

# Student Code of Conduct

(Offenses and Penalties by Category)

The infractions of school discipline in the Shelby County Schools listed below are grouped into categories according to the seriousness of the offense. This list is not intended to be exclusive or all-inclusive. For infractions not specifically listed below, school principals shall assign discipline in accordance with the category that appears to be comparable to the offenses specifically listed in the category.

## Category A – State Zero Tolerance Offenses

1. Aggravated Assault resulting in serious bodily injury upon any teacher, principal, administrator, school resource officer, or any other school employee;
2. Unlawful possession, sale, or evidence of use of drugs/narcotics at school or at a school-sponsored activity;
3. Unauthorized possession of a firearm on school property or at a school sponsored activity.

### Penalty for Category A Offenses:

- Expulsion/Suspension for 180 days

Notification will be made to law enforcement authorities. Any modification of this penalty can only be made by the Superintendent.

## Category B

1. Possession of a knife or any potentially lethal weapon, Taser, or explosive on school property or at a school--sponsored activity;
2. Evidence of drinking or possession of alcoholic beverages in school or at a school sponsored activity;
3. Off--campus criminal behavior resulting in a felony charge, when the behavior poses a danger to persons or property or disrupts the educational process;
4. Gang activities -- Activity that is threatening and/or intimidating, harassing in nature or recruiting; gang notebooks with gang pledges, codes and symbols that are used in communication such as threats and warnings and recruiting; gang related fights, and all types of violent acts; gang graffiti especially drawn on school property (bathrooms, lockers and hall walls); electronic devices such as cell phones with recognized gang text, with gang symbols, signs and language that is threatening and or intimidating;
5. Evidence of use or possession of drug paraphernalia, substances for huffing, any substance under guise of it being a controlled; substance or prescription drug, and/or medical preparations without proper medical authorization;
6. Possession, use or distribution of counterfeit money on school property or at any school sponsored activity;
7. Assault upon any teacher, principal, administrator, school resource officer, or any other school employee;
8. Continuous and/or severe Category C Offenses.

### Penalty for Category B Offenses:

- Out-of School Suspension
- Expulsion (11-180 day)

When appropriate, notification will be made to law enforcement authorities. Modification of this penalty can be made by the Superintendent or the Disciplinary Hearing Authority.

## Category C

1. Threatening bodily harm to school personnel, including transmitting by an electronic device any communication containing a credible threat to cause bodily injury or death to a school employee and the transmission of such threat creates actual disruptive activity at the school that requires administrative intervention;
2. Making a threat, including a false report, to use a bomb, dynamite, any other deadly explosive or destructive device, including chemical weapons, on school property or at a school-sponsored event;
3. Smoking and or the possession of tobacco products by students while in or on school, properties or under school's jurisdiction during school hours or while participating in a school-sponsored event;
4. Gang activities - any gang related activity not specified in Category B;
5. One (1) or more students initiating a physical attack on an individual student on school property or at a school-sponsored activity;

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6. Malicious destruction of or damage to school property, including electronic media, or the property of any person attending or assigned to the school;
7. Stealing or misappropriation of school or personal property (regardless of intent to return);
8. Immoral or disreputable conduct;
9. Continuous and/or severe Category D Offenses.

### Penalty for Category C Offenses:

- In-School Suspension
- Out-of School Suspension

When appropriate, notification will be made to law enforcement authorities.

## Category D

1. Open or continued defiant attitude or willful disobedience toward a member of school staff;
2. Vulgar, profane, immoral/disreputable or rude remarks or non-verbal action to staff member or fellow student;
3. Physical or verbal intimidation or threats to other students, including hazing;
4. Threatening bodily harm to another student, including transmitting by an electronic device any communication containing a credible threat to cause bodily injury or death to a student and the transmission of such threat creates actual disruptive activity at the school that requires administrative intervention;
5. Fighting in or on school property unless, in accordance with state law, the principal recommends no disciplinary action for a student who is deemed to have acted in self-defense or defense of another;
6. Possession of mace or disabling sprays;
7. Inappropriate use of electronic media, including, but not limited to, all calls (land line, cellular or computer generated), instant messaging, text messaging, audio recording devices, iPods, MP3s or any type of electronic music or entertainment device, and cameras and camera phones;
8. Sexual, racial, ethnic, or religious harassment/discrimination;
9. Bullying, intimidation, and harassment;
10. Refusal to produce an object identified by metal detectors;
11. Inciting, advising or counseling of others to engage in any acts in Categories A, B or C;
12. Continuous and/or severe Category E Offenses.

### Penalty for Category D Offenses:

- Parent-Principal Conference
- Before/After School Detention/Saturday School
- In-School Suspension
- Out-of-School Suspension

## Category E

1. Habitual and/or excessive tardiness;
2. Class cutting;
3. Intentional disturbance of class, cafeteria or school activities;
4. Leaving school grounds without permission;
5. Being in an unauthorized area without permission;
6. Tampering with grades or report cards;
7. Possession of lighters or matches;
8. Possession of and access to beepers, cellular phones or other electronic communication devices during school hours without written permission of the principal;
9. Inciting, advising or counseling others to engage in any acts in Category D;
10. Dress code violation, including wearing, while on school grounds during the regular school day, clothing that exposes underwear or body parts in an indecent manner that disrupts the learning environment.

### Penalty for Category E Offenses:

- Parent-Principal Conference
- Before/After School Detention/Saturday School
- In-School Suspension

