

WELCOME TO TRI-COUNTY PRIMARY AND INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS

The purpose of this handbook is to acquaint the parents and students with the schools' services and policies. At Tri-County Primary and Intermediate, we believe high standards for students lead to success in education.

GENERAL INFORMATION

TRI-COUNTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HOURS

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| 7:45 AM | School Arrival |
| 7:45-8:15 AM | Breakfast Served <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7:45-8:00 SOAR reading in the gym for students not eating breakfast• 8:00-8:15 Students arrive in classrooms |
| 8:20 AM | Tardy Bell Rings <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All doors are locked at 8:20am.• Any student who arrives after 8:20 must check in at the office |
| 2:50 PM | Students Prepare for Dismissal |
| 2:55 PM | Dismissal of All Elementary Students |

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

Hot breakfast and lunch are served daily. School menus are included in the corporation newsletter and can be accessed through the school's website, www.trico.k12.in.us.

Lunch and breakfast money must be in an envelope with the student's name, lunch number, and teacher's name. Classroom teachers collect breakfast/lunch account money every week and send it to the office. Payments may also be dropped off in the Lunch Money box in the main hallway. E-Funds deposits may be made electronically. Contact the school office for more details concerning E-Funds. Children may carry their lunch, but lunches are kept in the rooms or lockers, so pack accordingly.

Free/Reduced lunch assistance is available. Applications are available in the school office or on our school's website. Please update your application when your home situation changes.

TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

If a family utilizes school transportation for their child, bussing arrangements are confirmed before the child has their first day of school. Once bussing arrangements are set, any changes must be approved by the Transportation Director. Please send a note in or call the office if your child will be picked up from school or will be going home with another approved adult or student. **No student will be allowed to go home with another child or adult unless the school receives communication from the parent that indicates this is what the child is to do.** When time and circumstances do not permit a note, a phone call to the school office by a responsible adult will suffice. Please notify the office by 1:00 p.m., if possible.

VISITORS

Visitors must enter through Door 1 and check in at the school office. Visitors will be asked to provide their driver's license in order for us to enter them into our visitor management system.

COUNSELOR

Each elementary school has its own counselor that provides group and individual counseling services. The individual student, parents and/or the school support team can request counseling. To make an appointment, call the counselor's office at TC Primary at 261-2214 or TC Intermediate at 279-2138.

APPROPRIATE SCHOOL DRESS

Students' clothing should be appropriate to the season and weather. Shorts may be worn before fall break and after spring break, and should be longer than the child's fingertips when the arms are extended to the side.

Students should wear clothing that is non-revealing in nature and free from inappropriate language or pictures. Some examples of clothing that are too revealing are spaghetti strapped tops, muscle shirts and tank tops. Leggings should be covered by a long shirt, skirt or dress. *Administration reserves the right to deem what is or is not appropriate school dress.* Students who come to school inappropriately dressed will be given alternative clothing to wear during the school day. Hats and hoods are to be removed while in the building.

CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Personal electronic devices such as, but not limited to, cell phones, iPods, Nooks, and iPads must be turned off during the school day unless approved by a teacher for academic purposes. Any other use of cell phones during the day is considered a violation of policy. Neither cell phones nor electronic devices may be used during recess, lunch, or late bus. **The school is not responsible for items lost, stolen or broken.**

- 1st offense –device confiscated by teacher and returned at dismissal.
- 2nd offense –device confiscated, office will call the parents, and parent must pick phone up in the office.
- 3rd offense –device confiscated, parent must pick up cell phone in office, student receives 3 days of alternative programming.

LOCKERS Students at Tri-County Intermediate school are assigned a locker. All lockers are property of the school corporation and are available to students for use in storing personal belongings and school supplies. Lockers are not to be defaced. Magnets are best for hanging things. Please do not use tape. They should not be used to store illegal items or items that could interfere with school purposes. School lockers are a part of school property, therefore are subject to search anytime.

GRADING SCALES:

Kindergarten:

M= Mastered

N= Not Mastered

P= Progressing, continue practicing

Blank= Not evaluated during this grading period

Grades 1-6:

A 100%-93%

A- 92%-90%

B+ 89%-87%

B 86%-83%

B- 82%-80%

C+ 79%-77%

C 76%-72%

C- 72%-70%

D+ 69%-67%

D 66%- 63%

D- 62%-60%

F below 59%

CANCELLATIONS/DELAYS

When weather conditions or extenuating circumstances cause a delay or cancellation of school, Tri-County schools initiate a call/email/text system to alert families. Sign-up for this service occurs at registration. If you are not receiving alerts, please notify the office. Families are ultimately responsible for knowing school is in session and should check local TV, radio and internet sources for up-to-date information.

EARLY SCHOOL DISMISSAL

Parents need to make advance arrangements for children in case of early dismissal from school due to bad weather or some other unexpected situation. For safety and security reasons, parents must keep this information up to date in the school office.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Families are encouraged to be a part of their child(ren)'s education. Visitors and volunteers are welcomed and appreciated. Any adult wishing to be a part of the educational day must complete a limited criminal history background check. Forms can be obtained in the office.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Please fill out emergency contact information at registration. We must have a CURRENT address and phone number on file. Remember to update the information throughout the school year as needed.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are given quarterly. Parents are encouraged to stay up to date on assignments and grades throughout the year by utilizing the Parent Portal of PowerSchool. Login information is given at the beginning of the year, but you may contact the office any time.

INDOOR RECESS

If the temperature and/or wind chill is below 20°F, or the playground is too wet, recess will be inside. When in the gym, each student must wear soft, clean soled, non-marking shoes. Gym shoes are preferred. The adult on duty is responsible for the safety of students. Students may not leave the gym area without permission.

OUTSIDE RECESS

Children are expected to go outside as the weather permits. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather. If a child is not able to go outside for medical reasons, parents should provide the child's teacher with an explanatory note. Notes should be dated and signed by the parents. Requests for a week or longer should be accompanied by a doctor's note.

ITEMS FROM HOME

- Students who bring equipment/toys claim **total responsibility** for such equipment. Please make sure items are well marked.
- **NO** guns, knives, matches, cigarette lighters, or weapons of real or toy nature are to be at school. This includes squirt guns. (Indiana Code)
- Riding a bicycle to school is a privilege. Bikes should be stored at the bike racks.
- Trading or buying of personal items is prohibited at school.
- **NO** skateboards, roller blades, or scooters are allowed before, during, or after school.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT EXPECTATIONS

Shoes with backs are required to play on the playground equipment (no flip-flops or open backed shoes). For safety reasons, students should not play tag or jump from the playground equipment.

REGISTRATION AND ENROLLMENT

In order to register a child for school, the following steps should be completed **prior to the student's first day:**

- Complete online registration by visiting the school's website or contacting the main office
- If needed, present an official birth certificate to verify the child's date of birth and furnish the school with the required health information concerning the student
- Pay the textbook rental fees
- **Proof of custodial arrangements must be provided to the office**

WITHDRAWING FROM SCHOOL

For students withdrawing and moving to another school corporation, parents should notify the school at least one week prior to the date of withdrawal to ensure proper transfer of records as well as the refund of book rental fees.

HOMESCHOOLING

Students who withdraw to be home-schooled should be registered with the Indiana Department of Education. This can be completed through the school office.

TRI-COUNTY SCHOOLS' SAFETY PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

It is our goal is to provide a safe and non-threatening learning environment. Tri-County asks your help in identifying any situation where a student, staff member, or any other person might present a threat to school safety.

SCHOOL SAFETY ZERO TOLERANCE RULE

Tri-County Schools will not accept the following actions:

- Any statements or behaviors of a threatening nature
- Any behaviors by individuals that might pose a threat to the well being of students, staff and others
- Possession of weapons and/or firearms
- Any action that can be considered endangering the safety of persons at school

CONSEQUENCES OF SCHOOL SAFETY RULE VIOLATION

Tri-County has an obligation to keep our schools safe and take a rule violation seriously. School is **not** an area for practical jokes or off-handed comments. All potential safety concerns will be investigated thoroughly and actions appropriate to the situation will be taken, up to and including school discipline, criminal justice intervention or any other applicable measures.

REPORTING PROCEDURES

Any student, staff member, or any other person may report concerns and/or ask questions. Reports can be made to any school administrator.

BULLYING

"Bullying" means overt, unwanted, repeated acts or gestures, including verbal or written communications or images transmitted in any manner (including digitally or electronically), physical acts committed, aggression, or any other behaviors, that are committed by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the targeted student and create for the targeted student an objectively hostile school environment that:

- (1) places the targeted student in reasonable fear of harm to the targeted student's person or property;
- (2) has a substantially detrimental effect on the targeted student's physical or mental health;
- (3) has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's academic performance; or
- (4) has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, and privileges provided by the school. (IC 20-33-8-0.2)

Tri-County **will not** allow bullying behavior. All reported instances of bullying will be investigated within the time requirements of the law, and appropriate procedures taken. Appropriate procedures include any actions up to school discipline, juvenile justice intervention, and any other measure applicable to the situation.

STUDENT RECORDS ANNUAL NOTICE TO PARENTS

Parents and/or students of the age of majority have the right of access and review of their student record file and to an interpretation of the record by a school official. They have the right to a hearing should they desire to challenge any part of the file and/or to lodge a complaint with the Department of Education

Parents and students have the right to refuse permission to the schools to make public any portion of "Directory Information" but they must notify the school principal in writing of those parts they do not wish public.

Directory information is as follows:

Name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, awards received and the most recent educational institution attended by the student.

Within fifteen days following the publishing of the Annual Notice to Parents, directory information listed above may be released unless written notice to the contrary is received by the school principal.

TRI-COUNTY ATTENDANCE POLICY

Volumes of research confirm that regular attendance at school is essential for success! **Please insist that your child be at school unless he/she is ill.** PLEASE schedule vacations and routine doctor's appointments for before or after school hours or during times when your child is not expected to be in school. Absences from school are necessary when a child's fever is 100 degrees or higher, have been coughing excessively, and/or vomiting (these symptoms may indicate the need for a trip to your child's doctor). To return to school, your child must be fever free without the aid of medication for 24 hours.

ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS

The following attendance regulations exist to assist the parents and school team to work together to help students develop good punctuality and attendance patterns. In addition, if your child is enrolled in school, the state law applies to the parents regarding Compulsory Attendance. Failure to adhere to these laws can result in a report to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office and/or the Division of Family and Children.

ATTENDANCE DEFINITIONS

Exempt Absences: Exempt absences do not count against a student's attendance and do not count toward the six (6) day per semester limit. Exempt absences require appropriate documentation.

Examples of exempt absences are:

- Exhibiting at the State Fair
- Participating in an educationally related non-classroom activity which is consistent with and promotes educational philosophy and goals of the Tri-County School Corporation, facilitates the attainment of specific educational objectives, is part of the goals and objectives an approved course or curriculum, represents a unique educational opportunity, cannot reasonably occur without interrupting the school day, and is approved in advance by the school principal.
- Subpoena to appear in court as a witness in a judicial proceeding.
- Service as a page or honoree of the general assembly.
- Field trips

Excused Absences: Excused absences are limited to six (6) days per semester. These absences require appropriate notification of school officials and supporting documentation. Students may make up missed work for credit. Any excused absences beyond the six (6) day maximum will be counted as unexcused absences; however, administration reserves the right to excuse those absences.

The following excused absences count towards the six (6) day per semester limit:

- Pre-arranged trip to be taken over no more than two (2) school days (all other trip days will be considered unexcused). These absences must be arranged with the principal and student's teacher no later than three (3) days before the absence.
- Parent notification of student absence.

The following excused absences do not count towards the six (6) day per semester limit:

- Medical appointments- as long as you have a letter from the physician to excuse the absence
- Death of immediate family member
- Emergency family illness that has been approved by school administration
- Court appearance or appointments that are verified
- Observance of a religious holiday
- Situations as determined by the Principal or designee

Unexcused Absences: Unexcused Absences are absences not listed above, any absence without documentation from the parents, or any absence beyond the six (6) day limit per semester that is not verified by a doctor's statement. The student will not receive credit for the course work during the time of absence, and it will count toward the limited six (6) days per semester. If a student is unverified for the day, they are not able to participate in extracurricular activities or athletics for that day.

HABITUAL OR EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

- A student who is absent more than six (6) days in a single semester.
- After five (5) Unexcused Absences parents/guardians will receive a letter reminding them of the consequences of non-school attendance.
- If a student is excessively or habitually absent, parents will be requested to talk with their principal to determine the nature of the absences and to work together to remedy the impact on the child's education.
- Habitual absences impact your child's education and referral to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office and/or the Division of Family and Children may occur.

TARDIES

- Your child learns best when he or she is in class on time. Tardy students disrupt the class and the learning process for all students. A bell will ring at 8:20 am, and students should be in their classes at that time.
- Any student entering after 8:20 am must have a parent present to sign-in at the office and will receive a tardy slip.
- Students who arrive after 9:30 am will be considered absent for the morning.
- Students who leave before 1:45 pm will be considered absent for the afternoon.
- The accumulation of five tardies will result in a conversion to a half-day absence.

REMOTE LEARNING ATTENDANCE

Teachers in grades K-12 utilize Google Classroom for remote learning activities. Students are counted as present on a remote learning day by responding to the teacher's attendance post or by completing the remote learning activities. Students have two days to complete the assigned remote learning activities. Classroom teachers can be reached via email on remote learning days if there are any questions or issues with remote learning. If students have a problem with their school-issued device, our technology department can be reached by emailing them at technology@trico.k12.in.us.

ABSENCE PROCEDURES

- Call or voicemail to the office by 9:30 am is expected when your child needs to be absent from school. (TCP (219) 261-2214 or TCI (219) 279-2138)
- You may request classroom assignments to be picked up between 3:15-4:00 pm in the office.
- Upon your child's return they are expected to make up any work missed. Students will receive one day per every absence to make up work. Consequences for any incomplete work will be at the discretion of the teacher.

CERTIFICATE OF CHILD'S INCAPACITY

Whenever a student, for medical reasons, misses five or more days during any semester, the school may request the parent/guardian to provide the school with a Certificate of Incapacity (I.C. 20-8.1-3-20) signed by a physician.

MAKE-UP WORK

In the event of an absence, parents may request make-up work for students. Please call by 9:00 a.m. for make-up work requests. Work can be picked up in the school office after school or sent home with a sibling or neighbor. If make-up work was not picked up for a student, then that student needs to check with his/her teacher for any make-up work. Students have one (1) day to make up work per day absent.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATIONS

INJURY

Students injured at school should report to the office. When the illness or injury requires further attention, parents will be notified. In the event that neither parent can be reached, the person listed as the emergency contact will be called. For this reason it is important that emergency information and phone numbers are current.

MEDICATION

Medication must be brought in the original container with the label intact and a valid expiration date. A signed note from the parent or guardian must accompany the medication stating the name of the student, name of the medication, dose, time and dates (start and end date) medication is to be given. Parents may give permission to allow students to bring completed medication home.

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS FOR IMMUNIZATIONS IC 20-8.1-7-2

If a student's family wishes to refuse immunizations for religious reasons, the parent should inform the school at registration. The Indiana State Department of Health policy requires that the parent verify the written statement each year.

HEALTH EXEMPTION TO IMMUNIZATIONS IC20-8.1-7-2.5

A written document, signed by the physician, must state that a particular immunization is contraindicated for a child because it is detrimental to the child's health. This Indiana State Department of Health policy requires that school personnel verify a written statement each year until it is found that the particular immunization is no longer detrimental to the child's health.

HERBAL REMEDIES

Since there has been little research to document the effectiveness of herbal products, especially related to children, students will not be allowed to carry or use herbal remedies on school property. School nurses will not distribute herbal remedies unless it accompanies a doctor's note stating the following: 1. The symptom for which the remedy is being given. 2. Potential for toxicity or interactions, particularly in children. 3. The dosage ordered and whether dosage guidelines exist for the student's age and /or weight.

POSSESSION AND SELF –ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION IC 20-33-8-13

A student with a chronic disease or medical condition may be allowed to possess and self-administer medication for the chronic disease or medical condition if: The student's parent or guardian has filed an authorization with the school for the student to self-possess and administer the medication. The authorization must include in writing from the student's physician that:

- a) The student has an acute or chronic disease or medical condition for which the physician has prescribed medication.
- b) The student has been instructed in how to self-administer the medication.
- c) The nature of the disease or medical condition requires emergency administration of medication. ***The authorization and statement must be filed annually with the office.***

SHARING OF FOOD

Students are not allowed to share food or beverages with other students. This policy is in effect to protect those students with food allergies and/or medical conditions affecting diet specifications, and to prevent the spread of illness.

INFECTION CONTROL (EX:MRSA, Staph, Hepatitis B&C, etc.)

Recommendations set by the Centers for Disease Control and Department of Health in regards to prevention of spreading infections:

- Keep your hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water or using an alcohol based hand sanitizer.
- Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until healed.
- Avoid sharing personal items such as towels, clothing, combs, brushes, and water bottles.
- Do not store wet or dirty clothing in lockers.
- Report any cuts, abrasions or wounds to the school nurse and if applicable, the coach.

ILLNESS

Colds, flu, and other contagious diseases are a serious issue in a school environment because they can spread so rapidly. Parents are asked to keep children home when they show symptoms of illness. If the child is ill, please call the school before 9:00 am to report the absence. The following should be used as a guideline to keep your child home from school.

- Fever-If your child has a fever at night, he/she must not attend school the next morning. Temperatures are lower in the morning and a fever may occur again in the afternoon. You are required to wait 24 hours after the fever breaks before sending your child back to school.
- Vomiting/Diarrhea-If your child vomits or has diarrhea during the night, please do not send them to school the next day. You are required to wait 24 hours before sending your child back to school.

- Strep Throat-A strep infection requires a doctor’s visit and antibiotic. Strep can lead to a more serious illness if not properly treated. The child must be on antibiotics for at least 24 hours before returning to school.
- Cold-Be sure your child knows how to handle tissues for coughing, sneezing and nose blowing along with good hand washing hygiene. Your child may go to school as long as he or she does not have a fever or discomfort. If symptoms are severe (example: persistent cough, severe runny nose with thick mucus that will consistently interrupt their work), please keep your child at home so he/she may rest and recover.

LICE POLICY

Head lice is a universal problem and is particularly prevalent among elementary school-age children. Control of lice infestation is best handled by adequate treatment of the infested person and his/her immediate household and other close personal contacts. Head lice are spread most commonly by direct head-to-head (hair-to-hair) contact and are known to spread diseases. However, much less frequently they are spread by sharing clothing or belongings onto which lice have crawled or nits attached to shed hairs may have fallen.

Communication from the school to parents directly and through parent and classroom education to the students will help increase the awareness for both parents and child. Parents need to continually observe their child for this potential problem and treat adequately and appropriately as necessary.

The school nurse or his/her designee shall be the only ones authorized to conduct examinations of students for head lice.

If a student in the Corporation is found to have head lice, the student’s parent will be contacted to have the child treated and to pick him/her up immediately.

After treatment and upon returning to school, the student will be examined by the school nurse or designee, which may include the principal. The Corporation practices a policy of "no live lice" as the criterion for return to school.

The Superintendent shall prepare administrative guidelines to provide for the implementation of this policy. (NEOLA Policy 8451)

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Excellent student behavior is necessary for learning. Students who feel safe and respected have a better chance to achieve well in school. At Tri-County Primary and Intermediate, we expect students to:

DO THE RIGHT THING and TREAT PEOPLE RIGHT

1. Be Safe
2. Be Respectful
3. Be Responsible

Teachers are responsible for discipline in the classrooms, playground, and other supervised areas. Principal referrals are handled as necessary. Tri-County Elementary Schools will follow all laws from Indiana Code, Burns Acts, and Federal Laws. Suspensions, expulsions and exclusions will be used if necessary.

Each teacher and any other school personnel shall, when pupils are under his or her charge, have the right to take any action reasonably necessary to carry out, or to prevent an interference with, the educational function of which he is then in charge (IC 20-.1-5-2-Delegation of authority.)

The following are examples of behavior that warrant discipline by the principal. Other instances not included in this list may warrant similar disciplinary actions.

- Disrespectful behavior towards any staff member or student
- Directly refusing to do what he/she is told
- Abusive/profane language or gestures

- Spitting on another person
- Willfully inflicting harm on another child
- Destroying/defacing or attempting to destroy/deface school property
- Stealing property of any kind
- Directly and intentionally telling an untruth to a staff member
- Possessing drugs, alcohol, tobacco, a weapon or any item associated with the use of these
- Throwing sticks, stones, snowballs, or anything other than appropriate equipment while under the school's supervision
- Wrestling and/or fighting (real or play)
- Bus conduct that interferes with the safety of the driver and pupils

The penalty for the above may result in a conference with the principal and may require the principal to contact parents.

Discipline options include, but are not limited to:

1. Loss of preferred activity
2. Time in the office
3. Lunch detention
4. In-School Suspension
5. Out-of-School Suspension
6. Expulsion

CHEATING

The student(s) involved in cheating will receive an appropriate consequence and guardians will be notified. A second offense will lead to a more severe punishment. **Plagiarism** is a form of cheating by presenting someone else's ideas or words as your own. Whether deliberate or accidental, plagiarism is a serious and punishable offense.

DISCIPLINARY ALTERNATIVES

Recognizing that the behavior of some students may be so disruptive that it interferes with school purpose or educational functions of the school corporation, school officials may find it necessary to discipline a student. In accordance with the provisions of I.C. 20-8. 1-5. 1, administrators and staff members may take the following actions:

1. **REMOVAL FROM CLASS OR ACTIVITY - TEACHER:** An elementary teacher will have the right to remove a student from his/her classroom or activity for a period of up to one (1) school day if the student is assigned regular or additional work to be completed in another school setting.
2. **SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL:** A school principal (or designee) may deny a student the right to attend school or take part in any school function for a period of up to 5 school days.
3. **EXPULSION:** In accordance with the due process procedures defined in this policy, a student may be expelled from school for a period no longer than the remainder of the current semester plus the following semester, with the exception of a violation of rule 13 listed under the Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion in the policy.

GROUND FORS SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION:

Grounds for suspension or expulsion are student misconduct and/or substantial disobedience. Examples of student misconduct and/or substantial disobedience for which a student may be suspended or expelled include, but are not limited to:

1. Using violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, or other comparable conduct constituting an interference with school purposes, or urging other students to engage in such conduct.

The following enumeration is only illustrative and not limited to the type of conduct prohibited by this rule.

- a. Occupying any school building, school grounds with intent to deprive others of its use.
 - b. Blocking the entrance or exits of any school building, corridor or room therein with intent to deprive others of lawful access to or from, or use of the building, corridor or room.
 - c. Setting fire to or damaging any school building or property.
 - d. Prevention of, or attempting to prevent by physical act, the convening or continued functioning of any school or education function, or of any meeting assembly on school property.
 - e. Continuously and intentionally making noise or acting in any manner so as to interfere seriously with the ability of any teacher or any of the other school personnel to conduct the education function under this supervision.
2. Causing or attempting to cause damage to school property, stealing or attempting to steal school property.
 3. Causing or attempting to cause damage to private property, stealing or attempting to steal private property.
 4. Intentionally causing or attempting to cause physical injury or intentionally behaving in such a way as could reasonably cause physical injury to any person. Self-defense or reasonable action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person does not, however, constitute a violation of this rule.
 5. Threatening or intimidating any student for any purpose, including obtaining money or anything of value from the student.
 6. Possessing, handling, or transmitting a knife or any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon, or is represented to be a weapon. "Any object" includes any item that is considered a weapon but, is not a firearm as defined in rule #13 below.
 7. Possessing, using, transmitting, or being under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind. Use of drug authorized by a medical prescription from a physician is not a violation of this rule.
 8. Engaging in the unlawful selling of a controlled substance or engaging in a criminal law violation that constitutes a danger to other students or constitutes an interference with school purpose or an education function.
 9. Failing in a substantial number of instances to comply with directions of teachers or other school personnel during any period of time when the student is properly under their supervision, where the failure constitutes an interference with school purpose or an educational function.
 10. Engaging in any activity forbidden by the laws of Indiana that constitutes an interference with school purpose or an educational function.
 11. Violation or repeatedly violating any rules that are necessary in carrying out school purposes or an educational function and are established in accordance with Indiana law, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Engaging in sexual behavior on school property;
 - b. Disobedience of administrative authority;
 - c. Willful absence or tardiness of students;
 - d. Possessing, using, or transmitting any substance which is represented to be or looks like a narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, stimulant, depressant, or intoxicant of any kind;
 - e. Possessing, using, transmitting, or being under influence of caffeine-based substances, substances containing phenylpropanolamine (PPA), or stimulants of any kind, be they available with or without a prescription.

- f. Engaging in speech or conduct, including clothing, jewelry or hairstyle, which is profane, indecent, lewd, vulgar, or offensive to school purpose.
12. Knowingly possessing or using on school grounds during school hours an electronic paging device or a handheld portable telephone in a situation not related to a school purpose or educational function.
13. Possessing a Firearm
 - a. No student shall possess, handle or transmit any firearm on school property.
 - b. The following devices are considered to be a firearm under this rule:
 - Any weapon which will or is designed or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive
 - The frame or receiver of any weapon described above
 - Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer
 - Any destructive device which is an explosive, incendiary, or poison gas bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one quarter ounce, mine, or any similar device.
 - Any weapon which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter
 - Any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting a device into any destructive device described in the two immediately preceding examples, and from which a destructive device may be readily assemble
 - i. an antique firearm
 - ii. a rifle or a shotgun which the owner intends to use solely for sporting, recreational, or cultural purpose.
 - c. The penalty for possession of a firearm: suspension up to 10 days and expulsion from school for at least one calendar year with the return of the student to be at the beginning of the first semester after the one year period. The length of the expulsion may be reduced by the superintendent if the circumstances warrant such reduction. The superintendent shall notify the county prosecuting attorney's office when a student is expelled under this rule.

The grounds for suspension or expulsion listed above (#1-13) apply when a student is:

- a. On school grounds immediately before, during, and immediately after school hours and at any other time when the school is being used by a school group
 - b. Off school grounds at a school activity, function or event
 - c. Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event
14. In addition to the grounds listed above, a student may be suspended or expelled for engaging in unlawful activity on or off school grounds if the unlawful activity may reasonably be considered to be an interference with school purpose or an educational function, or the student's removal is necessary to restore order or protect persons on school property. This includes any unlawful activity meeting the above criteria that takes place during weekends, holidays, other school breaks, and the summer period when a student may not be attending classes or other school functions.

SUSPENSION PROCEDURES

When a principal (or designee) determines that a student should be suspended, the following procedures will be followed:

1. A meeting will be held prior to the suspension of any student. At this meeting the student will be entitled to:
 - a. A written or oral statement of the charges;
 - b. If the student denies the charges, a summary of the evidence against the student will be presented;
 - c. The student will be provided an opportunity to explain his or her conduct.

2. The meeting shall precede suspension of the student except where the nature of the misconduct requires immediate removal. In such situations, the meeting will follow the suspension as soon as reasonably possible following the date of the suspension.
3. Following the suspension, the parent or guardian of a suspended student will be notified in writing. The notification will include the dates of the suspension, description of the student's misconduct, and the action taken by the principal.

EXPULSION PROCEDURES

When a principal (or designee) recommends to the superintendent (or designee) that a student be expelled from school, the following procedures will be followed:

1. The superintendent (or designee) may conduct an expulsion meeting, or may appoint one of the following persons to conduct the expulsion meeting:
 - a. legal counsel
 - b. a member of the administrative staff who did not expel the student during the current school year and was not involved in the events giving rise to the expulsion.
2. An expulsion will not take place until the student and the student's parent(s) are given notice of their right to appear at an expulsion meeting conducted by the superintendent or the person designated above. Failure by a student or a student's parent(s) to request and to appear at this meeting will be deemed a waiver of rights administratively to contest the expulsion or to appeal it to the school board.
3. The notice of the right to an expulsion meeting will be in writing, delivered by certified mail or by personal delivery, and contain the reasons for the expulsion and the procedure for requesting the meeting.
4. At the expulsion meeting, the principal (or designee), will present evidence to support the charges against the student. The student or parent will have the opportunity to answer the charges against the student, and to present evidence to support the student's position.
5. If an expulsion meeting is held, the person conducting the expulsion meeting will make a written summary of the evidence heard at the meeting, take any action found to be appropriate, and give notice of the action taken to the student and the student's parent(s).

The student or parent has the right to appeal the decision of the person conducting the expulsion meeting to the school board within 10 days of the receipt of notice of the action taken. The student or parent appeal to the school board must be in writing. If an appeal is properly made, the board must consider the appeal unless the board votes not to hear the appeal. If the board hears the appeal, it will consider the written summary of the expulsion meeting and the arguments of the school administration and the student and/or the student's parent(s). The board will then take action deemed appropriate.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 20 U.S.C. 8001; 20 U.S.C. 8002; I.C. 20-8. 1-5, 1-1 ET SEQ.

DATE ADOPTED April 12, 2021