

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

May 24, 2011

SUBJECT:

Annual Revisions to the Code of Student Conduct – First Reading

BACKGROUND:

The Code of Student Conduct was first promulgated by the Board of Education in 1971 and has been revised annually since then. Extensive revisions were approved by the Board in 1981, 1985, and again in 1993. Recommendations for revisions to the Code of Student Conduct for 2011-2012 have been solicited from principals, the legal counsel, area and district administrators, board members and committees, and others.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

The changes for 2011 – 2012 appear extensive but primarily relate to Tribunal implementation, the District reorganization, and routine updates.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve on first reading the proposed changes in the Code of Student Conduct 2011-2012.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Copy of all changed pages of the Code of Student Conduct

PREPARED BY: David M. Caver
William H. Burkhalter, Jr.

IMPORTANT: PARENTS AND STUDENTS SHOULD READ THIS DOCUMENT CAREFULLY AND PROVIDE THE REQUIRED SIGNATURES ON PAGE 28. PLEASE TEAR OUT PAGE 28 AND RETURN IT TO THE SCHOOL. ATTENTION IS CALLED TO THE FACT THAT CERTAIN VIOLATIONS SUCH AS WEAPONS, ALCOHOL, DRUGS, VIOLENCE, ARSON, MAJOR DISRUPTIONS, AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT MAY LEAD TO EXPULSION OR EVEN PERMANENT EXPULSION FROM SCHOOL FOR THE FIRST OFFENSE.

2010—2011-2011 – 2012

THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AIKEN COUNTY
CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT FOR GRADES PRE-K TO 12

The policies set forth in the following Code as adopted by the Aiken County Board of Education apply to all students of The Consolidated School District of Aiken County. (Elementary Principals have broad discretion in the application of this Code due to the developmental nature of their students.) This Code applies to summer school students, students in the adult education program, and students who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan.

INTRODUCTORY MATTERS

- I. **Philosophy:** The Aiken County Board of Education believes that citizens desire the best possible education for their children. A positive learning environment is safe, drug free, and without disruption. Good student conduct is essential to the achievement of the school's goals and objectives. The Code of Student Conduct establishes guidelines for students, parents, teachers, and administrators to maintain an appropriate school environment.

Disciplinary action is best resolved among teacher, child, and parent in a calm, reasonable manner. However, serious violations of the Code must be handled quickly and effectively by the Administration. The objective of disciplinary action is to encourage good choices and acceptable behavior by the students with every reasonable effort being made to keep students within the school's influence and to offer strategies for changing behaviors. To insure the welfare of the greatest number of students requires the dismissal of any students who fail to observe the required standards. Although this Code of Student Conduct requires an initial recommendation of expulsion for any offense listed in Section VI (A-G), the ~~Area Advisory Council (and/or its hearing subcommittee)~~ Hearing Tribunal, as well as the Board, reserves discretion to consider the merits of each case presented – in particular with regard to extenuating, mitigating, or aggravating circumstances. Whenever alternatives to expulsion are under consideration, such matters including (but not limited to) prior conduct [disciplinary record], academic achievement, citizenship, and contributions to the regular and extra-curricular school programs by the student may be considered. Deferential treatment for the purpose of maintaining athletic or extra-curricular eligibility is not allowed.

- II. **Legal Authority for Discipline in South Carolina:** The regulation of student conduct and discipline in South Carolina schools is derived from the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended; from Regulations of the South Carolina State Department of Education; and by specific precedent and opinion. (For a more detailed reference to legal authority see Appendix (A).)

III. **General provisions:**

A. Notice of Regulations and Distribution: Copies of the Code of Student Conduct are distributed to all students at the beginning of the school year and to those entering after the beginning of the school year. Signed acknowledgments are required. This Code of Student Conduct is a part of District Policy and is updated yearly pursuant to Policy JICDA. Policies may also be found online at the Aiken County Public Schools website (www.aiken.k12.sc.us).

B. Overview of the Appeal Process:

~~[Note: The Board of Education may appoint a Hearing Tribunal to hear all student appeals as would otherwise be heard by one of the five Area Advisory Councils. The Hearing Tribunal shall be authorized with the same powers and responsibilities previously vested in the Area Advisory councils relative to student discipline appeals. Procedures for appeal, and proceedings before the Hearing Tribunal, shall be exactly as described in this Code of Student Conduct for Area Advisory Councils. Notice letters issued to students and students' parents concerning such appeal hearings shall designate which entity will handle the case. The term "Hearing Tribunal" may be used interchangeably with "Area Advisory Council" anywhere Area Advisory Council appears in this Code.] Appeals beyond the school principal's authority will be handled by the appropriate school level Academic Officer and/or the Tribunal.~~

- 1) On matters for which punishment is less than a one-day suspension, the decision of the building principal will be final.
- 2) Suspensions of up to five days (whether in or out of school) may be appealed to the ~~Area Assistant Superintendent~~ appropriate school level Academic Officer, or his designee, as the Board's designated hearing officer, whose decision will be final (unless referred by the ~~Area Assistant Superintendent~~ Academic Officer directly to the ~~Area Advisory Council Tribunal~~ for consideration). Appeals of disciplinary decisions involving punishment greater than five days' suspension (whether in or out of school) [except as provided in Paragraph (4)] will be heard by the ~~Area Advisory Council Tribunal~~, as the Board's designated hearing committee (~~or a sub panel of the Council selected according to Board policy~~). To appeal any decision falling within these categories, written notice of appeal must be made to the ~~Area Assistant Superintendent~~ appropriate Academic Officer (or other individual designated in writing) within ten (10) school days of the date of the written notification to the parent or guardian of the principal's action. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF EXPULSION-LEVEL OFFENSES, ALL DECISIONS ON DISCIPLINARY MATTERS AS DESCRIBED ABOVE WILL BE FINAL.
- 3) To appeal an ~~Advisory Council's~~ a Tribunal's decision concerning an expulsion recommendation, or other decision where the principal's initial recommendation was for expulsion, a written appeal for a hearing by the Board of Education must be made to the District Superintendent within ten (10) school days after the date of the written notice to the student's parents or guardians stating the ~~Area Advisory Council's Tribunal's~~ decision. (Note: Any summer school or adult education appeal will be directly to the Board of Education.)

school suspension and loss of privilege to have such device on school grounds; and for a fourth offense will be expulsion. Any violations involving other violations of the Code of Conduct may result in more severe consequences. **[Note: Violation involving possession and/or utilization of such device in a restroom, even on first offense, will be subject to loss of privileges for the remainder of the year and at least a three-day suspension as provided in District Policy.]**

- G. Non-Students on Grounds: The principal is empowered to take appropriate action against non-students who enter any school building or grounds without permission. Such action includes the right to request assistance from law enforcement authorities to remove such persons and if necessary to swear out arrest warrants (in consultation with the ~~Area Assistant Superintendent~~ appropriate school level Academic Officer).
- H. Referral to School District Approved Counseling Programs: At the discretion of the ~~Area Advisory Council Tribunal~~ or the Board of Education, a student may be referred to an approved counseling program in addition to, or as an alternative to, other disciplinary action. The student must complete such program successfully and provide documentation to the principal.

IV. ***Student Conduct Requirements***: While under school jurisdiction, students are required to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that is in the best interest of the school and community. It is expected that students will:

- A. Conform to reasonable standards of speech, conduct, and dress and refrain from vulgar, obscene, and disrespectful conduct directed toward staff and other students.
- B. Refrain from violating or impairing the rights of others, including physical abuse, sexual harassment, hazing, and conduct considered “bullying” as defined in state law and prohibited under School District policy.
- C. Avoid conduct that deprives other students of an orderly atmosphere for learning.
- D. Refrain from knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon.
- E. Refrain from the use, transmission, or possession of alcoholic beverages, hallucinogens, narcotics, chemical inhalant substances, or drugs not prescribed by an appropriately licensed physician or medical professional; nor be on school premises when school is in session or at any school related activity or event after having used or consumed any quantity of the same.
- F. Refrain from the use, transmission, or possession of tobacco products, including matches, lighters, or any incendiary device, on school premises or at any school related activity or event.
- G. Refrain from malicious and willful damage, destruction, or theft of school or private property.
- H. Remain at school, or at other officially designated places, upon coming under the school's jurisdiction, and follow daily schedules as prescribed by school officials.
- I. Comply with the directions of principals, teachers, or other authorized school

personnel during any period of time when under the authority of school personnel.

- J. Refrain from any inappropriate physical display of affection while at school, on school property, or at any school related activity or event. Serious violations, including fondling, indecent exposure, and other sexual activity will result in disciplinary action.
- K. Attend school regularly and be on time for all classes and scheduled activities and comply with all state attendance requirements.

Conduct by a student in any manner which interferes with classwork or involves substantial disorder, or invasion of the rights of others, is a basis for disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion of the student. In addition, certain other violations of the Code may result in suspension or expulsion.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION (INVESTIGATION) IN THE DISCIPLINE PROCESS – BASIC DUE PROCESS

- V. **Administrative Actions:** Before disciplining a student, the principal will conduct an investigation, gather the facts, and develop a written report where necessary. The student will be advised of the alleged violation of the Code and the proposed punishment such as restriction of privileges; work assignment (e.g. such picking up paper, washing desk tops, or sweeping floors); detention; in-school suspension; out-of-school suspension; expulsion, and/or referral to Family Court. If the student admits the charges, no further investigation is required. If the student denies the charges, the principal will explain the evidence known to school authorities and permit the student a reasonable opportunity to state his/her version of the facts. The principal may conduct further investigation if necessary. The principal need not call witnesses, either to sustain or oppose the charges, although he/she may do so. Where the conduct of the student requires that he/she be suspended, written notice to the student and to the parent or other person *in loco parentis* must be given stating the nature of the conduct leading to the discipline and the prescribed punishment. Parents will be notified at least one day in advance if a student is assigned to detention hall. If a student has been injured, parents or guardians of the student should be notified.

CATEGORIES OF OFFENSES AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

[Note: The Board may authorize District Administration to define minimum consequences for any offense described in this Code of Conduct to serve as a guideline for any hearing panel, tribunal, or officer. In the event of the approval of such disciplinary consequences for such guidance, the regulations will be published on the School District's website and available from Area Offices Academic Officers upon request.]

- VI. **Expulsion Level Offenses:** The following violations are considered disruptive and/or criminal, or are otherwise so serious in nature that **EXPULSION PROCEEDINGS MUST BE INITIATED ON THE FIRST OFFENSE**. Expulsions are for the remainder of the year. Recommendation for permanent expulsion may be made with regard to any incorrigible pupil. **Any student who has been twice previously expelled from the School District and who is recommended for a third expulsion will be deemed incorrigible. Such third expulsion, if upheld, will be a permanent expulsion from the School District.**

The above actions may also be criminal offenses and law enforcement agencies will be involved, where appropriate.

Anonymity and confidentiality will be provided to students who provide information about the existence of weapons in schools.

VII. **Lower Level Offenses:** The following violations are considered disorderly and disruptive, and are in some instances criminal in nature. **These violations usually result in disciplinary action of a suspension but may include expulsion in certain instances.** If criminal in nature the violations will be reported to law enforcement personnel.

A. The Offenses (Specified):

- 1) Leaving a classroom, school building, or school premises without approval or permission from school authorities.
- 2) Failing to attend classes or assigned activities.
- 3) Being repeatedly tardy to assigned classes and activities.
- 4) Being absent from school without the parent's knowledge.
- 5) Bringing fireworks on school grounds, possession of fireworks, or causing them to explode.
- 6) Stealing school, staff, or student property. (Students shall return all property stolen by them or pay the purchase price or replacement cost, as appropriate, to the owner before returning to school. In incidents where appropriate, law enforcement agencies will be involved.)
- 7) Vandalizing or damaging school buildings, property, or equipment; staff property (whether on school premises or off school premises); or property of another student while on school grounds. (Students shall pay for all damage done to buildings, equipment or other property of the school, staff, or other students before returning to school.)
- 8) Blackmailing, threatening, committing simple assault or battery, molesting (including gang-related activities and/or the wearing of certain items of clothing or use of signs or signals known to be gang-related in the community), or intimidating a school employee or the employee's immediate family (whether occurring on or off school premises), or other students specifically including hazing as defined by S.C. law and any conduct which constitutes "bullying" as defined and provided for under South Carolina law and District policy as set forth in District policy [see Appendix (C) to this Code for a full copy of the "Bullying Policy"].
- 9) Using language and/or gestures, directed at or to any school employee or student, which are determined to be disrespectful, offensive, abusive, obscene, or profane.
- 10) Demonstrating dishonesty in any form. Making false reports or accusations about other students or staff members is included in this offense and, depending upon the circumstances, may lead to an expulsion recommendation on a first offense. Cheating may involve disciplinary as

well as academic consequences

- 11) Possessing, distributing, or selling materials unauthorized by the principal, including possessing or displaying gang-related symbols or clothing.
- 12) Gambling on school grounds or in the school building.
- 13) Forging of a signature.
- 14) Refusing to obey any reasonable instruction or direction of a teacher, administrator, or other authorized school personnel including, but not limited to, correction of non-compliance with published dress or appearance requirements and wearing items or articles of clothing with symbols which have been identified as being gang-related.
- 15) Possessing or displaying pornographic or obscene materials, or inappropriate materials of a sexually explicit nature.
- 16) Repeating minor violations, disruptive behavior, or disturbances of the school program.
- 17) Entering the building or grounds illegally, or entering a defined off-limits area or other non-student area of the premises.
- 18) Fighting and/or provoking a fight (the initiating party or parties and others actively participating.)
- 19) Using any type of tobacco products at school or possessing any item which would indicate use of or possession of tobacco, including matches or lighters or any incendiary device.
- 20) Misbehaving on school bus.
- 21) Engaging in sexual harassment of any student, staff member, or visitor, either male or female, on school property or while under the jurisdiction of the school. Sexual harassment may be generally defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and unwelcome written, spoken or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Also, engaging in minor acts of inappropriate consensual conduct of a sexual nature.
- 22) Using a radio, radio headset, I-pod, or similar electronic musical or game device during instructional time or at school-day activities. Activating, using, or displaying a telecommunications device, including mobile phones, cell phones, and pagers, while in school buildings or on school grounds during school hours, or while attending school-day activities, whether on or off school property.
- 23) Violation of the Internet Acceptable Use Policy (Policy IJNDB) or any other policies or procedures relating to the use of computers or other communication devices. **[See appendix (B) for a copy of the policy.]**
- 24) Failure to accept appropriate punishment for any lesser offense.
- 25) Bringing or possessing a laser pointer or similar laser beam device.

Relative to the above list, it is not necessary that the same offense be repeated in order to apply the provisions for a second or third offense. Second and third

immediate suspension may arise. In such cases, a warning conference prior to suspension is not required.

Corporal punishment is not permitted by the District. Staff members will exercise alternative means of discipline that reflect respect for the dignity of the individual student. However, incidental contact with a student or the use of reasonable force to restrain a student who is fighting with another student, or who is threatening a student or staff member, committing assault against another person, or otherwise displaying aggressive or excessive misbehavior, does not constitute corporal punishment.

- B. ***Major Infractions:*** For any of the offenses listed in Item VI (A-G), a student will be suspended and recommended for expulsion by the principal. In making such recommendation the principal will include information as to any extenuating, mitigating, or aggravating circumstances. For such expulsion offenses, and for any offenses in which a student is to be suspended from a class or a school, the student's parent or guardian will be notified in writing and informed of the right to discuss the principal's action. This written notice will include the reason for the suspension and/or recommendation for expulsion and will set a time and place when the administrator will be available for a conference with the parent or guardian. Such conference will be set within three (3) school days of the date of the disciplinary action.

1) Procedures, Hearings, and Appeals of Suspensions

After the conference, the parents or guardian may appeal a suspension of up to five (5) days to the ~~Area Assistant Superintendent~~ appropriate school level Academic Officer (unless he/she exercises the option to refer the same directly to the ~~Area Advisory Council Tribunal~~) and may appeal a suspension of more than five (5) days to the ~~Area Advisory Council Tribunal~~ by giving written notice of such intention to the ~~Area Assistant Superintendent~~ Academic Officer within ten (10) days of the date of receiving written notification of suspension, or after the parent conference (whichever is later). The student is entitled to remain in school while the appeal of a suspension is pending. WITH EXCEPTION OF VIOLATIONS FOR WHICH THE PRINCIPAL'S INITIAL RECOMMENDATION IS EXPULSION, THE DECISION OF THE ~~AREA ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT~~ ACADEMIC OFFICER OR THE ~~AREA ADVISORY COUNCIL TRIBUNAL~~, AS SET FORTH ABOVE, IS FINAL. In proceedings involving any sanction less serious than one day's suspension, the principal's decision will be final. The conduct of hearing appeals of suspension offenses shall be the same as those described for expulsion appeals except as to finality of decisions.

If suspension is necessary, it should normally be for no more than three (3) days on the first suspension, no more than five (5) days on the second suspension, and no more than ten (10) days on the third suspension. (If so warranted, in the judgment of the principal, longer suspensions for first offenses of a serious nature may be utilized.) At the discretion of the principal, a student who has been suspended may not be allowed to return to school until a conference has occurred between the principal and parent, or guardian. Following a suspension, other forms of punishment may be in order before another suspension is administered. However, when the total

number of suspensions reaches four (4), the student may be considered incorrigible and recommended for expulsion, subject to the procedures set forth below.

A student cannot attend any school-related function within or outside the School District while under suspension. Alternative sanctions may be used by the school administrator such as in-school suspension or Saturday school instead of out-of-school suspension, if such programs are available.

At the principal's discretion, a parent or guardian may come to school for one full day to attend all activities with his/her child in lieu of each day of suspension. (The disciplinary infraction shall still count for purposes of calculating cumulative suspensions even if this option is exercised.) A parent or guardian may be required to come to school and take the student home. In addition to the discipline procedures listed within this code, schools are permitted to impose other restrictions which may impact athletic and/or other extracurricular activities as described in the written school procedures.

2) Procedures, Hearings, and Appeals of Expulsions

A recommendation for expulsion will be confirmed by the ~~Area Assistant Superintendent~~ school level Academic Officer. The ~~Area Assistant Superintendent~~ Academic Officer may require a conference with the parent or guardian before confirming a recommendation for expulsion.

A parent or guardian will be advised of the date and time for a hearing before the ~~Area Advisory Council~~ Tribunal or the Aiken County Board of Education, as provided below. **The student and his/her parent or guardian will attend the appeal hearing before the Area Advisory Council Tribunal.** Such initial hearing shall take place within fifteen (15) days of the date of the written notification of expulsion, (unless waived in writing by the parent or student, either completely or for a later date). (If the parent or guardian refuses to appeal or fails to attend the hearing designated, the expulsion recommendation ~~may~~ will be forwarded to the Board of Education for ratification ~~ratified by the Area Advisory Council~~.) In any appeal, The Area Advisory Council Tribunal, after reviewing the student's previous record, and in light of extenuating circumstances, may consider punishment other than expulsion and impose various conditions.

Written notice of the ~~Area Advisory Council's~~ Tribunal's decision shall be given the parent or guardian. All requests for appeal must be in writing. If no written request for appeal to the Board is made within ten (10) days of the date of the ~~Area Advisory Council's~~ Tribunal's written decision notice to the parent or guardian, the action of the ~~Area Advisory Council~~ Tribunal will be presented to the Board for ratification. In any expulsion case which is appealed by, or on behalf of, the student to the Board of Education and in which the recommendation for expulsion is upheld by the Board of Education, the parent or guardian has the right to appeal to the courts.

The School Board supplies legal services to school employees who may be required to appear in court as a result of carrying out the policies of the School Board. The Board is not responsible for a Parent's legal expenses.

Expulsion level infractions involving serious verbal abuse, threat of death or serious bodily injury, and/or physical assault or violence directed toward a teacher or staff member, or staff member's family [see, specifically Item VI (D) insofar as it applies to employees and the families of employees] shall be appealed directly to and heard by the Aiken County Board of Education exclusively.

The hearing will be conducted in an informal manner, but full opportunity will be afforded to the student to be heard and to present such relevant matters as he/she may wish. Such hearings will be private and not open to the public, unless a public hearing is requested in writing by the parent or guardian. At any appeal hearing, the parents or legal guardian have the right to legal counsel and to all other regular rights, including the right to question all witnesses. However, the cost of such counsel will not be paid by the School District. The right to appeal the decision to the Board is reserved to either party in cases where the principal's recommendation was expulsion. **The student and his/her parent or guardian will attend the appeal hearing before the Board.** A hearing shall take place at the next Board meeting immediately following receipt of written request to appeal (but in no event more than fifteen (15) days after the decision being appealed) at a time and place designated by the Board, and a decision shall be rendered within ten (10) days of the hearing. The student may be suspended from school and all school activities while the expulsion procedures are pending. An expelled student is not allowed upon any school property (except for appeal procedures, or by prior permission) and may not attend any school related function or athletic event involving Aiken School District students, whether occurring within the School District or at another location.

Any student recommended for expulsion who, as a result of an appeal of such recommendation to the ~~Area Advisory Council~~ Tribunal or Board of Education, is allowed to return to school on probation will receive a decision letter in which the consequences of the status of *probation* or *strict probation* are set forth. In either case such student will be considered to have violated that probationary status on the occasion of a subsequent suspension or expulsion level offense, or a less than suspension offense if the same violates the terms of the imposed strict probation. Such violation of probation will result in immediate suspension from school and reinstatement of the expulsion recommendation. An appeal of this action may be made to the ~~Area Advisory Council~~ Tribunal or Board of Education, whichever imposed the probation.

- 3) Petition for Readmission for School Year Following Expulsion: Any student expelled for the remainder of a school year, except for one who has been permanently expelled, has the right to petition (but not an automatic entitlement) for readmission for the following school year. The parent or legal guardian of any student seeking to be re-enrolled will schedule a conference with the principal of the enrollee's school prior to readmission (assuming the readmission itself is not an issue). The principal may, where he/she deems it necessary and appropriate and after the approval of the ~~Area Assistant Superintendent~~ appropriate school level Academic Officer, impose certain conditions or restrictions to the student's readmission.

X. ***Discipline of Students with Disabilities:***

- A. Disciplinary Process: Students with disabilities are not exempt from school disciplinary procedures, nor are they entitled to remain in a particular educational program when their conduct substantially impairs the education of other students in the program. However, the public schools are required by federal and state law and regulations to meet the individual educational needs of students with disabilities.
- B. Suspensions: A student with disabilities may be suspended, up to ten (10) school days in a school year. No later than the tenth (10th) day of suspension, an IEP (Individual Education Plan) review will be held.

The principal may remove a student who has committed certain drug or weapons violations for up to forty-five (45) days, as defined by federal law (specifically, if the student carries a weapon to school or to a school function under the jurisdiction of a state or local education agency; if the student knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at school or a school function under the jurisdiction of a state or local education agency, or if the student causes serious bodily injury to another as defined by federal law and regulation).

- C. Expulsions: Expulsion of a disabled student is a change in educational placement and therefore requires an Individual Education Program (IEP) conference. Before a disabled student may be expelled, a manifestation determination meeting must be held to determine whether the school may proceed with normal disciplinary action. If there is a connection or causal relationship between the disabling condition and the misconduct, then expulsion is not permitted under federal law. If there is no connection or causal relationship between the disabling condition and the misconduct, expulsion proceedings will go forward through the normal channels. If the student's expulsion recommendation is upheld by the ~~Area Advisory Council Tribunal~~ and/ by the Board of Education, a new IEP will be developed to address alternative educational services and placement. If an IDEA student is expelled for behaviors unrelated to his/her disability, services must continue. If a 504 student is expelled, educational services will cease.
- D. An impartial due process hearing officer is permitted to order a change of placement to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting for not more than forty-five calendar days if the school district believes that maintaining the current placement of a student with a disability is substantially likely to result in injury to the student or to others. School districts may also seek an injunction through the court in an effort to have the student removed. Neither the school district's discipline hearing officer, due process hearing officer, ~~discipline council Tribunal~~, building administrators, or district office personnel may make the placement determination of the interim alternative education setting, nor may they make a determination of the appropriate amount of special education and related services that the student must receive. The IEP team must make these decisions.

IMPORTANT - DUPLICATE OF SIGNATURE PAGE

THIS PAGE REMAINS IN BOOK FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

PARENT AND STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS:

Maintaining discipline and appropriate student behavior is necessary for the operation of our schools. Invoking disciplinary procedures may at times be stressful and emotional for parents and the students involved. Nevertheless, the Board of Education expects communications and meetings between school personnel and parents to be conducted reasonably, even if there are differences of opinion. **THE BOARD DOES NOT EXPECT STAFF MEMBERS TO BE SUBJECTED TO VERBAL OR PHYSICAL ABUSE. ADULTS WHO ABUSE STAFF MEMBERS CAN EXPECT TO HAVE APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS SUMMONED AND LEGAL RECOURSE PURSUED, IF NECESSARY.**

We, parent and student, have read the conduct regulations (Code of Student Conduct) which are in effect in the schools of The Consolidated School District of Aiken County during the school year 2010–2011 2011 – 2012.

We understand, as set forth in greater detail in this Code of Student Conduct, that students may be expelled for the remainder of the year, even permanently, for violations including, but not limited to:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) firearms or other weapons | 5) arson/damage to property |
| 2) drugs | 6) major disruptions |
| 3) alcohol | 7) conduct involving sexual activity or offenses and/or offenses against common decency |
| 4) violent acts, or threats thereof, committed against school staff or other students | |

The undersigned further acknowledge having read and understood the School District's Internet Acceptable Use policy (Policy IJNDB and Administrative Rule IJNDB-R), which are set forth in their entirety in this pamphlet, and which require student and parental consent and include potential disciplinary infractions covered within the Rule and within this Code of Student Conduct.

_____ PRINTED NAME OF PARENT (GUARDIAN)	_____ PRINTED NAME OF STUDENT	_____ GRADE
_____ SIGNATURE OF PARENT (GUARDIAN)	_____ SIGNATURE OF STUDENT	
_____ DATE		_____ DATE

NOTE: State law makes it criminal conduct in South Carolina to threaten bodily harm or death to a teacher, principal, school staff member, or family member of any of these persons; to disturb schools; or to interfere with the operation of a school bus. State law also mandates that conduct which may constitute a crime be reported to law enforcement. Parents and students need to be advised of the seriousness of any such threatening statements (even when made by very young and immature students), as these will be reported to law enforcement and may result in charges being brought. Threats of violence, harm, or death by students against other students, or against other third parties, are serious violations of this Conduct Code and will lead to strict disciplinary consequences which may include expulsion (and referral to law enforcement where appropriate).

FOR PARENT / GUARDIAN REFERENCE
GO TO NEXT PAGE FOR SIGNATURE SHEET

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_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____
SIGNATURE OF PARENT (GUARDIAN)	SIGNATURE OF STUDENT	
_____	_____	_____
DATE		DATE

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PLEASE SIGN, REMOVE
AND RETURN TO SCHOOL