals, the following procedures are followed:

- At least one written notice is provided to the parent, prior to the student being denied reimbursable meals for exceeding the division's charge limit.
- If payment of the negative balance is not received within 45 working days of the maximum charge limit being reached, the debt will be turned over to the superintendent or superintendent's designee for collection.
- If the debt is not paid within 30 days of notice being given, it is considered bad debt for the purposes of federal law concerning unpaid meal charges.
- If negative balances are present the last two months of the school year, timelines may be adjusted to recoup the amount owed.

Recordkeeping

The Southampton County School Board is responsible for maintaining records that document compliance with this policy. Those records include documentation used to assess the nutritional profile of food items and determine whether a food item is an allowable competitive food, such as recipes, nutrition labels and/or product specifications for the competitive food available for sale to students.

The School Board is also responsible for:

- maintaining records documenting compliance with the competitive food nutrition standards for food available for sale in areas that are outside of the control of the school nutrition programs operations,

- ensuring any organization or school activity designated as responsible for food service at the various venues in the school, other than the school nutrition programs, maintains records documenting compliance with the competitive food nutrition standards,
- maintaining records each school year documenting the number of exempt fundraisers, if any, conducted at each school within the division, and
- designating an individual at the division or school level to monitor and ensure compliance with this policy in all areas that are outside the control of the school nutrition programs operation. The designee may not be a school nutrition personnel.

CELLULAR/ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

Pursuant to *Executive Order 33* issued by Governor Youngkin in June 2024, K-12 public schools in the Commonwealth of Virginia have been directed to promulgate policies to assure that the use of cellphones and similar personal electronic devices is prohibited on school property during school hours or at any school-sponsored functions. Effective September 2024, Southampton County Public Schools will begin using school-provided storage pouches during school hours to assure a cell phone free environment in our schools.

Definition of a Device: For the purpose of this policy, “device” does not include school-issued equipment; it does include, but is not limited to: personal cell phones, smart watches and other wearable technology, wireless headphones, and other electronic communication devices, including those that connect to and/or control a cell phone or other personal communication device.

Southampton County Schools Device Pouch Procedures

Students will be issued a device pouch with a magnetic closure. Upon entering the personal communication device-free space inside the school, your phone/communication devices will be placed inside your school provided device pouch.

Once inside the phone-free area, the pouch is locked. Secondary students will retain possession of their device(s), inside their pouch, at all times during the school day. Elementary students will retain possession of their device(s) inside of the homeroom class.

SCPS Divisionwide approved device pouches are SCPS school property. All students will be assigned a pouch and will be responsible for bringing their school approved pouch to school daily. Loaner pouches will be available. Communication device use will not be permitted during the school day. Pouches will be labeled with a student identifier.

If the device pouch is lost, damaged, or destroyed, the student’s family may be held responsible for paying for a replacement pouch.

At arrival, students will:

1. Enter at the appropriate door via the safety & security checkpoint.
2. Power their phone off and place the device inside their device pouch.
3. Secure/Lock the pouch prior to school security/staff inspection.
4. Store their pouch in their backpack or other teacher-designated space for the day.

At dismissal, students will:

1. Use the unlocking devices located at student exit points.
2. Maintain responsibility for their device pouch. Students must bring their device pouch each school day.

Consequences for violating division expectations on communication device/cell phone and device pouch use:

- First violation – Verbal warning delivered to student and written warning sent home reminding students and families of expectations.
- Second violation – Device/cell phone must be picked up by a parent (parents will be contacted to pick up the device/cell phone).
- Repeated violations – Escalating infractions may lead to further disciplinary action, including suspension.

Medical Exemption

Any student with a potential medical exemption must have a note from their doctor and their treatment plan already on file with the school nurse/school office. They will be given a school approved (non-magnetized) pouch that will allow their medical device to connect with their phone. However, the “phone in pouch” policy still stands – they should not have their phone out of the pouch unless medically necessary.

Lunch and Transitional Time

The cell phone pouches will remain locked for the entirety of the day. Students will not be permitted to access their devices during lunch or transition between classes.

Instructional Use

Cell phones are not an option for instructional use. Students should use their 1:1 iPad as their instructional device.

Parent Contact During the School Day

If a parent/caregiver needs to contact their student, they should call the school’s front office.

CHILD ABUSE

Pursuant to 63.2-1509 of the *Code of Virginia*, teachers, principals, nurses, and all other school employees in any capacity are required to report to the Department of Social Services cases of suspected child abuse and/or neglect. The purpose of the law is to prevent the abuse and neglect of children rather than to adversely punish those with information that may help a child or family in need. Failure to report potential abuse may result in court action against the school employee and possible fines. Any party making such a report in good faith shall be immune from prosecution unless it can be proven that such a report was made with malicious intent.

CUSTODY

All custody concerns should be reported to the school office at the beginning of the school year. In cases of restricted visitation rights, the school should be given a copy of the court document stating the conditions of visitation.

EARLY AND LATE ARRIVALS

Drop off time is 7:15 a.m. through 7:30 a.m. Students should not report to school before 7:15 a.m. Students who arrive after 7:30 a.m. should enter through the front of the school and report to the check-in desk for a late arrival slip.

Students may elect to have a “Grab-n-Go” breakfast which is available in designated areas.

Should it be necessary to arrive at school after **7:30 a.m.**, students will report to the main office or designated area to sign a late sheet. **Students should have a signed note from their physician, parent, or guardian detailing the reason for tardiness.**

Student drop-off is at the rear of the Red hall. Red hall is located near the rear of the school, by the football field. All students must be picked up by 2:35 p.m. (5 minutes after dismissal time). Notes for pick-up must be on file in the office.

TARDINESS

Students must be present in their 1st period class no later than **7:30 a.m.** After this time, they must report to the front lobby to obtain a pass to be admitted in class. Students who have accumulated four (4) tardies will earn one (1) unexcused absence. Students must arrive at school on time, prepared, and ready to learn.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION AND MEDICATION

Emergency cards are sent to home at the beginning of each year to maintain accuracy and updates. In order to ensure that the district has the most current information and to help us maintain accurate and updated contact information in case of emergency, please be certain to promptly complete and return to your child's school immediately. If your information changes during the year, please inform the office as soon as possible.

In case of illness or accident, we must have a working phone number of someone to contact. The district requires an updated and in-service work and home phone number, as well as an in-service current phone number of an adult relative or friend if we are unable to contact parents or guardians.

A professional nurse is available to your child's school. If your child has an accident or becomes ill during the school day, you will be notified immediately. If your child has long-term prescribed medicine to be taken during the school day, **THE MEDICINE MUST BE LABELED AND HELD IN AN APPROPRIATE CONTAINER IN THE HEALTH OFFICE OR AS DESIGNATED.**

Students **are not** permitted to keep medications on their person. If it becomes necessary for a student to take medication during school hours, a medication request form must be filled out and signed by a treating physician and a parent or guardian. These forms are available in the school office. Any medication prescribed for a student that is to be held at school must be brought in by the parent along with the completed form or signed prescription from the physician.

All medical files will be secured in the school's health office. Nursing staff will not administer any medication without proper written clearances and review of information. The sharing, borrowing, distributing, manufacturing, or selling of any medication is prohibited.

NONPRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

Southampton County Public School personnel may give nonprescription medication to students only with the written permission of the parent or guardian. Such permission shall require the name of the medication, the required dosage of the medication, and the time the medication is to be administered. Such medication must be in the original container and delivered to the principal, school nurse, or school division designee by the parent/guardian of the student.

SELF-ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

- Self-administration of any medication with the exception of asthma medication and auto-injectable epinephrine, as indicated, is expressly prohibited for students.
- Written parental permission for self-administration must be on file with the school.
- The medication must be in the original container and appropriately labeled with the manufacturer's directions
- The student's name must be affixed to the container.
- Students must possess on their person only the amount needed for self-administration.
- Permission to self-administer non-prescription medication may be revoked if the student violates this policy and the student may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the *Standards of Student Conduct*.

- All sports, clubs or activities not included in the daily instruction schedule which hold any association with Southampton Middle School will be termed extra-curricular.
- Every extra-curricular activity must have a school sponsor who is an employee of the School Board. The sponsor is responsible for the activities of the group and should be present at all meetings of the group.
- Each group is responsible for the financial support necessary to achieve its goals.
- All fundraising events must have the approval of the sponsor, student activities director, building principal, and division superintendent.
- Receipt and disbursement of all funds will be handled through the schoolbooks.
- Each group and individual therein has a responsibility to reflect the best possible public opinion of himself, the group, and Southampton Middle School.
- Meetings of clubs should be scheduled on a regular basis at a frequency consistent with the club's needs. Meeting dates and time should be placed on a separate club calendar located throughout the building. Activities which plan to meet away from school grounds or to travel must secure approval of the principal before scheduling. This will be necessary to obtain insurance coverage for members participating.
- Students are responsible for class assignments as directed by the teacher. Missing a class for approved student activities does not relieve the student of this responsibility.
- Sale of items by students or teachers during the school day on school grounds for personal gain or on behalf of non-school groups is prohibited.
- Students may not stay at school after 2:30 p.m. unless in an activity supervised by a teacher or coach.

GLASS BOTTLES

Glass bottles are not permitted on buses or on school grounds at any time. Flowers that are sent to school must be in a plastic container. Flowers and any other items for students will be kept in the office until the end of the day.

GRADING POLICY

It is the responsibility of each teacher to evaluate the academic progress for each student they are assigned to instruct. Teachers will employ an orderly and fair process in reporting student academic progress. The grading scale must be communicated to students and parents at the beginning of the school year. Term grades are calculated on the scale approved by the School Board.

Grade	Range	Regular
A	90-100	A = 4.0
B	80-89	B = 3.0
C	70-79	C = 2.0
D	60-69	D = 1.0
F	Below 60	F = 0

There must be a sufficient number of grades to assure a fair and complete evaluation of each student's progress during the grading period.

Parents choosing to follow their child's progress in grades 1-12 throughout the year may do so

by creating a Parent Portal Account. Procedures and account information may be picked up in the office.

GRIEVANCES AND COMPLAINTS

*In the interest of providing fairness and courtesy to all, please follow this procedure.

Parents and students are expected to follow proper channels in registering complaints or seeking solutions to problems dealing with the school. The proper steps are as follows:

1. Contact the teacher FIRST, then if necessary
2. Discuss the concern with the Principal
3. Contact the School Board Office for further instructions if needed.

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

Home and hospital bound instruction is available, as required, to students who are unable to attend school for an extended period of time because of injury or other medical reasons. Please contact the school principal for information and necessary forms.

HOMEWORK

Homework is a vital component of the total educational program and is therefore encouraged. Homework will be assigned only when students have demonstrated knowledge and comprehension of the skill in class. Material not reviewed in class will not be assigned as homework. Routine assignments such as similar math problems or answering questions at the end of a chapter should be assigned in moderation.

To improve the effectiveness of homework assignments, teachers must provide appropriate and well-timed feedback. Homework should not be used to punish a student.

Homework in grades 6-8 should not exceed 15 minutes per class period. It will sometimes be necessary for team teachers and department teachers to coordinate assignments, to adhere to this time allotment. Homework may count for 5% of the 9 weeks grade.

As a part of our commitment to literacy and learning, it is expected that students will read for twenty (20) minutes per night.

Special and long-term project-based learning activities are used as an extension of the learning experience and encouraged.

ILLNESS POLICY

We realize from time to time your child may become ill. In order to control the spread of viruses in school, your child should not return to school until they have been free from illness for twenty-four (24) hours. Upon return students need to be fever-free, vomit-free, and diarrhea-free for 24 hours **without medications** before the student returns to school.

*In the event that your child has a fever due to a positive case of COVID, please follow current US Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.

We appreciate your assistance and cooperation in promoting a healthy and illness free school environment.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) changed the minimum recommended age for the *Tetanus, Diphtheria* and *Acellular Pertussis (Tdap)* adolescent booster vaccine from 10 to 11 years. Students must receive a Tdap immunization before entering seventh grade.

INTERIM REPORTS

The Southampton County Public School 2025-2026 calendar indicates the dates that interim reports will be sent home. The dates are as follows: **10/1/2025, 12/10/2025, 2/26/2026, and 5/12/2026**. All students will receive interim reports in an effort to support, manage, and maintain transparency of student academic progress in an effective manner.

INTERNET USE AND RESPONSIBILITY

The Internet is a valuable educational resource for students and staff. Internet use and access is a privilege. Anyone who uses school Internet access in an inappropriate manner may lose this privilege. Students and staff who have the privilege to use school resources for Internet access are expected to abide by the following:

- a. Use school facilities and equipment only for school related, educational activities.
- b. Be polite and use appropriate language. Students may not use profanity, obscenities, sexually explicit material, or expressions of bigotry, racism, and/or hate. Maintain individual anonymity and privacy.
- c. Use equipment appropriately. Students may not engage in acts of vandalism (malicious attempt to harm or destroy.)
- d. Adhere to copyright laws and restrictions. Students may not transmit material in violation of federal or state law or regulation. (Such material includes, but is not limited to, commercial software, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret.)
- e. Use of the Internet for commercial purposes or political lobbying is prohibited.
- f. Account owners are responsible for all activities under their account. They are to not knowingly give their password to others or use anyone else's password.

- g. Use of the Internet for illegal, inappropriate, or obscene purposes, or in support of such activities, is prohibited. Illegal activities shall be defined as a violation of local, state, or federal laws. Inappropriate use shall be defined as a violation of the intended use of the network, including the intentional introduction of viruses, corruption of systems, files and resources.
- h. Southampton County Public Schools shall remain the final authority on use of the Internet. Internet and the issuance and cancellation of user accounts.

All Southampton County Public School personnel and students in grade 6-12 are eligible for an account to use the Internet. Internet access accounts will be managed by school personnel.

LEAVING DURING SCHOOL HOURS

During the school day, students may not leave the school, for any purpose, without their parents or guardians' permission. Prior to departing from the school building, all students must be signed out and discharged into the care of an adult who has shown sufficient identification at the main office. If returning to school the same day, the student must report back to the office before returning to classes.

LIBRARY

Students are encouraged to use the school library for pleasure reading, research, and projects. The library is open between the hours of 7:20 a.m. through 2:45 p.m. Students may visit the library at any time during the school day with permission from their teachers. Students are required to use their identification cards or student identification number to check out materials. **Students are responsible for any damaged or lost library/media materials charged to their care.**

LOCKERS

Should a student be assigned a locker, they are responsible for providing their own lock. Lockers may be provided for students' convenience but are the property of the Southampton County School System

Administration reserves the right to inspect the contents of a locker. Locker checks will be made during the course of the school year to ensure cleanliness. Although the school will investigate any reports of stolen property, Southampton County Schools cannot be held responsible for items lost or taken from a locker assigned to any student. **Students are responsible for ensuring their lockers are locked at all times.**

Students will be permitted to go to their lockers during the morning between 7:15-7:30 a.m. and at dismissal.

Locks may remain on the lockers at the end of the PE class. Locks should not be worn or used as a weapon. Padlocks ***are not*** to be placed on new red lockers.

To avoid locks having to be cut, students are encouraged to give homeroom teachers their combination or copy of the locker key which will be turned in and kept in the main office.

Locks will be cut from 9:00-9:30 a.m. and from 2:30-3:00 pm

MAKE-UP WORK

1. It is the responsibility of the student to make up their missed assignments.
2. All make-up work must be completed within five (5) days of returning from absence.
3. When work to be made up falls at the end of a grading period, the student is obliged to complete missed assignments with all haste.
4. Students who have been suspended from school have the right to make up their work.
5. Upon the request of the parent or student, teachers are required to send make-up work home when a student has been absent from school for five consecutive days. Students who have missed fewer than five consecutive days may use the "buddy system" to call a responsible classmate for your assignment. Students are required to do make-up work.
6. Any student with an excused or unexcused absence must ask the teacher for make-up work when he/she returns to school.

MATH ACCELERATED CLASSES

Southampton Middle School will include Math 6 for the 6th grade, Math 7 and Pre-Algebra for the 7th grade, and Pre-Algebra and Algebra I for the 8th grade.

The proposed math accelerated classes criteria is attached. Students and parents entering SMS will be made aware of the potential opportunities available for their child to participate in accelerated math and science classes. Accelerated classes begin in seventh grade.

Criteria for participation will include a SOL score of 420 or higher, a 3.0 grade point average, grades of A's and B's in math and/or science, and 18/25 on the teacher checklist.

Students who have successfully completed accelerated classes will enter SHS with high school credit for Algebra I.

Students are grouped for learning in classes that offer accelerated instruction. Students will be challenged as well as build on teamwork, skill-building, and will have an increase in expectations. Qualifying students in seventh and eighth grade are placed in accelerated content classes in math and science as part of the daily class schedule. These classes require more in-depth study of topics, a rigorous pace of instruction, expanded homework responsibilities, and independent projects determined by the teacher.

Accelerated Periods Placement Criteria:

Middle School Rubric for Student Placements	
Standards of Learning Scores	4 Points
Teacher Recommendation	4 Points
Report Card Grades	4 Points
Grade Point Average	4 Points

Twelve (12) of sixteen (16) points are required to participate in the accelerated classes.

Students with a grade below 80% after the first four and a half weeks of school will be placed in the regular grade level classroom.

Math and Science Acceleration:

Grade	6	7	8
Content	Math 6	Pre-Algebra	Algebra I

SOUTHAMPTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

ADVANCED CURRICULUM STUDENT CHECKLIST

Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often
1	2	3	4
	1. Able to complete complicated arithmetic operations		
	2. Able to investigate or observe matters in detail		
	3. Able to continuously focus on scientific and natural activities		
	4. Shows interests in exploration or willing to take risk		
	5. Able to provide opinions or solutions to different types of problems		
	6. Able to adjust, improve, or rectify the views of different things		
	7. Accountable and able to complete any task or program assigned them		
	8. Well respected by his or her classmates		
	9. Able to communicate with others effectively and able to clearly express their own thoughts		
	10. Shows strong confidence in getting along with classmates of the same age group		
	11. Able to organize and associate the relationship of various matters, people, and situations		
	12. Being cooperative in working with others		
	13. Demonstrates leadership intention in activities		
	14. Able to speak with rich content and explain in detail fluently		
	15. Able to concentrate on one subject as needed		
	16. Able to learn with minimum guidance from teachers		
	17. Not afraid of failure and difficulties and insists on completing various tasks or duties		
	18. Able to assume personal responsibility for the results on which he/she has pursued		
	19. Able to follow up the topics or issues he/she is interested in		
	20. Being highly committed to certain topics or issues		
	21. Able to pledge himself/herself to a long-term program of interest		
	22. Able to insist and complete the work		
	23. Able to follow multi-step directions		
	24. Shows organizational skills		
	25. Able to complete complicated arithmetic operations		

Name: _____

Grade: _____

MINUTE OF SILENCE

All classrooms will observe a minute of silence at the conclusion of the morning announcements. The *Code of Virginia* (S22.1-203) states:

In order that the right of every pupil to the free exercise of religion be guaranteed within the schools and that the freedom of each individual pupil be subject to the least possible pressure from the Commonwealth either to engage in, or to refrain from, religious observation on school grounds, the school board of each school division shall establish the daily observance of one minute of silence in each classroom of the division.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Southampton County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, disability, national origin, or marital status in employment or any of its programs or activities. The Compliance Officer for the above statutes is Mrs. Latonia Hutcheson, Coordinator of Human Resources and Marketing, PO Box 96, Courtland, Virginia 23837, 757-653-2692.

NON-EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS/NUISANCE ITEMS

The following items should be used only during times when they are expressly permitted: cameras, pictures, radios, sunglasses, hats, cell phones, games devices, iPods, iPads, fidget spinners, and any other type of personal or entertainment devices.

The following items should not be brought to school under any circumstances: toys, water guns, whistles, balloons, confetti, gag materials, pornography, spray paint, large amounts of money, or blankets.

If the above items are brought to school and are misplaced or taken, it is not the responsibility of the school to locate, return, and or replace.

Banned items will be confiscated by the administration and not returned until they are claimed from the office by a parent or guardian. Parents will be notified of confiscated items and students will receive appropriate school consequences as aligned with school policies and the *Student Code of Conduct*.

NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

Southampton County Public School personnel may give nonprescription medication to students only with the written permission of the parent or guardian. Such permission shall include the name of the medication, the required dosage of the medication, and the time the medicine is to be given. Such medicine must be in the original container and delivered to the principal, school nurse or school division designee by the parent/guardian of the student.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held from **3:00-5:00 p.m.** on the following dates:

October 7, 2025

March 3, 2026

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

Southampton Middle School has an active Parent Teacher Organization. We encourage all parents and teachers to become active in the PTO in an effort to improve the educational process.

Registration for PTO occurs at the new year orientations and the first Parent/Teacher conference.

HANDLING LOST, STOLEN, AND MISUSED ID/PBIS CARDS:

Southampton Middle School and Southampton High School issue laminated cards to all students. The first card is free of charge to every student enrolled at the high school and middle school. Students must act as responsible individuals with these cards. If a student loses their card or if the card is stolen or damaged, the student may opt to buy a new card for \$2.00 or may use the pinpoint pad at a POS terminal to put in the barcode for their account.

ID/PBIS cards that are misused by students and/or the willful use of someone else's barcode number can result in the student being disciplined by the school administration.

Each time a student misuses a card or barcode number, the student and the parent should receive a letter from the school principal/designee stating the method of misuse and indicating the type of punishment. It is recommended that the school principal or his designee have a conference with the student and the parent after each offense. A written copy of the letter will be sent to the cafeteria manager in said school where the policy has been abused.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students are recommended to participate in physical education unless there are extenuating circumstances which will be reviewed by the building principal. Students are to dress in school approved uniforms in order to receive full credit.

Failure to dress appropriately for physical education class during a nine weeks period will result in the following actions:

- 1st Time - Teacher will record and issue a reprimand.
- 2nd Time - Letter will be sent home signed by the teacher and a copy sent to the office at the end of the school day.
- 3rd Time - Students may be sent to the office and further disciplinary action may be taken.

Teachers may excuse students for one (1) day with a note from the parent approved by the office. Additional days must be approved by providing a notice from a physician or a note from the principal. Teachers reserve the right to verify all notes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All students will recite the *Pledge of Allegiance* as required by Section 22.1-202 of the *Code of Virginia*. During such *Pledge of Allegiance*, students shall stand and recite the *Pledge* while facing the flag with their right hands over their hearts or in an appropriate salute if in uniform; however, no student shall be compelled to recite *Pledge* if the parent or legal guardian objects on religious, philosophical, or other grounds to the student participating in this exercise. Students who are thus exempt from reciting the *Pledge* shall remain quietly standing or sitting at their desks while others recite the *Pledge* and shall make no display that disrupts others who are reciting the *Pledge*.

The School Board's *Code of Conduct* shall apply to disruptive behavior during the recitation of

the *Pledge* in the same manner as provided for other circumstances of such behavior.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

The goal of every educator in Southampton County is to provide educational experiences on a daily basis, which will ensure every student multiple opportunities to successfully master the standards necessary for promotion to the next grade level.

Promotion or retention of a pupil is always based on a primary concern for what is in the best interest of the student. Standardized test scores, benchmark tests, and end of year cumulative tests, attendance, report card performance, remediation attendance/participation and level of mastery of Standards of Learning strands shall be considered in making promotion/retention decisions. Academic progress within the classroom and performance on the Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments shall be the major criteria in determining promotion to the next grade level.

Promotion or retention of a student shall be recommended by the classroom teacher in consultation with the building principal(s) and other staff members who work with the student. The promotion/ retention process must include ongoing communication with the parents.

In order for a Southampton County Middle School student to be promoted to the next grade, they must receive a passing grade in English and mathematics and in either science or social studies plus health/physical education or one elective course. If a student receives a failing grade in these subjects, the student may be retained. Should it be determined that it is in a child's best interest to be retained, the following shall occur.

1. Parents shall be notified at the end of the second quarter if a child is in danger of being retained.
2. If the child is in danger of being retained, the school must establish a written academic success plan in concert with the family to demonstrate what process shall take place in order to make an appropriate academic placement by the end of the class.
3. If it is deemed the best benefit to the child after final review of the results of the child's academic success plan, they shall be retained. The decision will be communicated to the family in a timely fashion after the decision is reached.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are given at the end of every nine weeks marking period. Report cards are distributed by the first block teacher during the last ten minutes of the school day. Report card envelopes are to be signed by a parent or guardian and returned to the first block teacher the following day. Final Report cards are mailed.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

School closings due to inclement weather will be reported through the instant alert phone system, Southampton County Schools website, Remind, and social media (Facebook and Twitter).

In addition, closings will also be announced on the following channels and stations:

STATION	CALL NUMBERS	CITY
Radio		
101.7 FM	WLQM	Franklin
Television		
Channel 03	WTKR	Norfolk
Channel 06	WTVR	Richmond
Channel 08	WRIC	Richmond
Channel 10	WAVY	Portsmouth

Social Media

SCPS Website: <https://www.southampton.k12.va.us/> SCPS

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/scpsdistrictva/>

Sometimes it may be necessary to close school during the day due to weather, equipment failure, or unforeseen emergencies. On those days it may be impossible for children to call home.

Therefore, we ask that families develop a plan with each child about what to do if there is an unscheduled early school closing.

It is suggested that a set of written directions be prepared and discussed with your child so they are prepared during an unforeseen emergency school closing. A copy of the plan should be shared with the classroom teacher and potentially the emergency contact person of your choice.

We would like to reiterate the importance of providing the district with the most accurate and updated information for all parents and emergency contact parties at all times.

In the event of school closing due to inclement weather, all schools will be closed in accordance with Southampton County Public School Board policies.

SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES

All students will receive free breakfast and lunch for the 2024-2025 school year. Meal choices and selections are continuously updated. There are several choices available for students which provide a balanced and nutritional meal with alternatives as needed.

Our students are expected to use good manners and show courteous behavior in the cafeteria. They should also respect and obey the following guidelines:

- Show courtesy to others.
- Leave tables and all eating areas CLEAN and push in your chair.
- Properly dispose of all trash.
- According to federal guidelines, all students in the serving line must have at least three items on their tray.
- All students will eat in the school cafeteria.

SCHOOL HOURS

Students are permitted in the building at 7:15 a.m. when the doors open. The school cannot be responsible for any student who arrives before that time. The last bus leaves at approximately 2:40 pm. All students should be picked up by 2:45 p.m.

SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS

Student safety is a top priority. Each month Southampton County Schools will conduct school safety drills. Teachers and students will use designated exits. Students who are not in a room when an alarm sounds will use the exit closest to them. Students are warned by the emergency alarm system and are to remain in the designated location until the clearance announcement has been made. Upon regaining access to the school, students will walk quickly on the right side of the hallway in a single file line. Students and staff will follow Southampton County Public School emergency response procedures for evacuation and re-entry.

SELF-ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

Self-administration of any medication with the exception of asthma medication and auto-injectable epinephrine, as previously described, is prohibited for students.

Written parental permission for self-administration of medication must be on file with the school. The medication is required to be in the original container and appropriately labeled with the manufacturer's directions. The student's name must be affixed to the container.

Students must possess only the required dosage needed. Sharing, borrowing, distributing, manufacturing, exchanging, or selling any medication is **strictly** prohibited. Permission to self-administer non-prescription medication may be revoked if a student violates this policy. Students may be subjected to disciplinary action in accordance with the *Student Code of Conduct*.

STANDARDS OF LEARNING (SOL) REMEDIATION

The Southampton County School Board supports efforts to ensure that all SCPS students pass the Virginia SOL assessment. In addition to ensuring that the SCPS curriculum is aligned with the Virginia Standards of Learning, the division shall provide a SOL Remediation Recovery Program. This program will include coaching and tutorial support for students demonstrating achievement gaps related to the Standards of Learning Assessments in the content areas of EOC Writing and Reading, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

Students who are eligible to retake a SOL must have participated in at least one form of remediation, including but not limited to the after-school remediation recovery program, a remediation program that occurs during the school day, or Saturday Academy. Also, students who participate in the remediation recovery program are expected to retake the applicable SOL test at the next regularly scheduled administration of the test approved by the Division Superintendent or Superintendent's designee. At the high school level, students may continue to retake end-of-course (SOL) tests as many times as necessary to earn verified credits.

Schools shall maintain evidence in the student's record participation in a remediation recovery program along with scores of any SOL tests taken following remediation. Student progress-monitoring documents may include but are not limited to the following:

- **Data notebooks;**
- **Data walls;**
- **Individual Student Achievement Plans (K-5);**
- **Individual Career and Academic Plans (ICAPS. Grade 6-12); and**
- **Individualized Educational Program (IEP)**

Remediation and Benchmark Assessment

SCPS shall require any student who is not successful on a division wide benchmark assessment for their relevant grade-level in grades three through eight to attend remediation as provided by their respective schools.

SCPS shall require any student who fails any of the SOL's for the relevant grade-level in grades three through eight to attend a summer school program, Saturday Academy, or participate in another form of approved remediation. SCPS shall offer summer school, Saturday Academy, or other forms of remediation for students that have been identified as not being successful on the Standards of Learning Assessment(s) to meet the academic needs of the student.

The student may satisfy the requirement for remediation by attendance in a program of prevention or remediation with a certified and licensed instructor in the subject matter the student is receiving remediation which has been selected by his/her parent/guardian and is either conducted by an accredited private agency, organization, or a special program, all of which should be approved by the Superintendent or their designee to be comparable to the required public-school remediation program. The student's parents/guardians shall bear the costs of such private school remediation program or other special remediation program.

Parents /guardians must provide documentation of the student's attendance and successful completion of the approved alternative remediation program to include providing a copy of the assessment, skills mastered, and student work.

STATE AND COUNTY TESTING SCHEDULE

Standards of Learning (SOL) testing will be conducted in Grades 6, 7, and 8, and at the end of the course. Students in Grades 6 and 7 will be assessed in Mathematics and Reading. Students in Grade 8 will be assessed in the areas of English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Sciences. Grade 8 students will also take a Writing test. All tests are administered online.

Standards of Learning

The Virginia Board of Education has approved standards, called SOL's or Standards of Learning, for every grade level in the four core academic areas (English, Math, Science, and Social Studies). These were implemented in 1996 as the basis for the curriculum in Virginia's schools. These standards set clear, rigorous, and measurable academic expectations for the students in our schools.

The Virginia Board of Education has set a minimum passing score on the SOL tests and requires schools to reach that minimum passing rate. The current rate is 75% in Reading and 70% for all other academic areas.

SOL Dismissal Procedures

PROCEDURES FOLLOWED FOR DISMISSAL DURING SOL TESTING: Parents and students are given notice of dates for the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) Tests in a variety of ways. As soon as the dates are given to the school, the dates are posted on the school website, in the school newspaper, and in the school's main office. Informational fliers are also provided during parent/teacher conferences. Announcements will be made twice daily prior to testing and information will be posted on the school marquee. When school begins, the specific dates for the SOL tests are not available as they are provided by the state. However, the format of testing is usually the same, whereas 8th graders usually test in the first week of March for the Virginia Writing test, and SOL testing for grades 6th, 7th, and 8th usually begins during the second week of May. Fall testing usually occurs in January.

The school must adhere to the state's strict testing procedures and safety protocols. These procedures and guidelines are provided to schools from the Virginia Department of Education which is adhered to and followed by the Southampton County School Board.

We respectfully request parental assistance and cooperation in ensuring students are rested and available to participate to the best of their ability during their testing windows. Please schedule any appointments for students after SOL testing.

If a student arrives after the testing session has begun, he/she will not be able to enter the testing site but will be given an opportunity to take the specific part of the test during makeup sessions. Once a testing session has begun, students cannot be removed from the testing area until the session for all students has ended. In cases of an emergency, a student can be removed from testing, but the student will not be given the opportunity to continue or retake the test.

If during the afternoon session, a majority of students have not completed the testing section,

buses will be held and dismissal will be delayed. If a small number of students have not finished, those students will be held to finish testing and the other students will be dismissed. In the event that students are held to finish testing, parents will be notified that their child is still participating in state required testing and arrangements need to be made to pick up the child from school.

STAIRWAYS

During change of classes, students must remain on the right side. No running or jumping shall be permitted. Playing on steps is dangerous and affects the safety of all our students. Failing to adhere to this procedure shall result in disciplinary actions.

STUDENT DEBTS

Students whose names appear on the debt list are prohibited from attending school field trips. Debts incurred may involve textbooks, checks with insufficient funds, property damage, etc.

STUDENT DRESS AND GROOMING

Students are concerned with style and comfort in their attire; the staff and faculty must be concerned about modesty, safety, and distractions related to such attire. Although student dress and grooming are the personal responsibilities of the student and their parents, students are expected to exercise good taste and to avoid extremes for school. Students and parents should be aware of these rules prior to school opening. Students shall not be permitted to attend classes if the dress code is not followed.

- All attire worn for athletic or extra-curricular activities must meet school dress code policies at all times. Deviation from the dress code requires the coach or sponsor's permission.
- Clothing should be clean, in good repair, and not ostentatious. Holes in clothing are accepted only from the top of the knee and down.
- Bare midriffs, cleavage, or clothing of a revealing nature are unacceptable. No halter tops, backless tops, or sundresses are to be worn without a cover jacket.
- *Tops:* Straps on tops must be at least **two inches** wide at both shoulders. Length on tops must touch the top of the lower garment when seated. If wearing a tank top, there must be two straps with covering on the sides for moderation. No strapless tops without a covering. See-through apparel is unacceptable. Tank top undershirts or cut out T-shirts may not be worn as an outer garment.
- *Pants:* Lycra or Spandex pants (including tights and jeggings) are not allowed. Pants should be worn high enough on the waist to ensure the covering of all undergarments. Pants which droop below the waist, exposing underwear or skin must be belted at the normal waistline. Belts must be worn with all pants having belt loops.
- Shorts may not be more than 5" above the top of the knee. (This includes shorts which give the appearance of a skirt in front and shorts in the back.)
- *Skirts:* Length should be no more than 5" above the knee. (Measured to the top of the slit.)
- *Accessories:* Hats, head scarves, and sunglasses (including those worn on top of the head) are not allowed in the building.
- Clothing with advertisements for tobacco, alcohol, or other controlled substances are not permitted in public buildings in Virginia. Lewd or suggestive T-shirts, beach wear, including

- uncovered tank tops, or clothing designed to be worn as undergarments are unacceptable.
- Personal grooming is not permitted in the classroom. Shoes must be worn at all times in and around the building. No flip flop shoes or slides are allowed.

STUDENT HONOR

- The rules of good judgment, fair play and common decency are to be applied along with the standard rules of law in the matter of student honor.
- All homework assigned by teachers for individual student completion shall be the work of the student.
- In-class tests are reflective of the knowledge of the individual student. Care should be exercised to prevent even the appearance of cheating. Students who exhibit a cell phone or electronic device during testing without teacher permission will also be subject to disciplinary action.
- When term papers or projects of major importance are assigned, plagiarism will not be tolerated, and may result in a 0% score or an opportunity to re-do the assignment from scratch, at the teacher's discretion. Copying the language, structure, idea, and/or thoughts of another and representing that content as your own constitutes plagiarism. This includes any use of a content generation service (including those colloquially known as "AI", ex. ChatGPT, DALL-E, or Midjourney) to produce content and then represent that content as your own work. Any content produced by such services must be correctly cited and included in the reference list or bibliography, just as a quote from a paper, article, or other source would be. Students should also take into account that such services, by the open admission of their creators, are prone to generating incorrect or false information in some circumstances.
- Whenever evidence exists that a student has committed an error in judgment concerning cheating, the student may expect a grade of zero (0) on the work in question. Continued cheating will result in disciplinary action.
- Any student found to be guilty of theft on school property will face immediate suspension as well as legal action.

STUDENT INSURANCE

The school provides insurance coverage for all students who participate in sports or extracurricular activities. This is a minimal coverage policy and is intended to be a supplement to the base family hospitalization policy.

STUDENT RECORDS

Students 18 years of age and older and their parents are protected by law regarding the maintenance, security, disclosure, and transfer of all student records. They have the right to see the records within 10 days, request copies, permit or deny disclosure within the limits set by law, and to request amendments of items in the records that appear to be inaccurate or misleading. The School Board policy and a copy of the regulations, procedures, and legal base for this assurance of privacy are available in the school board office.

SUBSTANCE USE AND ABUSE

1. Each student shall demonstrate an understanding of the nature, use, and effects of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco.

2. Students shall not possess alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and/or illicit substances on school property.
3. Students shall not be under the influence of any controlled substances, alcohol, drug, and/or tobacco products on school property.
4. While vaping and the use of vaping products may or may not contain tobacco, drugs, or other illicit substances, the use and possession of any and all vaping products is strictly prohibited on school grounds.

TEXTBOOK FEES

Students will be provided one set of textbooks at no charge; however, students will incur charges for lost or damaged textbooks which will include the current replacement cost of each lost or damaged textbook.

TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOL FOR STAFF, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS

Smoking, chewing, or any other use of any tobacco products by staff, students, and parents shall be prohibited on school property. Staff and students found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

The School Board may direct the superintendent to issue regulations designating smoking areas on school grounds outside buildings.

TRANSFERS OR WITHDRAWALS

Students who are moving or who are withdrawing for any reason should notify the office and turn in their textbooks and any other materials belonging to the school to the teacher who issued them.

The teachers and staff will complete a withdrawal form so that it may be sent to the new school. Upon notification that the student has enrolled in another school, their records will be sent by mail.

Parents are not allowed to carry transcripts from school to school. Upon notification that the student has enrolled in another school, the records will be sent by mail. If a student withdraws prior to the last fifteen (15) days of school, grades to date will be given, but no indication of promotion/retention will be made on the report card. If a student withdraws within the last fifteen (15) days of the school year, final grades and grade placement for the next school year will be indicated.

USE OF FACILITIES

School facilities which include buildings and grounds may be used after school hours for purposes and activities which have been authorized by the School Board. Requests for use of Southampton County Schools buildings and grounds must be forwarded to the Division Superintendent of Schools. It is against the law for unlicensed vehicles to be on school property.

VISITORS TO SCHOOL

Southampton Middle School strives to maintain a safe, secure environment for learning and overall student success. As a part of that continuing effort, a security system has been installed on the entrance doors at our school. All entrance doors will remain locked throughout the school

day.

Students and parents entering the building will not be affected by this system; however, all doors will be locked. Persons wishing to enter Southampton Middle School will be asked to use the intercom located at the front entrance of the school or the entrance located on the side of the building if handicapped accessibility is required. The office staff will be able to both see and talk with building guests and will respond quickly to enable our visitors to enter and report to the front lobby for further assistance. Students shall not be permitted to open any exterior door in the school during the school day.

Visitors are required to wear an ID badge while visiting the school. In order not to interrupt instructional time, we do not allow visits to the classroom during instruction unless an appointment is made to allow the principal or their designee to accompany the parent or guardian to the class. If a parent needs to conference with a teacher, we will be happy to set up a conference time during the teacher's planning period.

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APPENDIX A: ADMINISTERING MEDICINES TO STUDENTS

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

Southampton County Public Schools personnel may give prescription medication to students only pursuant to the written order of a physician or nurse practitioner and with written permission from the student's parent or guardian. Such medicine must be in the original container and delivered to the principal, school nurse, or an authorized designee of the school division by the parent/guardian of the student.

NONPRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

Southampton County Public School personnel may give nonprescription medication to students only with the written permission of the parent or guardian. Such permission shall include the name of the medication, the required dosage of the medication, and the time the medicine is to be given. Such medicine must be in the original container and delivered to the principal, school nurse, or an authorized designee of the school division by the parent/guardian of the student.

APPENDIX B: CODE OF CONDUCT

INTRODUCTION

AUTHORITY AND DUTIES OF SCHOOL BOARDS

Standards of Quality

Section 22.1-253.13:7.D.3. of the *Code of Virginia* (part of the section of the *Code* known as the Standards of Quality) requires local school boards to maintain and follow an up-to-date policy manual that includes “standards of student conduct and attendance and enforcement procedures designed to provide that public education be conducted in an atmosphere free of disruption and threat to persons or property and supportive of individual rights.” Local school boards must give consideration to the views of teachers, parents, and other concerned citizens in the development of policies.

School Board Regulations

Section 22.1-78. of the *Code* authorizes local school boards to adopt bylaws and regulations “for its own government, for the management of its official business and for the supervision of schools, including but not limited to the proper discipline of students, including their conduct going to and returning from school.”

Section 22.1-279.6.B. of the *Code* requires local school boards to adopt and revise regulations on codes of student conduct that are consistent with, but may be more stringent than, the guidelines of the Virginia Board of Education. School boards are required to include procedures for suspension, expulsion, and exclusion decisions, to biennially review student conduct code guidelines, and to include prohibitions against hazing and profane or obscene language or conduct. School boards are authorized to regulate certain communications devices and, at their discretion, require or encourage drug testing.

Section 22.1-279.9. of the *Code* requires school boards, in cooperation with the local law enforcement agencies, juvenile and domestic relations court judges and personnel, parents, and the community at large, to develop programs to prevent violence and crime on school property and at school-sponsored events.

Removal, Suspension and Expulsion of Pupils

Section 22.1-276.2. of the *Code* gives teachers initial authority to remove a student from a class for disruptive behavior and requires all school boards to establish the criteria for teachers to remove disruptive students, requirements for reporting incidents of disruptive behavior, procedures for written notification to a student and the student’s parents, guidelines for alternative assignment and instruction of such students, and procedures for the return of students to class and teacher participation in the decision.

Section 22.1-277. of the *Code* authorizes the suspension or expulsion of pupils “for sufficient cause,” including acts off school property when the acts lead to an adjudication of delinquency, a conviction of certain offenses, or a charge that would be a felony if committed by an adult.

Authorization for short-term suspensions (10 school days or less) and procedures for suspension and for readmission are set forth in § 22.1-277.04. of the *Code*.

Authorization for long-term suspensions (more than 10 school days but less than 365 calendar days) and procedures for suspension and for readmission are set forth in §22.1-277.05. of the *Code*.

Authorization for expulsion and procedures for expulsion and for readmission are set forth in § 22.1-277.06. of the *Code*. Recommendations for expulsion for other than weapons and drug offenses are required to be based on consideration of factors specified in the *Code*, including the nature and seriousness of the violation and the student's disciplinary history.

Section 22.1-277.07. of the *Code* requires school boards to expel students who bring a firearm or other destructive device (defined in the Section) onto school property or to a school-sponsored event in violation of the Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994. School boards are authorized to consider factors listed in § 22.1-277.06. in determining "special circumstances" in particular cases that would justify another disciplinary action.

Section 22.1-277.08. of the *Code* requires school boards to expel students who bring a controlled substance, imitation controlled substance, or marijuana onto school property or to a school-sponsored event. School boards are authorized to consider factors listed in § 22.1- 277.06. in determining "special circumstances" in particular cases that would justify another disciplinary action.

Alternative Education Program

Section 22.1-277.2:1. of the *Code* authorizes school boards to require any student to attend an alternative education program under prescribed circumstances. Procedures to be followed when requiring an alternative education program are also prescribed. It should be noted that alternative education programs are authorized but not required by the *Code* to be established.

School boards may require any student who has been found in possession of, or under the influence of, drugs or alcohol on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity to undergo evaluation for drug or alcohol abuse, or both, and, if recommended by the evaluator and with the consent of the student's parent, to participate in a treatment program.

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF OTHERS

Role of the Principal and School Administration

The Virginia Standards of Accreditation (2000), Section 8 VAC 20-131-210.A., states that the principal "is recognized as the instructional leader of the school and is responsible for effective school management that promotes positive student achievement, a safe and secure environment in which to teach and learn, and efficient use of resources." Section B.2. specifies that the principal shall "ensure that the school division's student code of conduct is enforced and seek to maintain a safe and secure school environment." Section 8 VAC 20-131-260.C.3., requires a school administration to ensure "a written procedure, in accordance with guidelines established by the local board, for responding to violent, disruptive or illegal activities by students on school property or during a school-sponsored activity."

Parental Responsibility

Section 22.1-279.3. of the *Code of Virginia* sets forth the duty of each parent of a student enrolled in a public school to assist the school in enforcing the standards of student conduct and compulsory school attendance. Procedures are set forth for notifying parents of their responsibilities,

documenting the notification, and taking steps against parents for willful and unreasonable refusal to participate in efforts to improve their child's behavior or school attendance. Each parent of a student must sign a statement acknowledging the receipt of the school board's standards of student conduct and return it to the school.

Reports to Law Enforcement Agencies

Section 22.1-279.3:1.A. of the *Code of Virginia* lists certain offenses that school officials are required to report to local law-enforcement agencies. Additional information about this requirement and a list of reportable offenses are in these guidelines.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND INTENT

The development, implementation, and enforcement of the Student Conduct Policy is intended to ensure a safe, non-disruptive environment for effective teaching and learning. To that end, this policy sets forth those standards of behavior believed to be appropriate in the learning environment and informs all students, their parents, and the larger community of the consequences for violations of this policy.

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

It is the School Board's legal responsibility to provide a fair access to an education for every child, and it is their responsibility to seek to ensure respect for the dignity of each child. A learning environment that encourages the healthy growth and development of each individual must be free from conflict, threats of conflict or danger, and undue disruption. To that end, this code of conduct seeks to direct student behavior based on clearly defined expectations, responsibilities, and consequences.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

For purposes of this document, policy includes general guidelines that focus attention on a certain issue, in this case, student conduct. This school division, directed and supported by School Board authority, intends that all students have the opportunity to be educated in a safe, secure environment that is conducive to learning.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

School Board members, school personnel, parents, and students share the responsibility to create and maintain a school environment that is safe and conducive to learning. It is the responsibility of the School Board to adopt policies and regulations. The superintendent is charged with the responsibility of issuing standards of student conduct including a list of corrective disciplinary actions for violation of the standards. The school principal has the responsibility of enforcing the student conduct standards using reasonable judgment. Each parent has a duty to assist the school in enforcing the standards of student conduct and compulsory school attendance. Students are expected to attend school regularly and to demonstrate good citizenship while enjoying the rights and fulfilling responsibilities set forth in the student conduct standards.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION CRITERIA, PROCEDURES, AND PROCESSES
SECONDARY (MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS)

LEVELS OF INTERVENTIONS AND RESPONSES Southampton County Public Schools are invested in improving student behavior; however, consequences and/or more intense interventions may be imposed due to safety or repeated offenses.	
CLASSROOM	Examples of Classroom Interventions and Responses <i>These interventions aim to teach and correct inappropriate behavior so students can learn and demonstrate safe and respectful behavior. Staff members are encouraged to try a variety of positive management strategies with graduated responses as needed.</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish positive relationships with students ● Recognize/reward appropriate behavior ● Contact parent/guardian ● Verbal correction ● Reminders and redirection ● Written reflection or apology ● Seat change ● Student conference ● In-class time out ● Loss of classroom privileges
LEVEL 1	Examples of Classroom Interventions and Responses with Parental Involvement <i>These interventions aim to teach and correct inappropriate behavior so students can learn and demonstrate safe and respectful behavior. Staff members are encouraged to try a variety of positive management strategies with graduated responses as needed while keeping the student in class.</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Verbal warning ● Student conference ● Parent/guardian conference ● Behavior chart/contract/plan ● Citation/Detention/Saturday School
	Examples of Administrative Interventions and Responses <i>These interventions involve the school administration and aim to correct behaviors by stressing the seriousness of the behavior while keeping the student in school.</i>

LEVEL 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student conference • Check-in/check-out • Behavior chart/contract plan • Parent/guardian contact • Restorative justice strategies/Service Duty • Restitution • Loss of privilege • Detention • Conflict resolution • Peer mediation • Mentoring • In-school suspension/Saturday School (ISS) • Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA); Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) • Citation
LEVEL 3	<p>Examples of Short-term Suspensions Referral Responses <i>These interventions involve short-term removal of a student from the school environment due to the severity or chronic nature of the behaviors; suspension from school will not exceed ten (10) days.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restitution • Restorative justice strategies/Service Duty • Short-term Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) not to exceed ten (10) days • Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA); Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) • Revision of IEP (student with disabilities) • Referral to community organizations
LEVEL 4	<p>Examples of Extended Suspension Referral Response <i>These interventions involve the long-term removal of a student from the school environment due to the severity of the behavior. These interventions focus on protecting the safety of the school community and ending destructive/dangerous behavior.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restorative justice strategies upon return of suspension • Referral to community organizations • Extended Out-of-School Suspensions (OSS) of more than ten (10) days • Placement in an alternative educational setting • Expulsion • Report to law enforcement

Discipline Explanations

BEHAVIOR	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	REPORT TO POLICE
Attendance					
Tardy	X	X			
Skipping		X	X		
Unauthorized Area		X	X		
Student is not going to class as assigned		X	X		
Student is in an unauthorized area of the campus (NOT related to school or class attendance/nonattendance).		X	X		
Leaving School w/o Authorization			X	X	
Trespassing	X	X	X	X	X
BULLYING/HARASSMENT	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	REPORT TO POLICE
Bullying Physical		X	X	X	X
Bullying Cyber		X	X	X	X
Bullying Other	X	X	X	X	
BESO13 – Threatening or instigating violence, injury or harm to another student(s) or other(s) (not including written threats)		X	X	X	X
BESO14 – Threatening, intimidation, or instigating violence, injury or harm to another student(s) or other(s) in writing. If the written threat is to a staff member, a report to law enforcement is required unless the		X	X	X	X (if the threat is to a staff member in writing. Do not report to Law Enforcement if student has a

student making the threat has a disability.					disability)
Threaten/Intimidate Staff		X	X	X	X
Threaten/Intimidate Student		X	X	X	X
Stalking		X	X	X	X
Harassment	X	X	X	X	
DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	REPORT TO POLICE
Minor Insubordination	X	X	X		
Disrespect	X	X	X		
Defiance	X	X	X		
Disruption w/o Endangering Safety	X	X			
Disruption Endangering Safety		X	X		

Demonstration w/o Affecting Instruction	X	X			
Demonstration Affecting Instruction		X	X	X	
Obscene Language/Gesture	X	X	X		
Obscene/Disruptive Literature	X	X	X		
Dress Code	X	X			
Riot: Attempt to Incite		X	X	X	
Riot: Incited			X	X	
DRUGS	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	REPORT TO POLICE
Possession of Alcohol			X	X	
Possession of Over The Counter			X	X	

Possession of Prescription			X	X	
Possession of Inhalant			X	X	
Possession of Schedule 1 or 2 Drug				X	X
Distribution of Tobacco			X	X	
Distribution of Alcohol			X	X	
Distribution of Over the Counter			X	X	
Distribution of Over the Counter			X	X	
Distribution of Prescription			X	X	
Distribution of Schedule 1 or 2 Drug				X	X
Distribution of Tobacco			X	X	
Look-Alike Drug			X	X	
Unauthorized use of Over the Counter			X	X	

Unauthorized use of Prescription			X	X	
Use/Consumption of Alcohol			X	X	
Use of Schedule 1 or 2 Drug			X	X	X
Use, Distribution, Possession of Paraphernalia			X	X	X
Use if Inhalant			X	X	
Use of Tobacco			X	X	
ELECTRONIC DEVICES	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	REPORT TO POLICE
Cell Phone	X	X			
Cell Phone inappropriate usage (recording on school property)			X	X	

Computers/Laptop/Tablet	X	X			
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Extortion		X	X	X	
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	REPORT TO POLICE
Altercation w/o physical contact	X	X	X		
Assault on Staff (no Weapon)			X	X	X
Assault on Staff (weapon)				X	X
Assault on Student (no weapon)			X	X	X
Assault on Student (Weapon)				X	X
Fighting w/o injury		X	X	X	
Fighting with injury		X	X	X	
Gang Violence				X	X
Hazing			X	X	
Homicide				X	X
Kidnapping/Abduction/False Imprisonment				X	X

SEXUAL OFFENSES	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	REPORT TO POLICE
Attempted Sexual Assault (Student)			X	X	X
Attempted Sexual Assault (Staff)			X	X	X
Inappropriate Sexual Touching/Contact of Staff		X	X	X	
Inappropriate Sexual Touching/Contact of Student		X	X	X	
Indecent Exposure			X	X	X

Sexual Battery of Staff				X	X
Sexual Battery of Student				X	X

Sexual Assault of Staff				X	X
Sexual Assault of Student				X	X
Aggravated Sexual Battery				X	X
TECHNOLOGY	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	REPORT TO POLICE
Damage/Attempted Damage		X	X	X	
Infraction of School Use Policy		X	X	X	
Unauthorized Usage	X	X	X	X	
PROPERTY VIOLATIONS	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	REPORT TO POLICE
Arson			X	X	X
Theft of Student or Staff Property		X	X	X	
Theft of School Property		X	X	X	

Theft of Motor Vehicle			X	X	X
Possession of Stolen Property		X	X	X	
Vandalism of School Property		X	X	X	
Vandalism of Student Property		X	X	X	
Vandalism of Staff Property		X	X	X	
WEAPONS	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	REPORT TO POLICE
BB/Pellet Gun				X	X
Bomb/Bomb Making Materials				X	X

Bomb Detonation				X	X
Chemical Substance				X	
Fireworks/Explosives			X	X	

Firearms				X	X
Knife (on person or in possession)				X	X
Knife (in vehicle greater than 3 in Blade)			X	X	
Live Ammunition		X	X	X	
Razor/ Box cutter/Other cutting Device			X	X	
Stun Gun/Taser				X	
Replica/Toy/Look-Alike			X	X	
Possession of Other Weapons			X	X	X
OTHER					
Chemical/Biological Threat			X	X	X
Cheating	X	X			

Terrorist Threat				X	X
Extortion Attempted		X	X		
Falsified/Altered Document	X	X	X		
Gambling	X	X	X		
Gang Activity			X	X	

DISCIPLINE OFFENSES AND DESCRIPTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Attendance - Student attendance is a cooperative effort; schools shall involve parents and students in accepting responsibility for regular attendance. Each parent or guardian of a child within the compulsory school attendance age shall be responsible for the child's regular and punctual attendance at school as required by law. Students shall attend school on a regular and punctual basis unless otherwise excused in accordance with school board regulation.

Tardy

Student not in the classroom when the tardy bell rings

Skiping

Student in the building, did not report to class

Unauthorized Area

Student released to another area, did not report to designated area.

Leaving School w/o Authorization

Student left the building without prior authorization

Trespassing - A student shall not trespass on school property or use school facilities without proper authority or permission, or during a period of suspension or expulsion. All visitors to a school or its grounds shall report to the main office immediately. Persons who fail to do so may be considered trespassers and subject to legal action, and student visitors who fail to do so also may be subject to disciplinary action as well as legal action. Any person whose presence or action interferes with or disrupts the operation of the school, its students, or school activities shall be prohibited from entering school or remaining on school property or remaining at a school-sponsored activity, wherever located.

Trespassing

L1: Student on site without supervision
L2: Student on site after being being prohibited from school grounds

BULLYING/HARASSMENT

Bullying - Students, either individually or as part of a group, shall not harass or bully others. The following conduct is illustrative of bullying:

Physical intimidation, taunting, name calling, and insults

Comments regarding the race, gender, religion, physical abilities or characteristics of associates of the targeted person

Falsifying statements about other persons

Bullying Physical

Pushing, shoving, hitting

Bullying Cyber	Sending, posting, or sharing negative, harmful, false, or mean content about someone else causing embarrassment or humiliation.
BULLYING/ OTHER	
Bullying Other	
<u>Threats; Intimidation</u> - Students shall not make any verbal or physical threat of bodily injury or use of force directed toward another person for the purpose of extortion or for any other reason. This includes any threats made in writing, or verbally, and toward or about any person.	
Threaten/Intimidate Staff	
Threaten/Intimidate Student	
<u>Stalking</u> - Students shall not engage in a pattern of behavior that places another person in fear of serious harm.	
Stalking	
Harassment	
DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR	
<u>Disruptive Behavior</u> - Students are entitled to a learning environment free of unnecessary disruption. Any physical or verbal disturbance within the school setting or during related activities, which interrupts or interferes with teaching and orderly conduct of school activities, is prohibited.	
Minor Insubordination	
Disrespect	
Defiance	
Disruption w/o Endangering Safety	
Disruption Endangering Safety	
Demonstration w/o Affecting Instruction	
Demonstration Affecting Instruction	
Obscene Language/Gesture	
Obscene/Disruptive Literature	

Dress Code	
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Riot: Attempt to Incite	
Riot: Incited	
DRUGS	
<u>Alcohol and Drugs</u> - A student may not possess, use, or distribute alcohol, tobacco and/or tobacco products, and other drugs on school grounds, on school buses, or during school activities, on or off school property. This includes, but may not be limited to, smokeless tobacco, anabolic steroids, look-alike drugs, drug paraphernalia, and any drug not prescribed for the student by a physician. Any student who possesses or uses prohibited substances may participate in prevention and intervention activities deemed appropriate by the superintendent.	
Possession of Alcohol	
Possession of Over The Counter	
Possession of Prescription	
Possession of Inhalant	
Possession of Schedule 1 or 2 Drug	
Distribution of Tobacco	
Distribution of Alcohol	
Distribution of Over the Counter	
Distribution of Prescription	
Distribution of Inhalant	
Distribution of Schedule 1 or 2 Drug	
Look-Alike Drug	
SELF-ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION	

Self-administration of any medication with the exception of asthma medication and auto-injectable epinephrine, as discussed below, is prohibited for students in grades kindergarten through eight.

Sharing, borrowing, distributing, manufacturing or selling any medication is prohibited. Permission to self-administer non-prescription medication may be revoked if the student violates this policy and the student may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Standards of Student Conduct.

Unauthorized use of Over the Counter	
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Unauthorized use of Prescription	
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Use/Consumption of Alcohol	
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Use of Schedule 1 or 2 Drug	
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Use, Distribution, Possession of Paraphernalia	
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Use if Inhalant	
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Use of Tobacco	
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ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell Phone	Not abiding by the Division's Policy
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Computers/Laptop/Tablet	
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Extortion	
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Extortion Attempted	
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Falsified/Altered Document	
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Internet Use - Internet use by students shall be in accordance with acceptable computer use policies and regulations. Violations of policy will result in a suspension of access privileges.

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Assault - The following violations shall result in disciplinary action and may require mandatory sanctions:

Threatening or physically assaulting another student or another person (other than a staff member) who has reason to be at school, whether or not causing injury, shall result in disciplinary measures up to and including a 10-day suspension and a recommendation for expulsion.

Physically assaulting a school staff member shall result in suspension from school for up to 10 days, and the principal may recommend expulsion. In the event of injury to the staff member, expulsion shall be recommended.

Altercation w/o physical contact	
Assault on Staff (no Weapon)	
Assault on Staff (weapon)	

Assault on Student (no weapon)	
Assault on Student (Weapon)	
<u>Fighting</u> - Exchanging mutual physical contact between two or more students by pushing, shoving, or hitting with or without injury is prohibited.	
Fighting w/o injury	
Fighting with injury	
<u>Gang-Related Activity</u> - Gang-related activity shall not be tolerated. Symbols of gang membership are expressly prohibited (i.e., clothing that symbolizes association, rituals associated with, or activities by an identified group of students).	
Gang Violence	

Hazing - No student shall engage in hazing. Hazing means to recklessly and intentionally endanger the health or safety of a student or students or to inflict bodily harm on a student or students in connection with or for the purpose of initiation, admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for, continued membership in a club, organization, association, fraternity, sorority, or student body, regardless of whether the student or students so endangered or injured participated voluntarily in the activity.

Hazing is a ***Class 1 Misdemeanor***, which may be punished by confinement in jail for up to 12 months and a fine of up to \$2500, or both, in addition to any disciplinary consequences, which may be imposed. In addition, any person receiving bodily injury by hazing has a right to sue, civilly, the person or persons guilty thereof, whether adults or minors.

The principal of any school at which hazing which causes bodily injury occurs shall report the hazing to the local Commonwealth Attorney.

Hazing	
Homicide	
Kidnapping/Abduction/False Imprisonment	

Sexual Offenses

Sexual Harassment – Any unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other inappropriate verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment, are prohibited.

Attempted Sexual Assault (Student)	
Attempted Sexual Assault (Staff)	

Inappropriate Sexual Touching/Contact of Staff	
Inappropriate Sexual Touching/Contact of Student	
Indecent Exposure	
Sexual Battery of Staff	
Sexual Battery of Student	
Sexual Assault of Staff	
Sexual Assault of Student	

Aggravated Sexual Battery	
Technology	
Damage/Attempted Damage	
Infraction of School Use Policy	
Unauthorized Usage	
Property Violations	
<p><u>Property Offenses</u> - The following violations shall result in disciplinary action at the discretion of the principal and may require a report to local law enforcement authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willful causing or attempting to cause damage to school property • Theft of, taking, or trying to take another person's property or money by force, fear, or other means • Vandalism, arson, or any threat or false threat to bomb, burn, damage, or destroy in any manner a school building or school property <p>A student (or the student's parent) shall be required to reimburse the school board for any actual loss of, breakage or, destruction of, or failure to return property owned by or under the control of the school board caused or committed by such student.</p>	

Arson	
Theft of Student or Staff Property	
Theft of School Property	
Theft of Motor Vehicle	
Possession of Stolen Property	

Vandalism of School Property	
Vandalism of Student Property	
Vandalism of Staff Property	
Weapons	

Weapons - Students shall not have in their possession any type of unauthorized firearm or other article, which may be used as a weapon.

Student conduct policy on weapons should address the possession, use, sale or purchase of restricted items on school property, on school vehicles, or during school sponsored activities on or off school property. This includes, but may not be limited to, any firearm or weapon. The school board prohibits the possession of unloaded weapons by students on their persons or in their lockers, backpacks, or vehicles.

Weapons for which mandatory expulsion is required include those enumerated in *Virginia Code* § 18.2-308.1., in the federal Gun-Free Schools Act, and in *Virginia Code* § 22.1-277.01.D.

In accordance with § 22.1-277.01 of the *Code*, the expulsion shall be for no less than 365 days. An exception to this policy may be made for students participating in an authorized extracurricular activity or team involving the use of firearms.

Carrying, bringing, using, or possessing dangerous instruments in any school building, on school grounds, in any school vehicle, or at any school-sponsored activity on or off school property is grounds for disciplinary action. Examples of dangerous instruments include knives with blades less than three inches, letter openers, screwdrivers, hammers, hatchets, and other devices that could be used to inflict harm upon another person.

BB/Pellet Gun	
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Bomb Threat - Students shall not engage in any illegal conduct involving firebombs, explosive or incendiary materials or devices, or hoax explosive devices, or chemical bombs as defined in the *Code of Virginia*. Moreover, students shall not make any threats or false threats to bomb other students, school personnel or property.

Bomb/Bomb Making Materials	
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Bomb Detonation	
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Chemical Substance	
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Fireworks/Explosives	
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Firearms	
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Knife (on person or in possession)	
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Knife (in vehicle greater than 3 inch Blade)	
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Live Ammunition	
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Razor/ Box Cutter/Other Cutting Device	
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Stun Gun/Taser	
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Replica/Toy/Look-Alike	
Possession of Other Weapons	
Other	
Chemical/Biological Threat	
<p><u>Cheating</u> - Students are expected to perform honestly on any assigned schoolwork or tests. The following actions are prohibited:</p> <p>Cheating on a test or assigned work by giving, receiving, offering, and/or soliciting information</p> <p>Plagiarizing by copying the language, structure, idea, and/or thoughts of another and representing it as your own, to include the use of content generation services (colloquially known as “AI”, ex. ChatGPT, DALL-E, and Midjourney) to produce content and then represent that content as your own work. Any content produced by such services must be correctly cited and included in the reference list or bibliography, just as a quote from a paper, article, or other source would be. Students should also take into account that such services, by the open admission of their creators, are prone to generating incorrect or false information in some circumstances.</p> <p>Falsifying statements on any assigned schoolwork, tests, or other school documents</p>	
Cheating	
Terrorist Threat	
<p><u>Dress Standard</u> - All students are expected to dress appropriately for a K-12 educational environment. Any clothing that interferes with or disrupts the educational environment is unacceptable. Clothing with language or images that are vulgar, discriminatory, or obscene, or clothing that promotes illegal or violent conduct, such as the unlawful use of weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or drug paraphernalia, or clothing that contains threats such as gang symbols is prohibited.</p> <p>Clothing should fit, be neat and clean, and conform to standards of safety, good taste, and decency. Clothing that exposes cleavage, private parts, the midriff, or undergarments, or that is otherwise sexually provocative, is prohibited. Examples of prohibited clothing include, but are not limited to: sagging or low-cut pants, low-cut necklines that show cleavage, tube tops, halter tops, backless blouses or blouses with only ties in the back, clothing constructed of see-through materials, and head coverings unless required for religious or medical purposes.</p> <p>Additionally, disciplinary action will be taken against any student taking part in gang-related activities that are disruptive to the school environment, which include the display of any</p>	

apparel, jewelry, accessory, tattoo, or manner of grooming that, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, or any other attribute, denotes membership in a gang that advocates illegal or disruptive behavior.

Parents of students requiring accommodation for religious beliefs, disabilities, or other good causes should contact the principal. Students not complying with this code will be asked to cover the non-complying clothing, change clothes, or go home. Repeated infractions will result in disciplinary action.

Dress Code	
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Extortion - No student may obtain or attempt to obtain anything of value from another by using a threat of any kind.

Extortion Attempted	
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Falsified/Altered Document	
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Gambling - A student shall not bet money or other things of value, or knowingly play or participate in any game involving a bet on school property or during any school-sponsored activity.

Gang-related - Such activity shall not be tolerated. Symbols of gang membership are expressly prohibited (i.e., clothing that symbolizes association, rituals associated with, or activities by an identified group of students).

Profane or Obscene Language or Conduct - Students shall not use vulgar, profane, or obscene language, or gestures, or engage in conduct that is vulgar, profane, or obscene, or disrupts the teaching and learning environment.

<u>Bus-Related Offenses</u> - Students are required to conduct themselves on school buses in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. Students who become disciplinary problems on school buses shall be reported to the principal by the driver and may have their riding privileges suspended or revoked. Students are also subject to the same disciplinary action as would be prescribed had the behavior occurred at school (see Appendix C).	

TEACHER REMOVAL OF A STUDENT FROM CLASS

Pursuant to Section 22.1-276.2. of the *Code of Virginia*, teachers shall have the initial authority to remove a student from a class for disruptive behavior that interrupts or obstructs the learning environment, using the following criteria:

1. The removal of the student is necessary to restore a learning environment free from interruptions or obstructions caused by the student's behavior.
2. The removal of the student occurs only after teacher or administrative interventions have failed to end the disruptive behavior. However, nothing shall preclude the immediate removal of a student for behavior that might warrant suspension from school.

3. The removal of a student is an appropriate response to student behavior that is a violation of the rules of conduct.
4. Written notice of the student's behavior and removal from class is given to the parent by the teacher.

SHORT-TERM SUSPENSIONS

A student may be suspended out-of-school for violations of the *Code of Conduct*. For out-of-school suspensions of 10 days or less, the school administrator shall inform the student of the specific violation and provide the student with opportunities to respond to the charges. The student may present the student's version of what occurred. When the school suspends a student, the school shall 1) notify the student of the right to appeal; 2) make a reasonable effort to notify the student's parent of the suspension, inform the parent that a copy of the rules governing suspensions and the procedures for appeal are being sent home with the student, and make arrangements for the student's return home; and 3) send written notification to the parent informing the parent of the suspension, of its reason, the length of the suspension, the right to appeal, the student's right to return to school, and any conditions for that return.

LONG-TERM SUSPENSIONS

A student may be suspended for more than 10 days following a hearing before the superintendent or the superintendent's designee. For certain offenses, a student may be suspended for the remainder of the semester or the school year. The superintendent may confirm or modify the suspension of a student. The student and/or his parent/guardian may appeal the discipline decision of the superintendent to a three-member board committee. If the decision of the three-member committee to uphold the suspension is unanimous, there is no further right of appeal. If, however, the decision of the committee is not unanimous, the student and their parents/guardians may appeal the decision to the full board. When a student is placed on long-term suspension, written notice of the suspension shall be sent in accordance with §22.1-277.05 of the *Code of Virginia*.

EXPULSIONS

A student may be expelled only by action of the School Board or a disciplinary committee of the School Board based on the recommendation of the principal and the superintendent.

In the case of a recommendation for expulsion by the principal, the Superintendent or her designee shall conduct a review of the recommendation. The review shall take into account the following factors:

1. The nature and seriousness of the violation
2. The degree of danger to the school and community
3. The student's disciplinary history, including the seriousness and number of previous infractions
4. The appropriateness and availability of an alternative education placement or program
5. The student's age and grade level
6. The results of any mental health, substance abuse, or special education assessments
7. The student's attendance and academic records
8. Such other matters as deemed to be appropriate.

If the decision of the three-member committee to uphold the expulsion is unanimous, there is no right of appeal. If, however, the decision of the committee is not unanimous, the student and their parent and guardian may appeal the decision to the full board.

When a student is expelled, written notice of the expulsion shall be sent in accordance with §22.1-277.06 of the *Code*. The superintendent or their designee shall establish a schedule by which pupils who have been expelled may apply and reapply for readmission to school.

Student discipline; long-term suspension. The aforementioned *Code* reduces the maximum length of a long-term suspension from 364 calendar days to 45 school days. The *Code* permits a long-term suspension to extend beyond a 45-school-day period, not to exceed 364 calendar days, if (i) the offense involves weapons, drugs, or serious bodily injury or (ii) the School Board or division superintendent or his designee finds that aggravating circumstances exist, as defined by the Department of Education. The *Code* requires the Department of Education's definition of aggravating circumstances to include consideration of a student's disciplinary history.

EXPULSIONS FOR WEAPONS-RELATED OFFENSES

Any student determined to be in possession of or to have brought any prohibited weapon onto school property or to a school-sponsored activity shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year (365 days). However, the School Board may determine, based on the facts of a particular case, that special circumstances exist, and another disciplinary action or term of expulsion is appropriate. The division superintendent may conduct a review in such cases to determine whether a disciplinary action other than expulsion is appropriate and recommend that action to the School Board for final determination.

EXPULSIONS FOR DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES

Any student determined to have distributed or manufactured a controlled substance including anabolic steroids or prescription drugs, an imitation controlled drug, or other prohibited substance on school property or at a school-sponsored activity shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year. However, the School Board may determine, based on the facts of a particular case, that special circumstances exist, and another disciplinary action or term of expulsion is appropriate. The division superintendent may conduct a review in such cases to determine whether a disciplinary action other than expulsion is appropriate and recommend that action to the School Board for final determination.

SUSPENSIONS OR EXPULSIONS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

See Appendix A.

ADMISSION OF STUDENTS SUSPENDED OR EXPELLED FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL DIVISION OR A PRIVATE SCHOOL

A student who has been expelled or suspended for more than 30 days by a school board or a private school, or for whom admission has been withdrawn by a private school, may be excluded from attendance for no more than one calendar year in the case of expulsion or withdrawal of admission, and in the case of suspension of more than 30 days, for no longer than the duration of such suspension. The school shall provide written notice to the student and his or her parent of the reasons for such possible exclusion and of the right to a hearing conducted by the division superintendent. The student may not attend school until a review of the case is conducted by the division superintendent. Exclusion shall be imposed upon a finding that the student presents a

danger to the other students or staff members of the school division. The decision to exclude the student shall be final unless altered by the School Board after a timely written petition. Upon the expiration of the exclusion, the student may petition the division superintendent for admission.

REVIEW AND REVISION OF STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY GUIDELINES

The SCPS Discipline Review Committee will complete an annual evaluation of the *Standards of Conduct* in January of each school year. Any revisions will be submitted to the superintendent for school board approval in April each school year.

DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY GUIDELINES

A copy of the *Standards of Student Conduct* will be issued to all students within one month of the opening of school. All transfer students will be issued a copy of the *Standards* as a part of the registration process. Principals will stress to all students that compliance with the *Standards* is mandatory. The *Acknowledgment of Parent Responsibility* form must be signed by the parent or guardian and returned to the school.

Each year, during the first week of school, all students will be provided a period of instruction on the contents of the *Standards of Student Conduct*. This instruction will be followed by an assessment appropriate to the student's grade level.

STANDARDS OF STUDENT CONDUCT

Standards of student conduct apply to all students under the jurisdiction of the SCPS School Board. Disciplinary action will be determined based on the facts of each incident in the reasonable discretion of the School Board and other appropriate school officials.

Students are subject to corrective disciplinary action for misconduct that occurs:

- in school or on school property
- when they are transported by any SCPS approved transportation such as but not limited to; SCPS vehicle and school bus
- while participating in or attending any school sponsored activity or trip
- on the way to and from school (including bus stop) and
- off school property, when the acts lead to (1) an adjudication of delinquency or a conviction for an offense listed in § 16.1-305.1. of the *Code of Virginia* (unlawful purchase, possession or use of a weapon, homicide, felonious assault and bodily wounding, criminal sexual assault, manufacture, sale, gift, distribution or possession of Schedule I or II controlled substances or marijuana, arson, and related crimes, and burglary and related offenses), criminal street gang activity or recruitment for such activity, or (2) a charge that would be a felony if committed by an adult.

RANGE OF CORRECTIVE DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

The options and alternatives for corrective disciplinary action may range from admonition to mandatory expulsion, and may include but not be limited to the following:

- Admonition and counseling
- Parent/pupil conference
- Modification of student classroom assignment or schedule
- Student behavior contract
- Referral to student support services
- After-school or in-school detention
- Suspension of student privileges for a specified period
- Removal from class
- Initiation of child study process
- Referral to in-school intervention, mediation, or community service programs
- Short-term suspension
- Long-term suspension
- Recommendation for expulsion
- Mandatory expulsion

DIFFERENTIATION OF SANCTIONS BY GRADE LEVEL

Options for corrective disciplinary action for misconduct may be differentiated by grade level.

OTHER DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES

The School Board allows a student who has been suspended to complete academic assignments during the period of suspension in accordance with conditions established by the school board. School Board policy may provide for ongoing consequences after a student returns to school following suspension or expulsion including, but not limited to, probationary status requiring satisfactory performance and conduct, limitations of privileges, community service, or restitution.

REPORTING OF CERTAIN OFFENSES

§ 22.1-279.3:1.D. of the *Code of Virginia* requires that principals immediately report to the local law-enforcement agency any act enumerated in clauses (ii) through (vii) of §22.1-279.3:1.A. that may constitute a criminal offense. A principal may report to the local law-enforcement agency any incident described in clause (i) of subsection A. When there is injury, or the battery is against school personnel, reporting is mandatory.

§ 22.1-279.3:1.A. of the *Code of Virginia* lists offenses as follows:

- i. The assault or assault and battery, without bodily injury, of any person on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity;
- ii. The assault and battery which that results in bodily injury, sexual assault, death, shooting, stabbing, cutting, or wounding of any person, or stalking of any person as described § 18.2-60.3,

in on a school bus, on school property, or at a school sponsored activity;

iii. Any conduct involving alcohol, marijuana, a controlled substance, imitation controlled substance, or an

anabolic steroid on a school bus, on school property, or at a school sponsored activity, including the theft or attempted theft of student prescription medications;

iv. Any threats against school personnel while on a school bus, on school property or at a school-sponsored activity;

v. The illegal carrying of a firearm, as defined in § 22.1-277.07, onto school property;

vi. Any illegal conduct involving firebombs, explosive materials or devices, or hoax explosive devices, as defined in § 18.2-85, or explosive or incendiary devices, as defined in § 18.2-433.1, or chemical bombs, as described in § 18.2-87.1, on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity;

vii. Any threats or false threats to bomb, as described in § 18.2-83, made against school personnel or involving school property or school buses; or

viii. The arrest of any student for an incident occurring on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity, including the charge, therefore.

The principal or designee must also notify the parent of any student involved in the incidents listed above, as well as incidents committed by students enrolled at the school if the offense would be a felony if committed by an adult, regardless of where the offense is committed, or would be a violation of the Drug Control Act if it occurs on a school bus, school property, or at a school sponsored activity [§ 22.1-279.3:1(B) and (C)]. Section 22.1-279.3:1.D. requires that principals notify parents that the incident has been reported to local law enforcement as required by law and that the parents may contact local law enforcement for further information, if they so desire.

Whenever a student commits a reportable incident named in the *Code*, the student shall be required to participate in prevention and intervention activities as determined appropriate by the superintendent or designee (§ 22.1-279.3:1(C)).

APPENDIX C:

CONSIDERATIONS FOR DISCIPLINING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities, who violate the student code of conduct, or engage in conduct for which they may be disciplined, will be disciplined in accordance with this policy. Additionally, the regular disciplinary procedures must be followed. School personnel may consider any unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis when determining whether to order a change in placement for a child with a disability as a result of discipline.

VII. Long-Term Suspensions, Expulsions or Short-Term Suspensions Which Constitute a Pattern Change in Placement.

For the purpose of removing students with disabilities from their current educational placements, a change in placement occurs when:

1. the removal is for more than 10 consecutive school days at a time; or
2. there is a series of removals, each of which is for 10 days or less, and they cumulate to more than 10 days in a school year and constitute a pattern because of:
 - (a) the length of each removal,
 - (b) the proximity of the removals, and
 - (c) the total time the student is removed.

II. Short-Term Suspension

A short-term suspension is a suspension of 10 consecutive days or less at a time.

School authorities may remove a student with a disability from his or her current educational setting for up to 10 school days cumulative in a school year to the extent that such removal would be applied to students without disabilities and for additional short-term suspensions provided no pattern exists.

III. Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavior Intervention Plans

If the school administration, the parent, and the relevant Individualized Education Program (IEP) team members determine that a manifestation exists, the IEP team must:

- conduct a Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) and implement a Behavioral Intervention Plan (BIP), if no FBA was conducted previously; or,
- if the student already has a FBA and BIP in place, review and modify the BIP, as necessary to address the behavior.

If a manifestation is found, the school division and the parent may agree to a change in placement when reviewing or modifying the BIP. Without this agreement, the student must return to the placement from which the student was removed.

Educational Services While Disciplined

For the first 10 days of removal in a school year, the School Board is not required to provide educational services to the student with a disability if services are not provided to students without disabilities who have been similarly removed.

After the first 10 days of removal in a school year, the School Board shall provide educational services to the student during the period of removal. The services must enable the student to:

- 1) continue to progress in the general curriculum, although in another setting, and
- 2) progress toward meeting the goals set out in the student's IEP.

The determination of educational services is made by the IEP team for discipline which constitutes a change in placement. For discipline, which is not a change in placement, the determination is made by school personnel in consultation with the student's special education teacher.

IV. Manifestation Determination

When a disciplinary action is proposed that will result in a change of placement, a manifestation determination review shall be conducted within 10 school days after the date on which the decision to take disciplinary action is made. This review shall be conducted by the Manifestation Team which consists of a local educational agency representative, the parent and relevant members of the IEP team (as determined by the parent and the school division).

The Manifestation Team may determine that the behavior of the student was not a manifestation of such child's disability only if the Team:

- 1) considers all relevant information in the student's file, including the student's IEP, any teacher observations, and any relevant information supplied by the parents; and
- 2) determines that:
 - (a) the conduct in question was not caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to, the student's disability; and
 - (b) the conduct in question was not the direct result of the school division's failure to implement the IEP.
- 3) If the disciplinary action will result in a change of placement for a student with a disability, then, if the disciplinary action will result in a change of placement for a student with a disability, then that student's parents must be sent notice that same day of the recommendation for discipline and be provided with a copy of the procedural safeguards. The procedures outlined in Section IV must also be followed.

If a manifestation is found, the student cannot be disciplined beyond any permissible short-term removal that may be available.

A parent may request an expedited due process hearing if the parent disagrees with the determination that the behavior was not a manifestation of the student's disability or if the parent disagrees with any decision regarding the placement of the student while disciplined. The student will remain in the interim alternative education setting pending the decision of the hearing officer or the expiration of a forty-five school day removal.

V. Disciplinary Action for Behavior that is Determined Not to be a Manifestation

If the behavior is not a manifestation of the student's disability, the disciplinary procedures will be applied in the same manner as applied to non-disabled students. Following a removal which constitutes a change in placement, the student must continue to receive the educational services necessary to enable the student to continue to participate in the general curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the student's IEP. In addition, the special education and disciplinary records of the student must be made available to the person who makes the final decision regarding the discipline.

VI. Disciplinary Action and/or Alternative Placement for Behavior That Is Determined To Be a Manifestation

A student with a disability whose behavior is determined to be a manifestation of his or her disability may not be disciplined except to the extent a removal is otherwise. The student may also be removed to a more restrictive placement by following change in placement procedures. The IEP team must conduct or review a FBA and/or BIP as provided in Section III.

VII. Interim Alternative Educational Settings for Weapons and Drugs and Infliction of Serious Bodily Injury

Students with disabilities 1) who carry or possess a weapon to or at school, on school premises, or to or at a school function under the jurisdiction of a state or local educational agency; 2) who knowingly possess or use illegal drugs or sell or solicit the sale of a controlled substance, while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of a state or local educational agency; or 3) who inflict serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of a state or local educational agency may be disciplined pursuant to Policies JFCD, JFCF or JGDB and may be placed in an interim alternative educational setting for up to forty-five school days. This option is available without regard to whether a manifestation exists. If no manifestation is found, the student may be disciplined to the extent a student without disabilities would be disciplined.

Any interim alternative educational setting shall be selected, by the IEP team, so as to enable the student to continue to progress in the general curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the student's IEP. The student must also receive, as appropriate, a FBA, behavioral intervention services and modifications designed to address the behavior so it does not recur.

VIII. Change of Placement by Hearing Officer

In addition to the other options for removal, a hearing officer may order a change in the placement for a student with a disability to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting for not more than forty-five (45) school days if the hearing officer determines that maintaining the current placement of such student is substantially likely to result in injury to the student or others. Additional forty-five (45) school day removals may be authorized by the hearing officer as necessary.

IX. Placement During Appeals

Students with disabilities are entitled to the due process rights available to a non-disabled student. In addition, students with disabilities are entitled to the due process procedures available under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as amended and any state procedures. During the course of any appeals, the student's placement shall be in accordance with the provisions of federal law unless the parent and the school division agree otherwise.

X. Students Not Identified as Disabled

Students for whom the parents assert there is a disability but who have not yet been identified as disabled may be subjected to the same measures applied to students without disabilities if the school division did not have knowledge of the disability before the behavior that precipitated the disciplinary action occurred. A school division will be found to have knowledge of the student's disability if before the behavior that precipitated the disciplinary action occurred: the parent expressed concern in writing to supervisory or administrative personnel of the school division, or to a teacher of the student, that the student is in need of special education and related services; or 1) the parent requested an evaluation of the student for special education eligibility through formal evaluation procedures; or

- 2) the student's teacher or other school personnel had expressed specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the student directly to the director of special education or to other supervisory personnel of the school division.

A school division would not be found to have knowledge of a student's disability if:

- 1) the parents refused to allow an evaluation of the student or refused special education services; or
- 2) the student was evaluated and found not eligible for special education services.

If a request for an evaluation is made during the period such a student is subject to disciplinary measures, the evaluation shall be conducted in an expedited manner. If the student is found eligible as a child with a disability, taking into consideration information from the evaluation conducted by the school division and information provided by the parents, then the student must be provided special education and related services, although in another setting, in compliance with the procedures for suspended and expelled students with disabilities. Pending the results of the evaluation, the student shall remain in the educational placement determined by the school authorities.

XI. Disciplining Certain Section 504 Students Who Violate Alcohol and Drug Policies

Students who are identified as disabled solely under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and who are currently engaging in the illegal use of drugs or alcohol, may be disciplined for violating the division's alcohol and drug policies to the same extent as non-disabled students. The student is not entitled to a due process hearing under special education procedures in this circumstance but does retain the protections afforded to regular education students.

DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES FOR INFLICTION OF SERIOUS BODILY INJURY

A student with a disability may be removed without parent consent and assigned to an interim alternative education program by school personnel for not more than forty-five (45) school days when the student has inflicted serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of a state or local educational agency. This option is available regardless of whether a manifestation exists. If no manifestation is found, the student may be disciplined to the extent that a student without disabilities would be disciplined.

APPENDIX D: SCHOOL TRANSPORT GUIDELINES

*Southampton County Public Schools is committed to providing a safe bus transportation system. To that end, these rules and regulations are provided to you and your child to assist us in maintaining safe school buses. Please be reminded that riding the school bus is a **privilege**.*

MEETING THE BUS

- If the student must cross the street to board the bus, cross only in front of the bus, NEVER BEHIND IT. The driver will flash the red signal light prior to the bus coming to a complete stop.
- Students should not cross until they have been directed to do so by the BUS DRIVER and they have checked to make sure all traffic has stopped.

- Students should be aware the driver must see them at all times when near the bus. WALK, *NEVER RUN* to the bus.
- Stand on the edge of your roadway away from traffic lanes and do not run on the property of neighbors. Respect their property rights.
- Always walk on the left when facing the bus stop.
- Be at the bus stop five minutes before the regular pick up time. The driver is not permitted to wait for late students.
- Never push or shove fellow students when loading the bus.
- Parents are requested to accompany their young children to and from the bus stop.

CONDUCT ON THE BUS

While on the bus, pupils must:

- Take a seat without crowding or pushing and remain seated while the bus is in motion.
- Not extend arms, legs, or head out of the bus or windows.
- Not talk to the driver while the bus is in motion except in an emergency; must not tamper with doors or other bus or other bus equipment.
- Not fight, scuffle or throw objects from the windows.
- Not place books in the aisles of the bus.
- Not engage in unnecessarily loud talking or laughter on the bus.
- Not use profane or indecent language.
- Not use tobacco of any kind on the bus.
- Obey the driver promptly.
- Use the same bus regularly.

LEAVING THE BUS

- Remain seated until the bus comes to a full stop.
- Leave the bus in an orderly manner, allowing pupils in front seats off first. After leaving, move quickly away from the bus stop to a safe location.
- Leave the bus at regular stop unless requested in writing by parent for a different stop and approved by the principal of the school.
- If a pupil has to cross the highway, do so only in front of the bus and after the driver has signaled that it is safe to cross.
- Throwing an object of any type at the school bus is not permitted.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Additional bus stop locations cannot be established without permission from transportation. All bus and school rules apply to the bus stop.
- Please note that bus riding is a privilege and may be revoked for any length of time or permanently if deemed appropriate.
- Parents and students will be required to sign a Bus Conduct Form, which will outline these rules. Failure to return this form could result in the student's bus riding privileges being revoked until the form is returned.
- Please be reminded that all school rules outlined in the *Code of Conduct* apply to the bus as well as at any bus stop as well as during the time students transition to and from their home to and from the bus stop.

APPENDIX E: SCHOOL DIRECTORY

<u>School Board Office</u>		(757) 653-2692
Department of Athletics		(757) 653-2751
Department of Special Education	Option #5	(757) 653-2692
Department of Transportation	Option #3	(757) 653-2692
Office of Title I Services	Option #3	(757) 653-2692
<u>Capron Elementary</u>	<u>Faculty and Staff Directory</u>	(434) 658-4348
<u>Meherrin Elementary</u>	<u>Faculty and Staff Directory</u>	(757) 654-6461
<u>Nottoway Elementary</u>	<u>Faculty and Staff Directory</u>	(757) 859-6539
<u>Riverdale Elementary</u>	<u>Faculty and Staff Directory</u>	(757) 562-3007
<u>Southampton Middle</u>	<u>Faculty and Staff Directory</u>	(757) 653-9250
<u>Southampton High</u>	<u>Faculty and Staff Directory</u>	(757) 653-2751
Fresh Start Center		(757) 562-2903
Technical and Career Center		(757) 653-9170
Student Activities	<i>Contact respective school</i>	(757) 653-2692



Student Handbook Agreement Form

*We, the student and parent/guardian, verify by signing on the appropriate spaces below that we have read, understand, and agree to follow and to be held accountable for the rules, policies, procedures, and other information provided in the **Southampton County Middle School Student Handbook** for the 2024-2025 school year.*

Student Printed Name

(Student Signature) (Date)

(Parent/Guardian Signature) (Date)

**SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RACE,
COLOR, SEX, AGE, RELIGION, DISABILITY, NATIONAL ORIGIN, OR MARITAL STATUS IN
EMPLOYMENT OR ANY OF ITS PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES.**

**SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS POST OFFICE BOX 96
21308 PLANK ROAD
COURTLAND VIRGINIA 23837
757-653-2692 PHONE
757-653-9422 FAX**