South Tippah School District

Mr. Tony Elliott
Superintendent of Education

RIPLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Student/Parent Handbook and Event Calendar

www.stsd.ms

2024-2025

Building a Stronger Community Through Quality Education

Greetings from the Superintendent

Dear Parents and Students,

Whether you are a Cougar, Panther, or a Tiger, it is an exciting time to be a part of the South Tippah School District! Our commitment to building a stronger community through quality education is paying off. School accountability ratings are soaring along with the success of our athletic programs throughout the district. In the 2023-24 school year alone we became an "A" school district, had three of our five schools become an "A", was awarded the Science of Reading Award by MDE, and played for seven state championships district wide. I personally can't think of a more exciting time to be in the South Tippah School District.

The success we are experiencing is not happening by mere luck. Faculty, staff, students and parents worked hard all year long to make our school district one of the best in the state. For this I am thankful to be a community member, parent, and superintendent of such a great district.

Students, throughout our district you will be seeing many new faces in the form of teachers, custodians, cafeteria workers, and administrators. Let's all do a great job of welcoming these new faces into "OUR" great district. After all it will take everyone working together to continue to build a stronger community through quality education.

Tony Elliott, Superintendent

South Tippah School District 2024-2025 Board Members

(BACK LEFT TO RIGHT)

Tim Clark-Board Member—District 1

Corey Hargett—Board Member-District 4

Kevin Barefield—District 2

Price Elliott, Board Attorney

(FRONT LEFT TO RIGHT)

Nicole Bullock—District 3

Arnold Witt, President—District 5

South Tippah School District Calendar and Handbook
2024-2025

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Any amendments or additions approved by the South Tippah School Board shall be recognized and incorporated as part of the rules/regulations for the schools. Board Polices may be found at the district office or at each school. Board Policies may be found at the district office or at each school or at www.stsd.ms.

All rules and regulations of this handbook shall be applicable to all students regardless of marital status.

South Tippah School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, color, national origin, age, developmental disabilities, or ADA regulations.

RESIDENCY VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The South Tippah School District is required by the State School Board of Education to verify residency for all students annually before enrollment is permitted.

As a result of the Residency Verification Procedure adopted as a policy of the Mississippi State Board of Education on April 20, l990, 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. No post office box address will be acceptable. These items must reflect a street address or designated road address:
   (a) Filed Homestead Exemption Application Form
   (b) Mortgage Documents or Property Deed
   (c) Apartment or Home Lease
   (d) Utility Bills
   (e) Driver's License
   (f) Voter Precinct Identification
   (g) Automobile Registration
   (h) Affidavit of Residency and/or personal visit by a designated school district official
   (i) Any other documentation that will objectively and unequivocally establish that the parent or guardian resides within the school district
   (j) Certified copy of filed petition for guardianship if pending and final decree when granted
2. If you are the legal guardian of the student, you must also provide a copy of the court order appointing you as guardian. If a petition for guardianship has been filed and the decree is pending, you must provide a certified copy of the filed petition for guardianship. NOTE: Any legal guardianship formed for the purpose of establishing residency for school district attendance purposes shall not be recognized by the affected board. Legal reference, Miss. Code Ann. Section 37-15-31 (l989 Supp.)
3. Students living with adults other than parents or legal guardians must provide:
   (a) Two of the ten items of verification as stated above and
   (b) A sworn Affidavit stating the relationship of the adult to the student and that the student is living in the Affidavit's home full time and fully explaining the reasons (other than school attendance zone or district preference) for this arrangement.
4. If your child fails to provide the necessary documentation, he/she will not be allowed to attend school in the South Tippah School District.

MISSION STATEMENT FOR SOUTH TIPPAH SCHOOLS

Vision

To provide a community minded educational program with an emphasis on STEM, career, and character education through highly effective teachers and staff integrating technology into instruction while achieving an 'A" accountability rating.

Mission

To build a strong community through quality education.

SOUTH TIPPAH SCHOOL DISTRICT DISCIPLINE PLAN

Every student should keep in mind that the primary responsibility for his/her conduct and personal appearance rests with the student and his/her parents.

Students are accountable to administrators and teachers for disorderly conduct or misconduct at school, on the way to and from school, on the playgrounds, during recess, at school meetings, school programs, functions and activities, athletic events, and on the school buses.

The superintendent or principals are authorized to institute appropriate disciplinary action including immediate suspension if warranted of any student for disorderly conduct or misconduct.

*POSSESSION OF WEAPONS, COMMISSION OF VIOLENT ACTS, USE OR POSSESSION OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL ON SCHOOL PREMISES OR AT SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

1. No student shall possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any gun rifle, pistol or other firearm of any kind, any explosive devise, BB gun, air rifle, air pistol, Bowie knife, pocket knife, dirk, dagger, sling shot, leaded cane, switch blade knife, blackjack, metallic knuckles, 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 foods, instruction and maintenance) on school premises.

2. Any school teacher or school employee who has knowledge of any unlawful activity or violent acts that occur on school premises, or during a school-related activity, shall report such acts to the principal who shall notify appropriate law enforcement officials.
3. When application is made for admission to any school in the South Tippah School District, the child's application must indicate whether he or she has previously been expelled from any public or private school. If it is revealed that such child has been previously expelled or is a party to an expulsion proceeding, the school district may deny the student admission until the Superintendent has determined that the child has participated in some sort of rehabilitative effort.
4. If any student was previously expelled for committing an act of violence, possessing a weapon, alcohol or illegal drugs, or any other conduct that warrants expulsion, the school district shall not be required to grant admission to the student before one calendar year from the date of the previous expulsion.
5. Any student in the South Tippah School District, 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 harm, or who commits a violent act on school property, shall be immediately subject to automatic expulsion by the superintendent or principal from such school subject to the constitutional rights of due process.
6. A parent, guardian, or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in the South Tippah School District shall be responsible financially for his or her minor child's destructive acts against school property or persons and shall also be responsible for any criminal fines brought against such student for unlawful activity on school grounds as defined in Section 37-11-29.
7. A parent, guardian, or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in the district may be requested to appear by an appropriate school official for conference regarding such child's destructive acts against school property or persons.
8. A parent, guardian, or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in the district who has been summoned by proper notification by an appropriate school official shall be required under this provision to attend such discipline conference.
9. Students who are suspended, assigned to alternative school, or expelled for any reason are not allowed to participate in or attend any school-related function at home or away and are and are not allowed on school property during the suspension or expulsion period.
10. Students will be provided with information concerning resources available for drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation. The school district shall not be responsible for expenses incurred during any rehabilitation program.

SOUTH TIPPAH SCHOOL DISTRICT
CODE OF DISCIPLINE-GRADES K-12

Definitions:

- Community Service - Student works on school property after classes and under the supervision of Principal or Designee.
- Corporal Punishment - Student receives a paddling.
- Detention - Student losses free time, before, during, or after school hours.
- Home Suspension – Student is not to return to school before the end of suspension and until there has been a parent and/or guardian conference. Upon the student's return, the student will be allowed to make up major grades and receive 65% of the grade earned. The student will receive a grade of zero for any minor grades given during the time of suspension.
- Alternative School-Student is assigned to NASTUC Alternative School for a designated period of time.
- Disciplinary Hearing - Refer to the South Tippah School Board Policy for a complete description of a Discipline Hearing. Initial steps are in "Due Process" of this handbook.
- Expulsion - Remove from school for a specified period of time.
- Students who are returning to school from a training school will enter the Alternative School for a minimum of three weeks before returning to their appropriate school site.
- Short - Term Suspension - 10 days or less
- Long - Term Suspension - More than 10 days

Alternative School

Students assigned to alternative school must ride the bus to and from the alternative school each day.

Student Conduct

Acts of Misconduct

Acts of misconduct are those student behaviors that disrupt the orderly educational process in the classroom or on the school grounds including the following:

Level-1

1-1 Tardiness
1-2 Running and/or making excessive noise
1-3 Initiating or participating in any unacceptable physical contact including; but not limited to, inappropriate physical displays of affection (kissing, inappropriate touching, etc.)
1-4 In unauthorized area without a pass (halls, etc.)
1-5 Dress Code violation
1-6 Behavior that is disruptive to the orderly process of classroom instruction

Disciplinary Action

First Violation

Minimum: Teacher/student conference, verbal reprimand, in School Suspension (ISS)
Maximum: Teacher/student/parent conference, home suspension, corporal punishment

Repeated or Flagrant Violation

Minimum: Teacher/student/administrator conference, home suspension, behavior modification plan
Maximum: Corporal punishment, detention, NASTUC, community service, or school suspension (if applicable), after-school expulsion

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Level II

2-1 Leaving school grounds without permission
2-2 Skipping class
2-3 Defiance, insubordination (refusal to comply with rules/instruction), disrespect (rudeness)
2-4 Gambling
2-5 (Pre-fight) Exhibition of any hostile actions whether physical, verbal, or written
2-6 Clothing, apparel, or accessories that signify membership or affiliation with any gang or social club associated with criminal activity, as identified by law enforcement agencies are prohibited from being worn on school property or at school sponsored events
2-7 Behavior that disrupts instruction
2-8 Dishonesty, lying

Disciplinary Action

First Violation

Minimum: Corporal punishment, in School Suspension (ISS), detention, community service
Maximum: School suspension (up to 10 days)

Repeated or Flagrant Violation

Minimum: School suspension or NASTUC
Maximum: NASTUC, Disciplinary Hearing

Level III

3-1 Fighting (law enforcement will handle)
3-2 Possession of electronic equipment/device (beepers, cell phones, CD players, etc)
3-3 Theft of personal or school property
3-4 Extortion-use of intimidation, coercion, force or bullying
3-5 Cheating on tests or exams
3-6 Vandalism of personal and/or school property
3-7 Using profane, obscene, indecent, immoral, or offensive language and/or gestures, and possession of obscene materials
3-8 Sexual Harassment
3-9 Possession or use of tobacco products including smokeless tobacco (All incidents will be reported to law enforcement.)

Disciplinary Action

First Violation

Minimum: Corporal punishment, school suspension, In School Suspension (ISS). Grade of "0" when cheating occurs on tests/exams. Restitution will be made on vandalism of personal and/or school property.
Maximum: School suspension (up to 10 days), possible report to law enforcement agencies, disciplinary hearing

Repeated or Flagrant Violations

Minimum: School suspension (up to 10 days)
Maximum: School suspension, Disciplinary Hearing, NASTUC

***Level IV**

4-1 Possession, use or under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, narcotics, controlled substance(s), vape device or any form of e-cigarettes regardless of content or any associated paraphernalia
4-2 Sale or distribution or conspiring to sell illegal drugs/alcohol, controlled substance
4-3 Removal from NASTUC for disciplinary reasons will result in recommendation of expulsion.

Disciplinary Action Options

Minimum: Long-term school suspension, law enforcement summoned, Disciplinary Hearing

Maximum: Long-term school suspension, law enforcement summoned, Disciplinary Hearing, NASTUC, recommendation for expulsion.

Possession and/or use of any form of vape device or any form of e-cigarettes will automatically result in the following:

1st violation – 5 days out of school suspension
2nd violation – 30 days alternative school
3rd violation – 45 days alternative school

If substance is found to be illegal, punishment for 3rd violation will automatically be enforced.
FOR ANY LEVEL IV OFFENSE, EXPULSION MAY BE RECOMMENDED

***Level V**

5-1 Weapon(s) possession and/or use
5-2 Assault on school employee
5-3 Documented evidence of threats, verbal or physical, and/or acts which threaten the safety and/or well-being of students and/or staff.

Disciplinary Action

Weapon other than firearm

Minimum: Law enforcement summoned, long-term school suspension, Disciplinary Hearing, NASTUC, recommendation for expulsion

Maximum: Law enforcement summoned, long-term school suspension, Disciplinary Hearing, NASTUC, recommendation for expulsion

Firearm

Minimum: Law enforcement summoned, recommendation for expulsion

*Refer to p. D 5 related to Levels IV and V. Refer to South Tippah School Policy Manual for complete procedures and policies.

SOUTH TIPPAH SCHOOL DISTRICT DRESS CODE

PROPER ATTIRE AND GROOMING

The dress code of the South Tippah School District is not all-inclusive. It is virtually impossible to write a dress and grooming code that will properly address every detail and aspect of appropriate dress and grooming. Therefore, it may become necessary for the building principal or a member of the administrative staff to make a judgment as to whether a student is properly groomed and/or dressed. A student who is not attired appropriately or exhibits grooming which is detrimental and/or distractive to the school environment shall be asked to refrain from wearing the inappropriate attire in the future or shall be required to make arrangements for more suitable or appropriate dress. If the arrangement for more suitable clothing requires the student to be absent, it will be designated as unexcused.

It should be a matter of personal pride for a student of the South Tippah School District to maintain high standards of neatness and appropriateness of dress in appearance.

The following types of clothing/accessories will <u>not</u> be worn:

Pajamas/lounge pants
Transparent clothing without proper underclothing
Shorts or skorts for grades 5-12 (RMS) grades 7-12 (PG/BM) This is due to the elementary grade configurations at the different schools.
Any article of clothing, which contains or depicts the following:
alcohol, drugs, tobacco, etc., profane, suggestive, and/or violent language, derogatory symbols or remarks directed at any ethnic group
Loose and/or sagging pants, slacks, and shorts falling below the waist
Hat, caps, headgear can only be worn at principal's discretion and only in designated areas. Sunglasses will not be worn. Thin headbands can be worn to keep hair out of face. A practicing physician's statement permitting a headgear for a specific period of time will be permitted.
Clothing, accessories, or manner of grooming which, by nature of its color, arrangement, trademark, symbol, or any other attribute, which indicates or implies membership or affiliation with gangs or gang activity or association is prohibited.
Any jewelry and/or items of ornamentation that depicts weapons of violence or substance illegal to minors are prohibited.
Pants with holes above the knee are prohibited.

The following types of clothing/accessories will be worn:

Jeans, khaki pants, or dresses/skirts (no more than two inches above the knee) will be worn.
Shirts must have sleeves and must not expose the waist area.
Belts will be worn at the waist.

Only street shoes will be worn.
Hair shall be free from obnoxious odors, and shall be clean and neat in appearance. Hair shall not be worn below the eyebrow, and hair shall not be extreme in color. Hair color should be natural in color and spread evenly throughout the hair. Picks, combs, and rollers shall not be worn in the hair.
All fasteners, laces and buckles designed for use with an article of clothing will be used appropriately at all times.
Neither male nor female students shall be permitted to wear rings and/or studs in their noses, tongues, or other exposed body parts other than the ear.
The length of dresses, skirts, and shorts (K-4) will be two inches above the knee, and will also be appropriate for kneeling, bending, stooping, sitting, and working overhead while at school.
No clothing top shall be so low in front as to expose any part of the breast or shall be so low in the back as to expose the shoulder blades and must cover top of shoulders.
Professional health care attire for Health Sciences classes.
Leggings can only be worn with an appropriate dress or skirt that comes down 2 inches above the knee

BUS CONDUCT

School transportation is a privilege extended to students who qualify under state regulations and who obey the code of conduct for bus transportation. Student and parent cooperation is imperative. It shall be the duty of passengers transported in school buses owned and operated by public school districts to conduct themselves in an orderly manner. Students who do not conduct themselves properly as set forth in the rules and regulations will not be allowed to ride a South Tippah school bus. Severe student behavior on a school bus jeopardizes the safety and welfare of the student as well as others. Severe student behavior can also result in the suspension or other disciplinary action with the first offense and can be immediate. The purpose of any rule or regulation related to school transportation is to insure the safety of our students and staff and to provide for orderly operation of school buses. In accordance with this goal, students utilizing school transportation services shall adhere to rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, and rules and regulations adopted by the South Tippah School Board.

While on a school bus, pupils shall <u>NOT</u>:

- Possess or use any tobacco product or intoxicants
- Fight, punch, shove, or participate in disruptive behaviors
- Strike or threaten the bus driver. Students are expected to always be courteous to and follow the instructions of the bus driver and safety patrol
- Disregard the driver's instructions, behave in an disrespectful manner, use profane language or make vulgar gestures
- Carry a weapon
- Make excessive noise or shout. Do not talk or make unnecessary noise when the bus is approaching and crossing a railroad or a highway intersection.
    - Throw objects or articles in or from the bus
    - Occupy more space in a seat than is needed and refuse to allow another passenger to sit down
    - Display sexual harassment in any form, including but not limited to words, gestures, or action
    - Eat, drink or throw litter of any kind on the floor of the bus
    - Mark on or in any way damage or deface the bus
    - Distract the driver's attention other than when necessary
    - Place head, arms, legs, body and any other articles outside the windows of the bus
    - Bring unauthorized articles on the bus deemed to be improper by district personnel (i.e. pets, combustibles, large articles, weapons)
    - Be involved in any other conduct that is deemed to be improper by district personnel

Loading and Unloading:

- Be at your assigned loading zone on time.
- Exercise extreme caution in getting to and from your assigned bus stop.
- Stay well off the road way until the bus comes to a complete stop and the bus driver indicates that it is safe to board.
- Do not play on or near the road while waiting for the bus to arrive.
- Look both directions before crossing any roadway.
- Upon boarding a bus, students shall immediately be seated and remain in that seat for the remainder of the route, unless given permission by the driver to change seats.
- A student will ride only the bus to which the student has been assigned.
- The driver will not let students off the bus at places other than the regular bus stop, at home or at school unless by authorization of an administrator.

- Use the handrail while getting on and off the bus.
- When you must cross the road to enter the bus, or after leaving the bus, always cross in front of the bus and walk approximately ten (10) feet ahead of the bumper.
- In case of a road emergency involving a bus, or the bus and another vehicle, the students are to remain in the bus, unless given other instructions by the driver.

The school bus driver is responsible to the school district to maintain order and to insure maximum safety at all times. Therefore, he/she is authorized to instruct and otherwise control students as to proper conduct and safety while they are on the bus. All riders are expected to comply fully and promptly with the driver's instructions. The driver may assign seats on the bus and the students shall sit in their assigned seat.

The school principal will be responsible for the discipline of students reported to him/her by the driver. State law prohibits any person(s), other than students or district personnel from entering a school bus. Questions and inquiries regarding disciplining should be directed to the school principal.

- Bus drivers will complete discipline forms and turn in to the school principal.
- A copy of the form will be sent to the parents.
- Repeated infractions may result in required parent discipline conferences. Failure to attend conference with the principal may result in suspension from the bus.
- Questions and inquiries regarding stops, routes, and student eligibility must be directed to the transportation director at 837-9600.

***Delayed Start Schedule**

1. **Start time at all South Tippah Schools will be announced.
2. Staff Report 45 minutes prior to announced starting time.
3. Students can be dropped off 30 minutes prior to announced starting time.
4. ***Buses can be expected to be 1-2 hours later, depending on announced starting time.
5. Breakfast and lunch will be served if possible.

*For use during inclement weather or any other occasion where a delayed start might be needed. A delayed start will accomplish multiple goals including, but not limited to, more time for road assessment, weather improvements, facility improvements, etc.

**In the event of an issue at a particular school, a delayed start could be used for only one school if conditions merited one.

***Bus drivers will be instructed to leave with enough time to run route to be able to drop students off at school no earlier than 30 minutes before the announced starting time.

DRUG TESTING

Students in extracurricular activities are subject to random drug testing. All students in grades 7-12 may be tested based on the South Tippah School District Suspicion-Based Drug and Alcohol Policy and the Random Drug Testing Policy.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND OTHER HARASSMENTS

The South Tippah School District is committed to providing a work and school environment that is free from all forms of discrimination and conduct that can be considered harassing, coercive, or disruptive, including sexual harassment. Actions, words, jokes, or comments based on an individual's sex, race, color, national origin, age, religion, disability, or any other legally protected characteristic will not be tolerated. The South Tippah School District provides ongoing sexual harassment training to ensure employees the opportunity to work in an environment free of sexual and other unlawful harassment.

Sexual harassment is defined as unwanted sexual advances, or visual, verbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. This definition includes many forms of offensive behavior and includes gender-based harassment of a person of the same sex as the harasser.

If sexual or other unlawful harassment in the work place is experienced or witnessed, report it immediately to the supervisor. If the supervisor is unavailable or it is believed it would be uncomfortable or inappropriate to contact that person, you should immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator or any administrator in the District Administrative Office.

South Tippah School District's student notification regarding reporting allegations of sexual harassment

Title IX Sexual Harassment

Title IX states "[n]o Person in the United State shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." 20 U.S.C. § 1681(a). The South Tippah School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in education programs or activity that it operates.

To all students, parents, or legal guardians, and employees:

The District's Title IX Coordinator is: Buck Buchanan, 100 CR 817, Ripley, MS 38663 buchananb@stsd.ms, 662-837-3030

The Title IX Coordinator is the person authorized by the school district to coordinate the District's Title IX compliance program. Any person may report sex discrimination, including sex harassment (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination), in person, by mail, by telephone, or e-mail, or by any means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's verbal or written report. Any District employee who knows or learns information concerning conduct related to sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment (student or employee) should immediately notify the Title IX Coordinator. Reports may be made at any time (including during non-business hours) by using the Title IX Coordinator's telephone number or email address, or by mail to the Title IX Coordinator's office address, listed above. Inquiries about the application of Title IX to the District may be directed to the District's Title IX Coordinator or to the Assistant Secretary of Education at the United Stated Department of Education, or both. Please see Policies JB and JB-P for the definition of Title IX sexual harassment and the detailed Title IX procedures.

Other Types of Sexual Harassment

The District recognizes reports of sexual harassment as being extremely serious. Any reports of sexual harassment, both Title IX sexual harassment allegations referenced above and other types of sexual harassment, will be investigated fully, and appropriate disciplinary action, as well as notification of law enforcement (if applicable), may result from such reports. Sexual harassment of employees and students will not be tolerated. Sexual harassment may include but is not limited to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct which interferes with a person's school/work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment. Other types of sexual harassment may include jokes, stories, pictures, or offensive objects, intended to alarm, annoy, abuse, or demean. Any claims of sexual harassment from students or employees should be reported to the Title IX Coordinator identified above who will determine which process to utilize based on the allegations of sexual harassment.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Every student of the district will have equal educational opportunities regardless of race, color, creed, sex, developmental disabilities, religion, or marital status. No student shall be excluded on such basis from participating in or having access to any course offerings, athletics, counseling, employment assistance, and extra-curricular activities.

Student complaint procedures for sexual discrimination, harassment, or discrimination against person with a disability are listed in the South Tippah District Board Policy and available at the district office or any principal's office (Section 504 Procedures and Title IX Procedures).

Process on how to follow a grievance:

STUDENT

The district will obtain consent from parents/guardians to initiate an investigation where the complainant or alleged victim is under age eighteen (18), and inform parents/guardians of the complainant that the complainant may be accompanied by a parent/guardian during all steps of the complaint procedure.

The Title IX Coordinator shall contact the parents/guardians and provide them with information regarding the report and the Title IX sexual harassment procedures and grievance process for formal complaints.

Any person may report sex discrimination or sexual harassment regardless of whether the person is the alleged victim. These reports may be made in person, by mail, by telephone, or email to the Title IX Coordinator, or by any other means that results in receipt by the Title IX Coordinator. For K-12 educational institutions, actual notice of sexual harassment is notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment made to <u>any employee</u>. Please see policy JB for the definition of the Title IX sexual harassment and the detailed Title IX procedures.

EMPLOYEES

The district will respond promptly to actual knowledge of sexual harassment in an educational program or activity in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent. The records should reflect that the district's response was not deliberately indifferent and that measures were taken to restore or preserve equal access to the educational program or activity. The district will treat complainants and respondents equitably by:

1. Offering supportive measures to a complainant, and
2. Following a grievance process before imposing any disciplinary sanctions on a respondent.

The Title IX Coordinator is required to contact the complainant promptly, even if a formal complaint has not been filed, to:

1. Discuss the availability of supportive measures,
2. Consider the complainant's wishes regarding supportive measures,
3. Inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint
4. Explain the process for filing a formal complaint.

Please see policy JB-P for the definition of the Title IX sexual harassment and the detailed Title IX procedures.

SCHOOL SEARCHES

DESKS AND LOCKERS

Desks and lockers are school property and remain at all times under the control of the school. However, students are

responsible for whatever is contained in desks and lockers issued to them by the school. School authorities may conduct periodic general inspections at any time for any reason related to school administration. Inspection of individual lockers or desks may occur when there is a reasonable basis to do so and in those cases, the student or a third party shall be present.

AUTOMOBILES

When a school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal or unauthorized materials are contained inside a student vehicle, the student may be required to open the automobile, including the trunk, for further inspection.

SEARCH OF STUDENTS

A student's person and/or personal effects may be searched whenever a school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student is in possession of illegal or unauthorized materials.

If a pat-down search of student's person is conducted, it will be conducted in private by a school official of the same sex with an adult witness of the same sex present.

CLASSROOM RULES

Classroom rules will be the responsibility of individual teachers. They will conform to South Tippah policies of student conduct and procedures and be formulated in collaboration with students.

VISITORS

The presence of visitors in the classroom creates distraction; therefore, n**o visitors are allowed in the classroom.**

DELIVERIES

Flowers, balloons, and other gift items are not allowed to be delivered to any school in the South Tippah School District throughout the school year.

CELL PHONE/ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, students will be allowed to have cell phones at school. However, the use of such phones will be governed by the following guidelines:

1. Once on campus, phones must be turned off and not in use. A phone that is 'on' is defined as being in use.
2. On campus, cell phones may ONLY be used for instructional purposes, at the discretion of the classroom teacher, and only during that instructional period. Instructional period is defined as any subject a student is enrolled in, including PE and study hall.
3. Administrators at each school have the privilege to ban cell phones from certain school sponsored events entirely such as field trips, field day, etc. Administrators at each school also have the privilege to ban cell phones from being on a person's body or to designate an area for cell phones to be kept.
4. No smart watches or electronic communication tools (such as Fitbits, Garmin Fitness Watches, etc.) will be worn at school. Failure to follow this regulation will result in the same discipline as being out of compliance with the cell phone policy.

Students are allowed to use cell phones on the bus to and from school within the following guidelines:

1. Students are not allowed to "talk" on the cell phone at any time as this could create an unsafe condition (noise) on the bus.
2. Students are not allowed to take pictures, including selfies, or record videos while on the bus as this could create a distraction leading to unsafe conditions on the bus.
3. Students are allowed to send text messages.
4. Students are allowed to use their cell phone and headphones to listen to music. This music is to be played at a level that cannot be heard by others on the bus.

No cell phone or electronic device will be allowed in testing rooms during statewide testing. Possession or use of cell phones or any electronic device during a statewide test will result in invalidation of the test and student will be referred for disciplinary actions.

If a student is found out of compliance with the cell phone policy, the student will be disciplined as follows:

First Offense: The cell phone will be taken by the principal or his/her designee until either a $25 fine has been paid to the school activity fund or until the phone has been kept in the school's possession for 7 days.

All further offenses: The cell phone will be taken by the principal or his/her designee until either a $50 fine has been paid to the school activity fund or until the phone has been kept in the school's possession for 30 days.

The South Tippah School District will not be held responsible for lost or stolen telephones.

During the time of confiscation, the South Tippah School District will not be held responsible for any contract or bills that must be paid to the carrier for services.

OUT-OF- SCHOOL SUSPENSION

1. Suspension is the denial of the privilege of attending school in the district imposed after due process upon any student of the district at the direction of the principal of the school in which the student is enrolled. Students under

suspension shall not trespass upon any other school campus or enter into any other school building except for a prearranged conference with a principal. Additional, students under out-of-school suspension shall not attend any day or night school function.

2. When unacceptable behavior cannot be corrected by the resource of the school, the board hereby authorized the school principal or his/her designee to suspend any student for violation of any other act of misconduct or insubordination as a final effort to influence the student's future behavior.
3. Suspension Period: The principal may suspend students for a period not to exceed 10 school days.
   For long-term suspension procedures as named in Levels IV and V Code of Discipline, see *Due Process* for initial steps and the Board Policy for details.

DUE PROCESS

When a student of the South Tippah School District is confronted with disciplinary action, the board and administrators shall afford him/her the safeguards of due process as required by applicable law. In any case, the student will be made fully aware of his/her rights and will be given an opportunity to present his/her side of the case prior to any action being taken by school officials.

The superintendent of South Tippah School District and the principal of a school shall have the power to suspend a pupil for good cause or for any reason for which such pupil might be suspended, dismissed or expelled by the board. However, such action of the superintendent or principal shall be subject to review by and the approval or disapproval of the board. If the parent, guardian or other person having custody of any child shall feel aggrieved by the suspension or dismissal of the child, then such parent, guardian, or other person shall have the right to a due process hearing. The parent or guardian of the child shall be advised of this right to a hearing by the superintendent or principal and the proper form shall be provided for requesting such a hearing. S37-9-71 (1987)

RELEASE OF STUDENTS

No student shall be suspended from school or school sponsored activity prior to scheduled release time without first notifying parent/guardian.

No student shall be released to the custody of an individual other than parent/guardian unless school authorities receive written notice from parent/guardian. Said written notice shall identify by name the person to whom student is to be released.

No student shall be allowed to leave school or school sponsored activity prior to scheduled release time unless the school has received written request from parent/guardian in advance.

Students shall not be allowed to leave and return to school or to a school sponsored activity to run personal errands or purchase supplies.

No student shall be released at the conclusion of any out-of-town school sponsored activity to return home via alternate means without prior approval by school authorities based on written request from parent/guardian for each event.

A sponsor, director, shall leave no student or chaperone at the completion of school sponsored activity to wait for a ride or to walk home.

No student shall be allowed to leave the campus to run errands for student activities unless a sponsor accompanies the student, and prior written consent from the parent/guardian is on file in the school office.

CLASSIFICATION GRADES 9-12

GRADE CLASSIFICATION (Promotion) NINE THROUGH TWELVE

To be classed a FRESHMAN	Successful completion of Grade 8
To be classed a SOPHOMORE	7 Carnegie Units
To be classed a JUNIOR	12 Carnegie Units
To be classed a SENIOR	17 Carnegie Units

Graduation Requirements

Mississippi Diploma Options Begins with incoming freshmen of 2018-2019

Diploma Options

1. The Traditional Diploma is for all students.
2. The alternate diploma is an option for students with a significant cognitive disorder (SCD)

Early Release

Early release is a term referring to the practice of schools allowing students who have earned most of their graduation credits to leave campus for part of the school day to work in the community during their ***senior*** year.

Requirements for Early Release:

For early release, students must have:

1. A 17 sub score in English on the ACT and a 19 sub score in Math on the ACT (or SAT equivalency)
2. Silver Level on ACT WorkKeys

2.5 GPA AND passed all MAAP EOC tests AND be on track to meet diploma requirements AND be concurrently enrolled in Essentials for College Math and/or Essentials for College Literacy.

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I
Science	3	• Biology I
Social Studies	3½	• 1 World History • 1 U.S. History • ½ U.S. Government • ½ Economics • ½ Mississippi Studies
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	5 ½	

TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA OPTION

Requirements

Student should identify an endorsement area prior to entering 9th grade. Endorsement requirements can only be changed with parental permission.

For early release, students must have met College or Career Readiness Benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17 English and 19 Math or earned a Silver level on ACT WorkKeys or SAT equivalency sub scores). Alternately, a student must meet ALL of the following: Have a 2.5 GPA Passed or met all MAAP assessments requirements for graduation On track to meet diploma requirements Concurrently enrolled in Essentials for College Math or Essentials for College Literacy

Recommendations

For early graduation, a student should successfully complete an area of endorsement. A student should take a math or math equivalent course the senior year.

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• Alternate English Elements I-IV
Mathematics	4	• Alternate Math Elements I-III • Alternate Algebra Elements
Science	2	• Alternate Biology Elements • Alternate Science Elements II
Social Studies	2	• Alternate History Elements (Strands: U.S. History and World History) • Alternate Social Studies Elements (Strands: Economics and U.S. Government)
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	• Alternate Health Elements
Arts	1	
Career Readiness	4	• Career Readiness I-IV (Strands: Technology, Systems, Employability, and Social)
Life Skills Development	4	• Life Skills Development I-IV (Strands: Technology, Systems, Personal Care, and Social)
Additional Electives	2	
Total Units Required	**24**	

ALTERNATE DIPLOMA OPTION

Requirements

The Alternate Diploma is not equivalent to a traditional high school diploma and is not recognized by postsecondary entities that require a traditional high school diploma.

All students are required to participate in the Mississippi Assessment Program- Alternate Assessment (MAAP-A) with a score TBD.

Students who have met the criteria on their IEP for having a Significant Cognitive Disability (SCD) may participate in a program of study to earn the Alternate Diploma.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Ensuring a bright future for every child

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I
Science	3	• Biology I
Social Studies	3½	• 1 World History • ½ Economics • 1 U.S. History • ½ Mississippi Studies • ½ U.S. Government
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
CTE Electives	4	• Must complete a four-course sequential program of study
Additional Electives	3 ½	
Total Units Required	**26**	

Traditional Diploma Endorsement Options

Students pursuing a Traditional Diploma should identify an endorsement prior to entering 9th grade. There are three endorsement options: Career and Technical, Academic, and Distinguished Academic Endorsement.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL ENDORSEMENT

Additional Requirements

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5
- Earn Silver level on ACT WorkKeys.
- Earn two additional Carnegie Units for a total of 26.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
- One CTE dual credit or earn articulated credit in the high school CTE course
- Work-Based Learning experience or Career Pathway Experience
- Earn a State Board of Education- approved national credential

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I
Science	3	• Biology I + two (2) additional science courses above Biology I
Social Studies	3½	• 1 World History • ½ Economics • 1 U.S. History • ½ Mississippi Studies • ½ U.S. Government
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	7 ½	• Must meet 2 advanced electives of the CPC requirements for MS IHLs
Total Units Required	**26**	

ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

Additional Requirements

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5.
- Courses must meet Mississippi IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC).
- Earn Mississippi IHL and community college readiness benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17 English and 19 Math as approved by postsecondary for non-
- remediation at most community colleges and IHL college-ready courses in senior year, or the SAT equivalency sub score).
- Earn two additional Carnegie Units for a total of 26.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
- One AP course with a C or higher and take the appropriate AP exam
- One Diploma Program-IB course with a C or higher and take the appropriate IB exams
- One academic dual credit course with a C or higher in the course

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I
Science	4	• Biology I + two (2) additional science courses above Biology I
Social Studies	4	• 1 World History • ½ Economics • 1 U.S. History • ½ Mississippi Studies • ½ U.S. Government
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	8	• Must meet 2 advanced electives of the CPC requirements for MS IHLs
Total Units Required	**28**	

DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

Additional Requirements

- Earn an overall GPA of 3.0.
- Courses must meet Mississippi IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC).
- Earn national college readiness benchmarks on each subtest established by ACT of 18 in English and 22 in
- Math or SAT equivalency sub score.
- Earn four additional Carnegie Units for a total of 28.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
- One AP course with a B or higher and take the appropriate AP exam
- One Diploma Program-IB course with a B or higher and take the appropriate IB exams
- One academic dual credit course with a B or higher in the course

Appendix A-5
ADDITIONAL OPTIONS IN LIEU OF SATP
7 MISS. ADMIN. CODE PT. 3, CH. 36, R. 36.4 (EFFECTIVE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR)

7 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 3, Ch. 36, R. 36.5, provides approved options for students to meet high school end-of-course Subject Area Test requirements for graduation through approved alternate measures. 7 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 3, Ch. 36, R. 36.5 applies to past, current, and future graduates and allows a student to meet the graduation requirements once he or she has failed to pass any required end-of-course Subject Area Test one (1) time.

The following graduation options provide opportunities for students to obtain a certain score or level on the ACT, ASVAB, ACT WorkKeys, MS-CPAS2, or other state-approved industry certifications. Students also may obtain a grade of "C" or higher in a dual credit/dual enrollment course, corresponding to the EOC assessment that was not passed.

Notes:

- ACT sub-scores resulting from non-college reportable accommodations can be used for graduation options, but the scores are non-college reportable.
- ACT sub-scores resulting from Residual ACT Testing cannot be used for graduation options.
- This option is available regardless of when the student took the SATP2, PARCC, or MAP assessments.
- The college credit option is only applicable if the student is enrolled in high school and college at the same time.
- The Graduation Options listed below are applicable to any Subject Area Testing Program assessment.

Assessment Options	Math	Science	English	Social Studies
ACT	17	17	17	17
Dual Credit/Enrollment	C or higher in College Algebra	C or higher in College Biology	C or higher in English Comp I	C or higher in American History
ASVAB + MS-CPAS2 OR Industry Certification	ASVAB (PICAT prescreen scores are not allowable) score of 36 **plus** one (1) of the following: 1. CPAS score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements **OR** 2. Earn approved Industry Certification specified in the Career Pathway's Assessment Blueprint			
ACT Work Keys + MS-CPAS2 OR Industry Certification	WorkKeys Silver Level **plus** one (1) of the following: 1. CPAS score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements **OR** 2. Earn approved Industry Certification specified in the Career Pathway's Assessment Blueprint.			

Policy Governing Subject Area Testing

- Students will not be required to pass any end-of-course Subject Area Test in a course for which the Carnegie unit was earned by the student in a Mississippi public school prior to the 2001-2002 school year.
- Students entering a Mississippi public school will not be required to pass any end-of-course Subject Area Test in a course for which the school accepts Carnegie units earned by the student in a public school of another state as fulfilling the requirements for a Mississippi high school diploma.

- Students entering a Mississippi public school will not be required to pass any end-of-course Subject Area Test in a course for which the school accepts Carnegie units earned by the student in a private school as fulfilling the requirements for a Mississippi high school diploma, provided the private school is accredited regionally or by the state of Mississippi.
- Students entering a Mississippi public school will be required to pass any end-of-course Subject Area Test in a course for which the school accepts Carnegie units earned by the student in a private school as fulfilling the requirements for a Mississippi high school diploma if the private school is not accredited regionally or by the state of Mississippi.
- Students entering a Mississippi public school will be required to pass any end-of-course Subject Area Test in a course for which the school accepts Carnegie units earned by the student through home schooling as fulfilling the requirements for a Mississippi high school diploma.
- Any Mississippi public school student who fails to pass a required Subject Area Test will be offered a chance to retake the test three times each year until a passing score is achieved:
    - At or near the beginning of the fall semester,
    - At or near the end of the fall semester, and
    - At the end of the spring semester.
- Any Mississippi public school student shall not be awarded Carnegie unit credit unless the core objectives identified in the Mississippi Curriculum Framework have been mastered. Passage of the required Subject Area Test is a separate requirement towards graduation and shall not be criteria for awarding Carnegie unit credit.
- Beginning with school year 2014-2015, students shall graduate by passing the course and meeting one (1) of the following options:
  a) Passing the applicable end-of-course Subject Area Test
  b) Obtain a score of 17 or higher on the corresponding subject sub-score of the ACT
     a. Algebra I = Math Sub-score
     b. Biology I = Science Sub-score
     c. English II = English Sub-score
     d. USH = Reading Sub-score
  c) Obtain an ASVAB AFQT score of 36 **plus one** of the following:
     a. Earn a CPAS score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements
     b. Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway's Assessment Blueprint and in Appendix A-5 in the current edition of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards.
  d) Obtain the Silver Level on the ACT WorkKeys **plus one** of the following:
     a. Earn a CPAS score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements
     b. Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway's Assessment Blueprint and

in Appendix A-5 in the current edition of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards.

e) Using the end-of-course Subject Area Test score with the overall course grade based on the Concordance Table for each of the four end-of-course Subject Area Tests as provided to the school districts by the Mississippi Department of Education. Students must be enrolled in school in order to utilize this option.

Any Mississippi public school student shall not be awarded Carnegie unit credit unless the core objectives identified in the Mississippi Curriculum Framework have been mastered. Passage of the required Subject Area Test is a separate requirement towards graduation and shall not be criteria for awarding Carnegie unit credit.

State Board Policy 3800 with district modification on time of retakes

Policy Governing Subject Area Test Appeals Process

- When a student, parent, or district personnel has reason to believe that, due to a scoring error, a student who did not pass a Subject Area Test should have passed the test, an appeal for rescoring may be made.
- When a student, parent, or district personnel has reason to believe that a student has mastered the subject area curriculum but is unable to demonstrate mastery on the standard statewide Subject Area Test, an appeal for a substitute evaluation process may be made.
- Specific details involving protocol and costs incurred for the above mentioned scenarios can be found in State Board Policy 7610.

SOUTH TIPPAH SCHOOLS GRADE SCALE

South Tippah Schools Grade Scale

Grades K-2		Grades 3-12	
100-90	A	100-90	A
89-80	B	89-80	B
79-75	C	79-70	C
74-70	D	69 -65	D
69 and Below	F	64 and Below	F

The Grade Scale of the South Tippah School District will adhere to the following provisions:

1. There shall be two grading periods each semester approximately nine weeks in length
2. All grades will be recorded numerically in grades K through 12.
3. The grade averages shall not exceed 100.

ACTIVE PARENT

The South Tippah School District offers a web based program called Active Parent. This program allows all parents in the district to view their children's grades at any time. If you do not currently have an Active Parent Account, you may visit www.stippah.k12.ms.us to set up an account and learn how to access the program.

STUDENT BULLYING

The South Tippah School District does not condone and will not tolerate bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any 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 or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits. To view the South Tippah School District Student Bullying Policy and Procedures information, visit the district website at www.stippah.k12.ms.us. The Bullying Policy can be found by clicking on **Board Policy** on the right side of the screen .

AIM (Automated Instant Messenger)

The South Tippah School District has purchased an automated call system for every student and employee in the district. This system allows the district to easily communicate with parents when students are absent or tardy, when sporting events change, when threatening weather occurs, or when special events are occurring at your child's school. If you are not receiving calls from this system or you want to change the phone number that is called by the automatic call system, please contact your child's school and alter your account.

HONORS

The Superintendent's List - No grade less than 90 recorded on the report card*
The Principal's List - No grade less than 80 recorded on the report card*
Exemptions-Students with perfect attendance shall be exempt from the final exam
*Excluding PE, Handwriting, and Art (grades k-8)

Handwriting grades, PE grades, and Art (grades k-8) will not be considered when determining the Superintendent's List or the Principal's List.

PROMOTION-RETENTION POLICY

Promotion and Retention in the South Tippah School District shall be based on the mastery of objectives which shall include the core skills as defined by the Mississippi Curriculum Structure. The objectives may also include skills deemed necessary by the teachers or skills that may be required by the South Tippah School Board. In no case shall a student be retained for extra-curricular purposes.

1. Kindergarten through second grade must pass math and language arts.
2. Students in grades three through seven must pass both math and language arts. Students must also pass either of the following: social studies, science, any other graded elective course that is offered. (Seventh grade Pine Grove students will be required to pass **two** of the graded elective courses that are offered).
3. Students in grade eight must pass both math and language arts. Students must also pass **two** of the following: social studies, science, and any other graded elective course that is offered.
4. Cursive writing is introduced in the second semester of the second grade with mastery to be achieved in third grade.
5. Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, a student scoring at the lowest **TWO** achievement levels in reading on the established state assessment for 3rd grade will not be promoted to 4th grade unless the student meets the good cause exemptions for promotion.

NOTE:

1. Students who are in the ELL Program must not be retained based on language skills. Promotion decisions will be determined by the SET (Student Evaluation Team).
2. Students who participate in alternate assessment shall have promotion decisions determined by the IEP committee.

INTERVENTION PROCESS

Part 3 Chapter 41, Rule 41.1 Intervention

Adoption Date: January 21, 2005, Revision: December 20, 2018, Effective: March 24, 2019

1. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the behavioral and academic needs of every student are met through an instructional model that is designed to address student learning with quality classroom instruction and opportunities for intervention. The Mississippi Department Education (MDE) shall require every school district to follow the instructional model, which consists of three (3) tiers of instruction:
   a. Tier 1: Quality classroom instruction based on Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks
   b. Tier 2: Focused supplemental instruction
   c. Tier 3: Intensive interventions specifically designed to meet the individual needs of students
2. If strategies at Tier 1 and Tier 2 are unsuccessful, students must be referred to the Teacher Support Team (TST). The TST is the problem-solving unit responsible for interventions developed at Tier 3. Each school must have a Teacher Support Team (TST) implemented in accordance with the process developed by the MDE. The chairperson of the TST shall be the school principal as the school's instructional leader or the principal's designee. The designee may not be an individual whose primary responsibility is special education. Interventions will be:
   a. designed to address the deficit areas;
   b. evidence based;
   c. implemented as designed by the TST;
   d. supported by data regarding the effectiveness of interventions.
3. Teachers should 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 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.
4. After a referral is made, the TST must develop and begin implementation of an intervention(s) within two weeks. No later than eight weeks after implementation of the intervention(s) the TST must conduct a documented review of the interventions to determine success of the intervention(s). No later than 16 weeks after implementation of the intervention(s), a second review must be conducted to determine whether the intervention(s) is successful. If the intervention(s) is determined to be unsuccessful, then the student will be referred for a comprehensive assessment.
5. In accordance with the Literacy-Based Promotion Act of 2013, each public-school student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading at any time, as demonstrated through:
   a. performance on a reading screener approved or developed by the MDE, or
   b. locally determined assessments and teacher observations conducted in Kindergarten and Grades 1 through 3, or
   c. statewide end-of-year assessments or approved alternate yearly assessments in Grade 3, must be given intensive reading instruction and intervention immediately following the identification of the reading deficiency.

A student who was promoted from Grade 3 to Grade 4 under a good cause exemption of the Literacy-Based Promotion Act must be given intensive reading instruction and intervention. The intensive intervention must include effective instructional strategies and appropriate teaching methodologies necessary to assist the student in becoming a successful reader, able to read at or above grade level, and ready for promotion to the next grade.

6. A dyslexia screener must be administered to all students during the spring of their kindergarten year and the fall of their first-grade year. The screening must include the following components:
   a. Phonological awareness and phonemic awareness;
   b. Sound symbol recognition;
   c. Alphabet knowledge;
   d. Decoding skills;
   e. Encoding skills; and
   f. Rapid naming (quickly naming objects, pictures, colors, or symbols (letters or digits) aloud.
7. All students in Kindergarten and grades 1 through 3 shall be administered a state- approved screener within the first 30 days of school and repeated at mid-year and at the end of the school year, to identify any deficiencies in reading. **EXCEPTION: Students in grade 3 who are not identified for intervention on mid-year screeners are not required to be screened again at the end of the school year.** In addition to failure to make adequate progress following Tier 1 and Tier 2, students will be referred to the TST for interventions as specified in Response to Intervention guidelines developed by MDE if any of the following events occur:
   a. Grades K-3: A student has failed one (1) grade;
   b. Grades 4-12: A student has failed two (2) grades;
   c. A student failed either of the preceding two grades and has been suspended or expelled for more than twenty (20) days in the current school year;
   d. A student scores at the lowest level on any part of the Grade 3 or Grade 7 statewide accountability assessment; or
   e. A student is promoted from Grade 3 to Grade 4 under a good cause exemption of the Literacy-Based Promotion Act.
8. Referrals to the TST must be made within the first twenty (20) school days of a school year if the student meets any of the criteria a-e stated above in Paragraph 7.
9. School districts must complete, at a minimum, documentation as required for all students in Tier 2 or Tier 3. All Tier 3 documentation must accompany the student's cumulative folder upon promotion or transfer to a new school.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-177-1, et seq., (Revised 12/2018)

SCHOOL MEALS

Parents are encouraged to go to www.myschoolapps.com to apply for free or reduced meals.
Online payments for meals can be made at www.myschoolbucks.com

Students	Full Pay Breakfast	$1.00	Reduced Pay Breakfast	$ .30
	Full Pay Lunch	$3.00	Reduced Pay Lunch	$ .40

STUDENT MEDICAL CARE

The South Tippah District personnel may not exceed the practice of first aid in dealing with pupil injuries and sickness, and only qualified personnel shall administer first aid to pupils.

Medication shall not be provided for student use by the school or its employees.

Medication shall not be administered to students without South Tippah School Board approval. The superintendent may grant permission to a principal or his/her designee to administer medication to a student.

The emergency permission may be given under the following conditions:

1. The medication is prescribed by a physician.
2. The medication is under the supervision/control of the principal or his/her designee.
3. The doctor's statement requesting that the school personnel administer the drug is filed with the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The request must include the child's name, the name of the drug, directions for administering the drug, and the length of time the student is expected to need the medication.

INSURANCE

The South Tippah School District does not furnish a school accident policy that would cover the school day or any extracurricular activities. Parents may purchase school day insurance if they so desire. Students who participate in MHSAA sponsored activities must provide proof of insurance before they are allowed to participate.

COMPULSORY-SCHOOL-ATTENDANCE/TRUANCY

1. The following terms as used in this policy are defined as follows:
   a. "Parent" means the father or mother to whom a child has been born, or the father or mother by whom the child has been legally adopted.

b. "Guardian" means a guardian of the person of a child, other than a parent, whom a court of competent jurisdiction legally appoints.
c. "Custodian" means any person having the present care or custody of a child, other than a parent or guardian of said child.
d. "School day" means not less than five (5) and not more than eight (8) hours of actual teaching in which both teachers and pupils are in regular attendance for schedule schoolwork.
e. "School" means any public school in this state or any nonpublic school in this state which is in session each school year for at least one hundred fifty-five (155) school days, except that the "nonpublic" school term shall be the number of days that each school shall require for promotion from grade to grade.
f. "Compulsory-school-age child" means 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 years on or before September 1 of the calendar year.
g. "School attendance officer" means any full-time employee of the youth court or family court assigned to monitor compulsory public school attendance, to investigate the nonattendance of the compulsory-school-age children and to counsel all school-age children to attend school.
h. "Appropriate school official" means the superintendent of the school district or his designee or, in the case of a nonpublic school, the principal or the headmaster.

2. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child in this state shall cause such child to enroll in and attend a public school or legitimate nonpublic school for the period of time that such child is of compulsory school age, except under the following circumstances:
a. When a compulsory-school-age child is physically, mentally or emotionally incapable of attending school as determined by the appropriate school official based upon sufficient medical documentation.
b. When a compulsory-school-age child is enrolled in and pursuing a course of special education, remedial education or education for handicapped or physically or mentally disadvantaged children.
c. When a compulsory-school-age child is being educated in a legitimate home instruction program.

3. 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, provided, however, the provisions of this subsection shall not apply to children enrolled in a nonpublic school. For the purpose of determining and reporting attendance, a pupil must be present for at least sixty-three percent (63%) of his/her instructional day, as fixed by the local school board, and defined by the student's schedule, in order to be considered in full-day attendance.

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 of an authorized school activity with the prior approval of the superintendent of the school district or his/her designee. Such 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 illnesses or injury, which prevents the compulsory-school-age child from being physically able to attend school.
c. An absence is excused when the county health officer, the State Board of Health, or the appropriate school official orders isolation of a compulsory-school-age child.
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 member of a compulsory-school-age child shall include children, spouse, grandparents, parents, brothers and sisters, including stepbrothers and stepsisters.
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/her designee is gained prior to the absence, except in the case of an 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 such 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 child's parents adheres, requires or suggests the observance of a religious event. The approval of such absence is within the discretion of the superintendent of the school district or his/her 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/her 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 such absence must be gained from the superintendent of the school district or his/her designee prior to the absence but such approval shall not be reasonably withheld.
i. An absence may be excused when it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the superintendent of the school district or his/her designees that conditions are sufficient to warrant the compulsory-school-age child's nonattendance.

4. If a compulsory-school-age child has not been enrolled in a school within fifteen (15) calendar days after the first day of the school year of the school that such child is eligible to attend or such child has accumulated five (5) unlawful absences during the school year of the pubic school in which such child is enrolled, the principal or school superintendent shall within two (2) school days or within five (5) calendar days whichever is less report such absences to the school attendance officer of the youth court or family court.

STEPS TO FOLLOW WHEN ABSENT

1. Bring the appropriate written excuse to the office on the day that you return to school (should contain your name, date, day/days of absence, reason for absence).
2. Present the note to office personnel.
3. Present your admission slip to each of your teachers for their initials as you go to class during the day.
4. Leave the admission slip with your last period teacher.
5. Be sure to check on and make up any work missed.
6. It is left to the discretion of the school to take phone messages when students are absent.

ABSENCES AND MAKE-UP WORK FOR ABSENCES

If a student has an excused absence and is allowed to make up work, it must be done under the following conditions:

1. Teachers and students should work collaboratively to arrange times for make-up work.
2. Make-up work must be requested and will be completed within three (3) days unless other arrangements are made in advance with the teacher.
3. Students are responsible for making up any missed work, tests, or projects.
4. Grades not made up will be recorded as zero.
5. All make up work will be completed before final exam week.

PARENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: FAMILY EDUCATION RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA), AND PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records.

The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal, building administrator or his or her designee, a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the South Tippah School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record that they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

The right to consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception that permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the District discloses educational records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

South Tippah School District may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless parent/guardian has advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the South Tippah School District to include this type of information from your child's records in certain school publications. Examples include: A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production; the annual yearbook; honor roll or other recognition lists; graduation programs; school web pages; and sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal

laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)* to provide military recruiters, upon
request, with three directory information categories-names, addresses and telephone listings-unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

The South Tippah School District has designated the following information as directory information:

Student's name	Major field of study
Address	Dates of attendance
Telephone listing	Grade level
Electronic mail address	Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
Photograph	Weight and height of members of athletic teams
Date and place of birth	Degrees, honors, and awards received
The most recent educational agency or institution attended	The name/s of parent/s

Parents and eligible student may review this notice and prior to the commencement of each school year and no later than September 1 request in writing at the school site in attendance that all or any part of such information on their child not be made available to the public.

The rights under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) affords parents and students who are 18 or emancipated minors ("eligible students") certain considerations regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams.

These include the right to:

- *Consent* from parents before minor students are required to participate in any U.S. Department of Education funded survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning the following areas:
  Political affiliations;
  Mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student and his/her family;
  Sex behavior and attitudes;
  Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating and demeaning behavior;
  Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
  Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
  Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent; or
  Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program.)
- *Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of--*
  Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
  Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
  Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.
- *Inspect,* upon request and before administration or use--
  Protected information surveys of students;
  Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
  Instructional material used as part of the education curriculum.

South Tippah School District students in grades 6-12 participate in a survey as part of the evaluation of the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program. This is administered at the beginning of the school year in all district schools. A parent may request that the student opt out of the survey by making a written request in the principal's office.

Physicians at the beginning of the school year provide Physical Examinations of students who plan to participate in sport -related activities. A parent may opt the student out of the physical examination and screening provided by the school if an examination is done by a physician of parent choice and record of such is provided school. Note that a physical examination is required to participate and to protect the immediate health and safety of the student/s.

The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA or PPRA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is the following: Family Policy Compliance Office, Department of Education, Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington DC 20202-4505

Federal Regulations state that parents have the right to know the qualification of their child's teacher. The district schools will notify those parents of a student whose teacher is not highly qualified, as defined in Federal Regulations

Highly Qualified Teacher Definition, or should a substitute be needed for an extended period (over 4 weeks). The district will also distribute to parents a school report card each year. Should a school, based on statistical data, be determined by the Mississippi Department of Education to be classified a dangerous school, parents will be notified. Should a Title I school, based on statistical data of student achievement and growth, be determined by the Mississippi Department of Education to be in School Improvement, parents will have the right to school choice and supplemental services as determined by the Act.

The district is providing a program for English Language Learners at each school.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL-PARENT-STUDENT COMPACT

As a component of the school-level parental involvement policy, each school advisory council that is served by the Title I program has jointly developed with parent representatives a school-parent-student compact. This compact outlines how parents, the school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student achievement. This compact provides the means to build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State's high standards.

The teacher and parent or guardian is encouraged to discuss with the students the responsibilities of all groups in this shared partnership to promote productive school experiences. Your signature on the last page of this handbook signifies agreement and commitment.

South Tippah School District

School-Parent Compact

Name: Kelly Gates
Title: Federal Programs Director
Telephone Number: 662-837-7156
Email Address: gatesk@stsd.ms

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We value your role in working to help your child achieve high academic standards. The following is an outline of some of the ways you and school staff can build and maintain a partnership to share the responsibility for supporting your child's learning.

School's Responsibility:

1. Provide high quality curriculum and learning materials
2. Provide you with assistance in understanding academic achievement standards and assessments and how to monitor your child's progress
3. Provide opportunities for ongoing communication between you and teachers through, at a minimum:
   a. Annual parent-teacher conferences,
   b. Frequent reports regarding your child's progress, and
   c. Opportunities to talk with staff, volunteer in class, and observe classroom activities

Parent's Responsibility:

1. Encourage your child to attend school regularly
2. Encourage your child to show positive school behavior
3. Review your child's homework
4. Monitor television watching and encourage positive use of your child's extracurricular time
5. Volunteer in your child's school and classroom if time or schedule permits
6. Attend parent-teacher conferences and participate, when appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of your child.

Please review this School-Parent Compact with your child. This School-Parent Compact may be discussed with you during a parent-teacher conference as it relates to your child's school progress.

Thank you for your support and involvement in your child's education. Please contact the person above for more information.

SOUTH TIPPAH SCHOOL DISTRICT
INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Computers in the South Tippah School District have network access to the Internet, a world-wide data highway that carries the freight of the information age, including electronic mail, digital video and sound, as well as traditional text documents. This is an incredible resource for our students. Unfortunately, there can be a down side. Some information on the Internet is not age appropriate for students. The South Tippah School District has adopted this acceptable use policy to ensure that students, parents, and teachers understand the appropriate use of the South Tippah District Network.

A. The South Tippah District is in compliance with the COPPA AND CIPA laws. CIPA requires that the District have in place a filtering system that will block inappropriate information.
B. COPPA requires that the District not disclose personal information about students on websites such as their full name, home or email address, telephone number and social security number. COPPA makes it illegal to transmit, or retransmit: copyrighted materials (including Plagiarism), threatening, harassing, or obscene material, pornographic material, or material protected by trade secret, and/or any other material that is inappropriate to minors.

PERSONAL SAFETY

1. Users will not disclose, use, disseminate or divulge personal and/or private information about himself/herself,

minors or any others including personal identification information, etc.
2. The South Tippah School District will not disclose personal information about students on websites such as their full name, home or email address, telephone number and social security number.

EDUCATION OF STUDENTS ON INTERNET SAFETY

Each student will receive age appropriate education on acceptable online behavior. This will include:
1. The standards and acceptable use of internet services as set forth in the District's AUP
2. Student safety with regard to safety on the internet, appropriate behavior while on social networking sites or in chat rooms or email
3. Cyber-bullying awareness and response

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.

ILLEGAL AND/OR UNACCEPTABLE USAGE
1. User agrees not to access, transmit or retransmit any material(s) in furtherance of any illegal act or conspiracy to commit any illegal act in violation of local, state or federal law or regulations and/or South Tippah School District policy.
2. User shall not access, transmit, or retransmit copyrighted materials (including Plagiarism), threatening, harassing, or obscene material, pornographic material, or material protected by trade secret, and./or any other material that is inappropriate to minors.
3. User shall not access, transmit or retransmit any material that promotes violence or the destruction of persons or property by devices including, but not limited to, the use of firearms, explosives fireworks, smoke bombs, incendiary devices, or other similar materials.
4. User shall not use the network for any illegal or unauthorized access, including but not limited to hacking.
5. User shall not access, transmit, or retransmit language considered offensive, defamatory, or abusive.
6. User shall not access, transmit or retransmit information that could cause danger or disruption or engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks.
7. User shall not access, transmit or retransmit information that harasses another person or causes distress to another person.

SYSTEM RESOURCE LIMITS
1. User shall only use the South Tippah Schools system for educational and career development activities and limited, high quality self-discovery activities as approved by the South Tippah School District
   faculty members for a limited amount of time per week. Any information downloaded from the Internet should be related to a teacher-made classroom assignment or project. This requirement applies to any information such as computer software and not-print images. Teachers will have disks available for student use. Students will not be permitted to bring disks from other sources for use at school.
2. User agrees not to download large files unless it is absolutely necessary. If absolutely necessary to down load large files, user agrees to download the file at a time when the system is not being heavily used.
3. User agrees not to post chain letters or engage in "spamming" (that is, sending an annoying or unnecessary message to large numbers of people).
4. User agrees to immediately notify his/her teacher or other school administrator should user access inappropriate information. This will assist in protecting us against a claim of intentional violation of this policy.

USER RIGHTS
1. User shall have the responsibility to use computer resources for academic purposes only. Therefore, as mandated by CIPA, filtering will be utilized on all computers accessing the Internet. The only exception will be for academic research by a staff member with the approval of the school administration.
2. The South Tippah School District will fully cooperate with local, state or federal officials in any investigation related to illegal activities conducted through the user's Internet account.
3. Under no conditions should a user provide his/her password to another person or use another person's password.
4. User should not expect files stored on a school-based computer to remain private. Authorized staff will periodically inspect folders, and logs of network usage will be kept at all times. Routine review and maintenance of the system may indicate that user has violated this policy, school codes, municipal, state law or federal law. Parents of minor users shall have the right to inspect the contents of user's files.
5. Individual schools within the district may create additional guidelines and procedures **provided** they are consistent with this policy.
6. Use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Unacceptable and/or illegal use may result in denial, revocation, suspension and/or cancellation of the user's privileges, as well as disciplinary action imposed by school officials.

CONSEQUENCES FOR FAILURE TO FOLLOW TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY
1. There will be consequences for any user who fails to follow the South Tippah School District guidelines and policies.

2. The consequences may include paying for damages to the system, denial of access to technology, detention, suspension, expulsion or other remedies applicable under the school disciplinary policy, and state and/or federal law. At the discretion of the South Tippah School District, law enforcement authorities may be involved and any violations of state and/or federal law may result in criminal or civil prosecution.

ANY USER OF THE SOUTH TIPPAH SCHOOL DISTRICT INTERNET SYSTEM MUST Sign THE last page. (Any user is defined as student, student's parent and any teacher, administrator, staff, parent or community member using computers on campus.) **The student and parent must sign in the appropriate place and agree to the statements.**

STUDENT RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION POLICY

The South Tippah School District Board of Trustees supports a positive approach to behavior that uses proactive strategies to create a safe school climate that promotes dignity, creates authentic student engagement, and improves student achievement for all students.

In accordance with Miss. Code Ann.§§ 37-9-69 and 37-11-57, it is recognized that staff may intercede in situations wherein students are displaying physically violent behavior or are deemed to be a danger to themselves or others. The use of excessive force or cruel and unusual punishment regarding student management is prohibited, Restraint and/or seclusion shall not be utilized as a punitive measure.

Only school personnel trained in the use of restraint and seclusion should be used to observe and monitor these students. Staff engaged in monitoring students shall have knowledge of effective restraint and seclusion procedures, emergency procedures and knowledge of how to effectively debrief students after the use of restraint or seclusion.

This policy in no way shall inhibit the right of staff to reasonable self-defense in accordance with the provisions of the 5th and 14th amendments to the Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of Mississippi, nor negate the obligation of the district to provide a safe work environment.

In any situation in which a student is a danger to himself, herself or others, and it becomes necessary to contact law enforcement or emergency medical personnel, nothing in this policy guidance shall be construed to interfere with the duties of law enforcement or emergency medical personnel.

Restraint

Physical restraint is considered to be an emergency response after all other verbal and non-verbal de-escalation measures have failed in effectiveness. When using physical restraint for students who are a danger to themselves or others, staff should take precautions necessary to ensure the safety of the student and the staff members engaged in restraining the student.

1. Physical restraints that restrict the flow of air are prohibited in all situations.
2. The use of mechanical restraints is prohibited, except by law enforcement.
3. The use of chemical restraints is prohibited.

Seclusion

The use of seclusion occurs in a specifically designated room or space that is physically isolated from common areas and from which the student is physically prevented from leaving. The room or space used for seclusion may not be locked and staff shall be present to monitor the student. Seclusion shall cease once the student regains control of his or her behavior.

SOUTH TIPPAH SCHOOL DISTRICT
TONY ELLIOTT, SUPERINTENDENT
402 GREENLEE AVENUE
RIPLEY, MISSISSIPPI 38663
TELEPHONE 662-837-7156 · FAX 662-837-1362

TONYA KUHL
Business Administrator
MELISSA HOOD
Food Service Supervisor
AMANDA CHILDS
Payroll/Accounting
RUBY BENNETT
Testing Coord./Pre-K Dir./Asst. Superintendent
STACEY STREET
Trans/Alt. School Director
JOANNA OZBIRN
SPED Director
KELLY GATES
FED. Programs/Dir. of Curriculum
PAT LONG
Administrative Assistant

6/7/2024

To: The Parents, Guardians, Staff and Faculty of South Tippah School District

In July of 2022, our school system underwent an official AHERA 3-year inspection which was completed by a licensed asbestos inspector. The system was found to be safe and with no threat of asbestos damaging materials to our students, faculty, and staff.

In addition to the AHERA inspection, we have a surveillance check twice per year in each of our schools to determine the status since the last check was made.

We will continue the above measures to help ensure our facilities are safe for everyone to work and learn.

Stacey Street

South Tippah School District Asbestos Coordinator

District Office Staff
Phone: 837-7156 or 837-7630 Fax: 837-1362
Bus Shop: 837-9600 or 882-1518 (cell)
Oscar Shannon Building 837-3677

Superintendent, 504 Coordinator	telliott@stsd.ms	Tony Elliott	662-837-7156
Administrative Assistant and Capital Assets Coordinator		Pat Long	662-837-7156
Business Administrator		April Horton	662-837-7156
Accounts Payable and Payroll		Amanda Childs	662-837-7156
Food Service Supervisor		Melissa Hood	662-837-8779
Assistant Food Service Supervisor		Amber Graves	662-837-8779
Director of Special Education		Joanna Ozbirn	662-837-7630
South Tippah Pre-School Director, District Test Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, Assistant Superintendent	buchananb@stsd.ms	Buck Buchanan	662-837-3030
Director of Federal Programs, EL Coordinator, Homeless Liaison, Foster Care Point of Contact, Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator, Assistant Superintendent	gatesk@stsd.ms	Kelly Gates	662-837-7156
Director of Transportation, Director of Alternative School, Assistant District Test Coordinator and Asbestos Coordinator, Teacher Licensure		Stacey Street	662-837-9600 662-882-1518
Remediation Coordinator		Kali Buchanan	662-837-3677
Assistant Remediation Coordinator		Susan Smith	662-837-3677
District Dyslexia Coordinator		Shanna Ligon	662-837-3677
Dyslexia Therapist		Allison Trull	662-837-3677
Technology Coordinator		Clint Stroupe	662-837-3677

District Office Address: 402 Greenlee Avenue, Ripley, MS 38663
South Tippah Pre-K Address: 100 CR 817, Ripley, MS 38663

Principals of the South Tippah School District

Blue Mountain School	Mr. Lee Holt	email: holtl@stsd.ms	Phone: 662-685-4706
Pine Grove School	Mr. John Eaton	email: eatonjohn@stsd.ms	Phone: 662-837-7789
Ripley Elementary School	Mrs. Leigh Anne Sanderson	email: sandersonla@stsd.ms	Phone: 662-837-7203
Ripley Middle School	Mr. Tommy Ozbirn	email: ozbirnt@stsd.ms	Phone: 662-837-7959
Ripley High School	Ms. Anita Hood	email: hooda@stsd.ms	Phone: 662-837-7583
Tippah Career & Tech. Center	Mr. Kevin Williams	email: williamskev@stsd.ms	Phone: 662-837-9798

SOUTH TIPPAH SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR 2024-2025

July	29-31	Staff Development (no students)
August	1	Students 1st Day
August	30	1st Month Ends
September	2	Labor Day Holiday
September	30	2nd Month Ends
October	7-11	Fall Break
October	31	3rd Month Ends
November	25-29	Thanksgiving Holidays
November	22	4th Month Ends
December	17-19	EXAMS
December	19	60% day
December	20	Staff Development (no students)
December	20	5th Month Ends
December	23-3	Christmas Holidays
January	6	Staff Development (no students)
January	7	Classes Resume
January	20	M.L. King Holiday
January	31	6th Month Ends
February	17	Staff Development (no students)
February	28	7th Month Ends
March	10-14	Spring Holidays
March	31	8th Month Ends
April	18	Good Friday
April	30	9th Month Ends
May	20-22	EXAMS
May	22	Last Student Day (60%) PG Graduation
May	23	BM & RH Graduation
May	23	Staff Development (no students)

THIS CALENDAR HAS 180 STUDENT DAYS AND 187 TEACHER DAYS

Regular Bell Schedule
7:35 First Bell
7:50-9:26 First Block
9:32-11:08 Second Block
11:15-1:25 Third Block
1:30-3:06 Fourth Block

Alternate Bell Schedule
7:35 First Bell
7:50-9:15 First Block
9:16-9:39 Activity Period
9:40-11:08 Second Block
11:15-1:25 Third Block
1:30-3:06 Fourth Block

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance is of the utmost importance. The greatest single cause of failure or lack of interest in school work is irregular attendance. The parent or guardian must call the high school office or produce a medical excuse within 3 days of the absence in order to be excused. Students have three parent calls per semester to excuse an absence. After that, a doctor's note will be required to excuse an absence.

Tardies will be recorded in the office and in teacher grade books. Excessive tardies (3 during 9 weeks) will result in the following disciplinary process: 3 tardies = warning; 4 tardies = 1 after school detention and a letter home to parents; 6 tardies = 1 day ISS; 8 tardies = 1 after school detention. Continued problems could result in out of school suspension and alternative placement.

A student must never leave school after they arrive on campus without checking out at the office. Any student who does so shall be considered as skipping school. Students have three parent calls to excuse a checkout. After that, a doctor's note will be required to excuse a checkout. District policy states "Students shall not be allowed to leave and return to school or to a school sponsored activity to run personal errands, purchase supplies, parts, or food."

If an absence in unexcused, the highest grade recorded for missed work is 65.

INCOMING FRESHMAN CORE COURSE PLACEMENT

Incoming freshmen will be placed in the appropriate core classes based on teacher recommendation, 8th grade final course grades, and 8th grade state test scores. Administration can use other data points as needed to make the appropriate course placement.

COLLEGE DAYS

Junior and Senior students have two college days that can be taken each year. These absences will be excused if proper documentation is provided to the office within three days of absence. These excused absences are in addition to the three parent calls per semester to excuse an absence.

WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

Any student desiring to withdraw from school is to go to the principal's office. A withdrawing student is to report to each of his teachers, homeroom teacher, and librarian with a withdrawal form which provides a place for the following:
(a) Return of textbooks
(b) Charges for lost or damaged books
(c) Current and/or withdrawal grade
(d) Any school indebtedness

Each person involved will indicate whether or not the student has settled all accounts. One copy of the student withdrawal form when completed is given to the student to present to the next school. Another copy is filed in the student's permanent record.

Withdrawal is not official and complete until the parent of guardian has contacted the school office. Before procedure is completed, the principal will - secure whatever information is necessary to complete the student's record.

CLUB AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Requirements for electing class and club officers:

1. The student must have been enrolled in the Ripley High School System during the previous year.
2. The student must have passed all subjects scheduled during the previous year.
3. The student's conduct and deportment record for the previous year shall have evidenced traits of character, personality, and leadership that reflect credit and honor upon himself, the class, or club, and the community.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students must meet state regulations for daily attendance to practice or participate on a given day.

STUDENT COUNCIL AND CLASS OFFICERS

The Student Council shall consist of the following officers elected by the entire student body grades 9-12 under the by-laws of the council: President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer. Each class grades 9-12 will also elect class officers to serve on the council, with the following titles: President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer. Class officers must meet the same qualifications as student council officers (g.p.a., no failures, and petition to run).

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The National Honor Society is a non-secret, scholarship-leadership-service organization for high school students. Its purposes are to encourage effort, reward merit, and promote those actions and qualities which make for good citizenship in the school community, and encourage and assist students to continue their education after high school graduation.

To qualify for membership in the National Honor Society, a student must have an overall A average of 95; to continue as a member, they must maintain an academic average of 93 with similar average in citizenship.

F.C.A.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes is open to all high school {grades 9 - 12} athletes who wish to participate.

SPANISH CLUB

Spanish I, II, III students are encouraged to join this club

ENRICHMENT VOLUNTEERS
The Enrichment Volunteers is a student-led, community service volunteer organization open to all high school students (grades 9-12) who want to make a difference in the community around them by helping others and enriching lives through service. Membership is based on active volunteer work. Ripley Main Street Youth Ambassadors: Selected members of the Enrichment Volunteers in their junior or senior year of high school serve as Ripley Main Street Youth Ambassadors. The Ambassadors help plan and organize the various festivals and events sponsored by the Ripley Main Street Association, as well as work as volunteers at the planned events.

WHO'S WHO "Who's Who" will be voted on by the student body. All elected students must have passed 6 credits the previous year and have no major discipline infractions.

FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America)
Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America is a nonprofit national career and technical student organization for young men and women in Family and Consumer Sciences education in public school grades 9th through 12th. FCCLA is the only national Career and Technical Student Organization with the family as its central focus. Since 1945, FCCLA members have been making a difference with their families, careers, and communities by addressing personal, work, and societal issues through Family and Consumer Sciences education. Chapter projects focus on a variety of youth concerns including parenting, family relationships, substance abuse, peer pressure, the environment, nutrition and fitness, and career exploration. Involvement in FCCLA offers members the opportunity to expand their leadership potential and develop skills for life such as planning, goal setting, problem solving, decision making and interpersonal communication that are necessary in the home and workplace.

National Art Honor Society
National Art Honor Society provides national recognition and opportunities for students who exhibit outstanding scholarship in the visual arts. Student members may earn a Rainbow Honor Cord to wear at graduation. Membership requirements include: art teacher recommendation, completion of a semester block of art class with an A average, overall QPA of 2.0, student participation in Ripley High School art show, and 10 hours of art related community service. Cost: $20 for cord and membership card, $5 for renewing members.

ATHLETICS

Ripley High School promotes the following athletic activities: archery, baseball, basketball, cross country cheerleading, football, golf, pom, softball, soccer, tennis, track, and volleyball. These are subject to the rules and regulations of the South Tippah School District Athletic Handbook.

CHEERLEADERS/POM SQUAD

Cheerleaders and Pom Squad members will abide by the RHS Cheerleader/Pom Squad guidelines provided to each member before tryouts.

HOMECOMING

This event is scheduled by administration and coaches and is subject to change. The student body will select twelve maids from the senior class by plurality vote. From the top twelve, the senior class will select the top three by plurality vote. The homecoming queen will be the student with the most votes from the senior class vote. All maids and escorts (if students are utilized) must have passed 6 credits the previous year and have no major discipline infractions.

AUTOMOBILES

Bringing an automobile to school is a privilege and not a right. Vehicles should be registered in the office and operators must have a valid license and tag. Students must operate their vehicles in a safe manner. Do not disturb school with dangerous driving or loud music. Automobiles should be parked, vacated, and locked immediately upon arrival. Students should not return to their vehicles without permission until their scheduled time of departure. Students may only have authorized riders in their vehicles. Failure to follow rules pertaining to automobiles may result in the loss of car privileges on campus and/or other disciplinary action.

BAND

Students enrolled in band must meet the requirements established by the director as to practice and rehearsals beyond regular class meetings. Band students must meet MHSAA requirements for eligibility.

PARKING

Students must register in the office in order to park on campus. Students must provide a valid driver's license and proof of insurance along with a completed parking form signed by the parent/guardian.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FORMS

Students should obtain school attendance forms for driver's licensing in the office. They are valid for thirty days.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements will be made each morning at the beginning of first block. Announcements can be seen daily on the Ripley High School Twitter page (@RipleyHS).

ACTIVITY PERIOD (Alternate Schedule)

Activity period may be used for assembly and club meetings. All students are required to be in their designated place during activity period.

MEDIA CENTER

In addition to everyday assistance and instruction on the use of library materials and resources given to pupils in the media center, students enrolled in high school will be offered formal lessons in the use of media center books and other facilities by the librarian or designated teacher upon scheduled request. Any student may visit the media center during their lunch period except for during the librarian's assigned lunch duty time. The Media Center will also be available to students for a short period before and after school. Teachers are welcome at any time during the day.

Media Center rules of conduct apply at all times. Talking and unnecessary moving about the room will not be permitted. Books may be borrowed at any time the media center is open.

Magazines and other permanent resources may not be taken from the media center except at the request of teachers and then only for classroom work.

A fine of ten cents a day (each day the media center is open) will be charged for all overdue books. If a student has a book that is two weeks over-due or a fine that is unpaid, additional books may not be checked out until the student's name is removed from the delinquent list. At the close of the term, credit will not be given for courses completed until misplaced books have been found and returned, all fines are paid, or reimbursement for lost book(s) is paid.

ASSEMBLY

Assembly programs of various types are held throughout the school year. Pep rallies constitute programs. Each class has an assigned seat that is to be occupied at assembly programs.

BUS REGULATIONS

School buses will load and unload in the designated area each day. Stay away from curbs while buses load. Students should not attempt to cross the street as buses are pulling out. While on the school bus you are under the supervision of the driver and your conduct and responsibilities are the same as if you were in the classroom. Do not cross the street into the bus loading zone after the buses start rolling.

DANGEROUS AND IMPROPER ITEMS

Improper and dangerous items categorized elsewhere in the handbook will be confiscated. Teachers are asked to pick up any of these discovered and bring them to the office. Those items not categorized as illegal may be picked up by parents.

EXEMPTIONS

All exemptions are determined on a class by class basis. Students may only be exempt at the end of each semester. Students will be exempt if they meet the following criteria:

1. Students enrolled in a full semester (1 credit) course may be permitted exemptions from final exams with an average of 90 or above. Students enrolled in a 9 weeks (1/2 credit class) also may be exempt with an average of 90 or above.
2. Students who have perfect attendance may be exempt pending a grade of C or above.
3. Any discipline referral forfeits exemption regardless of grade or attendance.

GRADING AND GRADES

Report cards will be given out on the Thursday following each nine week period. Final senior ranking shall be determined by grades at the end of the 3rd nine weeks to include Valedictorian and Salutatorian. For classes still in progress, the grade at the end of the 3rd nine weeks will serve as the final grade for the purpose of calculating QPA's. Classes that start after the end of 3rd nine weeks will not be used in class rank or QPA calculations. QPA's will be recalculated for any senior student that drops a class after the T3 grading period.

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

Valedictorian will be chosen based on the highest cumulative Quality Point Average (QPA) over all courses attempted through 3T of the senior year. Salutatorian will have the second highest cumulative Quality Point Average (QPA) over all courses attempted through 3T of the senior year. Because a higher number of nonweighted courses can skew a student's QPA, a student with all A's and a higher number of weighted (5.0) courses will outrank a student with all A's and with a fewer number of weighted (5.0) courses regardless of QPA.

Requirements of the valedictorian and salutatorian include earning a cumulative QPA of 4.0 or higher, meeting the requirements to complete the Mississippi Scholar Program, and completing at least 3 weighted (5.0) courses.

In the event that two students have taken the same number of weighted (5.0) courses with all A's and they both have all A's in all other courses taken, they will have tied QPA's. In the event of a QPA tie, the student with the highest cumulative grade point average (GPA in CORE courses will be Valedictorian. In the evet of a second-round tie, the Valedictorian distinction will be shared. The same consideration will be given in the case of a tie for Salutatorian.

QUALITY POINT SCALE

QPA scale for AP Course and dual enrollment courses in core subjects
A = 90 - 100 = 5 points
B = 80 -89 = 4 points
C = 70 -79 = 2 points
D = 65 - 69 = 1 points
F = 0 - 64 = 0 points

QPA scale for regular courses
A = 90 - 100 = 4 points
B = 80 -89 = 3 points
C = 70 -79 = 2 points
D = 65 - 69 = 1 points
F = 0 - 64 points = 0 points

QUALITY POINT AVERAGE CALCULATION

QPA's are calculated with the following formula and will be calculated up to four decimal places for class ranking purposes:

(Sum of quality points) / (Sum of credits)

The total number of quality points on all courses attempted divided by the total number of all credits attempted.

* 1/2-credit courses will be awarded half of the Quality Point for calculation purposes.
* 2-credit courses will be awarded 2 times the Quality Point for calculation purposes.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE CALCULATION

GPA's are calculated with the following formula and will be calculated up to four decimal places for class ranking purposes:

(Sum of final averages) / (Sum of credits)
The total number of numerical final averages on all courses attempted divided by the total number of all credits attempted.

* 1/2-credit courses will be awarded half of the Grade Points for calculation purposes.
oo 2-credit courses will be awarded 2 times the Grade Points for calculation purposes.

ONLINE CLASSES

Online classes can only be taken if the class is not being offered at Ripley High School or in case of unusual circumstances approved by administration.

INSURANCE

The school district furnishes an accident policy covering the school day and extracurricular activities. Students who incur injuries should report them to the office and obtain a claim form.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are furnished by the State of Mississippi, and each student is responsible for those books issued to him. When books are checked back in, they will be examined and if they have been damaged a fine will be assessed. Textbooks lost during the school year must be paid for before a new one can be issued. Grades and report cards will be withheld until a student's textbooks are returned or purchased.

TEACHER PUPIL RELATIONSHIP

The teacher is in charge at all times. No student shall show disrespect to any teacher at any time.

LUNCHROOM

Student may eat in the cafeteria only. Students are allowed to bring their lunch in non-commercial containers. Fast food containers may not be brought on campus or dropped off at the office. Students are not allowed to leave campus for lunch.

Meals in the cafeteria are $3.00 for students. Meals may not be charged. Free/reduced forms are provided at the beginning of the semester and must be returned to become effective.

Students are responsible for picking up their trash in all designated eating areas.

Students are not to go to lockers, congregate in hallways, or disturb classes during lunch periods.

VISITORS

Visitors are to report to the office upon arrival on campus.

VO-TECH

Bus transportation is provided in accordance with policies of respective school districts; however, students shall be able to drive herself or himself to the Center with permission from their high school principal and Career Center Director.

TELEPHONE

School telephones are for business use only.

FIRE DRILL

1. A signal for fire drills is encoded in the intercom system and will be utilized in drills.
2. The teacher in each class will be responsible for his/her students. The teacher will dismiss the students in an orderly fashion (single file by rows along that room's evacuation route out of the building to their designated area.
3. Teachers will be the last to leave the room and will see that ALL windows and doors are closed and all electrical appliances are disconnected.
4. Upon arriving at the designated outside area each teacher will check his/her roll and send a verbal report to the principal if anyone is missing. If there is a serious fire (or event) then teachers will go with students to the football field and stay until buses arrive.

EVACUATION ROUTES FOR RIPLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Each teacher will have evacuation routes posted in their classroom and will follow routes in case of an emergency or drill.

DISASTER DRILL

An orderly procedure will be followed when severe weather warnings are issued. The entire staff and the student body must be prepared to meet the possibility of disaster. A state of unpreparedness cannot be permitted to exist; therefore, the following steps should be followed.

1. A signal for tornadoes is encoded in the intercom system and will be utilized in all drills.
2. Students and teachers having classes in gymnasiums, auditorium, and band halls will come immediately to the main building and be seated.
3. Students will exit room in single file and go immediately to the hall of the building and sit in the hallway. They are to sit with their heads on their knees. Stay away from doors and windows to avoid flying glass. Students in the Math-Science Complex will kneel in classrooms because of excessive glass in halls.
4. The Principal will check all buildings before anyone is to move from their designated places of safety.
5. Signal for the end of the drill will be an all clear announced over the intercom.

CLASS LOAD

Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors must carry 4 credit bearing classes per semester. Seniors are required to take necessary classes to complete state mandated graduation requirements

AFTER SCHOOL DETENTION

Students with discipline referrals may be assigned to after school detention (45 minutes). After School Detention will be each Tuesday and Thursday from 3:10 pm until 3:55 pm. Students are to report to Room 108 before 3:10 pm.

THIS PAGE MUST BE SIGNED BY THE PARENT/GUARDIAN AND STUDENT AND RETURNED TO THE HOMEROOM TEACHER.

STUDENT'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S WORK NUMBER _____

This certifies that I have read the rules and regulations stated in this handbook and understand the policies as outlined. I further recognize the school home responsibilities as stated in the School/Parent Compact.

_____
Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

_____
Signature of Principal Date

_____
Signature of Teacher Date

Internet Appropriate Use Agreement

I have read the South Tippah School District Internet Appropriate Use Agreement. I understand and will abide by the terms and conditions as stated.

_____
* User's Signature (Student) Date

As a parent or guardian of this student, I have read this Acceptable Use Policy for Internet access and usage. I understand that this access is for educational purposes and the South Tippah School District has taken precautions to eliminate controversial materials and I will not hold the South Tippah School District responsible for materials acquired on the network. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision is and when my child's use is not in a school setting. I hereby give my permission for my child's access and use of the Internet in the South Tippah School District.

_____
Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

*(Any user is defined as student, student's parent and any teacher, administrator, staff, parent or community member using computers on campus)

South Tippah School District
Vision Statement
and Mission Statement

VISION

To provide a community minded
educational program
with an emphasis on STEM, career,
and character education
through highly effective teachers and staff
integrating technology into instruction
while achieving an 'A" accountability rating.

MISSION

To build a strong community
through quality education.