

RICHTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK

2025-2026 School Year

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Richton High School
701 Elm Avenue
Richton, MS 39476

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Section I.

About Our School



NOTICE

FOREWORD

It is the responsibility of parents and students to familiarize themselves with this Student Handbook, which is approved by the Richton School Board and which includes official district policies with which you should be acquainted. This handbook takes effect with the 2016-2017 school year and supersedes all other handbooks.

This handbook has been prepared by the staff of the Richton School District as a guideline to procedures, policies, and practices governing the operation of our schools and the behavior of our students. It is not intended to be a comprehensive set of rules, but it does set forth the philosophy that the school environment is critical to effective teaching and learning.

This handbook therefore is designed to assist us in creating a proper atmosphere for learning. The premise that every person deserves respect and must respect the rights of others is the primary principle that governs responsible behavior. **The rules set forth in this handbook are not all inclusive but are set forth as broad principles that support the concept of student rights and responsibilities.**

By registration of your child (children) or any student in the Richton School District, all parents, legal guardians, and students do hereby consent to and agree to obey and follow rules and regulations contained in this handbook and such other oral directions of school administrators or teachers as may be necessary or desirable to carry out the orderly educational process of the school.

The Richton School Board of Education and Administration of Richton Schools reserve the right to amend any part of this Handbook at any interval in the school year that the need arises.

MISSION STATEMENT

“To empower learners for future success in a safe and healthy environment as they prepare for college and career readiness”

Vision Statement

“To become a progressive school district driven by innovative thinking dedicated to strengthening our diverse community”

Section II.

Introduction

• • • • • • • • •

Board of Education Member

Mr. David Dewitt

Mr. Jeremy Edwards

Mrs. Laecon Knight

Mr. Wayne Adams

Mrs. Mr. Chris Jenkins

Cammie Meadows
(Board Secretary)

Mr. T. Michael Reed
(Board Attorney)

Administrative Office Personnel

Superintendent of Education

Mr. Clay Anglin

Business Manager

Ms. Nikki Boykin

Coordinator of Federal Programs/SPED

Mrs. Felicia McCardle

District Test Coordinator

Mr. Tom Thompson

Food Services

Mr. Lewis Shepard

Transportation Director/Security

Mr. James Kitchens

Maintenance

Mr. Jamie Rylee

Accounts Payable Clerk

Mrs. Cammie Meadows

Athletic Director

Mr. Danny Cooley

School Building Personnel

Middle/High School Principal

Mr. Ben Bryan

Elementary School Principal

Mrs. Chelsea Blackledge

Middle/High School Secretary

Mrs. Julie Meadows

Elementary School Secretary

Mrs. Kathy Tucker

Counselor

Mrs. Cassie Nicholson

Custodians

Ms. Janet Prine

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

On December 10, 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law as Public Law Number 114-95. ESSA reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 “to ensure that every child achieves.”

ESSA is the nation’s general education law and, as such, has been revised by Congress many times over the years. The last reauthorization took place in 2001 and was called the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Given the importance of education in the lives of children with and without disabilities, it comes as no surprise that the education community is highly motivated to learn the in’s and out’s of the ESSA—what’s new, what’s different, what must now change in how we approach and deliver education to the nation’s 50.1 million students in public elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

Additional information as to how this impacts your child’s instruction may be found at <http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/essa-reauth/#law>.

Section III.

General Information

ADMISSIONS

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE AGES

A compulsory-school-age child is defined as a child who has attained or will attain the age of six (6) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year and who has not attained the age of seventeen (17) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year. This also includes any child who has attained or will attain the age of five (5) years on or before September 1 and has enrolled in Kindergarten. The parent/guardian of a kindergarten student shall be allowed to withdraw the child from Kindergarten one time and that child shall not be deemed a compulsory-school-age child until the child attains the age of six (6) years. Students excluded from this requirement are those determined to be incapable of school attendance by school officials as based on medical documentation or an identified handicapping condition and those in a legitimate home instruction program as determined by a school attendance officer.

If a compulsory-school-age child has not been enrolled in school within fifteen (15) calendar days after the first day of the school year or if a student has accumulated five (5) unexcused absences during the school year, the principal shall report such absences to the school attendance officer of the youth court within two school days or within five calendar days, whichever is less, according to the method prescribed by the State Department of Education and on the form designated for that purpose by the district. *MS Code 37-13-91,37-13-92.*

ADMISSION PROCEDURES

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. In accordance with the laws of the state of Mississippi, in order to be admitted to Kindergarten, students must be five (5) years of age on or before September 1 of the current school year. First grade students must be six (6) years of age on or before September 1 of the current school year.
2. A student entering his/her first year at Richton Schools must present a **CERTIFIED** birth certificate. (*Mississippi Code 6225-02*) The birth certificate must be from the Bureau of Vital Statistics or from the State Department for students born overseas. No other birth certificate, hospital records, baptismal records, telephone, etc. will be accepted.
3. All students entering Richton Schools must present a Certificate of Compliance showing that immunizations are current.
4. All students must provide two current proofs of residency in accordance with state law.
5. All students must be a legal resident of the Richton School District. Students with releases from other districts must be approved by the Richton School Board before enrollment will be allowed.
6. All students must have a Social Security number on file.
7. All students must register annually in August based on the current guidelines.



STUDENTS TRANSFERRING FROM OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Any student transferring to Richton School District from another district must provide the following:

1. Two (2) verification of residency within the Richton School District or a Release from previous district. If a release from another district is presented, the Board must approve the transfer before the student may be enrolled. **Richton School District shall make every effort to obtain all discipline records from a student's former attendance center. Any student who is on probation from, expelled from, suspended from, or not properly cleared from his/her former school will not be allowed to enroll in Richton School District. Any student who is transferring to Richton School District from another district and is in alternative school, will continue their placement in alternative school in the Richton School District.**
2. Copy of birth certificate (*transfer students will be given two weeks to obtain this; after two weeks, student will be suspended until in compliance.*)
3. Certificate of Compliance showing immunizations are current
4. Withdrawal records from the previous school and the student's most recent report card
5. Social Security Number



6. Transcript from previous school
7. Discipline report from previous school

EXPELLED STUDENTS Parents, guardians, or students must indicate on registration information if the student requesting enrollment has been expelled from a private or public school or is currently a party to an expulsion proceeding.

If it is determined from the child's cumulative record or application for admission that the child has been expelled, enrollment may be denied until the superintendent or his designee has reviewed the child's cumulative record and determined that the child has participated in successful rehabilitative efforts. If the child is party to an expulsion proceeding, he may be admitted pending final disposition. If the proceeding results in expulsion, admission may be rebuked.

If the expulsion or expulsion proceeding involves an act of violence, weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, or other activity that may result in expulsion, Richton School District is not required to grant admission before one calendar year after the date of expulsion. *Miss. Code Ann. Section 37159(3).*



RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

As a result of the Residency Verification Procedure adopted as a policy of the Mississippi State Board of Education on April 20, 1990, each parent or legal guardian or other adult with whom a student lives must provide to the school administration the following documents:

1. A copy of **two** of the following items of verification of residence. These items must reflect a **street address or designated road address**. Post office box addresses are not acceptable (911 addresses are). All documents must be for present residence only; documents for rental or other commercial property will not be acceptable. Richton School District reserves the right to verify all residences.
 - a. Filed Homestead Exemption Application Form
 - b. Mortgage Documents or Property Deed
 - c. Apartment or Home Lease
 - d. Utility bill (service address must be within the Richton School District)
 - e. Affidavit of Residency and/or personal visit by a designated school official
2. A legal guardian (other than the parents) must also provide a copy of the court order appointing him/her as guardian. If the petition for guardianship has been filed and the decree is pending, a certified copy of the filed petition for guardianship must be provided. *NOTE: Any legal guardianship formed for the purpose of establishing residency for school district attendance purposes shall not be recognized by the affected board. (Mississippi Code Ann. Section 37-15-31, 1989, Supp.)*
3. Students living with adults other than parents or legal guardians must provide:
 - a. Two of the nine items of verification as stated above, and
 - b. A sworn affidavit stating the relationship of the adult to the student, stating that the student is living in the Affiant's home full-time, and fully explaining the reasons for this arrangement (other than school attendance or district preference).

IMMUNIZATION OF STUDENTS



For minimum community protection against certain diseases, the Board shall require students attending District schools to be vaccinated against diphtheria, measles, mumps, poliomyelitis, rubella, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis B and chickenpox (unless child has a history of chickenpox). These requirements, as stipulated by the Mississippi Department of Health, are to be recorded in the permanent record.

Such vaccinations shall be made prior to enrollment, or shall be completed within the date specified on Form 121. **The principal shall enforce the immunization requirements, suspending any student not in compliance. Such suspension shall be in effect until compliance is validated.** A Certificate of Immunization Compliance (Form 121) or a Certificate of Medical Exemption shall be on file on each student enrolled. The principal shall provide information to the Mississippi State Board of Health relative to the immunization status of students in the school via forms provided by that agency.

MS Code 41-23-37, 37-7-301. **All children entering a Mississippi school (any grade) for the first time must have the required vaccines per Mississippi School Immunization Law and Child Care Requirements.**

Mississippi School Entry Immunization Requirements

Revised 1/12/2015

Vaccine/antigen	No. of doses
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP) ^b	5 ^c
Polio (IPV)	4 ^d
Hepatitis B	3
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	2 ^e
Varicella (chickenpox)	2 ^f

- All children entering a Mississippi school (any grade) for the first time will be required to have the above listed immunizations. This includes Pre-K 4 year olds- 12th grade.
- Children entering a Mississippi school after their 7th birthday who do not meet the above DTaP requirements, will need at least 3 total doses of diphtheria/tetanus containing vaccine (Td). Tdap should be used as 1 of the 3 diphtheria/tetanus containing vaccines (preferably as the 1st of the 3 doses) for children age 10 years and older.
- If the 4th dose is received on or after the 4th birthday, a 5th dose is not required.
- The final dose in the series should be administered at 4 years of age, regardless of number of previous doses. A 4th dose is not necessary if the 3rd dose was administered at age 4 years or older and at least 6 months following the previous dose.
- MMR vaccine may only be waived if there is a documented physician's diagnosis of previous infection with measles, mumps and rubella disease or a serological confirmation of immunity to measles, mumps and rubella.
- Varicella vaccine will be waived for evidence of past infection, including past history of chickenpox or a serological confirmation of immunity to chickenpox.

Mississippi 7th Grade School Immunization Requirements

Vaccine/antigen	No. of doses
Tdap (7th grade entry)	1 ^a

- a. Effective 2012-2013 school year all students entering, advancing or transferring into 7th grade will need proof of an adolescent whooping cough (pertussis) booster, aka Tdap vaccine, before entry into school in the fall. Tdap vaccine given on or after the 7th birthday meets the school requirement.

ATTENDANCE

STUDENT ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

The Board recognizes that regular attendance is important if students are to attain maximum benefit from the educational process and develop good work habits that carry over into their adult life. Parents and students are expected to abide by the Compulsory School Attendance Law. When absences do occur, school personnel will classify the absence as excused or unexcused. **In the event that a student exceeds the allowable number of absences, the student will not be allowed to participate in school sponsored activities or athletic events.**

ABSENCES & PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

It shall be the policy of the Richton School Board that students who are absent from school, whether it is excused or unexcused, shall not be allowed to participate in any school-sponsored activity occurring on the day and night of the absence. The principal may consider special, extenuating circumstances and will have final decision if there are exceptions.

ABSENCES & TARDIES DEFINED

An excused absence is one where a student has been too sick to attend school, has been under the care of a physician, has been sent home by the school nurse or has had a death in the immediate family. Immediate family includes: parent/stepparent/guardian, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, grandparent, spouse, child, uncle and aunt. Other absences may be excused as determined by the principal.

Source: Mississippi Code: TITLE 37 EDUCATION CHAPTER 13 CURRICULUM SCHOOL YEAR AND ATTENDANCE MISSISSIPPI COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW Compulsory school attendance requirements generally: enforcement of law.



An “*unlawful absence*” is an absence during a school day by a compulsory-school-age child, which absence is not due to a valid excuse for temporary nonattendance. Days missed from school due to disciplinary suspension shall not be considered an “excused” absence under this section. This subsection shall not apply to children enrolled in a nonpublic school.

Each of the following shall constitute a valid excuse for temporary nonattendance of a compulsory school-age child enrolled in a public school, provided satisfactory evidence of the excuse is provided to the superintendent of the school district, or his designee:

- a. An absence is excused when the absence results from the compulsory-school-age child’s attendance at an authorized school activity with the prior approval of the superintendent of the school district, or his

designee. These activities may include field trips, athletic contests, student conventions, musical festivals and any similar activity.

- b. An absence is excused when the absence results from illness or injury which prevents the compulsory school-age child from being physically able to attend school.
- c. An absence is excused when isolation of a compulsory-school-age child is ordered by the county health officer, by the State Board of Health, or appropriate school official.
- d. An absence is excused when it results from the death or serious illness of a member of the immediate family of a compulsory-school-age child. The immediate family members of a compulsory-school-age child shall include children, spouse, grandparents, parents, stepparents, brothers and sisters, including stepbrothers and stepsisters, uncle and aunt.
- e. An absence is excused when it results from a medical or dental appointment of a compulsory-school age child where an approval of the superintendent of the school district, or his designee, is gained before the absence, except in the case of emergency.
- f. An absence is excused when it results from the attendance of a compulsory-school-age child at the proceedings of a court or an administrative tribunal if the child is a party to the action or under subpoena as a witness.
- g. An absence may be excused if the religion, to which the compulsory-school-age child or the child's parents adheres, requires or suggests the observance of a religious event. The approval of the absence is within the discretion of the superintendent of the school district, or his designee, but approval should be granted unless the religion's observance is of such duration as to interfere with the education of the child.
- h. An absence may be excused when it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the superintendent of the school district, or his designee, that the purpose of the absence is to take advantage of a valid educational opportunity such as travel, including vacations or other family travel. Approval of the absence must be gained from the superintendent of the school district, or his designee, before the absence, but approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.
- i. An absence may be excused when it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the superintendent of the school district, or his designee, that conditions are sufficient to warrant the compulsory-school-age child's nonattendance. However, no absences shall be excused by the school district's superintendent, or his designee, when any student suspensions or expulsions circumvent the intent and spirit of the compulsory attendance.

Following an absence, students should present a signed written excuse from a parent, guardian, or doctor on the day the student returns to school, unless documented permission to be absent was granted by school officials before the absence occurred. **After 3 days no excuse will be accepted.** This admittance slip must be obtained before the beginning of the school day or the student will receive an unexcused tardy. The written excuse should contain:

1. The date written
2. Full name of the student
3. The date(s) the student was absent
4. The cause of the absence
5. The signature of the parent, guardian, custodian, or doctor
6. Contact phone number for authentication.

**ANY ABSENCE FOR WHICH NO WRITTEN EXCUSE IS RECEIVED
BECOMES AN AUTOMATIC UNEXCUSED ABSENCE. EXCUSES WILL
ONLY BE ACCEPTED WITHIN 3 DAYS OF STUDENT RETURN.**

Three (3) signed, handwritten letters per semester from a student's parent/guardian will be granted should a student's illness not require a physician's care. All absences other than those mentioned above will be counted as unexcused. These absences must not exceed five (5) in a semester course or eleven (11) in

a yearly course. An attendance committee will meet to discuss special circumstances. **In grades 7-12, at least 75% of a class period must be attended to receive credit for being present. If more than 25% of a class period is missed, the student will receive an absence for that period.**

If a student will knowingly be absent for 3 or more days consecutively, the parent/guardian is requested to notify the school in advance in writing. Notification of the school does not insure that the absences will be excused.

****State law requires students to be in attendance for 63% of the instructional day in order to be counted present. This percentage excludes break, class changes, lunch, or recess. Seniors with early release, dual enrollment, or other district defined shortened schedule will have to be present 63% of the respective instructional day to be counted present. Everyone else is expected to have 5 periods (high school) or 7 periods (junior high).*

**TEACHERS GO ON DUTY AT 7:20 A.M.
THERE SHOULD BE NO STUDENTS ON CAMPUS PRIOR TO THAT
TIME.**

TARDY POLICY 2025-2026

- Teachers will be on duty starting at 7:20AM each day. Students should not be on campus before this time.
- The RHS school day starts at 7:45AM and ends at 3:00PM
- The tardy bell will ring at 7:45AM. All students are expected to be in their assigned class at this time.
 - Any student who is not in their assigned class at 7:45AM will need to go to the office and get a tardy slip in order to be admitted into their class.
 - Any student who is tardy after 8:00AM will report to In School Intervention (ISI) until the next class change.
- After a student receives three (3) tardy slips that are after 7:45AM, the teacher and/or administrator will make a parent contact to discuss the issue of the student not getting to class on time.
- After a student receives five (5) tardy slips after 7:45AM, the student will report to ISI for the day and a Parent Conference will be held before the student can return to class.
 - At this time, if the student is a student-driver, driving privileges may be revoked or suspended for a set amount of time.
- After a student receives a seventh (7th) tardy slip after 7:45AM, they will be sent to ISI. This will happen for the 8th and 9th tardy slips as well.
- Once a student accumulates 10 tardy slips, they will be assigned one day of Out of School Suspension (OSS)
 - ✦ Any student suspended for excessive tardiness **MUST** be accompanied by guardian for a mandatory parent conference before being admitted back to school.

- ✦ If a student is tardy more than ten times, the parent / guardian may be reported to the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services for neglect.
- ✦ Student driving privileges may be revoked for the rest of the year.

Procedures for Referrals by MS Compulsory School Attendance Law

	Actions Taken By School Attendance Officer
5 unexcused absences	Contact by school attendance officer by phone or letter
10 unexcused absences	Contact by school attendance officer by phone or letter/conference
12 unexcused absences	Contact by school attendance officer by phone or letter, and home or school visit. Charges filed in Justice Court or Youth Court.

CHECK OUTS



In the interest of providing uninterrupted instructional time, a student should be checked out between classes. In cases of an emergency, the parent must obtain special permission from the principal or another administrator to check out a student at a time other than between classes. **All students dismissed from school must be checked out in person by a parent, legal guardian, or by a person listed on the student's checkout sheet. Anyone checking out a student may be asked to provide a photo ID.**

The only other ways a student may be checked out is by a hand-written note submitted to the secretary at the beginning of the day or a written email from a parent or guardian. This email must be sent prior to 8:30AM on the school day in which the student will be signed out. With both the handwritten note or the email, the included information must be the time that the student will be checked out, a valid, working phone number that can be called to verify the information, and the name of the person that will be checking out the student (**cannot be another student at the school**). The email will be valid for only one day. The email addresses that the email will need to be sent to : jmeadows@richton.k12.ms.us and benbryan@richton.k12.ms.us Please include both email addresses when you send your email.

OTHER GUIDELINES FOR CHECKOUTS:

1. Students will not be allowed to check themselves out. **Students will not be allowed to check out other students.**
2. As stated above, students must be checked out in person by someone on their checkout card or have an email sent to the school office prior to 8AM on the day that the checkout will happen.

3. Phone calls, text messages, or social media messages will not be accepted as proper methods of checking a student out from school.
4. The parent/guardian must come to school to make any changes to who is on a student's checkout list.
5. Only people on the student's checkout list will be allowed to check a student out from school **(cannot be another student)**.
6. It is extremely important that the school office personnel know and have on file all relevant information and paperwork concerning any custody issues involving our students.
7. Students will **NOT** be allowed to check out during lunch unless signed out IN PERSON by someone on the student's check out list. The person signing out the student CANNOT be another student.
8. Students must have parental permission AND must sign out in the office before leaving campus under all circumstances. Students must meet the requirements established under the Check-Out Policy. Students will be counted absent in the classes that are missed when they sign out early. Disciplinary action will be taken if a student leaves school and disregards proper procedure (Level 2 offense).
9. All of these guidelines apply to seniors as well except in the case where they are on a shortened day and their classes are over for the day (see policy below).
10. **In cases of emergencies and unforeseen circumstances, there may be exceptions to these guidelines. Only the Principal or Superintendent can make those exceptions.**

EARLY DISMISSAL OF SENIORS

EARLY RELEASE REQUIREMENTS

- Must have passed all state assessments that are required for graduation.
- Be on track to meet diploma requirements.
- Have a 2.0 GPA
- Seniors will only check out when their classes are over for the day. They are not to leave earlier than the end of their last scheduled class. If they have to leave before this time, they need to follow the aforementioned check out guidelines that apply to all students.

MAKE-UP WORK

Students in grades 7-12 who miss work due to absences are responsible for contacting teachers for make-up work on their first day back to school. **IT IS NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TEACHER TO SCHEDULE MAKE-UP WORK!** Students have no later than 2 days after he/she returns to school to see the teacher for make-up assignments. The number of days allowed to make up work is directly proportional to the number of days missed.



Work missed due to school-sponsored activities or trips must be made up before the activity/trip, or the first day after returning to class.

If a student misses one day of school and was present when homework was assigned, the student must present the completed assignment immediately on return to the class, unless given specific relief by that teacher.

STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP



Junior high and high school students brought to school by a parent/guardian must be dropped off and picked up at the designated place behind the gym. Traffic should enter off of Pecan Street, make the loop in the gravel parking lot, and drop-off/pick up front facing Pecan Street. The paved portion behind the gym is one-way for OUT-GOING traffic.

THERE ARE NO OTHER AUTHORIZED DROP OFF OR PICK UP LOCATIONS FOR STUDENTS.

STUDENTS ARE NOT BE DROPPED OFF OR PICKED UP IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL OR ON THE SIDE OF THE SCHOOL. STUDENT PICK UP IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL CAUSES UNNECESSARY CONFUSION DURING UNSCHEDULED EARLY DISMISSAL, AND POSES A SAFETY RISK.

Students who ride with faculty or staff should wait in that person's office or classroom until they leave for the day.

Students who walk or ride bikes to school will cross the street at the crosswalk in front of the Elementary School.

Students who ride to school with high school students are to come directly to the campus from the parking lot. At the end of the day, elementary and middle school students will wait on the cafeteria steps until high school students are released, then walk to the parking lot with them. If there is to be a change in transportation for the day, or for any length of time, the school needs that information in writing the morning the change is to take place. Notes must contain phone numbers for authentication. **We WILL not to make any changes by phone.**

Changes in transportation should be made prior to 2:15 p.m. After 2:15, we cannot guarantee the teacher will get the message in time to make the change.

BELL SCHEDULE FOR JUNIOR / HIGH SCHOOL

Junior High and High School students may eat breakfast from 7:20 a.m. until 7:40 a.m. At 7:40 the cafeteria must be cleared to allow elementary students to eat breakfast. The ONLY exception will be those arriving on a late bus.

REGULAR SCHEDULE

Junior High (6 Periods)

Breakfast	7:20 - 7:40
First Bell	7:40
1 st Period	7:45-8:48
2 nd Period	8:51-9:54
Break	9:54-10:06
3 rd Period	10:09-11:12
4 th Period	11:15 -12:18
LUNCH	12:21 -12:41
5 th Period	12:46 -1:49
6 th Period	1:54-3:00

High School (Modified Block)

Breakfast	7:20 - 7:40
First Bell	7:40
1 st Block	7:45 – 9:15
Break	9:15-9:27
2 nd Block	9:30-11:00
3 rd Block	11:05-12:38
LUNCH	12:40 -1:00
4 th Period	1:05 -2:00
5 th Period	2:05-3:00

LEAVING CLASS

At no time during class hours should students be in hallways or out of class without an approved pass. If a student must be in the hall during class time, he/she must have a hall pass. Staff members, teachers, and administrators will be responsible for issuing passes and will be accountable for location of their students at all times. School schedules allow sufficient times to use the restrooms; going to the restroom during class time is discouraged.



EXEMPTIONS

Semester Exams

The following are the guidelines/requirements to be exempt from a semester exam.

- Will apply to students in Grades 7-12
- Must have an 87 or above to be exempt.
- Cannot have served any days in ISS or OSS.
- Cannot have more than 3 unexcused absences. .
- Cannot have more than 2 discipline referrals total.
- Teachers will notify students 5 days prior to the semester exam if they are exempt or not.
- Exemptions will not start until 2 days prior to the scheduled exam.
- Teachers will have the right to not give exemptions and give an exam to the whole class if they choose.

GENERAL ACADEMIC POLICY

After the first four weeks of class, no classes will be changed. Exceptions to this include:

- Course not offered
- Course was duplicated on student's schedule
- Computer error
- Changing from a non-academic to an academic class under normal circumstances
- The principal may make situational changes.

Fees must be paid before credit can be given for any work. Basic textbooks are furnished by the State of Mississippi. The district also furnishes classroom materials and supplies that are common to all grade levels in the school. Students will be required to pay a fee in those courses that require manuals, workbooks, and other materials which the student are required to own. Students with classes that have labs, or machinery not common to all classes may be required to pay a fee for the use of such materials or machinery.

GRADING SCALE

100 - 90	A
89 - 80	B
79 - 70	C
69 - 65	D
64 - Below	F

**The District has adopted SAMS/Active Parent in an attempt to keep parents informed on grades. Teachers are required to keep them updated on a regular basis.*

GRADING

Promotion and retention of students shall be based upon their mastery of course objectives. Teachers in grades 7-12 shall record and report all grades in the manner prescribed by the Richton School District. Excused absences, conduct, and behavioral grades will be reported independently from academic achievement.

Students will complete 80 hours of computerized instruction for a one year course and 40 hours for a semester course. A minimum of ten (10) minor grades and four (4) major grades per student per nine week term shall be recorded in each teacher's grade book for each academic subject/course.

Major grades will count 60% of the nine week's average while minor grades will count 40% of the nine week's average. Semester grades will be calculated by averaging the two respective nine week's averages. In the event a semester exam is included in the calculation of the semester grade, it will count 20% of the semester average with each nine week's grade accounting for 40% of the semester average. Final yearly averages will be calculated by averaging the two semester averages.

- Teachers will input grades into their SAMS gradebook weekly.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

Seniors graduating from Richton High School in the spring of 2012 will be required to have earned a minimum of twenty-six (26) Carnegie units. Twenty-four (24) units must be Carnegie units from the approved list of subjects provided by the State Department of Education.

Each student graduating from Richton School will have earned at least two (2) of the last four (4) units at Richton School.

Richton High School will not deliver a diploma (signed or unsigned) to a student if he/she fails to meet all of the requirements set forth herein. Further a student who fails to meet all stated requirements is not permitted to participate (walk or sit with the class) at graduation. Any senior who is assigned to the alternative school on the last day of student attendance for the school year will not be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies. Students who plan to attend a Mississippi public university must meet high school graduation requirements, and an institution of higher learning requirements. Please involve parents in planning your higher education and your yearly class schedule.

- Students may not be able to walk in graduation if they miss graduation practice unless it is preapproved by the principal. This decision will be made by the principal and superintendent.

DRESS CODE FOR GRADUATION:

- Young ladies should wear dark or nude shoes. Please remember that skinny heels tend to sink into the field. If you have issues with your shoes, please bring one pair to march in, and another for after the ceremony.
- Young men should wear dark slacks or khakis, a white dress shirt, and a tie.

Richton High School Graduation Pathways - Traditional Diploma Options

Traditional Diploma			Career and Technical Endorsement		Academic Endorsement		Distinguished Academic Endorsement	
Graduation Requirements	Required Subjects		Graduation Requirements	Required Subjects	Graduation Requirements	Required Subjects	Graduation Requirements	Required Subjects
4 Credits English	English I, English II		4 Credits English	English I, English II	4 Credits English	English I, English II	4 Credits English	English I, English II
4 Credits Math	Algebra I		4 Credits Math	Algebra I	4 Credits Math	Algebra I + 2 additional math courses above Algebra I	4 Credits Math	Algebra I + 2 additional math courses above Algebra I
3 Credits Science	Biology I		3 Credits Science	Biology I	3 Credits Science	Biology I + 2 additional science courses above Biology I	4 Credits Science	Biology I + 2 additional science courses above Biology I
3.5 Credits Social Studies	MS Studies (1/2), World History (1), US History (1), Economics (1/2), US Government (1/2)		3.5 Credits Social Studies	MS Studies (1/2), World History (1), US History (1), Economics (1/2), US Government (1/2)	3.5 Credits Social Studies	MS Studies (1/2), World History (1), US History (1), Economics (1/2), US Government (1/2)	4 Credits Social Studies	MS Studies (1/2), World History (1), US History (1), Economics (1/2), US Government (1/2)
1/2 Credit PE			1/2 Credit PE		1/2 Credit PE		1/2 Credit PE	
1/2 Credit Health			1/2 Credit Health		1/2 Credit Health		1/2 Credit Health	
1 Credit Art			1 Credit Art		1 Credit Art		1 Credit Art	
1 Credit CCR	Taught either Junior or Senior year OR taught in a 4-course sequence beginning in the 9th grade		1 Credit CCR	Taught either Junior or Senior year OR taught in a 4-course sequence beginning in the 9th grade	1 Credit CCR		1 Credit CCR	Must occur within one semester of graduation
1 Credit Technology or Computer Science			1 Credit Technology or Computer Science		1 Credit Technology or Computer Science		1 Credit Technology or Computer Science	
5.5 Credits Electives			4 Credits CTE Electives	Must complete a 4-course sequential program of study to be a completer in CTE	7.5 Electives	Electives must meet the advanced elective requirements in the IHL CPC	8 Electives	Electives must meet the advanced elective requirements in the IHL CPC
Total Credits: 24			Total Credits: 26		Total Credits: 26		Total Credits: 28	
Traditional Diploma Option Notes:			Additional Requirements:		Additional Requirements:		Additional Requirements:	
Student must choose endorsement before entering 9th grade			2.5 Overall GPA		2.5 Overall GPA		3.0 Overall GPA	
For early release, student must have met ACT subscores (17 English; 19 math) or earn a Silver on ACT WorkKeys for the CTE Endorsement			Silver level on ACT WorkKeys		Courses must meet MS IHL CPC Requirements		Courses must meet MS IHL CPC Requirements	
Student who have not met one of the above for early release must meet ALL of the following:			Successfully complete one of the following:		Earn MS IHL & Community College readiness benchmarks (ACT sub scores of 17 English and 19 math or completion of appropriate college-ready courses in senior year)		Earn national college-readiness benchmarks on each subtest established by ACT (sub scores of 18 English and 22 math) or SAT	
-2.5 GPA			-One CTE DC course or the Community College approved CTE articulated dual credit		Successfully complete one of the following:		Successfully complete one of the following:	
-Passed or met all MAAP assessment requirements for graduation			-Complete an industry-based work experience or the Career Pathway Experience		-Earn a C or higher in any AP course and take the exam		-One AP course with a B or higher and take the appropriate AP exam	
-On track to meet all diploma requirements for graduation			-Earn a State Board of Education approved national credential		-Earn a C or higher in a Diploma Program-IB course and take the exams		-One IB course with a B or higher and take the appropriate exams	
-Concurrently enrolled in Essentials of College Math or Essentials of College Literacy					-Earn a C or higher in an academic dual enrollment course		-One dual credit course earning B or higher	

CLASS DESIGNATION GUIDELINES

7th Grade	a student must have completed and been promoted from the 6 th grade.
8th Grade	a student must have passed six (6) of seven (7) classes in the 7 th grade. If a student failed any major subject (<i>Math, Science, English, Social Studies, or Reading</i>) in the 7 th grade, he/she must retake that subject. Any student that fails more than one class must repeat the grade.
9th Grade	a student must have passed six (6) of seven (7) classes in the 8 th grade. If a student failed any major subject (<i>Math, Science, English, Social Studies, Reading, or ICT II</i>) in the 8 th grade, he/she must have scored at the Passing Level (PL 3) on the State Exam. Any student that fails more than one class must repeat the grade.
10th Grade	a student must have earned 8 units.
11th Grade	a student must have earned 14 units.
12th Grade	a student must have earned 20 units.

- *Any student who has failed the 7th grade multiple years with two or less class failures (in core subjects) may advance by retaking the two or less classes that he/she failed in the 8th Grade.*
- *Any student in the 8th grade that has failed multiple years, with two or less failures (in core subjects) for the current year, may advance to the 9th grade providing he/she has scored at least Passing on the state tests.*
- *A student may advance to the next grade by passing in summer school the core class (only one) that he/she failed during the regular school year if summer school is offered. Some years this may not be an option.*

SPECIAL NOTES

- 1) Students must follow sequence of courses (Biology, Math and English) before taking the next sequenced course.
- 2) The principal, assistant principal, or counselor, upon approval of the State Department of Education, may make situational changes with respect to Special Note 1 and 2.

SENIOR CLASS RANK ORDER POLICY FOR SENIORS Class rank will be determined on the basis of required subjects determined by the State of Mississippi (no electives included), plus specific accelerated courses and AP courses listed below.

Accelerated Courses

The following classes are considered accelerated courses at Richton High School:

1. Anatomy & Physiology (A&P)
2. Chemistry I
3. Accelerated Allied Health I
4. Accelerated Allied Health II
5. Accelerated Microbiology
6. Accelerated English II
7. Accelerated English III
8. Accelerated Genetics

Dual Enrollment Courses

The following classes are considered advanced courses at Richton High School:

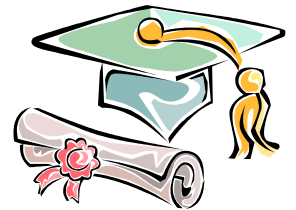
1. Dual Enrollment Composition I
2. Dual Enrollment College Algebra
3. Dual Enrollment English Comp II
4. World Literature
5. Spanish II

WEIGHTING OF ACCELERATED COURSES

- All Math/Science courses will be weighed by a factor of 1.05
- All other classes will be weighed by a factor of 1.025
- Accelerated courses will be weighed by a factor of 1.075
- SAMs will not accept grades above 100; therefore, points above 100 will not be considered for class rank purposes.

VALEDICTORIAN/SALUTATORIAN/TOP TEN SENIORS

1. For seniors to be **considered for top ten**, students must be enrolled their Junior and Senior year at RHS.
2. Class rank will be computed at the end of the third nine weeks of the senior year.
3. For seniors to be **considered for top ten**, students must have completed five accelerated courses.
4. For seniors to be **eligible for top ten**, students must complete two dual enrollment courses.
5. Valedictorian and Salutatorian are automatically ranked 1 and 2 respectfully in the class rank.
6. In case of a tie for any designation, ACT scores will be used to break the tie.
7. February ACT scores of a student's senior year will be the last scores considered in the selection of valedictorian / salutatorian.
8. A student's discipline and attendance records will be reviewed prior to selection. All Rebel Scholar applicants will be reviewed by a panel of teachers prior to selection.



The requirements listed above must be met in order to qualify for Top Ten. All requirements must be completed by March 1, or the student will not be eligible for Rebel Scholar recognition and Top Ten placement.

DETERMINATION OF HONORS:

Senior students shall be ranked at the end of the senior year for determination of honor designations. For a student to be eligible to Valedictorian, Salutatorian and Top Ten of the Richton High School, the student must attend Richton High School during his/her junior and senior years.

Class rank will be determined by quality points based on the difficulty level of classes. Grade point averages will still be computed on the 4-point scale. Quality point rank will also be used to determine honor graduates.

The Valedictorian shall be the student graduating with the highest quality point rank, the Salutatorian shall be the one with the second highest quality point rank. The two top students shall be designated as graduating with Highest Honors.

High Honor graduates shall be those who have earned a quality point rank of 3.67 or numerical average of 89.5.

Students who graduate with a quality point rank of 3.33 or a numerical average of 86.5 shall be graduated with Honors.

STAR STUDENT SELECTION

The student in the graduating class with the highest ACT score will be designated as the school's STAR Student. The test for this score must be taken on or before the ACT National Testing date during the month of December. Tie breakers will be determined by the state guidelines and rubric.

Quality Point Scale- Summary

Course Level

Dual Enrollment

A+ (100-98) 6.33	B+ (89-87) 5.33	C+ (79-77) 4.33	D+ (69) 3.33
A (97-94) 6.00	B (86-83) 5.00	C (76-73) 4.00	D (68-67) 3.00
A- (93-90) 5.67	B- (82-80) 4.67	C- (72-70) 3.67	D- (66-65) 2.67

Accelerated

A+ (100-98) 5.33	B+ (89-87) 4.33	C+ (79-77) 3.33	D+ (69) 2.33
A (97-94) 5.00	B (86-83) 4.00	C (76-73) 3.00	D (68-67) 2.00
A- (93-90) 4.67	B- (82-80) 3.67	C- (72-70) 2.67	D- (66-65) 1.67

Regular

A+ (100-98) 4.33	B+ (89-87) 3.33	C+ (79-77) 2.33	D+ (69) 1.33
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A (97-94) 4.00	B (86-83) 3.00	C (76-73) 2.00	D (68-67) 1.00
A- (93-90) 3.67	B- (82-80) 2.67	C- (72-70) 1.67	D- (66-65) .67

- Quality Point Value will be given to each half (1/2) unit determining averages- generally semester grades.

Course weights are determined by the high school faculty and staff.

HALL OF FAME REQUIREMENTS

Richton High School's Hall of Fame represents a select group of senior students who have outstanding academic records, leadership skills, character, citizenship, and community service.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Students must have attended Richton High School their full junior and senior years.
2. No more than 5% of the senior class will be accepted into the Hall of Fame.
3. Students will be selected by a school staff committee. The following criteria items may be used: application, attendance records, discipline records, and academic records. These selections are based on the student application; thus, the committee decisions are final.
4. Teacher and club/athletic sponsors will have an opportunity to verify membership status and awards documented by the applicant.
5. Students must not have failed any subject during high school (grades 9-12).
6. Students must not have had more than 5 unexcused absences or excessive tardies during his or her senior year.
7. Students must not have had an out of school suspension during grades 9-12 or have engaged in any action that does not exemplify good behavior or school board policy.
8. Students need to give careful consideration to ensure the application is complete prior to submission.
9. Completed application must be submitted to Mrs. Cassie Nicholson. The original and 4 copies must be provided. Incomplete or incorrectly completed applications will not be considered. There are no extensions on the deadline.

Important Dates:

- Week of January 20, 2026 – MANDATORY Hall of Fame applicant meeting with Mrs. Cassie Nicholson.
- January 26th, 2026 – Hall of Fame application and 4 copies are due by 2:00 p.m. to Mrs. Cassie Nicholson.
- February 9th-13th, 2026 – Hall of Fame recipients will be announced during this week.

Guidelines:

1. A transcript must be submitted with the Hall of Fame application. The transcript must be placed in an envelope, sealed and signed by the guidance counselor.
2. No attachments are allowed other than the sealed transcript. Only information on the application will be reviewed and verified by student records.
3. Points are awarded based SOLELY on the information on the application. Please double check all categories. Applications will not be given back for students to make corrections.
4. Once teacher verification has occurred, students may be asked to meet with the committee if irregularities are found. If irregularities are found, the application will be marked void.
5. If you have any questions, see Mrs. Cassie Nicholson ONLY during morning break.

**MISSISSIPPI SCHOLARS CURRICULUM
FOR SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2015 AND LATER**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Four credits must consist of:

English I	(1)
English II	(1)
English III	(1)
English IV	(1)

MATHEMATICS

Four credits must consist of:

Algebra I	(1)
Geometry	(1)
Algebra II	(1)

Any one Carnegie Unit of comparable rigor and content

SCIENCE

Four credits must consist of:

Biology I	(1)
Chemistry	(1)

Any two (2) Carnegie Units of comparable rigor and content

SOCIAL STUDIES

Four credits must consist of:

World Geography	(1/2)
Mississippi Studies	(1/2)
World History	(1)
U. S. History	(1)
U. S. Government	(1/2)
Economics	(1/2)

ARTS

One Carnegie Unit of visual and performing arts meeting the requirement for high school graduation.

ADVANCED ELECTIVES

2 credits must consist of:

- Two Foreign Languages or a 5th Math or 5th Science of higher rigor

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- 40 Hours of Community or Volunteer Service during 4 years of high school
- 18 ACT Composite Score (Overall Score)
- 2.5 cumulative high school GPA on a 4.0 scale
- 3 letters of recommendation (one from each of the following – principal, guidance counselor and business/community leader for students with more than 4 in-school suspensions)
- 95% School Attendance during 4 years of high school
- No out-of-school suspension
- Mississippi Scholars must also complete any remaining State-mandated high school graduation requirements.
- Advanced Placement courses may be substituted in Mississippi Scholars subject areas.
- Dual credit and online courses are acceptable.

CREDIT RECOVERY

Credit recovery allows a student to earn credit for a course he/she previously failed with a final average of 55 or above. Credit recovery is an option for students in grades 7 through 12.

An assessment is made of the student's mastery and non-mastery of course objectives. Based on that assessment, the student completes instruction only in the objectives that have not been mastered. When the student has met his/her objectives, he/she will receive a grade of 65 for the course.

No student will be allowed to take a pre-requisite to a state tested class. This includes English I, Intro to Biology, Foundations to Algebra, and World History. *Exceptions may be made with administration approval if the student has failed the class more than once.

Credit recovery is **NOT** an option for students who have failed both the course and state test in Algebra I, Biology, English II and U.S. History. The course must be repeated. If the student has passed the state test, he/she may take the course in credit recovery.

Students may only enroll in one credit recovery course per year. It is not the responsibility of the school to accommodate students who have failed classes.

Students enrolled in credit recovery will be required to report to class. Space in credit recovery is limited, and upper classmen will be given preference. In the future, credit recovery will be offered during the summer months at cost to the parent.

ONLINE COURSES

It is the policy of the Richton School District to use approved and available online resources and software as a means of credit recovery, alternate placement, elective credit, and advanced course placement. All students taking these courses are subject to all rules and integrity agreements in place by the Mississippi

Department of Education online course administration. Students must meet all prerequisites necessary by the Richton School District, and the Mississippi State Department of Education.

HOMework AND CLASSWORK

All homework and classwork fit into the total school program and are always purposeful. Homework is also a necessary part of the school program. It is not unusual for students to have homework on weekends. Students may choose to spend some weekend or holiday time on long-range assignments or make-up work.



TEXTBOOKS



ALL TEXTBOOKS ISSUED ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE RICHTON SCHOOL DISTRICT (*Ms Code 37-7-301*). Defacement, abuse of books, or the loss of books will result in the assessment of a damage fee. Parents/guardians assume full responsibility for issued textbooks, including the proper care of these books. ALL BOOK FINES MUST BE PAID BEFORE A STUDENT CAN RECEIVE TEXTBOOKS THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

Fines for lost textbooks will be assessed as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| • New book | Full price |
| • 1 year old | 75% of cost |
| • 2 years old | 50% of cost |
| • 3 or more years old | 25% of cost |

Fines for damaged textbooks will be assessed as follows:

- If pages are torn out, charge as if the book were lost (a book with missing pages is no good to the next student)
- Cover missing – charge as if the book were lost
- Writing in the book – charge $\frac{1}{2}$ of the schedule above, unless there are words marked through with ink. In this case, charge as a lost book.

VANDALISM

The District maintains adequate janitorial service. Every effort is made to keep buildings and grounds in good condition. Taking pride in one's surroundings is good training in citizenship and each one should do his/her part to keep the buildings and campus clean and attractive.

Gum chewing is not allowed in certain areas in school buildings due to the damages caused to equipment, clothing, books, desks, etc. when it is improperly discarded.

Students will not deface or destroy school property (such as textbooks, library books, buildings). Students guilty of this offense will be placed on the disciplinary ladder according to school policy, and restitution could be required from the students and/or their parents/guardians. In extreme cases, law enforcement may be called and criminal charges may be brought. If any pupil shall willfully destroy, cut, deface, damage, or injure any school building, equipment or other school property he shall be liable to suspension or expulsion and his parents or person or persons *in loco parentis* shall be liable for all damages. *Miss. Code Ann. Section 371119.*

USE OF TELEPHONE

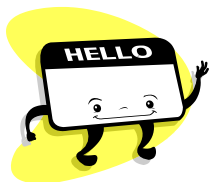
The office telephone is a business phone; therefore, it is necessary to restrict its use. Students will not be allowed to call home for signed papers, forgotten homework, band instruments, etc without approval of the principal. Only in cases of emergency or illness will students be permitted to use the phone. Students must have a teacher or nurse referral to use the phone. Students are not to use their personal cellular phones to make any phone calls home. If caught, it will be considered a violation of the cell phone policy (See page 73)

DELIVERIES

Balloons, flowers, food, and other special deliveries for students will not be allowed or accepted at school. In the past, students were allowed to call in orders for food from off-campus restaurants. This will no longer be allowed. In reference to food deliveries specifically, these are the guidelines and rules:

- Students will not be allowed to call in orders for food to be delivered to the school.
- A person on the student's checkout list will have to bring food to the school and drop it off if they wish for their student to have outside food.
- Food must be brought to school before the student's lunch time. Food that is delivered late will not be given to the student until the end of the day.
- State law requires that any food that is brought to school from a restaurant (Wards, Little Caesars, Subway, etc...) must be repacked in a container or bag that does NOT have the restaurants logo/name on it. Food that does not meet the packaging guidelines set forth by the state cannot be delivered to a student.

VISITORS ON CAMPUS



EVERY VISITOR TO OUR CAMPUS MUST SIGN IN IMMEDIATELY IN THE OFFICE TO OBTAIN A VISITOR'S PASS. Visitors must be approved and show proper identification before being given a visitor pass. All visitors must wear this pass while on campus and return it to the office upon departure. Visitors will only be limited access to his/her own child. Anyone who fails to comply with this policy is subject to

being reported to local law enforcement authorities. **NO** teacher will allow you to enter his/her classroom or speak to a student or teacher without a pass. Students from other schools will not be allowed to visit our classes. When parents/guardians go to school to check out their children, they will wait in the office; they will not be permitted to visit the child's classroom or hallway. No visitors will be permitted in school hallways unless teachers on that hallway are notified in advance by the school secretary, even with a visitor's pass. **NOTE: TEACHERS WILL NOT BE CALLED OUT OF CLASS DURING CLASS TIME. A PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE MUST BE ARRANGED.**

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent/teacher conferences are encouraged. Communication with parents is key to student success and positive rapport with the parent. To schedule a conference, parents may contact the school counselor, Mrs. Cassie Nicholson. All parent/teacher conferences will be prescheduled and will be held before or after school, or during planning periods. Teachers will not be called out of their classrooms to talk with a parent/guardian. There will always be two or more teachers or an administrator at every conference. The Richton School District forbids the use of any recording equipment--audio or video—at parent/teacher conferences.



SCHOOL TRIPS



During the school year classes may go on various trips which are planned in conjunction with activities encompassing the total school program. Teachers should request trips 30 days prior to the day of the event. Trips that are not academic in nature and that are not tied to content area will not be approved. No trip will occur during State Testing Periods. Teachers that go with their own children on trips outside of their own classes must take personal leave. Parents will be notified by note of any upcoming trips and associated costs. The parent/guardian **must** send a **signed** permission slip to the child's teacher.

STUDENTS WHO DO NOT HAVE A WRITTEN PERMISSION SLIP WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO GO ON THE TRIP. PERMISSION GRANTED OVER THE PHONE IS INSUFFICIENT AND WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

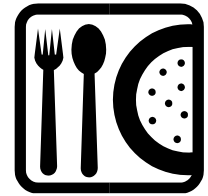
Only students and school personnel will be allowed to ride on school buses used on trips unless administration gives prior approval. There is a chance that money will have to be collected for cost of gas.

Students with Class II or Class III discipline violations must receive permission from administration to be granted participation privileges. Any student who commits a Class II or Class III discipline violation or any other violation the administration deems worthy will forfeit the right to participate in further field trips for not less than 45 instructional days.

(Any out-of-state field trip or overnight field trip must be approved in advance by the Richton School Board.) Inappropriate behavior while on school field trips can result in school discipline.

CAFETERIA

The breakfast program begins at 7:20AM and ends at 7:40AM for Junior High / High School students. After 7:40AM, high school and junior high students will not be allowed in the cafeteria.



No outside food is allowed in the cafeteria. Students who bring lunches to school will eat in the cafeteria with the other children. Students and staff desiring a carbonated drink with their lunch must have the drink in a thermos bottle or unmarked cup. Prepackaged foods and/or foods purchased from outside the cafeteria must be removed from the original container and placed in an unmarked container. For example: Subway, Little Caesars, Wards, etc. will not be allowed in its original packaging. Canned juices are available for purchase in the cafeteria. Free and reduced price lunch applications are available to all students.

The Richton School District Board of Trustees has adopted a “no charge” policy in the cafeteria. No meals may be charged for anyone at any time. All students and school personnel may pay for their meals in advance by week or month. The amount unused will remain in the individual’s account until used. Federal law prohibits food programs to accrue debt. **Students cannot receive a report card at the end of the school year if they owe money in the cafeteria.**

FUND RAISERS

Fund raisers will be permitted only when approved according to the school board policy on fund raisers.

Section IV.

Health, Safety and Security



ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIALS

Asbestos containing materials (ACM) are present on the campuses of the Richton School District. These asbestos containing materials are isolated, and there is no danger of contamination to any student, faculty, staff, or maintenance personnel.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

It is the responsibility of the school to help protect students from contagious diseases. We ask that parents/guardians cooperate by keeping students with contagious diseases home until all signs are clear and danger of infection is gone. The school will notify parents if there are signs of contagious sickness. Parents/guardians will be responsible for picking up the child and determining if a problem does exist. Please use the following guidelines for keeping children with contagious diseases home:

DISEASE/CONDITION

EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL

***NOTE: The CDC considers a fever to be a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher**

Chicken Pox.....	7 days after eruption appears or until vesicles become dry
Hepatitis.....	Clearance by physician
Mononucleosis.....	Clearance by physician
Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye).....	When eye is no longer draining or cleared by physician
Impetigo.....	Until under proper treatment
Ringworm.....	Until under proper treatment
Scabies.....	Until under proper treatment
Strep Throat.....	Fever free for 24 hours
Pediculosis (Lice).....	Until nits and/or live bugs are gone
Fever.....	Fever free for 24 hours

The principal may require a written note from the student's physician or public health department before the student returns to school after having a communicable or infectious disease.

MEDICATION

Nonprescription medication will NOT be kept by office personnel to dispense to students. The school nurse will handle all medication and/or first aid.



Any prescription medication, which is to be taken at school by the student, must be handled in the following manner:

- The medication must be sent in the original prescription bottle with a readable label.
- Only enough medication for one week should be sent.
- If a dosage changes, then a written, legible note from the doctor must be presented.
- A form must be filled out with the nurse for prescription medications.

No dosage will be changed on the word of the parent. No medication will be given if we do not have the original bottle with a readable label. A medical form must be filled out for the nurse before any medication or treatment is given.

SELF ADMINISTRATION OF ASTHMA MEDICATION BY STUDENTS

Section 417931 of the Mississippi Code

1. The school board of each local public school district and the governing body of each private and parochial school or school district shall permit the self administration of medications by a student if the student's parent or guardian:
 - a. Provides written authorization for self administration to the school; and
 - b. Provides a written statement from the student's health care practitioner that the student has asthma and has been instructed in self administration of asthma medications. The statement shall also contain the following information:
 - i. The name and purpose of the medications;
 - ii. The prescribed dosage;
 - iii. The time or times the medications are to be regularly administered and under what additional special circumstances the medications are to be administered;
 - iv. And The length of time for which the medications are prescribed.
2. The statements required in subsection (1) of this section shall be kept on file in the office of the school nurse or school administrator.
3. The school district or the governing body of each private school district shall inform the parent or guardian of the student that the school and its employees and agents shall incur no liability as a result of any injury sustained by the student from the self administration of asthma medications. The parent or guardian of the student shall sign a statement acknowledging that the school shall incur no liability and the parent or guardian shall indemnify and hold harmless the school and its employees against any claims relating to the self administration of asthma medications.
4. The permission for self administration of medications shall be effective for the school year in which it is granted and shall be renewed each following school year upon fulfilling the requirements of subsections (1) through (3) of this section.
5. Upon fulfilling the requirements of this section, a student with asthma may possess and use asthma medications when at school, at a school sponsored activity, under the supervision of school personnel or before and after normal school activities while on school properties including school sponsored child care or after school programs.

Descriptor Term:
HEAD LICE

Descriptor Code:
JGCC-1

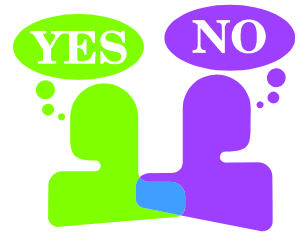
Issued Date:
1-22-01

	Rescinds:	Issued:
<p>When it is determined by examination that a student has head lice and/or nits, Richton School District principals will exclude from school and refer for treatment, any student with known infestation of head lice. A letter will be sent to notify the student's parent/guardian that the student must receive proper treatment before the student may return to school. The treatment must be an approved medical treatment and not a home remedy.</p> <p>The students will be allowed to return to school on the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> When the parent/guardian provides evidence of treatment, such as an empty container of the appropriate product the label intact; A copy of the notification letter with a parent/guardian signature to verify receipt; No nits and no live lice shall be visible on examination by school staff, i.e., school nurse, principal, or principal's designee. <p>A second treatment shall be completed within the seven (7) to ten (10) days following the first treatment: no sooner than seven (7) days, no later than ten (10) days. The parent/guardian shall be required to furnish evidence of a second treatment.</p> <p>If a student is found to have head lice on three (3) occasions during one (1) school year as determined by the school nurse, principal, public health nurse, or physician, the principal or administrator will notify the county health department of the recurring problem. An approved form will be used to refer the student to the health department. The health department will be notified that the student is to be expected. The parent/guardian will take the completed form and the student to the health department. The school nurse/principal will follow up with the health department and the parent for release to return to school.</p> <p>Screening for head lice will be done in grades K-5 three times each year: at the beginning of the school year, after the Christmas holiday break and after the spring break. Other screenings will be scheduled if a problem materializes.</p> <p align="center">HEAD LICE</p> <p>Most every year there are cases of head lice in the schools. When a case has been detected, Richton School District reserves the right to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have a head check if they suspect an individual child of having head lice. 2. Have a classroom head check if several cases are known to be in a particular grade. 3. Authorize teachers to make a head check. 4. Send identified infected children home immediately with a letter. 5. Require proof of treatment and no visible lice before a student may return to school. Proof of treatment includes the box it was packaged in and the dated store receipt. A maximum of 3 days per incident is considered excused. <div data-bbox="142 1218 349 1438"> </div> <p>As required by law, the Perry County Health Department will be notified when a child has the third occurrence of head lice. After the third occasion, a "no-nit" policy will be in effect. Any student who has had lice on four occasions will be required to be free of all nits before being readmitted to school.</p> <p>Parents/guardians should discuss with children the following items to try and reduce the occurrence of head lice: •</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> do not share combs or brushes do not share hats or coats do not share hair accessories 		

STUDENT COMPLAINTS OF SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION / HARASSMENT

TITLE IX PROCEDURES

Students in the Richton School District are protected from sexual discrimination, including sexual harassment, by *Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972 of the Civil Rights Act*. It is the intent of the Board to maintain an environment free from sexual harassment of any kind. Therefore, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature amounting to or constituting harassment are prohibited. Please report any infractions to a principal immediately. (*Policy JBPA*).



HARASSMENT

Harassment is forbidden between student and student, teacher and student, student and teacher, parent and teacher, teacher and parent, teacher and teacher or by any individual to another individual. Students are to report any harassment to a teacher or staff member as soon as possible and a preliminary report will be filed.

Harassment is forbidden within the confines of the school property and while participating in any activity provided by the school authorities. Harassment may include, but not be limited to:

- Name calling
- Pulling on clothing
- Graffiti
- Unwelcome touching of persons or their property
- “Accidentally” brushing against sexual parts of other persons
- Hand signs or signals
- Stalking
- Leaning over invading a person’s “personal space”
- Indecent exposure
- “Wolf whistles,” lip-smacking, lip licking, animal noises, etc.
- Gestures
- Facial expressions, leering
- Badgering
- Bullying
- Coercion
- Hostile put-downs
- Public humiliation
- Jokes
- Rumors
- Pressure for dates
- Sexual innuendos, lewd or crude comments
- Lewd and/or threatening letters, notes or cartoons
- Any words that may make someone feel uncomfortable, embarrassed, or hurt physically or emotionally.

EMERGENCY OPERATING PLANS

The Richton School District has developed emergency operating plans to save lives during emergency situations. These plans include operating procedures to be used during natural or manmade disasters which have been approved by the Civil Defense Office in Jackson, MS.

If a **severe weather** alert is issued by the U.S. Weather Bureau, the local Civil Defense officials notify the schools. Children will be retained at school until it has been deemed safe to dismiss them.

During threatening weather conditions students are assigned to those areas of the school building that have been identified as sheltered areas. School will not be dismissed when tornado conditions exist due to the fact that the school buildings are probably the strongest buildings in the school district, and the vulnerability of school buses should make it impossible to run the buses.



The school requests that parents not pick up students from school during the height of a storm, due to the confusion caused when school personnel, who have other responsibilities, have to locate students. If you should want to pick up your child, please do so prior to the threatened storm. **If you feel you must be with your child you may come to the school and stay with the child in the shelter. If we have the children in the hall, under a warning, they will not be allowed to leave the school.**

Should conditions dictate that school be dismissed or canceled prior to the opening of school, appropriate radio stations, social media, and WDAM television station will be notified. Parents may also call 601-788-6581 or 601-788-9608, or check our RICHTON SCHOOL DISTRICT Facebook page for additional information. Students will not be allowed to use the telephone during severe weather alerts, except in cases of extreme emergency. **We request that parents make arrangements with their children concerning with whom or where they will go in the event that school dismisses early due to weather.** If dismissal is delayed until the weather subsides, students could possibly arrive at home later than usual.

Should you have questions concerning emergency operation plans for the school you may call 601-788-6581 for further information.

Also, remember that we are **Richton School District** and not Perry County Schools.

MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL SAFETY ACT OF 2001

The School Safety Act of 2001 is cumulative and in addition to the school district's existing authority regarding discipline of students. Pursuant to the Act, the school district has adopted policies and procedures that recognize the teacher as the authority in classroom matters regarding the school district's written discipline code of conduct.

In the event the teacher removes a student who, in the professional judgment of the teacher, is disrupting the learning environment, and the removal is approved by the principal or assistant principal, the student may not be returned to the classroom until a conference has been held with the student's parent, guardian or custodian. During the conference, the disruptive behavior will be discussed and agreements reached that no further disruption will be tolerated. The conference may be in person, by telephone, by e-mail or by other written communication.

Among other provisions, this act provides that a student 13 years of age or older may be subject to automatic expulsion on the third occurrence of habitually disruptive behavior during a school year. (Students under age 13 may be subject to expulsion for such conduct pursuant to other school policies and procedures.)

The term "disruptive behavior" means conduct of a student that is so unruly, disruptive or abusive that it seriously interferes with a school teacher's or school administrator's ability to communicate with the students in a classroom, with a student's ability to learn, or with the operation of a school or school-related activity and which is not covered by other laws related to violence or possession of weapons or controlled substances on school property, school vehicles or at school-related activities. Such behaviors include, but are not limited to: foul, profane, obscene, threatening, defiant or abusive language or action toward teachers or other school employees, defiance, ridicule or verbal attack of a teacher, and willful, deliberate and overt acts of disobedience of the directions of a teacher.

The term "habitually disruptive" refers to such actions of a student which cause disruption in a classroom, on school property or vehicles, or at a school-related activity on more than two occasions during a school year, and to disruptive behavior that was initiated, willful and overt on the part of the student and which required the attention of school personnel to deal with the disruption.

After the second instance of behavior that is determined by the principal or designated administrator to have seriously interfered with the school environment, the parents/guardians will be contacted to help develop a behavior modification plan for the student.

CODE OF CONDUCT

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT

A student code of conduct, developed under the leadership of the district administration, and in cooperation with staff, will be made available and distributed to parents and students outlining student conduct expectations and possible disciplinary actions, including consequences for disorderly conduct, as required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLBA). In addition, each school may publish a student/parent handbook detailing additional rules specific to that school. [All rules applying to student conduct shall be posted in a prominent place in each school building.]

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

The superintendent shall establish and the board shall adopt a code of student conduct that shall be provided to all teachers, school personnel, students and parents, legal guardians or custodians at the beginning of each school year. The superintendent shall develop the code of conduct in consultation with principals, teachers, school personnel, students and parents, legal guardians or custodians.

The code of conduct shall be based upon but not limited to the rules of student conduct including policies JCA, JCBD, JCBE and JCBF and the rules of discipline including policies JD, JDA, JDB, JDC, JDD, and JDE and any and all related policies adopted subsequent hereto. The code shall be made available in the student handbook or other similar publication. The code of conduct shall include, but not be limited to the following items:

1. Specific grounds for disciplinary action under the school district's discipline plan;
2. Procedures to be followed for acts requiring discipline, including suspensions and expulsion, which comply with due process requirements;
3. Explanations of the rights and responsibilities of students with regard to:
 - a. Attendance;
 - b. Respect for persons and property;
 - c. Knowledge and observation of rules of conduct;
 - d. Free speech and student publications;
 - e. Assembly;
 - f. Privacy; and
 - g. Participation in school programs and activities.
4. The School Safety Act of 2001 provides a procedure for disciplining students whose behavior, as determined by the principal or designated administrator of each school, seriously interferes with the school environment as defined by the Act. The Superintendent is authorized to more fully develop and implement the following procedures in the school district. These provisions of the School Safety Act of 2001 are cumulative and in addition to existing school district discipline procedures.

The teacher is the authority in the classroom and, as such, is charged with classroom management. The administration will continue to support the teacher in decisions made in compliance with the written discipline code of conduct, school policies and procedures.

- a. Teachers continue to have the authority to remove students from their classrooms under existing policies and statutes for certain behaviors and/or actions, and such behavior would not necessarily constitute "disruptive behavior" as defined in the School Safety Act of 2001 ("Act"). In accordance with the Act and the Attorney General opinion dated June 25, 2001, this District designates the [building principal or assistant principal] of each school to make the determination as to whether a student's behavior seriously interferes with the school environment. Every removal from the classroom does not constitute an instance of "disruptive behavior" as defined by the Act.
 - b. "Disruptive Behavior" means conduct of a student that is so unruly, disruptive or abusive that it seriously interferes with a school teacher's or school administrator's ability to communicate with the students in a classroom, with a student's ability to learn, or with the operation of a school or a school-related activity, and which is not covered by other laws related to violence or possession of weapons or controlled substances on school property, school vehicles or at school-related activities. Such behaviors include, but are not limited to: foul, profane, obscene, threatening, defiant or abusive language or action toward teachers or other school employees; defiance, ridicule or verbal attack of a teacher; and willful, deliberate and overt acts of disobedience of the directions of a teacher.
 - c. "Habitually disruptive" refers to such actions of a student which cause disruption in a classroom, on school property or vehicles or at a school-related activity on more than two (2) occasions during a school year, and to disruptive behavior that was initiated, willful and overt on the part of the student and which required the attention of school personnel to deal with the disruption.
 - d. Should a student be removed from the classroom by a teacher because a teacher, in his or her professional judgment, has determined that the student is disrupting the learning environment under this Act, the teacher should describe the student's behavior in the information provided to the [principal or assistant principal]. If the [principal or assistant principal] disagrees with the teacher's decision to remove the student, the principal may return the student to the classroom. The teacher may request that the [principal or assistant principal] provide justification for returning the student to the classroom. A student does not have to be engaged in disruptive behavior as defined by Mississippi Code Annotated ' 37-11-54 (or the Act) to be removed from the classroom. A student may be removed from the classroom for other qualifying behavior under the school district's discipline plan.
 - e. Should the [principal or assistant principal] determine that the student's conduct does rise to the level of "disruptive behavior" required in the Act or in accordance with existing procedures addressing the removal of the students from class, the parent/guardian will be contacted and a conference held with the parent/guardian by the most effective and/or efficient means available, including but not limited to, telephone, e-mail, written notice via mail or delivery. After the conference and application of the appropriate discipline under the school discipline plan, the student may return to class.
 - f. After the second incident of disruptive behavior as determined by the [principal or assistant principal], the [principal or assistant principal], the student's parent or guardian and the reporting teacher or teachers shall develop a behavior modification plan. The conference to develop the plan may be held in person or via telephone. If the parent/guardian does not respond or refuses to participate, the teacher(s) and the [principal or assistant principal] shall prepare the plan and mail a copy to the parent/guardian.
 - g. Once determination has been made by the [principal or assistant principal] that the student has not complied with the behavior modification plan, the [principal or assistant principal] shall follow the procedure for disciplining the student according to the student code of conduct and discipline plan, which may include expulsion to the alternative school for applicable offenses. The Act limits the expulsion remedy to students age 13 and above. However, under board policy and other discipline procedures, expulsion may also apply to students under age 13.
 - h. If a student under age 13 has two instances of behavior that the [principal or assistant principal] classifies as "disruptive behavior," the District will appoint trained personnel to evaluate the child's behavior through an appropriate behavioral assessment. The assessment will not be one such that it is in conflict with federal laws requiring parental notification of certain types of evaluations.
 - i. Any discipline, including expulsion, for "habitually disruptive" behavior under the Act, must follow existing procedures to ensure that the student is afforded his / her due process protections. (Section 37-11-55 (b))
5. The school district will more fully develop and implement procedures for devising behavior modification plans under the School Safety Act.
 6. It is this school district's policy to have procedures for dealing with a student who causes a disruption in the classroom, on school property or vehicles, or at school-related activities. These procedures will specifically address discipline measures for gang-related activity in the school, on school property or vehicles, or at school related activities.

LEGAL REF: School Safety Act of 2001 (Senate Bill No. 2239)
(Miss. Code Annotated ' 37-11-53, ' 37-11-54, ' 37-11-55) (Supp. 2001)
P. L. 107-110 (No Child Left Behind Act)
Attorney General Opinion to Thompson dated June 25, 2001

STUDENT RESTRAINT POLICY

RE: Section 37-9-69; Section 37-11-57 of the Mississippi State Code of 1972, annotated.

In accordance with referenced legislation, it is recognized that instructional and other staff may be called upon to intercede in situations wherein students may be displaying physically violent or non-compliant behavior. District policy positively prohibits the use of excessive force, or cruel and unusual punishment regarding student management. Staff may, however, use restraint techniques to control and restrain a student when they have a reasonable belief that:

1. The student is a danger to himself.
2. The student is a danger to others.
3. To prevent the destruction of property.
4. If the student refuses to move from one location to another after being so ordered.

Any use of restraint will be preceded by the following verbal intervention:

1. Ask for assistance from other staff.
2. Ask the student to comply.
3. Advise the student they will be restrained if behavior does not cease.
4. Order the student to desist in the behavior.
5. Restrain the student.

This continuum is not meant to prevent immediate restraint if so warranted. Under all circumstances, without exception, the student is to be restrained at the location the behavior occurs. Students will not be sequestered for restraint application. Restraint is to be applied only until compliance is met and the student is no longer a danger or is compliant. Under absolutely no circumstances will restraint techniques be used as punishment.

If the student is non-compliant with verbal intervention, the staff member should, if physically possible, apply any of the restraint techniques that have been taught by the district. Staff is cautioned to use common sense and sound judgment in responding to student altercations. For example, a 5'2" teacher cannot be expected to restrain a 6', 200-pound football player.

Acceptable restraint techniques include:

1. Passive Restraint System (MDE System)
2. Pressure Point Control Techniques.
3. Any generally accepted law enforcement restraint techniques.
4. MANDT
5. CPI

Site supervisors will ensure that restraint reports are completed and immediately forwarded to the superintendent and include the following information:

1. Previous history of disciplinary action.
2. Events precipitating (who, what, how, when, where, why) the use of restraint to included statement of reasonable belief. Include verbatim statements of student.
3. Exact type of restraint methods and holds utilized.
4. Level or resistance displayed by student during restraint to include language and behavior.
5. Subsequent action after control was achieved.

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Internet Use

The Richton School District is committed to providing the best possible instructional assistance for each student and teacher in the district. The availability of technology as a district-provided resource has the potential for tremendous benefits to students and staff in terms of its use as an instructional tool within and outside of the classroom.

With the installation of an Internet system, students and teachers may have access to materials not considered to be of educational value. The Richton School District believes that the educational value gained through the use of the Internet system outweighs the possibility that users may obtain materials not consistent with the educational goals of the district.

User operation of the Internet system relies upon guidelines to which the user must strictly adhere. The user must be aware of and accept the system. If the user is found to have violated these responsibilities, the Richton School District will terminate his/her access to the network, and

disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with school district policies. This disciplinary action will be taken at the discretion of individual school administrators.

The Richton School District uses the filtering system provided by the State Department of Education to help ensure that users are unable to access inappropriate material through the Internet. This is further enhanced by the use of teacher supervision when students are accessing the Internet.

Terms and Conditions for Use of the Internet

- 1) Acceptable Use – The purpose of the Internet is to support research and education among academic institutions by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work.
 - a. The use of an account must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of the Richton School District.
 - b. The use of Internet resources may not be used in violation of and Federal, State or Local regulation
 - c. Internet resources may not be used to view, upload, download, or distribute pornographic, vulgar, racist, obscene, sexually explicit, or threatening material.
 - d. The Internet resources may not be used to infringe on copyright or plagiarize materials.
- 2) Privileges – The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges.
 - a. The Richton School District reserves the right to review any material stored in electronic format to which users have access and will edit or remove any material which the administration and/or professional staff, in its sole discretion, believes may be unlawful, obscene, abusive, offensive, inappropriate, or objectionable.
 - b. Access to and use of the Richton School District Network is subject to limitations and policies as may be established by the administrators of the system, and may be changed, altered, or revised from time to time as the needs of the Network dictate.
 - c. Based on the acceptable use terms and conditions outlined in the document, the system administrators will deem what is inappropriate use, and their decision is final.
 - d. The professional staff and/or administration of the Richton School District will be sole arbiter of what constitutes obscene, abusive, or objectionable language or conduct.
 - e. Students will receive instruction in proper use of Internet through a review of Student Expectations for Use of the Internet. This will include education of minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms.
 - f. Students will also receive instruction on cyberbullying awareness and appropriate responses.
 - g. Students and their parents are required to sign a contract indicating their understanding and acceptance of the district's guidelines. Upon completion of "d" and "e", students may then use the Internet in a supervised classroom environment.
 - h. While parents must give their child permission to use the Internet, they also have the option of denying permission for their child to use the Internet.
 - i. Students are responsible for their exploration of the Internet and subject to the consequences of the discipline policy.
- 3) Staff and Student Expectations for Use of the Internet
 - a. Be courteous and respectful in your message to others.
 - b. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities, or any other inappropriate language. Illegal activities are strictly forbidden.
 - c. Do not reveal your home address or phone numbers or those of other students even if you think you "know" your correspondent.
 - d. No personal diskettes will be allowed in the school's computers. Students needing to "save" their material from one day to the next will be given a blank diskette by the classroom teacher to use.
 - e. Browsing and scanning through files on a hard drive is not permitted.
 - f. Violation of these rules or other deliberate acts that result in damage to software, hardware, and/or related equipment will result in appropriate disciplinary action and financial restitution paid by the student and/or parent according to *MS Code 37-11-54 (4)*.
 - g. Users may not use the network to send threatening or harassing e-mail. No chain letters will be tolerated.
 - h. Student users may not send mass-mails to more than 5 people at a time.
 - i. Harassing other users by interfering with their screen display or similar denial of service attacks will not be allowed.
 - j. Cracking, hacking, or otherwise breaking into accounts you do not have full access to, on this system or any other, possessing and/or running encryption/decryption/cracking/security analysis scripts or binaries, or any other tools used to expedite the process of information on this network will not be permitted.
 - k. Users cannot install any software, which requires making a file without approval from the network administrator.
 - l. Users may not at any time or for any reason possess a copy of the system password file or any portion thereof; attempts to log in as any other user or as a system administrator will result in disciplinary action correlated to the school discipline ladder and cancellation of user privilege.
 - m. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems will be denied access to the network.
 - n. Unauthorized downloading of information to student disks will not be tolerated.
 - o. Purchasing of goods or services via the Internet is strictly prohibited.
- 4) Vandalism – Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and disciplinary action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user or other networks connected with the Richton School District or the State Regional Hub Site. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.
- 5) Listservers or News Groups – Students will not be allowed to subscribe to listservers or news groups unless specific permission is provided by the parent/guardian in writing and by the written permission of a sponsoring teacher.
- 6) Students will not respond to unsolicited on-line contact.
- 7) The Richton School District will not be responsible for:

- a. Unauthorized information stored on school district diskettes, hard drives, or servers.
- b. Unauthorized information retrieved through school district computers, networks, or on-line resources.
- c. Personal property used to access school district computers, networks, or on-line resources.
- d. Unauthorized financial obligations resulting from use of school district resources and accounts to access the Internet.
- e. Damages suffered by the user, including loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, misdeliveries, or service interruptions.
- f. Student access to what may be deemed as inappropriate material available on the Internet.

Further, the Richton School District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. 8)

Sanctions:

- a. Violations by the user may result in loss of access.
 - b. Violations may result in additional disciplinary action according to the school district's disciplinary policies.
 - c. Violations that are prohibited by law may result in reporting to the appropriate law enforcement agency.
- 9) Internet Topic/Search Forms – Students should always have a specific Internet research topic approved by their teacher. An Internet Topic/Search Form requires the student to plan the research topic along with key words/terms to aid the research. The form must be signed and dated by the teacher prior to the student's log-in.

INTERNET SAFETY POLICY

Introduction

It is the policy of Richton School District to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

Definitions

Key terms are as defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act.

Access to Inappropriate Material

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.

Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled for adults or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Inappropriate Network Usage

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the Richton School District's online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

Education, Supervision and Monitoring

It shall be the responsibility of all members of the Richton School District's staff to educate, supervise and monitor appropriate usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy, the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.

Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of The Technology Director or designated representatives.

The Richton School District or designated representatives will provide age-appropriate training for students who use the Richton School District Internet facilities. The training provided will be designed to promote the Richton School District's commitment to:

- I. The standards and acceptable use of Internet services as set forth in the Richton School District's Internet Safety Policy; II. Student safety with regard to:
 - a. safety on the Internet;
 - b. appropriate behavior while on online, on social networking Web sites, and in chat rooms; and
 - c. cyberbullying awareness and response.
- III. Compliance with the E-rate requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act ("CIPA").

Following receipt of this training, the student will acknowledge that he/she received the training, understood it, and will follow the provisions of the District's acceptable use policies.

Adoption

This Internet Safety Policy was adopted by the Board of the Richton School District at a public meeting, following normal public notice, on June 11, 2012.

CIPA, COPPA and School District Policies and Regulations

This policy complies with, is bound to, and remains subject to the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (COPPA). In the case of contradictory or perceived contradictory information between COPPA or CIPA and this policy, the information found in CIPA and COPPA will take precedence and override the material found in this policy.

Section V.

District Policies & Guidelines



PROCEDURES FOR ADMINISTRATION OF CODE OF CONDUCT

In each class of violations, the principal, assistant principal or designated person shall hear the student's explanation and, if necessary, consult further with school personnel before determining the classification of the violation. Due process involving student rights and the rights of others shall be followed. No student shall be punished for any suspected violation until the person responsible for implementing the disciplinary action has considered evidence other than hearsay and has given an opportunity to the student to be heard. Significant interruptions of the educational process resulting from overt disrespect shown by students to faculty members, unruly student behavior, and vulgar or otherwise discourteous actions will not be permitted.

With reasonable cause, school officials have the right to inspect school property including lockers. Furthermore, with reasonable cause, school officials have the right to search personal property, including but not limited to vehicles driven on campus, purses, and backpacks. This is allowed to insure the safety and security of pupils and the environment of the school.

School officials may collect items which are hazardous or disruptive to the educational process and environment.

Under no circumstances should academic grades be used as a means of maintaining order in a classroom, nor should student behavior be included in calculating grades.

All academic grades should reflect the teacher's most objective assessment of the student's academic achievement.

Disciplinary referral forms should be completed by the faculty member on each incident serious enough to merit referral to administration or required by school or Board policy.

An effort will be made to minimize the number of times that minor offenses are repeated by the same individual. Often, the efforts and time of the school faculty and administration are greatly monopolized by the repeated violations of the tardy policy, dress codes, and other class one rules. Accurate records will be maintained, and repeated disregard for these policies will be dealt with appropriately and definitely.

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

Students in Alternative School will follow the Alternative School handbook rules. For offenses, they will receive either corporal punishment or OSS as deemed fitting by the Alternative School teacher and the administration. In case of a class III offense, the administration will take responsibility for the punishment.

Students assigned to the Alternative School will not leave the alternative school building/classroom during the school day unless supervised by the alternative school teacher or other designated faculty.

In some cases, Alternative School students will not be allowed to ride the school bus either to or from school; they will not take part in any extracurricular activity (sports, beauty pageants, proms, dances, etc.) and will not attend any local, school sponsored function during the time they are assigned to the Alternative School.

Parents/guardians of students in the Alternative School must come to the High School Office to check their child out early. Students will not be allowed to sign out on a parent note or phone call.

Alternative School students will not be allowed to eat breakfast or lunch in the cafeteria. All meals will be taken to the Alternative School building/classroom. If it becomes necessary for the Alternative School students to eat in the cafeteria for breakfast and/or lunch they will not eat with their peers, and they will not enter the cafeteria with head coverings, "sagging" pants, or other dress code violations.

Students assigned to Alternative School or In-School Suspension will be required to surrender all electronic devices to the Alternative School Staff. Devices will be given back to students at the end of each day. Richton School District will not be responsible for any damages or losses to the electronic device(s) while on our campus.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS

The Office of Dropout Prevention and Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement has had the opportunity to speak to several districts over the past year regarding alternative education placement. We know that during this time of the year, most school districts are in the process of reviewing and or revising district policies. The Office of Dropout Prevention and Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement in conjunction with the Office of Safe and Orderly Schools have examined specific laws, policies, and Attorney General Opinions governing the area of alternative education. We want to take this opportunity to provide guidance to school district personnel due to the complexity of the issue.

Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated Section 37-13-92, (l)(a) requires Alternative School assignment be available to "any compulsory-school-age child who has been suspended for more than ten (10) days or expelled from school, except for any student expelled for possession of a weapon or other felonious conduct. In accordance with Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated Section 37-11-18, any student in any school who possesses any controlled substance in violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Law, a knife, handgun, other firearm or any other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm or who commits a violent act on educational property as defined in Section 97-3717, Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be subject to automatic expulsion for a calendar year by the superintendent or principal of the school in which the student is enrolled; provided, however, that the superintendent of the school shall be authorized to modify the period of time for such expulsion on a case by case basis. Such expulsion shall take effect immediately subject to the constitutional rights of due process, which shall include the student's right to appeal to the local school board.

Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated Section 37-13-92, (l)(e) states that no school district is required to place a child returning from out-of-home placement in the mental health, juvenile justice or foster care system in an alternative school program. Placement of a child in the alternative school shall be done consistently, and for students identified under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), shall

adhere to the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004. If a school district chooses to place a child in alternative school the district will make an individual assessment and evaluation of that child in the following time periods:

Five (5) days for a child transitioning from a group home, mental health care system, and/or the custody of the Department of Human Services, Division of Youth and Family Services custody;

Ten (10) days for a child transitioning from a dispositional placement order by a youth court pursuant to Section 43-21-605; and

An individualized assessment for youth transitioning from out-of-home placement to the alternative school shall include:

- A strength needs assessment.
- A determination of the child's academic strengths and deficiencies.
- A proposed plan for transitioning the child to a regular education placement at the earliest possible date.

However, if the actions of a student, although not rising to the level of a felony, are such that the student poses a threat to the safety of himself or others or will disrupt the educational process at the alternative school, the school district is not required to admit the student into the alternative school.

GENERAL CODE OF CONDUCT

Conduct shall apply to all students, parents, and school personnel except in situations where students with handicapping conditions are documented and adherence to state or federal law is required.

Students enrolled in Richton School District schools should:

1. Arrive at their school and class at the appropriate time.
2. Prepare all assigned work and participate in learning activities assigned by teachers.
3. Respect self, others, and all property.
4. Refrain from the use of profanity.
5. Obey the rules of city, county, state and federal governments.
6. Obey all reasonable requests, instructions, and directives of school personnel.
7. Dress appropriately for school.
8. Remain at school for the full scheduled day unless personally signed out of school by the parent or other officially designated adult on their official checkout list.
9. Attend school regularly. (In grades 7-8, at least five periods must be attended in order to participate in extracurricular activities or practice on that same day. In grades 9-12, students must attend 63% of the school day to be considered present.
10. Attend a class for at least 75% of the period to be counted present. Attending class for less than 75% of the period will constitute an absence. It is important to remember that the beginning and end of each class are most essential to the learning process.
11. Make prompt and adequate restitution for school properties that are lost or damaged.

*The principal can waive this if the student has dual enrollment in a college or is employed in a job that requires early dismissal.

STUDENT CONDUCT IN SCHOOL

Each student will be responsible for providing a positive, safe and healthy educational environment for others by maintaining order, self-discipline, and having consideration for the rights and property of others. The accomplishment of this objective will entail the following:

1. Each student will bear the responsibility for his or her own conduct, including responsibility for neatness and cleanliness of personal attire and hygiene.
2. Each student will respect the rights of other students, teachers, administrators, and other school personnel and visitors as human beings and fellow citizens of the school community.
3. Each student will respect the personal property of others and refrain from causing intentional damage or unnecessary wear and tear to books, facilities, school materials, school buildings and furnishings and the personal property of others and obey all state laws pertaining thereto.
4. Each student will refrain from violating state laws, school discipline codes or city ordinances and **will refrain from:**
 - a. using profanity or inappropriate language.
 - b. fighting or making threats.
 - c. creating disturbances.
 - d. carrying any weapon or instrument which could be used as a weapon on school grounds or school functions.
 - e. intentionally injuring another person or acting in such a negligent or indifferent manner as to expose others to risk or danger of harm or injury.
 - f. using threats or intimidation against any other person.
 - g. denying others the use of school facilities or buildings.
5. Each student will respect the health and safety of others and will refrain from:
 - a. smoking or using, possessing on their person, in their automobile or vehicle, or in the locker or transmitting tobacco on campus or at extracurricular activities.
 - b. using, possessing, transmitting or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage.
 - c. using, possessing, transmitting or being under the influence of any narcotic substance, illegal or prohibited drug or controlled substance as defined by state law.
 - d. engaging in gambling or extortion.
 - e. engaging in theft.
 - f. assaulting or attempting assault of another person.
 - g. producing excessive noise.
 - h. engaging in any other unlawful activity.
 - i. making suggestive sexual remarks to other persons, students or teachers or engaging in any type of conduct or action relative in any way to sex or sexual advances or sexual threats or gestures to or in the presence of another person while at school, on the bus or attending a school related activity or function of any type at any location.
 - j. exposing one's self sexually by the removal of clothing or the wearing of see through clothing or clothing that is otherwise inappropriate or which might jeopardize the enhancement of the educational process or learning environment.
 - k. showing disrespect to or failing to obey instructions or requests of a teacher, principal or other school authority figure employed by the Richton School District, including bus drivers.
6. Each student will respect the educational process and learning environment by refraining from: a. tardiness.

- b. being absent from school for reasons that are unexcused or for reasons not associated with sickness, injury or death in the family unless excused in advance by the principal.
 - c. any activities which diminish the rights of others and the opportunity for other students to receive an education and obtain the maximum benefit from a public education.
7. A student who enhances their educational performance through any dishonest means shall be given a zero and is subject to suspension or expulsion for the remainder of the year.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent and principals to develop further rules and regulations as necessary to insure that students conduct themselves in a manner conducive to the best interest of the school and it shall be the responsibility of the students to obtain and follow such rules, oral or written, upon request and in an expedient, efficient and timely manner.

STUDENT CONDUCT AT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

When attending extracurricular activities, students are expected to follow the rules and regulations established for operation of the schools. Extracurricular activities are considered an extension of the school, therefore school rules and policies still apply. Students who fail to do so will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with district policy.

DISCIPLINE PLAN

The superintendent shall develop a discipline plan which, upon Board approval, shall be implemented and distributed to each student enrolled in the District. The parents, legal guardian or custodian of each student shall sign a statement verifying that they have been given notice of the discipline plan.

- 1) All discipline plans shall include, but not be limited to, the student code of conduct required by School Board Policy and the following statements:
 - a. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in this District shall be responsible financially for his/her minor child's destructive acts against school property or persons.
 - b. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in this District may be requested to appear at school by the school attendance officer or an appropriate school official, for a conference regarding the destructive acts of their child, or for any other discipline conference regarding the acts of their child.
 - c. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in this District who refuses or willfully fails to attend such discipline conference specified in paragraph (b) of this section may be summoned by proper notification by the superintendent of schools or the school attendance officer and be required to attend such discipline conference; and
 - d. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in this district shall be responsible for any criminal fines brought against such student for unlawful activity occurring on school grounds or buses.
- 2) Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child who (a) fails to attend a discipline conference to which such parent, guardian or custodian has been summoned under the provisions of this section, or (b) refused or willfully fails to perform any other duties imposed upon him or her under the law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not to exceed an amount as provided by law.
- 3) This District shall be entitled to recover damages in an amount not to exceed an amount as pro-vided by law, plus necessary court costs, from the parents of any minor (7-17) who maliciously and willfully damages or destroys property belonging to this school district. However, this section shall not apply to parents whose parental control of such child has been removed by court order/decreed.

- 4) A school district's discipline plan may provide that, as an alternative to suspension, a student may remain in school by having the parent, guardian or custodian, with the consent of the student's teacher or teachers, attend class with the student for a period of time specifically agreed upon by the reporting teacher and school principal. If the parent, guardian or custodian does not agree to attend class with the student or fails to attend class, the student shall be suspended in accordance with the code of student conduct and discipline policies of the school district.

The Board shall have its Discipline Plan and Student Code of Conduct legally audited on an annual basis to ensure that its policies and procedures are currently in compliance with applicable statutes, case law and State and Federal Constitutional provisions.

The school district complies with state law and local Board policy on student discipline. The disciplinary policy includes a code of conduct developed in consultation with teachers, school personnel, students, and parents or guardians and is based on the rules governing discipline and student conduct adopted by the Board. The code of conduct includes specific grounds for disciplinary action, procedures to be followed for acts requiring discipline, and an explanation of specific responsibilities and rights of students as citizens of the school district. (*Standard 61*)

LEGAL REF: MS Code Ann 37-11-53 (Supp. 2001); Accreditation Requirements of State Board of Education, Bulletin 171, September 1998

CROSS REF: Policies JCA – Student Conduct; JCB – Code of Conduct

THREATS OF BODILY HARM

As a result of the violence and numerous shootings that have taken place nationally on school campuses the Richton School Board feels that it must act to prevent an incident of this nature from occurring in our school district. The following actions will be taken with students making threats to do bodily harm on a school campus or at a school function:

Students making threats to other students, teachers, administrators, other school personnel or in the community that they would like to do bodily harm to someone on the school campus or at a school function will be reported to the police department. Students making these threats may be recommended to the School Board for expulsion. The principal or other administrators will have the right to take precaution against any threats that are perceived to be legitimate and serious. Before the student returns to school they will need to provide school officials with documentation that they have undergone counseling and/or psychological evaluation at the expense of the parent/guardian. Before the child returns, based on psychological evaluation, the Richton School Board may place the child in alternative school for a minimum of 45 days.

Students who hear other students making threats to do bodily harm to students, teachers, administrators or other school personnel are encouraged to report this to a teacher or a school administrator. The names of students making such reports will be kept in confidence. School personnel are aware of the unwritten code that you do not "tattle" on a fellow student, but feel that, when the lives of one or more students, teachers, administrators or other school personnel are threatened, this code does not apply. Students who withhold such information could face disciplinary action.

EXPULSION 37-11-18

Expulsion of student possessing controlled substance, weapon, or committing a violent act on school property. Any student in any school who possesses any controlled substance in violation of the Uniform Controlled Substance Law, a knife, a handgun, other firearm or any other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm or who commits a violent act on educational property as defined in Section 97-3717, Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be subject to automatic expulsion by the superintendent or principal of the school in which the student is enrolled. Such expulsion shall take effect immediately subject to the constitutional rights of due process, which shall include the student's right to appeal to the local board. *SOURCES: Laws 1994, ch. 595.s9: 1995. ch. 423. s 1. effective from and after July 1, 1995.*

EXPULSION

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

DEFINITIONS

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

AUTHORITY TO EXPEL

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

When a principal determines that a student has violated one or more of the specific standards of conduct described in the discipline plan, he may recommend expulsion of the student to the superintendent.

Should the superintendent elect to expel the student, he shall arrange for a board meeting to hear the matter.

BOARD AUTHORITY

The board shall review and make a final decision on all recommendations of expulsion made by the superintendent or a principal. Those decisions can be to:

1. To suspend or to expel a pupil or to change the placement of a pupil to the school district's alternative school or home-bound program for misconduct in the school or on school property,

as defined in Section 37-11-29, on the road to and from school, or at any school-related activity or event, or for conduct occurring on property other than school property or other than at a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders that pupil's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole, and to delegate such authority to the appropriate officials of the school district. ' 37-7-301 (e) (2000)

2. To support, within reasonable limits, the superintendent, principal and teachers where necessary for the proper discipline of the school. ' 37-7-301 (g) (2000)

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

DUE PROCESS

All expulsions shall be handled in accordance with the procedures in School Board Policy.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

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

REPORTS

When a student is expelled, the parent, legal guardians or custodians must be notified immediately on a form provided by the superintendent for such purpose. When a student is expelled for the commission of a crime or other unlawful activity or violent act, the reporting requirements of School Board Policy.

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

READMISSION

Any student who has been expelled, for whatever reason, must apply to the board for readmission to the regular school program in accordance with School Board Policy.

NOTE: According to a 1998 Attorney General Opinion, automatic fail provision of an absences policy may not apply against legal, excused absences. Such absences policies may not be applied against absences resulting from disciplinary suspensions if absences policies are applied to truant children who are otherwise passing, the district must afford the child procedural due process. (Attorney General Opinion, Carter, 1-9-98) (#183) (97-0817)

LEGAL REF.: MS CODE as cited; ' 37-11-18; ' 37-11-29; ' 37-9-71; ' 37-13-91
(6) 37-23-135; Goss v. Lopez, 419 U.S. 565 (1975)

PHILOSOPHY OF DISCIPLINE

(Defined)

Instruction should occur in an environment that is conducive to learning. Order and discipline are basic elements of such an environment and contribute to an atmosphere in which students, parents, and school personnel work cooperatively toward mutually accepted goals.

IN SCHOOL INTERVENTION (ISI): In School Suspension is a structured disciplinary action in which the student is removed from the regular classroom activities but is not dismissed from the school setting. The principal, assistant principal or designated person has the authority to assign students to ISI for a reasonable and specified period of time, in compliance with the Code of Conduct. Assignment of ISI must follow the guidelines established in this handbook.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT: The principal, assistant principal or designated persons may administer corporal punishment on students who are insubordinate or disobedient, or who violate a rule of the school. Any administration of corporal punishment shall be in a reasonable manner and applied only to the student's buttocks in such a manner that there will be no permanent effects. Reasonable administration of corporal punishment shall be determined considering the age, size, sex, and general physical strength of the student; the size of the person administering the punishment; the nature of the offense; and the type of instrument used to administer the punishment. Further, corporal punishment shall never be administered to any student except in the presence of another certificated employee of this school district. Further, corporal punishment shall not be administered in any manner that would unduly embarrass the student (e.g. in the presence of other students). The principal, assistant principal or designated person will prepare a written report for each situation. One copy will be sent home, one will remain in the principal or assistant principal's office, and one will be sent to the superintendent's office. **In the event that a student, parent or guardian refuses corporal punishment as a form of punishment, then the alternate form of punishment will be a five day out of school suspension.**

OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS): Suspension is defined as the removal of a student from school and all school sponsored activities for a time of one to ten days as a result of violation of District rules. The authority to suspend a student rests entirely with the principal, assistant principal or designated person, but must follow the guidelines established in this handbook. No alternate arrangements between parents and principals will be made once the decision to suspend has been made. Parents should arrange for their child's care at home during the suspension period. If the student is to be suspended immediately during normal school hours, the parent/guardian will be contacted to pick their child up immediately. The suspension is considered an unexcused absence from school. On returning to school, the student may be placed in the Alternative School depending on the severity of the offense and/or the number of times the student has committed a Class II or III Offense.

SCHOOL BUS SUSPENSION: The principal, assistant principal or designated person has the authority to deny the student the privilege of riding a school bus. This denial, based on the misconduct of the student for an offense related to bus transportation, will be for a specified and reasonable period of time. The parents will be notified prior to the suspension.

EXPULSION: Expulsion is the removal of a student from school and all school sponsored activities for a period of more than ten days for violation of school rules or policies. The authority to expel a student rests with the Richton School District Board of Education. Once a student is expelled from Richton Schools, the student is not permitted on campus, and must stay a minimum of 300 feet from campus.

NOTIFICATION OF AUTHORITIES: The principal, assistant principal or designated person will notify law enforcement authorities for each occurrence of unlawful activity at school or school-sponsored activities.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

The discipline program which governs student behavior includes behaviors and consequences that result in a student being placed on a discipline ladder. The behavioral process is closely monitored and documented to insure a quality education and a safe environment for all students. The first level of discipline begins in the classroom with each teacher's assertive discipline plan. The teacher's procedure for managing classroom behavior will be as follows:

- ✦ Parent conference or parent contact
- ✦ Break detention
- ✦ Referral to office

Universal Classroom Rules

1. Follow all rules in the student handbook
2. Be prepared for class by bringing materials required by the teacher
3. Be on time and ready to work
4. Respect yourself, other students, and the teacher
5. Follow all oral and written directions the first time given
6. No eating or drinking in class

Teacher may add additional rules to this list for their classes

On the 3rd office referral, the Behavioral Referral Process begins as stated in the *Richton School District Teacher Support Team Manual (Tier Process)*. In accordance with the Mississippi Safety Act of 2000, for a student who causes a disruption in the classroom, on school property or school vehicles, or at school-related activities during the school year, the principal, the reporting teacher, the Teacher Support Team and the child's parent(s) will develop a Behavior Modification Plan (BMP). The goal of this process is to identify and correct discipline problems.

The discipline ladder does not reflect a step-to-step approach. In other words, if a student commits a very serious infraction (e.g. making a bomb threat) and the student has not committed any other offenses during the year, the student will not begin at Step 1. In accordance with the step assignments listed herein, that student will be placed on the ladder at Steps 1-2 for Class III Offenses. Further, the discipline ladder is a guide. Administrators have discretion to use their professional judgment in the management of discipline based upon the circumstances. A student will be subject to one or more of the alternatives at each step based upon the circumstances of the offense.

Other Important Information Regarding Discipline

1. No student will be placed at a given step on the discipline ladder more than two (2) times. The student will be escalated to the next higher step after his/her second placement on any step.
2. Any discipline/behavior problem resulting in the student's placement on the ladder for Class III Offenses will be referred to appropriate law enforcement officials for action.

Mississippi State Law requires that an Administrator recommend automatic expulsion for a student guilty of the following violations. Discipline procedures are addressed for each of these offenses in detail in the student code of conduct section of the handbook.

- Student's involved in any Gang-Related Activities. MS code 37-11-37
- Possession of any instrument defined as a weapon. MS code 37-11-18
- Possession or under the influence of drugs. MS code 37-11-18
- Possession or under the influence of alcohol. MS code 37-11-18
- Possession of Explosive Devices. MS code 37-11-18

DISCIPLINE LADDER

ISI = In School Intervention

OSS = Out of School Suspension

CLASS I OFFENSES

- Step 1: Student conference or corporal punishment (1 Lick)*, or 1-2 days
ISI
Parent notification via phone, mail, or signed referral form required
- Step 2: Corporal punishment (3 Licks)*, 1-2 days OSS, or 2-3 days ISI
Parent notification via, phone, mail, or signed referral form required
- Step 3: Move to Class II

CLASS II OFFENSES

- Step 1: Corporal punishment (3 Licks)*, 1-5 days of ISI, or
3 days OSS (AT PRINCIPAL'S DISCRETION)
Parent notification via phone, mail, or signed referral form required
- Step 2: Corporal punishment (3 licks)*, or 2-6 days ISI, or 3-4 days OSS
Parent notification via phone, mail, or signed referral form required
- Step 3: Move to Class III

CLASS III OFFENSES

- Step 1: 4-6 days OSS or 2-10 days ISI
Parent notification via phone, mail, or signed referral form required
- Step 2: 45 days of alternative school or up to 10 days OSS
- Step 3: 45 days home bound or expulsion

FIGHTING / PHYSICAL ALTERCATION/SEXUAL ACTS

1st Offense: Up to 5 Days of OSS

2nd Offense: Placement in alternative school; Possible referral to Youth Court

3rd Offense: Recommended for expulsion

THE PRINCIPAL WILL MAKE THE FINAL DETERMINATION REGARDING THE DISCIPLINARY ACTION. IT IS POSSIBLE FOR STEPS ON THE LADDER TO BE SKIPPED DUE TO THE SERIOUSNESS OF AN OFFENSE.

**In the event that a student, parent or guardian refuses corporal punishment as a form of punishment, then the alternate form of punishment will be a five day out of school suspension.*

Class I Offenses

These descriptions and examples are not all-inclusive. Continued violation of these behaviors will result in an office referral

- 101 Minor student Misconduct: minor behavior occurrence which the teacher and parent can remedy.
- 102 Failure to stay on task: student not doing the assigned work to the teacher's instruction
- 103 Failure to adhere to class rules (after following Universal Steps): Breaking a classroom rule posted and reviewed by the teacher
- 104 Cheating the second time (1st is Zero and call parent): the using of or act of using any person, electronic device, or papers that is not approved by the teacher.
- 105 Failure to follow request and instruction of school personnel: disregarding instructions, being argumentative, etc.
- 106 Eating, drinking, chewing gum, etc. in unauthorized area
- 107 Student in an unauthorized area
- 108 Inappropriate display of affection: including, but not limited to, embracing and kissing
- 109 Failure to attend detention: showing up late or not coming at all
- 110 Failure to properly check-in through the office when arriving on campus
- 111 Dress Code: not following the set policy on proper dress
- 112 Littering of school property or failure to clean up after one's self
- 113 Locker misuse/abuse: using lockers not assigned to student or causing damage to lockers

- 114 Remaining in parked vehicle after arrival to school
- 115 Beverages brought on campus must be in sealed containers (no cups, glasses, cans, etc.)
- 116 Minor Property damage of less than \$100
- 117 Verbal argument between students: confronting a student in a rude, discourteous or abrasive manner
- 118 Scuffling at school (horse playing): pushing or shoving, wrestling, or any other behavior resulting in harm to another person through inappropriate behavior that does not constitute a fight. If "horseplaying" activity is to the point where the result could be a serious injury, this offense may be escalated to Class 2.
- 119 Inappropriate restroom behavior: unruly behavior which defaces property and/or are physical in nature or inappropriate in the restroom
- 120 Truancy: unexcused absences
- 121 Excessive tardies: three or more tardies
- 122 Violation of parking regulation: is parking on campus without proper authorization from the administration
- 123 Offensive touching, pinching, hugging, etc. of another person (Solicited or unsolicited)
- 124 Profanity: swearing, cussing, profanity (written or verbal)
- 125 Unpleasant odor in classroom (lotion, spray, bodily, perfume)
- 126 Minor Gambling: \$50 or less; any game of chance for money or property
- 127 Violation of Cell Phone Policy after 1st warning.
- 128 Any other violation which the principal or principal's designee may deem reasonable for Class I category

Class II Offenses

- 201 Major class disruption: Continuous minor disruption after talking to the parent
- 202 Disrespectful to school staff: acting in a disrespectful manner to any school employee through inappropriate expressions, gestures, words, etc. Could result in up to 3 days of OSS depending on the severity of the offense.
- 203 Providing false information to school personnel: not being truthful with any school employee about name, grade, what you are doing, etc.
- 204 Unauthorized use of school or personal property: borrowing without permission, etc.
- 205 Defiance of authority: any verbal or non-verbal refusal to comply with directions or orders from school personnel including substitute teachers or other school employee (talking back)
- 206 Use of obscene manifestations, gestures, either written or verbal toward another student
- 207 Possession of ammunition
- 208 Intentional or unintentional unjustified activation of fire extinguisher or pull station
- 209 Driving on school campus during time driving privileges have been revoked
- 210 Possession of any substance or items designed for creating unpleasant or undesirable odor or other irritating condition for student and/or faculty
- 211 Unauthorized absence from class (cutting or skipping class or school)
- 212 Illegal organization: any on-campus activity or fraternity, sorority, secret society, club or other organization not approved, or a part of, the official school-sanctioned activities.
- 213 Vulgar language: dirty or obscene words (written or verbal)
- 214 Bullying or harassment of any kind: and may be classed as a higher offense
- 215 Possession and/or use of tobacco products or any looks like tobacco products at school or school sponsored activity. This includes, lighters, "Vapes" and E-Cigarettes.
 - 2nd Offense for tobacco/vaping could result in placement in alternative school and referral to Youth Court.

- 216 Property damage of more than \$100: intentional and deliberate action or damage resulting in more than \$100 to public, real, or personal property of another
- 217 Trespassing: being on campus when suspended, in Alternative school, expelled, etc.
- 218 Possession of or igniting fireworks of any kind
- 219 Written, including texting, emailing, or verbal propositions to promote sexual acts
- 220 Directing obscene or profane language to a school employee or visitor.
- 221 Leaving school premises without permission or being properly checked out through the office
- 222 Battery upon another student: intentionally physically pushing, striking, biting, or in any other manner using force toward another person that could/may result in injury to an individual. Reasonable/Legit threats of bodily harm may be added to this offense, even if the threat is not carried out.
- 223 Fighting: physically striking or attempting to strike another person wanting to cause bodily harm
- 224 Posting to social media or using cell phone to make calls during school hours
- 225 Repeated violation of cell phone policy.
- 226 Stealing: Less than \$25/value of
- 227 Racial Slurs: Any speech that is verbalized, written, or typed that is considered racist or racially insensitive; This offense could be enhanced to a Class III offense at Principal's discretion depending on the nature of the speech and/or if any props, signs, symbols, or threats were used/made with the speech.
- 228 De-Pantsing: Pulling down someone's pants as a prank or with the purpose to misbehave or embarrass the other person. This could result in a higher offense if a hands-off infraction ensues directly afterwards.
- 229 Medication: Improper possession, disbursement, or ingestion of Over-the-Counter (OTC) or Prescription medication. All medication should have proper paperwork and be turned over to the school nurse.
- 230 Any other violation which the principal or principal's designee may deem reasonable for Class II category

Class III Offenses

- 301 **Stealing:** More than \$25/value of; a criminal act in which property belonging to another is taken without that person's consent
- 302 **Possession of stolen property:** possessing items that are not yours
- 303 **Possession of a knife:** any weapon that is designed to cut and cause bodily harm to another person
- 304 **Drug possession/distribution/consumption/use:** unauthorized possession, transfer, uses of, or sale of drugs, drug paraphernalia, look alike drugs or alcoholic beverages. This would include the use of alcoholic beverages or drugs off campus then coming on campus during the day or at school events
- 305 **Arson:** the intentional, unlawful burning, or attempting to burn any part of school property
- 306 **Battery upon a school employee:** the intentional, unlawful touching or striking of a school employee against his/her will, or the intentional causing of bodily harm to a school employee
- 307 **Robbery:** The taking of money or other property from the person or custody of another by force, violence, assault, or instilling the fear of same
- 308 **Major gambling more than \$50:** the intentional, unlawful participation in gambling activities involving an amount more than \$50
- 309 **Burglary of school property:** entering or remaining in a structure or conveyance with the intent to commit an offense therein during the hours the premises are closed to the public
- 310 **Criminal mischief:** willful and malicious injury or damage at or in excess of \$100, to public property, or to real or personal property belonging to another
- 311 **Possession of firearm:** any firearms (including a starter gun) which will, or is designed to, or readily be converted to or expel a projectile by the action of an explosive: the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silences; any destructive device
- 312 **Discharge of any pistol, rifle, shotgun, air gun, pellet gun, or any other device**
- 313 **Possession of anything to be used as a weapon:** knife, metallic knuckles, tear gas gun, chemical weapon, instrument, or any other weapon, instrument, or any other weapon with the intent to be armed

- 314 **Threats Upon The School:** Making any threat to do harm to the school, school personnel, or student body. Includes but is not limited to threats of shooting, killing, or blowing up.
- 315 **Explosion:** preparing, possessing, or igniting explosives on School Board property/school property
- 316 **Sexual acts:** Acts of a sexual nature including, but not limited to battery, intercourse (either solicited or unsolicited), groping, and touching of private parts (solicited or unsolicited).
- 317 **Aggravated battery:** intentionally causing great bodily harm, disability, or permanent disfigurement; use of a deadly weapon
- 318 **Inciting a student disorder:** acts designed for or likely to create serious disruption of normal school activities, including but not limited to organized protests in the hallways, common areas or school grounds, political protests, or organized or spontaneous walk-outs.
- 319 **Indecent exposure**
- 320 **Possession of controlled substance, weapon, or committing a violent act on school property**
- 321 **Alcohol possession, consumption (with or without knowledge of it)**
- 322 **Any other violation which the principal or principal's designee may deem reasonable for Class III category**

DISCIPLINE POLICY REGARDING STUDENTS WHO TRANSFER INTO THE DISTRICT BUT RESIDE OUTSIDE OF THE RICHTON MUNICIPAL SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Due to the fact that the Richton School District has in the past experienced discipline problems with students who have transferred into the district but reside outside the district, and said discipline problems have at times been a disruption to the educational atmosphere of the Richton School District, the Richton Board of Trustees hereby adopts the following policy concerning said students; said students shall be referred to as “out-of-district students:”

EACH YEAR out-of-district students’ admission status will be reviewed by the administration of Richton Municipal Separate School District.

The parents or guardians of initial out-of-district students will complete an application that requires each student to bring **BOTH** academic and discipline records to the principal of the school the student plans to attend. If the student attended this school district in the past year it will not be necessary to bring the academic and discipline records with the application. The administration will determine to admit or not to admit the student. If an out-of-district student is admitted, they are on a 90 calendar-day probationary period. The probationary period will begin the day the student is admitted. If discipline issues arise, the student may be removed from the school district, as per the student/parent handbook, by the administration. The parent or guardian may appeal to decision to the Board of Trustees. The request for the appeal must be in writing and presented to the principal seven (7) calendar days after notice of removal.

Out-of-District Students: Grounds for Removal

- 1) Class 1 – 3 offenses**
- 2) Class 2 – 2 offenses**
- 3) Class 3 – 1 offense**
- 4) Any combination of offenses that equal 3 offenses**

All discipline records, including attendance, for out-of-district students shall become cumulative and the cumulative record shall be considered when determining admittance to the Richton Municipal Separate School District each year. Result may be non-renewal for the next academic year or expulsion/dismissal for the present academic year.

DRESS CODE LADDER

- Step 1: Written warning on dress code form and call parent/guardian for change of clothes
- Step 2: 1 day ISI
- Step 3: 2 days ISI
- Step 4: 3 days ISI
- Step 5: 4-6 days of ISI
Parent notification via phone, mail, or signed referral form required

THE PRINCIPAL WILL MAKE THE FINAL DETERMINATION REGARDING DRESS CODE ISSUES AND THE THE DISCIPLINARY ACTION INVOLVED.

DRESS CODE POLICY

Dress and grooming codes are based upon certain sound foundations, not arbitrarily selected and dictatorially enforced for no cause. Laws surrounding indecent exposure, conditions necessitating safety and personal well being, health and sanitation are some of the basic fundamentals. Conditions conducive to learning must not be impaired because of temporary and individualized fads. In order for students to be able to cope with even larger restrictions and responsibilities, they must learn while still in school to observe basic regulations set forth for the group as a whole. Keeping the total concept in mind and realizing a need to satisfy peer group desires for current fashions, the Board will make an effort periodically to restructure the dress and grooming code according to current conditions.



The Dress Code for Richton School District provides guidelines which will govern the choice of appropriate school dress by our students. ALL STUDENTS, SEVENTH THRU TWELFTH GRADE, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE STUDENTS, ARE TO OBSERVE THE POLICIES LISTED BELOW. ANY STUDENT WHO VIOLATES THE REGULATIONS WILL BE SUBJECT TO CONSEQUENCES AS LISTED IN THIS HANDBOOK.

Basic Rules for Dress:

1. Students must present a neat, well-groomed appearance. All clothing must be worn in a manner that covers the body in appropriate fashion.
2. "Sagging" is not permitted. Pants and Shorts will be worn at or above the waist at all times.
3. Appropriate undergarments must be worn with all clothing. Undergarments must not be visible anywhere. Clothing considered and designed as an undergarment must not be worn as an outside garment.

4. Clothing, accessories, patches, head bands, or any other article that a person can wear or display cannot be associated with gangs or gang activity. They cannot be profane, vulgar, sexually suggestive, racially insensitive or offensive, nor can they promote alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or any other drugs. Clothing promoting or advertising fraternities, sororities, secret societies, or any organization associated with a double meaning is not permitted. It will be at the principal's discretion to determine if an item which could be disputed falls into any of these categories.
5. Oversized garments are not permitted due to the possibility of concealed weapons or contraband.
6. Clothing must not present an unacceptable view of the body whether standing, sitting, or walking.
7. Blankets are not permitted on campus.

Headwear:

1. Hats/caps are not to be worn in classrooms. In cases of cold weather, hoods, toboggans, or scarves may be worn, but only while outside and must be removed as soon as one enters the building. Wearing of hats inside classrooms is considered a dress code infraction and hats may be confiscated and held until a later time. Due rags, head covers, or any headbands in a cloth/due rag like material or style will not be allowed either.
2. HOODIES: Hoodies may be worn as dress or as a piece of clothing, but hoods ARE NOT to be worn inside. If hoods are worn inside in the hallway or the classroom or any other place inside, school employees may confiscate the hoodie and a parent/guardian will have to come pick it up. If the student does not have an undergarment on underneath the hoodie, they will be sent to ISS for the remainder of the day.
3. Metal picks or combs are not allowed at all. Plastic picks or combs are not to be worn in the hair at any time.
4. The wearing of non-prescription sunglasses is not permitted in the buildings or classrooms.
5. COVID-19 masks/facial coverings cannot have any messages on them that are not allowed on shirts. Controversial, disrespectful, obscene, vulgar, or inappropriate masks will be confiscated and students will be issued a plain mask.

Footwear/Shoes:

1. Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times. Slippers or house shoes are not acceptable forms of footwear.
2. Metal cleats, taps, or any other similarly harmful material to floors are not permitted.

Shirts/Tops:

1. Clothing that exposes the midriff/midsection or cleavage is **NOT** permitted.

2. Sleeveless shirts with shoulder straps less than 3" wide are not permitted (If shirt has more than one set of straps, at least one set must be 3" wide).
3. Backless, racer back, or low-cut clothing is **NOT** permitted.
4. Tank tops, muscle shirts, sleeveless undershirts, or anything resembling these items are not permitted unless they are worn with T-shirts or other clothing that provides adequate cover. The exception is when practicing athletics at the appropriate location.
5. See through, sheer or netting type material is not permitted unless all other rules are applied.

Pants/Shorts/Skirts:

1. Shorts/walking shorts, skirts, and dresses should be long enough to go to the mid-thigh. Items that appear to be too short may be sent to the office to be approved. If they are not of proper length, they may be referred to the office and given a discipline referral. Biker Shorts/Hustler shorts are prohibited.
2. Pants with holes in them need to be worn with leggings if any holes in the pants are mid-thigh level or above. No skin should be showing through holes above this length.
3. Leggings, yoga pants, active wear pants, etc... may be worn, but must have a shirt that covers the front and rear areas of the waist and pelvic region. They must be of solid material; Not mesh or see through materials will be allowed. If they are worn under a skirt, dress, or pair of shorts, the outer garment must meet the length requirements described in point #1 above. Students whose shirts/jackets are not long enough to meet this requirement may be referred to the office and given a discipline referral.
4. Pajama pants and/or loungewear are not permitted.

***DISCLAIMER-** Final determination regarding all dress code issues will be made by the principal. Some exceptions may be applied if they are related to "dress up" days or "themed" days or if administration has given prior approval for exceptions.

**STUDENTS WHOSE APPEARANCE, DRESS, OR LACK OF DRESS, IS DISRUPTIVE
WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO REMAIN AT SCHOOL.**

The principal or principal's designee will take any reasonable and appropriate actions to deal with any dress situations not specifically covered in the dress code.

In all instances, school administrators will determine the appropriateness of school dress, considering the style or manner in which the clothing is worn and the fit of the garment.

DRESS CODE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED AT ALL TIMES, INCLUDING AT THE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL AND IN-SCHOOL-SUSPENSION.

**In the event that the student is referred to the office for a dress code offense, the absence from the class is unexcused.

The Right of every Student to take “Reasonable Actions”

SB 2015 requires that discipline policies must recognize the fundamental right of every student to take “reasonable actions” as may be necessary to defend himself from an attack by another student who has evidenced menacing or threatening behavior to a teacher, principal, counselor or other school employee when subjected to bullying or harassing behavior.

Bullying/Harassment/Intimidation

The faculty and staff of Richton School District are committed to a safe educational environment for all students. Such an environment should be free from intentional acts of bullying, harassment, intimidation, or cyber stalking. **“Bullying, harassment, intimidation, or cyber stalking” means any intentional written, verbal, or physical act that meets any of the following criteria:**

- Physically harms or threatens harm against a student or that damages or threatens to damage the student’s property; or
- Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student’s education; or
- Is severe, persistent, or pervasive in that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
- Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying, harassment, or intimidation can take many forms including but not limited to: slurs, rumors, jokes, innuendos, demeaning comments, cartoons, pranks, gestures, physical attacks, threats, or other written communications, plus oral or physical actions against another person. “Written communications” may include all forms of text messaging and other forms of electronic communications and media considered cyber in nature.

“Intentional acts” refers to an individual’s unforced or willful choice to engage in the questioned act rather than the ultimate consequences of such action(s).

Counseling, appropriate discipline, and/or referral to local law enforcement will be used to change the behavior of the perpetrator and remediate the fault towards the victim. This may include various appropriate behavioral intervention(s), restoration of a positive learning environment, and support for those impacted by the acts of bullying, harassment, intimidation, or cyber stalking. False reports or retaliation for bullying, harassment, intimidation or cyber stalking may also constitute violations of this policy.

Within the category of harassment, sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination that violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when submission to or rejection of this conduct explicitly or implicitly affects a student's right to learn or participate in a comfortable and supportive environment due to the creation of an intimidating or hostile learning environment.

Any student who feels that he/she has been a target of bullying, harassment, intimidation, or cyber stalking or any parent who feels his/her child has been a target of bullying, harassment, intimidation, or cyber stalking in school; on school property; or while participating in a school sanctioned activity should report the incident promptly, either verbally or in writing, to a school staff member, preferably the principal. All complaints will be investigated by the principal or his/her designee according to policy. Depending on the nature of the offense, disciplinary action ranging from counseling to suspension or expulsion to notification of local law enforcement may be taken consistent with school discipline policies.

Any allegation of bullying harassment, intimidation, or cyber stalking and the results of the investigation shall be kept confidential to the extent reasonably possible under the investigation process. Witnesses and those interviewed shall be informed of the confidential nature of the circumstances and the resulting investigation, and shall be informed that it will be a violation of this policy to disclose the allegation or the nature of the investigation to others. Disclosure may result in disciplinary action.

School officials recognize the right of every student to take reasonable actions as may be necessary to defend himself or herself from an attack by another student who has evidenced bullying, harassing, intimidating, or cyber stalking behaviors. The Richton School District defines "reasonable action" as promptly reporting the behavior to a teacher, principal, counselor, or other school employee when subjected to bullying, harassing, intimidating, or cyber stalking behaviors.

Ref: SB 2015; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-301(e), Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-67,
Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-69, Miss. Code Ann. § 97-45-15, Miss. Code Ann. § 97-45-17

STUDENT COMPLAINTS OF BULLYING OR HARASSING BEHAVIOR

Students in the Richton School District are protected from bullying, harassing, intimidating, or cyber stalking behavior by other students or employees. It is the intent of the Board and the administration to maintain an environment that is free from bullying, harassment, intimidation, and cyber stalking. The complaint procedure of the Richton School District provides a process for filing, processing, and resolving complaints of such conduct. Adherence to these procedures is mandatory. The failure of any person(s) to adhere to these stated procedures will constitute a waiver of the right to pursue a complaint at any level, including a review by the Board of Trustees of Richton School District.

1. Definitions -- Bullying, harassment, or intimidation is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic, or verbal communications, or physical act, or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that (a) places a student in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, or (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits.

Cyber stalking is generically defined as any communication to another person repeatedly for the purpose of threatening, terrifying or harassing that person. Specifically, cyber stalking may be defined as any use

in electronic mail or electronic communication of any word or language threatening to inflict bodily harm to any person or to that person's child, sibling, spouse or dependent, or physical injury to the property of any person, or for the purpose of extorting money or other things of value from any person. Electronic mail or communication to another that knowingly makes false statements concerning death, injury, illness, disfigurement, indecent conduct, or criminal conduct or the person electronically mailed or any member of that person's family or household with the intent to threaten, terrify, or harass is also considered cyber stalking. Finally, cyber stalking may also be defined as knowingly permitting an electronic communication device under the accused person's control to be used to make threatening, terrifying, or harassing communications.

A "hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying, harassing, or intimidating behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that is bullying, harassing, or intimidating behavior.

Bullying, harassing, intimidating, or cyber stalking behavior will not be condoned or tolerated when it takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus, or when it takes place off school property when such conduct, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal renders the offending person's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole.

2. Procedures for Processing a Complaint -- Any student who feels he/she has been a victim of bullying or harassing behavior, or has witnessed, or who has reliable information that a student has been subject to bullying or harassing behavior shall report such conduct to a teacher, principal, counselor, or other school official. The report shall be made promptly but no later than five (5) calendar days after the alleged act or acts occurred. The school official shall complete a "Bullying/Harassing Behavior" complaint form which shall include the name of the reporting person, the specific nature and date of the misconduct, the names of the victim of the misconduct, the names of any witnesses, and any other information that would assist in the investigation of the complaint. The report shall be given promptly to the principal or superintendent who shall institute an immediate investigation. Complaints against the principal shall be made to the superintendent and complaints against the superintendent shall be made to the Board chairman.

The complaint shall be investigated promptly. Parents will be notified of the nature of any complaint involving their student. The District official will arrange such meetings as may be necessary with all concerned parties within five (5) working days after initial receipt of the complaint by the District. The parties will have an opportunity to submit evidence and a list of witnesses. All findings related to the complaint will be reduced to writing. The District official conducting the investigation shall notify the victim and parents as appropriate when the investigation is completed and a decision regarding disciplinary action, as warranted, is determined.

If the victim is not satisfied with the decision of the District official, he/she may submit a written appeal to the superintendent. Such appeal shall be filed within ten (10) working days after receipt of the results of the initial decision. The superintendent will arrange such meetings with the victim and other affected parties as deemed necessary to discuss the appeal. The superintendent shall provide a written decision to the victim's appeal within ten (10) working days.

If the victim is not satisfied with the decision of the superintendent, a written appeal may be filed with the Board. Such appeal shall be filed within ten (10) working days after receipt of the decision of the

superintendent. The Board shall, within twenty (20) working days allow the victim and parents as appropriate to appear before the Board to present reasons for dissatisfaction with the decision of the superintendent. The Board shall provide a written decision within ten (10) working days following the victim's appearance before the Board.

SEX DISCRIMINATION, SECTION 504, ADA, AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

It is the policy of the Richton School District not to discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational programs, activities, and employment policies as required by Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title IX may be directed to Mr. Clay Anglin, Superintendent, in care of Richton School District, P.O. Box 586, Richton, MS 39476.

Questions regarding compliance with Section 504 procedures may be directed to Vera Lampley, Special Services Administrator of the Richton School District at the address listed above. Section 504 Complaint Procedures are found in School Board Policy Manual of the Richton School District.

It is the policy of the Richton School District not to discriminate on the basis of handicap/disability in the services, programs, and activities of the school district. Inquiries regarding compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) may be directed to Mr. Clay Anglin, Superintendent, at the address and telephone referenced above. ADA procedures are found in School Board Policy Manual of the Richton School District.

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination that violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when submission to or rejection of this conduct explicitly or implicitly affects an individual's employment, or a student's attendance at school, or unreasonably interferes with an individual's work performance, a student's academic performance, or creates an intimidating or hostile work or learning environment. Victims of sexual harassment, whether an employee or student, should address complaints to their immediate supervisor or to the superintendent per the policies found in the Richton School District School Board Policy Manual.

Richton High School/Junior High Cell Phone Policy 2025-2026

Possession of cell phones and all other electronic devices by students is restricted on campus. This includes, but is not limited to: iPods, iPads or other tablets, radios, pagers, cameras, toys, video games, smart watches, ear buds, head phones, or other electronic devices as determined by the principal. Electronic devices should only be used for educational purposes or with special permission given by the administrator. The Richton School District assumes no responsibility for missing, lost, damaged, or stolen cell phones or other electronic devices.



Students may bring electronic devices to school AT THEIR OWN RISK, but they must remain OFF and kept in a book bag, purse, or zipper part of a notebook during class periods and class changes in the hallways. The exception is when teachers give permission for educational use in the classroom.

With the increased number of students who possess cell phones and the increased capabilities of cell phone when it comes to taking videos and pictures, Bluetooth, posting to social media, and sharing of files online or between other people, we have seen an increase of cell phone related issues at the school that have led to privacy violations, confrontations, disputes, and just inappropriate cell phone use. Because of these issues, Richton High School is going to look at cell phone enforcement as a point of emphasis this year and beyond. Cell phone use will be prohibited while on campus in any learning environment, which includes in the hallways between classes. Any phone calls students need to make must be made through the office phone located in the front office. This includes times at break, in the lunchroom, and during class changes. Teachers and staff have the right to confiscate a cell phone if it is being used in a manner or at a time when it should not be. Exceptions could be made by administration during special events like pep rallies, dress up days, and other school activities. Otherwise, cell phones use should not be present in the hallways or in classrooms.

If students are in violation of the cell phone policy, school employees will confiscate the cell phone and will turn it into the office. The office will call a parent/guardian to pick it up. Cell phones will not be returned to students at the end of the day.

This policy will also apply to earbuds/earphones/headphones/air pods.

If these steps are not sufficient and the student continues to possess a cell phone when they are not supposed to, the principal may add further punishment or place the student in alternative school.

Communication Policy: Students are not to use their cell phones for any type of communication during the school day. This includes, but is not limited to social media posting, texting, snap chatting, video messages, or actual phone calls. If students need to call home, they are to use the office phone. Students who violate this policy are subject to a LEVEL 2 discipline offense on the discipline ladder. They will also have their device confiscated.

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices and State Testing: It is a violation of state law to possess a phone or an electronic device while a state test is being administered. If a student is found to be in possession of a cell phone or other banned electronic device while taking a state test, that student will automatically receive 3 days of OSS and his/her test will be invalidated. An official report will also have to be made with the Mississippi Department of Education explaining the testing irregularity. The device will be confiscated and will not be returned until a parent conference happens.

Use of Cell Phones/Electronic Devices in Illegal/Immoral Acts: If it is determined that a cell phone was used in a drug transaction, promoting a disturbance, videotaping a fight, videotaping a sexual/inappropriate act, sending racist/vulgar messages, texting answers or other forms of cheating, or any other illegal or immoral activity not mentioned, the student will be suspended (number of days will be based on seriousness of offense) and the phone will be confiscated. If it is considered evidence in an illegal act, the phone will be turned over to law enforcement. If it is used in immoral activity that violates school policy, it will be confiscated and will not be returned until the last day of the given school year.

In all cases, students who refuse to turn their phone and/or ear buds over to a school employee when asked could result in the student being suspended or sent directly to alternative school for up to 45 days.

SCHOOL BUS POLICY



Riding the school bus is a privilege. This privilege carries with it some responsibilities on the part of the student. School bus drivers are required to observe state laws and numerous regulations to safeguard the lives of the students they transport. Behavior which prevents the driver and student from having a safe trip to and from school will not be tolerated. **The school has the right to refuse transport to any student for misconduct.**

Any violation of conduct by students, performed while on the school bus, waiting to board the school bus, or departing from the school bus, shall be addressed by utilizing the assertive discipline steps prescribed in this handbook. Students **may be denied the privilege of riding the bus** because of improper behavior, including the suspension of the privilege of riding the bus for the remainder of the school year; in these matters, the principal will take action that is necessary for the safety of the other students on the bus. The principal, according to the severity of offense, will determine consequences for misconduct on the bus. **The bus driver is responsible for reporting misconduct.**

All buses should operate as regularly as possible. If they operate on a regular bus schedule, they should not be expected to wait on students. Students should be ready and waiting for the bus to arrive. Occasionally, due to mechanical problems or weather, buses may be late picking up or letting off students.

Questions involving disciplinary actions should be directed to the school principal. Action requiring suspension shall be the responsibility of the school administration. The administration shall notify the transportation director and the student's parents when a student's bus riding privileges are suspended. The transportation director will notify the appropriate bus driver.

Children who do not attend school within the Richton School District will not be permitted to ride the bus.

School bus drivers are expected to keep order and discipline on the bus but their primary duty is to drive the bus. Students are expected to cooperate and follow the following regulations:

1. Behavior that is not permitted on the school campus is not permitted on the school bus.
2. Students must be at their assigned stops at loading time. Students will be picked up and let off **ONLY** at Board approved stops.
3. At no time on the bus are students to touch the outside of the bus. They are not to hang head, arms, legs, body, or hands out the window of the bus.
4. Immediately upon entering the bus, students are to be seated and remain seated until they arrive at their destination both morning and evening.
5. Drivers have the authority to assign seats if necessary and students must sit in their assigned seats.
6. Students must remain in their seats until the bus comes to a full stop before getting up to unload.
7. Students must obey the directions of the bus driver at all times.
8. When boarding and exiting the bus, students should always look in both directions and pass in front of the bus if it is necessary to cross a road or street.
9. Students should refrain from playing on the road while waiting on the bus.
10. Students must identify themselves properly when requested to do so by the bus driver or school personnel.
11. Loud talking and other loud noises are not permitted on the bus. Students should be silent when the bus is nearing or crossing a railroad or highway.
12. Students are not to damage the bus in any way and will be held financially responsible for repairing the damages. This is abuse of school property and may fall under the heading of vandalism.

13. Harassment of bus driver and fellow passengers is prohibited while waiting on the bus or while riding on the bus.
14. Vulgar, profane, and disrespectful language is not permitted.
15. Tobacco, drugs, weapons of any kind, alcohol, pornography as pictures or reading material, and other contraband of any kind is not permitted. **IF IT IS NOT PERMITTED AT SCHOOL, THEN IT IS NOT PERMITTED ON THE BUS.**
16. Students are not to throw or in any way sail/shoot/pitch objects. Objects that are airborne, such as balloons, etc. are not permitted.
17. Open defiance and disrespect for the bus driver is not permitted.
18. Misbehavior as determined by school officials and repeated patterns of misbehavior will call for disciplinary action. Students found to be continually disruptive or threatening to the safety of other persons on the bus will be immediately removed from the bus and permanently suspended from riding the bus.
19. Law enforcement officials may be called upon to assist in dealing with students who do not follow the bus discipline plan.
20. Written instructions from the parent or guardian must be presented to the bus driver before a student is permitted to ride a bus not regularly assigned to a student or to load or unload at a place not assigned to them. Notes are subject to verification by school administration.
21. Students are not to leave litter on the bus and are required to pick up items when asked to do so by the bus driver.
22. No beverages or food may be consumed on the bus.
23. Chewing gum is prohibited on the bus.
24. Any act which risks the safety of the students on the bus, persons not on the bus, or the bus driver will be referred to school officials and/or law enforcement.
25. Students' behavior will be monitored on a random basis through video recording equipment installed on District buses.

CONSEQUENCES FOR FAILURE TO FOLLOW BUS SAFETY: Students will be disciplined for disorderly conduct on the bus. The bus driver will give to the principal a written report of the misbehavior. Reports will be investigated and offenders will be subject to suspension from the bus (as listed below), in addition to the consequences indicated on the Discipline Ladder.

- First offense will result in a parent conference, verbal reprimand and/or paddling. A copy of the report will be sent to the parent/guardian.
- The second offense will result in suspension from the bus for a period of time to be determined by an administrator – 1 to 3 days.
- The third offense will result in suspension from the bus for 5-10 days.
- Infractions involving spitting out the window, throwing articles out of the window or on the bus, smoking, striking matches, using lighters or other dangerous behavior will result in an immediate suspension from the bus to be determined by the principal.
- Assault on the bus driver or school personnel will result in an immediate suspension from the school and a recommendation for expulsion the remainder of the school year. A report will also be submitted to the local Police Department or Perry County Sheriff's Department.

THE PRINCIPAL MAY, AT HIS/HER DISCRETION, USE MORE SEVERE PUNISHMENT THAN LISTED ABOVE IF THE SITUATION WARRANTS. WHEN A STUDENT IS SUSPENDED FROM THE BUS, THE PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST ARRANGE FOR TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM SCHOOL. REGULAR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS EXPECTED.

INTERFERENCE WITH SCHOOL BUSES It is unlawful for any individual, other than a member of the school administration or faculty, or law enforcement to interfere with the operation of a school bus.

State Law prohibits unauthorized stopped and or boarding of school buses or the interference with passengers boarding or unloading, under penalties of fine and/or imprisonment.

GENERAL BUILDING AND GROUNDS REGULATIONS

1. Before school begins each day, all grades must remain in the appropriate area.
 - **Seventh and eighth graders are assigned to the area behind the middle school building and in front of the gym.**
 - **Ninth through twelfth grades are assigned to the walkway area at the front of the campus and must not move farther than past the band room door toward the middle school break area.**

Seventh and eighth graders are to remain in their assigned area before school moving only when necessitated by inclement weather or other announced reasons. They will not mingle with the high school students.

2. Students must use an “indoor voice” at all times in all buildings, and must refrain from making loud, unnecessary noises. Excessive loud noises prevent teachers and students from hearing important announcements and could interfere with the safety of students, faculty, and staff.
3. Junior high and high school students who wish to eat breakfast must go to the cafeteria immediately upon arrival at school, using their time wisely to prevent being tardy to first period class. When finished eating, they must leave the cafeteria immediately. If not eating, then students are not permitted to be in the cafeteria.
4. **ALL students going to lunch and returning from lunch must be supervised by a teacher/supervisor.** Students will comply with directives and requests from the teachers. At the designated time, the teacher will signal and the whole class must return with that teacher to the classroom as a group. Middle school and high school students who are frequently late returning to the classroom will be subject to referral to the principal or assistant principal and suspension from school if necessary.
5. Visitors are not permitted on campus unless there is a justifiable reason and they have obtained a visitors pass.
6. Parents/guardians are always welcome to visit the school and are, in fact encouraged to visit whenever there is a need. Parents/guardians must come to the office to check in and get a visitor pass each time they wish to visit.

STUDENT PARKING POLICY

1. All students driving on campus must have a valid Mississippi driver's license in their possession. Evidence of liability insurance, as mandated by Mississippi law, must be shown to school authorities before permission to drive and park on campus is granted.
2. All students that drive to school must obtain a parking decal and park on campus. The decal is to be placed on the rearview mirror, visible at all times while parked in the assigned space on campus. New decals must be obtained each year. Seniors will receive priority in choosing parking spaces.
3. Cars that do not display a current decal will receive:
 - a. **Written notice stating they must obtain a decal or lose driving privileges. The notice will be left under the windshield wiper on the driver's side of the vehicle. A record will be kept of the make, model, and color of the vehicle plus the license tag number. This information will be announced over the PA system with the request for the driver to come to the office. The driver will then be informed that he/she must obtain a current decal to park on campus.**
 - b. **If the same vehicle parks on campus a second time, still without a current decal, a registered letter will be sent to the parents. This letter will quote the parking regulations found in the student handbook and more specifically items #1 and #3.**
 - c. **A third violation will result in the vehicle being towed off campus at the owner's expense and a loss of driving privileges for the remainder of the semester. If a decal is not obtained at the end of the semester, then driving privileges will be denied for the remainder of the year.**
4. Students are reminded that the parking lot area is on campus, and all student rules and policies are applicable there. When there is a reasonable need, vehicles may be searched.
5. It is very important that access to the parking lot be controlled. Thefts and vandalism must be prevented. Richton School District will not be responsible for any theft, vandalism or any other to damage to vehicles while parked on campus. All students are instructed to exit vehicle immediately upon arrival to school and bring all necessary materials from their vehicles when leaving the vehicle each morning. The parking lot will be off-limits to all students unless specific written permission is given from administration. Do not ask to return to car or pickup to get money, assignments, etc.
6. Students that break any of the parking regulations will lose driving privileges for a specified period of time. Habitual breaking of rules will result in loss of driving privileges for the remainder of the school year.
7. Reckless driving on campus or leaving campus (such as "peeling" out, speeding, spinning of tires to throw gravel, etc.) will result in a loss of driving privileges for the remainder of the school year.
8. Students who lose driving privileges will not be allowed to drive on the school campus at any time, including extracurricular events.
9. Students are to park in the student parking lot at the rear of the school. Students found parking on school property but not in the assigned parking lot are subject to consequences. The following is the ladder for students found to be parking on campus but not in the assigned parking lot:

1st offense- Student will be given a written warning on a discipline form and asked to move the vehicle to the student parking lot. If we are unable to identify the driver of the car, the steps described in point #3 above will be followed. A school designee will also contact the parents of the student to inform them of the offense.

2nd offense- Student will be written up on a discipline notice and be placed on Level 2 of the discipline ladder and asked to move the car to the appropriate parking lot. On the discipline note, administration will notate that the next offense will involve towing the car at the owner's expense. A school administrator will contact the parents of the student to inform them of the offense.

3rd offense- Student will be written up on a discipline notice for documentation and the car will be towed at the owner's expense. At this point, the driver will lose their driving privileges for the rest of the semester. A parent conference will have to be had before driving privileges can be restored.

Any subsequent parking violations will result in the car being towed at the owner's expense.

10. Students are not allowed to drive or park on the grass at any time.
11. It is a privilege for students to drive to campus, and these privileges may be revoked at any time for excessive tardies to first period classes.
12. Students who are under the age of 16 and whose parents choose to let them walk to school must have a signed permission form on file that absolves the Richton School District from any liability and litigation that could happen to a student once they leave campus.

CAFETERIA BEHAVIOR All students must respect the rights of others in the lunch line. Students are to return trays so that the tables will be clear for those students following. Students must sit in assigned areas and behave properly at all times. Pushing, shoving, or "breaking" of the lunch line is not permitted. Disrespect to cafeteria workers will not be tolerated. Students who misbehave in the cafeteria are subject to disciplinary action by the administration and/or faculty.

MAJOR OFFENSES DEFINED

THREATS, EXTORTION, INTIMIDATION MS Code 37.11.20

Students are not permitted to make threats against other students or school personnel, whether overt or implied. Students are not allowed to extort money, favors, or something of value from other students or staff, regardless of the amount of value, in return for protection or in connection with a threat to inflict harm. Such behavior is a violation of school policy and students in violation are subject to disciplinary action. This statement will apply on school grounds, before, during, and after school, or any time when the school is being used by a school group. It is also applicable off school grounds at school sponsored events or when the prohibited behavior is a consequence of or directly related to causes or events which occurred or originated on the school campus.

CYBER STALKING MS Code 97.45.17

1. It is unlawful for a person to:
 - a. Use in electronic mail or electronic communication any words or language threatening to inflict bodily harm to any person or that person's child, sibling, spouse, or dependent, or physical injury to the property of any person, or for the purpose of extorting money or other things of value from any person.
 - b. Electronically mail or electronically communicate to another repeatedly, whether or not conversation ensues, for the purpose of threatening, terrifying or harassing any person.
 - c. Electronically mail or electronically communicate to another and to knowingly make any false statement concerning death, injury, illness, disfigurement, indecent conduct, or criminal conduct of the person electronically mailed or of any member of the person's family or household with the intent to threaten, terrify or harass.
 - d. Knowingly permit an electronic communication device under the person's control to be used for any purpose prohibited by this section.
2. Whoever commits the offense of cyber stalking shall be punished, upon conviction:

- a. Except as provided herein, the person is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than two years or a fine of not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000), or both:
- b. If any of the following apply, the person is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than five years or a fine of not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or both.

INSOLENCE/DISRESPECT/PROFANITY MS Code 37.11.21

Insolence (to be boldly disrespectful in speech or behavior) and general disrespect will not be tolerated. Students are not permitted to intimidate, harass or cuss school personnel or other students. Students who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension, and possible legal action including fine.

TRESPASSING

Campuses are closed 30 minutes after school dismissal. Only those involved in supervised school activities are permitted on campus. Students who are found on the school grounds at unauthorized times will be placed on the discipline ladder under school policy and will be subject to arrest. In all instances of vandalism, restitution will be the responsibility of the students and their parents. Students who are assigned to out-of-school suspension, recommended for expulsion, or expelled but are on campus unaccompanied by a parent/guardian will be considered as trespassing. Home bound students may only be on campus at scheduled times

LEAVING CAMPUS AND/OR FAILING TO REPORT TO CLASS

Leaving campus and/or failing to report to any assigned class without permission, commonly called "skipping," is a major disciplinary offense. Students leaving campus and/or failing to report to assigned areas/classes without proper permission from the school office shall be subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension.

BATTERY / FIGHTING

Students who are involved in assaults, who engage in fighting, or who are responsible in any way for fighting while under the jurisdiction of the school will be subject to arrest, removal and/or expulsion from school in accordance with state statutes. This includes fighting while on a bus, at bus stops, or at any activity/event sponsored by the Richton School District.

GANG ACTIVITY OR ASSOCIATION

MS Code 37.11.37, 37.11.39, 37.11.43

Gangs which initiate, advocate, or promote activities which threaten the safety or well-being of persons or property on school grounds or which disrupt the school environment are harmful to the educational process. The use of hand signals, graffiti, or the presence of any apparel, jewelry, accessory, or manner of grooming which, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, symbol, or any other attribute which indicates or implies membership or affiliation with such a group, presents a clear and present danger and is prohibited. This is contrary to the school environment and educational objectives and creates an atmosphere where unlawful acts or violations of school regulations may occur.

Incidents involving initiations, hazing, intimidations, and/or related activities of such group affiliations which are likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to students are prohibited.

Richton School District shall enforce the above rule and attempt to ensure that any student wearing, carrying, or displaying gang paraphernalia or exhibiting behavior or gestures which symbolize gang membership and/or participating in activities which intimidate or affect the attendance of another student shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary actions.

OTHER PROHIBITED ORGANIZATIONS No student shall actively participate or wear clothing or other indications of membership in an organization which advocates violence or hatred toward any group of students or other individuals, or an organization which either intends to or does disrupt the educational process through its purpose or actions.

WEAPONS

The Board recognizes that the possession of handguns, firearms, or other weapons on school premises or at school functions by persons other than duly authorized law enforcement officials creates an unreasonable and unwarranted risk of injury or death to District employees, students, visitors, and guests and further creates an unreasonable and unwarranted risk of damage to properties of District employees, students, visitors, and guests.

Because of such dangers, the Board hereby prohibits the possession of handguns, firearms, or weapons in any form by any person other than duly authorized law enforcement officials on school premises or at school functions, regardless of whether any such person possesses a valid permit to carry such handgun, firearm, or weapon. The principal, assistant principal or designated person will notify law enforcement authorities for each occurrence of unlawful activity at school or school sponsored activities.

Any student who possesses a knife, handgun, other firearm or other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm shall be subject to arrest by law enforcement authorities, and automatic expulsion by the superintendent, or other appropriate school official, at the recommendation of the principal. Such expulsion shall take place immediately, subject to the constitutional rights of due process and to a hearing with respect thereto within a reasonable period of time and upon request in writing by the student or his/her parent or guardian or representative.

Students bringing a firearm to school shall be subject to arrest and shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year, except when the superintendent modifies such expulsion requirements for an individual student in accordance with disability laws.

It shall be a violation of Richton School District rules, regulations, and policies to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, on educational property the following weapons: any gun, rifle, pistol, other firearm of any kind, dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine, or powerful explosive.

It shall be a violation of Richton School District rules, regulations and policies to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, on educational property the following weapons: any BB gun, air rifle, air pistol, Bowie knife, dirk, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, switchblade knife, blackjack, metallic knuckles, razors and razor blades, and any sharp-pointed or edged instrument (except instructional supplies, unaltered nail files and clips and tools used solely for preparation of food, instruction, and maintenance).

A firearm means any weapon which will, or is designed to, or may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by action of an explosive. This includes, but is not limited to, the following: handguns, bomb,

grenade, rocket with propellant of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine, rifle, starter pistol, any firearm muffler/silencer or any form of any such weapon.

A handgun means a pistol, revolver or other firearm of any description, loaded or unloaded, from which any shot, bullet, or other missile can be discharged, the length of the barrel, exclusive of any revolving, detachable, or magazine breech, is less than sixteen inches.

A switchblade knife means a knife containing a blade or blades which open automatically by the release of a spring or similar contrivance.

Any teacher or other school employee who has knowledge of such an unlawful or violent act occurring on educational property or during a school related activity shall report such activity or act to the principal, who shall notify the appropriate law enforcement authorities and the Superintendent of Education. For purposes of this policy, educational property shall include any public school building, bus, public school campus, grounds, recreational area or athletic field in the charge of the principal or other premises and/or buildings being occupied or used by Richton School District for school related purposes and/or extracurricular activities or ceremonies associated with Richton School District. School personnel making such required report shall be immune from civil liability as this is presumed a good faith act.

It is the recognized law of the state that the youth court shall not order the enrollment or reenrollment of a student that has been suspended or expelled by the district for possession of a weapon on school grounds or for commission of a violent act which resulted or could have resulted in the death or physical harm to another.

LEGAL REFERENCE: MS Code 43-21-261, 97-37-14, 97-37-17, 37-11-29, 43-21-621; Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994 20 USC 2701 et. seq.; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act; Section 921 of Title 18 of the US Code.

USE/POSSESSION OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL-- CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES OR MEDICATIONS (Prescription or "Over-the Counter")

No student attending school or any school-sponsored activity shall be permitted to carry on his/her person or in any other manner have in his/her possession, in any way, or be under the influence of ANY alcoholic beverages; morphine, marijuana, cocaine, opium; heroin or their derivatives or compounds; drugs commonly called LSD, "Pep" pills, designer drugs, tranquilizers, uppers/downers, medications (prescription or "over-the-counter") or any compound which, when taken orally, intravenously, inhaled or in any other manner may cause the person to be under the influence thereof, and no student shall use any of the same at any school in the district. The provisions of this policy shall not apply to any student who is under the care of a licensed physician and who is taking medication which is under the supervision and direction of such physician. However, any and all such prescription drugs shall be kept by school personnel in a numbered, labeled bottle provided by a licensed pharmacist. Further, the student's parents/guardians shall be responsible for notifying the school principal/assistant principal when the taking of such drugs/medicines is required on school grounds during the regular school day or at school-sponsored activities.

The provisions of this policy shall apply to all students during the period of time they are subject to the jurisdiction of the school district as defined by law and while participating in or going to or from school sponsored activities and while under the supervision and direction of any teacher, principal/assistant principal, or other authority of the school district.

The principal may use observation, i.e. smell, symptoms, etc., to determine whether the student is under the influence. The parents have the right, at their own expense, to seek a drug test (to be taken within 24 hours of said observation) to contradict these findings.

Any student violating any of the provisions of the district's drug policy shall be considered to have committed a major offense and shall be subject to major disciplinary action, which may include arrest by law enforcement authorities, long-term suspension, alternative school placement, and possible expulsion by the board of education. Pursuant to state law, any person who possesses any controlled substance in violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Law shall be subject to automatic expulsion. The principal/assistant principal will suspend the student and a recommendation will be made to the Superintendent and Board of Education to expel the student.

This policy is for the sole and exclusive protection of the students of this district and their general welfare and nothing herein shall be construed to avoid any prosecution under applicable criminal laws. The principal/assistant principal shall report any violation of this policy to the superintendent and also to the proper law enforcement officials.

NOTIFICATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS

In the event that a student commits one of the following acts on school property or during a school related activity, he is subject to suspension or expulsion under this policy and the principal is required to immediately report by telephone and then in writing the act to the appropriate law enforcement agency:

- A. aggravated assault resulting in serious physical injury
 - B. sexual assault/battery
 - C. sexual offense
 - D. rape
 - E. kidnapping
 - F. indecent liberties with a minor
 - G. assault involving use of a weapon
 - H. possession of a firearm in violation of the law
 - I. possession or use of a weapon in violation of the law
 - J. possession, sale, or use of any controlled substance in violation of the law
 - K. simple assault upon any school employee
 - L. murder
 - M. other violent act (action resulting in death or physical harm or attempt to cause death or physical harm to another)
 - N. Any other act the principal or his designee may deem necessary

The principal making said required report or participating in any judicial proceeding resulting there from shall be presumed to be acting in good faith and, as such, shall be immune from any civil liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed.

LEGAL REFERENCE: MS Code 37-7-301, 37-9-71, 37-11-29, 97-377-17; Goss v. Lopez 419 U.S. 565 Tinker v. Des Moines 393 U.S.503.

STUDENT INTERROGATIONS, SEARCHES, AND ARRESTS

Students possess the right to be free of unreasonable searches and seizures under the fourth amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Balanced against this right is the school officials' responsibility to create and maintain an environment consistent with the educational mission of the school. School officials have a duty to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all students under their authority.

STUDENT PROPERTY SEARCHES School authorities are authorized to conduct searches of students or their property when reasonable suspicion indicates that a particular student is in possession of an item or a substance that represents a material threat to school routine or is prohibited by school board policy or by law. Student property shall include, but not be limited to, purses, book bags, and vehicles parked on campus. School authorities reserve the right to conduct sniff searches with animals of school property and student-driven vehicles and to utilize detection devices such as metal detectors.

LOCKERS AND OTHER SCHOOL PROPERTY SEARCHES Lockers and other storage spaces are provided to students for their convenience. These storage areas remain school property and, as such, are subject to periodic inspections by school authorities. The purpose of such inspections is not to collect evidence of wrong doing on the part of a single student, but rather to allow school authorities responsible for the appropriate use of school property the opportunity to confirm that lockers are being used in a manner consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of all students. Students are therefore warned not to store items in lockers which they do not want to bring to the attention of school authorities.

POLICE NOTIFICATION (a) Student searches which disclose evidence of school misconduct, but not criminal misconduct, should be treated according to applicable school board policies.

(b) In the event that a student search discloses evidence of unlawful activity, the principal shall report such activity or acts to the appropriate law enforcement authorities as required by law. If law enforcement authorities are notified, the student's parents will be advised as soon as possible.

POLICE SEARCHES School officials are obligated to cooperate with law enforcement authorities who are validly carrying out their official duties. In such cases involving a student, the district shall make an immediate attempt to notify the student's parent, guardian, or custodian. The principal or the principal's designee shall attend the search if conducted on or about the school premises and shall take any disciplinary action necessary as a result of the search.

School administrators and teachers have the right to question a student regarding his/her conduct or the conduct of others. School officials may question/interrogate a student regarding his/her conduct or the conduct of others without the parent/guardian being present. Principals are required by law to act in *loco parentis*.

INTERROGATIONS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES Law enforcement personnel are not permitted to interrogate students on the school campus regarding alleged activities of the student or others away from the school campus that have caused law enforcement to become involved until such time as the principal/assistant principal has obtained permission from the student's parent/guardian.

FELONY CHARGES Any student charged with a felony may not participate in any extracurricular activities and could be assigned to the alternative school.

Legal reference: Zamora v. Pomeroy 639 F. 2nd 662 (10th Cir. 1981); Horton v. Goose Creek Independent School District, F. 2nd 470 (5th Cir. 1982), cert.denied, 103 S.Ct.35 (1983); New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325, 105 S. Ct. 733, 83 L.Ed.2nd 720 (1985); Tarter v. Raybuck, 742 F. 2nd 977 (6th Cir. 1984), cert. denied, 105 S. Ct. 1749 1985; MS Code 37-11-29.

RICHTON SCHOOL DISTRICT DRUG SCREENING POLICY

Student athletes and students participating in other school-sponsored extracurricular activities will be subject to drug screening to test for the following substances, the use of which is expressly prohibited:

- Amphetamines
- Cocaine Metabolite
- Phencyclidine
- Marijuana Metabolite
- Opiates
- And any other substance(s) the test may reveal

Drug Screening – The drug screening shall consist of the collection of a urine sample from the student by any assistant(s) from the contracting biomedical laboratory under the supervision of the Athletic Director/Principal, coaching staff/directors, and/or other school employees. Each specimen shall be analyzed for the presence of drugs identified previously in this document by the contracting agency which has been approved by the Board of Education of the Richton School District.

The outside agency shall report all test results to the office of the Superintendent. The principal will be notified of any positive tests. For purposes of this program, a positive result shall mean a test result which indicates the presence of one or more of the listed drugs in the student athlete's urine sample. A test will not be determined positive until it is double checked and validated by a confirmatory test. The student and their parent/legal guardian shall be notified in writing if and when a student tests positive.

Random testing will be performed for athletes beginning with the second scheduled testing and continue through each subsequent testing during the school year. Random selection will be conducted by an outside agency in the following manner. The District will assign a number to each participant and then provide a list of numbers to the outside agency for random selection. All participants will be included in the pool for random selection. Random testing for all other students involved in extracurricular activities will begin with the first scheduled testing and continue through each subsequent testing during the school year. Random testing will account for approximately ten percent (10%) of all students being selected for each random testing. Also included in random testing will be any student(s) who have tested positive at an earlier date during their school career.

EFFECTS OF POSITIVE RESULTS

A. First Positive: The individual's sample will be re-tested immediately to assure no error has occurred.

If the positive result is verified and confirmed, the principal will take the following steps: 1.

The student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) will be advised of the results.

2. The Athletic Director will be advised of the results.

3. The student will be required to attend drug counseling and the cost shall be borne by the student and/or parent.

4. A student who has tested positive will forfeit participation in interscholastic participation according to the following schedule:

(a). First Violation: The student will be denied participation from competitions (with required practices) beginning with the first scheduled competition following the

- offense and concluding after 20% of that season's competitions have taken place. (Example: 2 of 10 football games or 4 of 20 basketball games)
- (b). Second Violation: Dismissal from that sport season without gaining letter awards or recognition.
 - (c). Third Violation: The student will be denied participation in all extracurricular activities and programs for the calendar year.
 - (d). Fourth Violation: The student will be indefinitely barred from participating in any event or activity and all extracurricular activities in the Richton School District.

***NOTE:** The student who participates in more than one sport/activity will forfeit participation in interscholastic contests in only the activity that is currently in season or the next sport/activity in season after the positive test. If an infraction occurs where there is an overlap in activities the suspension from activities for the designated period will begin immediately even though it may affect both activities.*

5. Students who test positive for drugs will forfeit certain team and individual awards as determined by the head coach/director.

The student will be re-tested after the suspension period and prior to being allowed to participate in the activity again.

B. **Second Positive:** After reinstatement and later in the academic year, the student will be re-tested. If the test is positive, the individual student will be re-tested immediately to assure no error has occurred. If the positive result is verified and confirmed, the Principal, the Athletic Director, and the student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) will be immediately notified. A conference will then be scheduled promptly with the student, parent(s)/legal guardian(s), Principal, appropriate head coach/director, and designated counselor present. The student will immediately be suspended from participating in practice and interscholastic competition for the remaining sports season or scheduled events for the activity.

The student will be re-tested after the suspension period. If the student's test is negative the student will be reinstated to participate in athletics/extracurricular activities provided the student and the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) sign a release form releasing the School District from liability. Another positive will result in the student athlete being suspended from the team indefinitely.

C. **Third Positive:** After reinstatement and later in the academic year, the student will be re-tested. If the test is positive, the Principal, the Athletic Director, and head coach/director shall be immediately notified; a letter will be mailed to the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) from the Principal notifying them that the student has been suspended from the team/program immediately for the academic year.

Reinstatement of the student to participate cannot take place for one calendar year and then only after the provision of proof of the successful completion of a Drug Rehabilitation Program and negative testing prevails. If the student is suspended, the student has the right to appeal the decision to the Richton School District Board of Education for a formal determination. The student shall have the right to have counsel present at the student's own expense.

***NOTE:** Each positive test occurring after a student begins school activities will be counted as a violation throughout the student's school years.*



EXTRA CURRICULAR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

PURPOSE We believe that the opportunity for participation in a wide variety of student-selected activities is a vital part of a student's educational experiences. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, the activity, to other students, to the community and to the students themselves. These experiences contribute to the development of learning skills, leadership training and emotional patterns that enable the student to achieve maximum benefit from his or her education. The Richton School District's extra curricular program is considered a supplement to the school's academic program which strives to provide experiences that will help to develop students physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

2.10 SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENTS

2.10.1 The MHSAA requires students participating in MHSAA sanctioned competitions to make "satisfactory progress toward graduation". Each school district shall determine the requirements for "satisfactory progress toward graduation" through its graduation requirements and shall interpret this rule according to its requirements.

2.10.2 According to Mississippi law, a student must maintain a grade point average of at least a 2.0 or "C" average in order to participate in interscholastic sports/activities. Grade point averages will be calculated at the conclusion of the first semester using the semester averages of all courses the student is taking. Students who do not have a 2.0 or "C" average for the first semester will be ineligible for the second semester.

2.10.3 At the end of the school year, each student's grade point average for the year will be assessed. This assessment will reflect the average for the entire year using the final grades for each course. A student who does not have a grade point average of at least a 2.0 or "C" average, will be ineligible for fall semester.

2.10.4 High school eligibility begins when a student enters ninth grade. To be eligible for the fall semester, a student must be promoted to ninth grade with at least an overall 2.0 or "C" average of all eighth grade courses.

2.10.5 A student may become eligible for the second semester only once during his/her high school career if he/she fails the year-end average the previous year, by achieving at least an overall 2.0 or "C" average at the end of the first semester.

2.10.6 A 2.0 or "C" average may be calculated in two ways:

1. Grade point average: A= 4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0.
2. Numerical average: place all semester or year-end averages in the local grading scale. If the overall average is a "C" or better, the student is eligible.

2.11 JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENT

2.11.1 For participation on the junior high/middle school level, a student must be promoted (**if not promoted, they are ineligible for the entire year**) and have passed any four basic courses (any subject that meets the equivalent of at least 250 minutes per week or meets the State Department requirement) with a 2.0 or "C" average the previous semester (computed numerically or by GPA). The year-end average of four basic courses passed will be used to determine eligibility for the fall semester. The same guidelines apply at the end of the first semester for spring participation. Students must be on track to be promoted to be eligible.

2.11.2 A student on the junior high/middle school level, who was promoted but is not eligible at the beginning of the school year due to his academic average, may become eligible for the second semester only once during the student's junior high/middle school career by passing four basic courses with an overall average of 2.0 at the end of the first semester.

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GENERAL RULES FOR PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

1. Eligibility for competitive activities is determined according to the rules of the Mississippi High School Activities Association.
2. High School students must pass five units of credit the previous year to play.
3. Junior High School students must pass the four core subjects (Math, Science, English, and Social Studies) and be promoted to the next grade.
4. Anyone competing in extracurricular activities is subject to additional rules that are set up and administered by the sponsor or coach. It is up to the participant to follow these rules.
5. The sponsor or coach of his/her particular activity is in charge. If a parent has a grievance, the procedure they must follow is below. If the procedure is not followed, then the grievance will be dismissed without any action taken.
 - The person must go to the sponsor or coach in charge and discuss the problem or grievance at a time which is convenient with both parties.
 - After the initial meeting is held and the problem still exists, then a meeting will be arranged between the sponsor/coach, parent and principal/athletic director.
 - After the first two steps have been taken, the problem may be addressed in the Superintendent's office.
 - The last step will be to meet with the School Board at the recommendation of the superintendent.
6. If a student quits a team of his/her own free will, it is the coach/sponsor's decision whether the student will be allowed back on the team. (If a player walks off the floor, field, etc. during practice or game he/she may be considered quitting by the coach.).
7. During the school year if an athlete shows disrespect to the coach/sponsor or shows unsportsmanlike conduct during a contest (profanity toward a coach or official) the coach/sponsor has the authority to remove the athlete from the team.
8. Students may participate in more than one activity at once during the year. However, missing practice/games due to another activity does not guarantee a player will retain his/her starting role.
9. Uniforms owned by the school must be returned before a student will be allowed to participate in the next sport or activity. If the uniform is lost, the cost of the uniform must be paid prior to playing the next sport.

SELECTION PROCESS FOR STUDENT LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE BAND, CHEERLEADERS, AND MARIONETTES

- Independent judges will be selected.
- All students will be offered the same trainer if desired. Other trainers may be used with no penalty applied.
- Judges only, will select the student leader in a private room. Only the judges will be allowed in.
- The certified school leader of the group will select the judges.
- The judges must not have an affiliation with the school or be associated with any students trying out.
- Judges cannot be instructors of our try-out clinic.

SELECTION OF MAROON MARIONETTES

The High School Maroon Marionettes will be determined by the natural break in scoring, with the average squad size being between 10 – 14 girls unless otherwise deemed by the administration or sponsor.

SELECTION OF HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS

The High School Cheer Squad will be determined by the natural break in scoring with the average squad size being between 10-14 girls unless otherwise deemed by the administration or sponsor.



WHO'S WHO ELECTION

Who's Who elections will be held the last week of February. Who's Who elections will be based on the plurality system (in which the candidate who polls more votes than any other candidate and meets the following guidelines, is elected). **At least 1/3 of the students in the class are required to vote.** IF FEWER THAN 1/3 OF THE CLASS VOTES, THEN NO STUDENTS FROM THAT GRADE WILL BE RECOGNIZED IN WHO'S WHO. In the event of a two-way tie, there will be no run-off; there will be two winners (except for Mr. and Miss RHS). In the event that more than two qualified students tie for a category, then a run-off election will be held at the discretion of the faculty member conducting the elections and the high school principal.

Richton High School Who's Who consists of the following for 7th – 12th grades:

- Most Rebel Spirit (*male & female from each grade level; voted on by grade level*)
- Most Athletic (*male & female from each grade level; voted on by grade level*)
- Class Favorites (*male & female from each grade level; voted on by grade level*)
- Most Likely To Succeed (*male & female from each grade level; voted on by grade level*)
- Mr. and Miss RHS (*seniors only; voted on by grades 9-12*)

Richton School District shall observe the following rules and regulations concerning Who's Who elections in the school:

- A. All elections shall be by online voting using each student's school issued G-Mail address.
- B. **MOST REBEL SPIRIT and CLASS FAVORITE** – winners must meet the following criteria:
1. Must be currently enrolled in and have completed one full year of attendance in Richton School District
 2. Must have at least a C overall average for the current and previous school year
 3. Must not have reached Class 3 on the discipline ladder for the current and previous school year
- C. **MOST ATHLETIC** – winners must meet the following criteria:
1. Must be currently enrolled in and have completed one full year of attendance in Richton School District
 2. Must have at least a C overall average for the current and previous school year
 3. Must not have reached Class 3 on the discipline ladder for the current and previous school year
 4. Must participate in 2 or more school-sponsored sports during the current or previous school year.
- D. **MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED** – winners must meet the following criteria:
1. Must be currently enrolled in and have completed one full year of attendance in Richton School District
 2. Must have at least a B overall average for the current and previous school year
 3. Must not have reached Class 3 on the discipline ladder for the current and previous school year
- D. **MR. and MISS RHS** – winners must meet the following criteria:
1. Must be currently enrolled in and have been a student in Richton School District since 9th grade
 2. Must have at least a B overall average for the current and previous school year
 3. Must not have reached Class 3 on the discipline ladder for the current and previous school year

Section VI.

Support Services



Individuals with Disabilities

The Richton School District collaborates with the Mississippi State Department of Education (MDE) in an ongoing statewide effort to identify, locate, and evaluate children birth through the age of 21, who have health impairments, physical, mental, communicative, and/or emotional disabilities. Early identification of children in need of special educational experiences is most important to each child. Contacts with parents and other agencies help the district determine appropriate public education to all children with disabilities.

The Special Education Department works with local Head Start, Human Services, Health and Mental Health agencies, as well as local education agencies, physicians and other individuals to identify and locate children who attend or plan to enroll in the district's schools who may be in need of special education services. Richton School District is currently serving children ages 3-21 in the areas of speech/language, specific learning disabilities, educationally disabled, emotionally disabled, visually impaired, developmentally delayed, autistic, physically disabled, traumatic brain injury, and other health impairments. Other services available are in the areas of hearing impaired, deaf/blind, and multiple disabilities.

The Richton School District employs special education teachers, teacher assistants, speech/ language therapists, as well as occupational and physical therapists to meet our student's needs.

Office of Federal Programs

Richton School District receives federal funds to support and enhance the educational programs of the district. These funds flow from the federal government through the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Innovative Support. These federal dollars assist the district in supporting efforts such as professional development, instructional intervention, recruiting highly effective teachers and administrators as required by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), parent/community involvement, innovative services, and the provision of a safe, orderly climate conducive to teaching and learning.

The Consolidated Federal Programs Application is developed annually by a planning committee made up of administrators, teachers, parents and community members. Program planning is data-driven with information drawn from test scores, needs assessments, and other data sources. Parents and students are encouraged to participate in the planning process.

The completed plan is available for viewing and comments in the Federal Programs Office 701 Elm Avenue, Richton, MS 39476. Additional Information concerning Title I and VI funding may be viewed on the Mississippi Department of Education website at www.mcaps.mde.k12.ms.us. Federal Title Programs and IDEA work in conjunction to provide intervening services for our students.

Early Intervention Services

Mississippi Department of Education requires an instructional model designed to meet the needs of every student.

Three Tier Model of Instruction

Tier I	Quality classroom instruction based on MS Curriculum Frameworks
Tier II	Focused supplemental instruction
Tier III	Intensive interventions specifically designed to meet the individual needs of the student

Teachers use progress monitoring information to (a) determine if students are making adequate progress, (b) identify students as soon as they begin to fall behind, and (c) modify instruction early enough to ensure each and every student gains essential skills. Monitoring of student progress is an ongoing process that may be measured through informal classroom assessment, benchmark assessment instruments, and large-scale assessments.

If strategies at Tiers I & II are unsuccessful, students must be referred to the Teacher Support Team. The Teacher Support Team (TST) is the problem-solving unit responsible for interventions developed at Tier III. The chairperson of the TST is the school principal or the principal's designee. Interventions will be designed to address the deficit areas:

- Research based
- Implemented as designed by the TST
- Supported by data regarding the effectiveness of interventions

In addition to failure to make adequate progress following Tiers I & II, students will be referred to the TST for interventions as specified in guidelines developed by MDE. Guidelines for Richton School District are made available at the high school Office.

School Tutoring

Tutoring is made available as an intervention through federal programs at Richton School District. Contact the federal programs' office concerning times and dates of tutorials at 601-788-5908.

Healthcare Resources

Richton School District provides additional support service through the Pine Belt Mental Healthcare Resources in the form of therapeutic services. Highly qualified clinicians deliver these services to students enrolled in the Richton School District.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

The Richton Middle/High School faculty and staff, with the cooperation of the community, students and their families, strive to help each student achieve success and develop the skills necessary to cope in our rapidly changing society and to prepare them for high school.

We also acknowledge that students who develop good work habits, are resourceful, and are self-disciplined tend to have higher academic achievement. We are a team, teaching our children how to be good citizens and community leaders for the present as well as the future.

In order to build an effective home-school partnership, Richton Middle/High School will provide the following:

1. An annual Open House where parents will meet their child's teacher and be informed of their right and responsibility to be involved in their child's education.
2. An annual 7th Grade orientation for parents and students to be held at the beginning of each school year to provide time for parents and students to meet the teachers and staff and become familiar with the school.
3. A flexible number of meetings and/or publications will be made available to assist parents in understanding the federal and state academic content and student achievement standards, as well as local academic assessments. At these meetings, Title 1 funding, parent involvement policies and compacts will be discussed.
4. One scheduled parent conference, and others as deemed necessary by the parent and/or teacher, where the progress of the individual student will be discussed as well as the expectations for school curriculum, state standards, and other concerns that the teacher or parent may want to address.
5. Communication to assist parents in understanding school expectations, curriculum and activities including the Student Handbook, use of School Notes.com and other communications from the child's teacher.
6. Parents are encouraged to attend PTO meetings, school programs, and parent lunches with their children.
7. A School-Parent Compact that outlines how parents, school staff and student share the responsibility for improving learning.
8. At least every other year, a survey for all parents shall be conducted to collect opinions and concerns of parents and suggestions for improvement with opportunities for parents to be involved.

Every effort will be made to communicate with parents in a format that is easily understandable and includes language that is free of educational jargon.