

South Tippah School District

**Mr. Tony Elliott
Superintendent of Education**

BLUE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

Student/Parent Handbook and Event Calendar

www.stsd.ms



2025-2026

**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 2025-26 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 TIPPDAH SCHOOL DISTRICT 2025-2026 BOARD MEMBERS



(STANDING LEFT TO RIGHT)

Corey Hargett—District 4
Brantson Vuncannon, District 5
Kevin Barefield—District 2

(SITTING LEFT TO RIGHT)

Nicole Bullock—District 3
Tim Clark-President—District 1
Price Elliott, Board Attorney

South Tippah School District Calendar and Handbook 2025-2026

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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 Policies 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 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, 1990, each parent or legal guardian or other adult with whom a student lives, must provide to the School Administration the following documents:

1. The parents or legal guardians of a student seeking to enroll must provide the South Tippah School District with two proofs of residency from Group 1. In circumstances where two proofs of residency cannot be provided from Group 1, the second proof of residency can be provided from Group 2 with building administrator approval. No post office box address will be accepted as a proof of residence. Please note: a sworn affidavit of residency is no longer acceptable. Acceptable proofs of residency include:

Group 1

- 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) Certified copy of filed petition for legal guardianship if pending and a final decree when granted

Group 2

- a) Current doctor, dentist, or hospital bill (mailed, showing name and address)
- b) Current credit card statement (showing name and address)
- c) Current Insurance Policy (showing name and address)
- d) Current state or federal benefit check
- e) Current Government mailing (Social Security or Medicaid Determination letter, IRS, etc.)
- f) Any documentation that will objectively and unequivocally establish that the parent or guardian resides within the South Tippah School District
- g) Personal visit by a designated school district official

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 device, 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 loses 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-I

- 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

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
- 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

Threat/Assault/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 distracting 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 not 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

Joggers, School-Issued Sweat Pants

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 NOT:

- 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 educational programs or activity that it operates.

To all students, parents, or legal guardians, and employees: The District's Title IX Coordinator is: Tommy Ozbirn, 410 Greenlee Drive, Ripley, MS 38663 ozbirnt@std.ms, 662-837-3677

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 States 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 any employee. 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, **no 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/electronic device 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/electronic device 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
3. 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.



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	
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:
 - o At or near the beginning of the fall semester,
 - o At or near the end of the fall semester, and
 - o 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 TIPPDAH 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 one 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 extra-curricular 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 public 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

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,

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



- 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.

6/16/2025



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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stacey Street".

South Tippah School District Asbestos Coordinator

District Office Staff
402 Greenlee Avenue, Ripley, MS 38663
Phone: 837-7156 or 837-7630 Fax: 837-1362
Bus Shop: 837-9600 or 882-1518 (cell)
Oscar Shannon Building: 837-3677
South Tippah Pre-K Address: 100 CR 817, Ripley, MS 38663

Superintendent	Tony Elliott	662-837-7156
Assistant Superintendent, Director of Federal Programs, EL Coordinator, Homeless Liaison, Foster Care Point of Contact, Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator	gatesk@stsd.ms Kelly Gates	662-837-7156
Administrative Assistant and Capital Assets Coordinator	Pat Long	662-837-7156
Accounts Payable and Payroll	Amanda Childs	662-837-7156
Asbestos Coordinator	Garrett Grisham	662-837-7156
Business Administrator	April Horton	662-837-7156
Assistant Food Service Supervisor	Amber Graves	662-837-8779
Food Service Supervisor	Melissa Hood	662-837-8779
Director of Special Education	Joanna Ozbirn	662-837-7630
Assistant District Test Coordinator, Teacher Licensure, Director of Alternative School	Tyler Stroupe	662-837-4626
Director of Transportation	Ricky Dobbs	662-837-9600
SIP Grant Coordinator and District Test Coordinator	Angie Gossett	662-837-3030
At Risk Liaison, Title IX Coordinator, Disciplinary Hearing Officer	ozbirnt@stsd.ms Tommy Ozbirn	662-837-3677
District Dyslexia Coordinator and 504 Coordinator	ligons@stsd.ms Shanna Ligon	662-837-3677
Dyslexia Therapist	Allison Trull	662-837-3677
Technology Coordinator	Clint Stroupe	662-837-3677

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	Mr. Kelly Ward	email: wardk@stsd.ms	Phone: 662-837-7203
Ripley Middle School	Mr. John Keith	email: keithj@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 2025-2026

July	28-31	Staff Development (no students)
August	1	Students 1st Day
August	29	1st Month Ends
September	1	Labor Day Holiday
September	30	2nd Month Ends
October	6-10	Fall Break
October	31	3rd Month Ends
November	24-28	Thanksgiving Holidays
November	21	4th Month Ends
December	17-19	EXAMS
December	19	60% day
December	19	5th Month Ends
December	22-2	Christmas Holidays
January	5	Staff Development (no students)
January	6	Classes Resume
January	19	M.L. King Holiday
January	30	6th Month Ends
February	16	Staff Development (no students)
February	27	7th Month Ends
March	9-13	Spring Holidays
March	31	8th Month Ends
April	3	Good Friday
April	30	9th Month Ends
May	19-21	EXAMS
May	21	Last Student Day (60%) PG Graduation
May	22	BM & RH Graduation
May	22	Staff Development (no students)

THIS CALENDAR HAS 180 STUDENT DAYS AND 187 TEACHER DAYS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

With much excitement and anticipation, I want to welcome you to the 2025-2026 school year at Blue Mountain School. As principal, I want to express my commitment to providing a safe environment where students can learn and grow to reach their full potential. It is my pleasure to work with our dedicated staff to push your children academically and encourage them to be the best version of themselves. It is my aim to provide a school environment that is fair and consistent. This handbook will serve as a guide when you are unsure about a rule or policy at Blue Mountain School. We are excited to begin the year and look forward to working with you and your child and having a safe and productive school year.

Sincerely, Mr. Lee Holt

LUNCH

Blue Mountain School will have a closed lunch period. All food and drinks served in the lunchroom shall be consumed in the lunchroom- NOT BROUGHT OUTSIDE.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In order to protect classes from interruptions, announcements will be made each morning before classes begin or at the end of a class period.

TELEPHONE

The telephone is for school faculty and staff business only. Students shall not be allowed to use the phone except in cases of emergency. Students will be called to the telephone only in the case of an emergency. Messages will be left in the office and given to the faculty/staff or student at the appropriate time.

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, tag and insurance on file in the office. 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 exit campus immediately following their final scheduled class. 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.

Tippah Career and Technology Center students driving their automobiles to the Tippah Career and Technology Center must have parental permission on file in the office. Riders must have parental permission on file in the office as well as the driver.

Failure to abide by these rules may result in denial by the school administration of a student's privilege to drive an automobile on school property.

MAKE-UP WORK

It is the student's responsibility to arrange time with the teacher for makeup work. If an absence is unexcused, the highest grade recorded for missed work is 65. Students have three days to make up work for full credit after his/her return to school if the absence is excused. In grades K-12 three parent notes OR three parent calls to excuse a checkout per semester will be allowed. Parent notes must be used for the first three absences OR excused checkouts per semester that are not excused by a doctor's note.

MATH PLACEMENT

Incoming freshmen will take Foundations of Algebra as a prerequisite to Algebra I. Exceptions to this rule may be made at the discretion of the school administration.

SCIENCE PLACEMENT

Incoming freshmen will take Foundations of Biology as a prerequisite to Biology I. Exceptions to this rule may be made at the discretion of the school administration.

LEAVING SCHOOL

Check Out Policy

1. Students must turn in a check out note to the office before the start of their school day. This note must include: date, time to check out, parent's name, parent's signature, and a valid phone number for the parent. The parent will be contacted during the day to check the validity of the note. If the parent cannot be reached, whether the student is allowed to leave school is left up to the discretion of the principal.
2. Please call the school by 2:30 p.m. if you need to relay a message to your child, such as a change in transportation, to ensure timely delivery.
3. No student will be called from the office to check out after 2:40 pm in the school day.

WITHDRAWING STUDENTS

Any student desiring to withdraw from the Blue Mountain School is to report to the Guidance Counselor's office to obtain a withdrawal form.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are furnished by the State of Mississippi, and each student is responsible for those books issued to him or her. When books are checked back in, they will be examined and if they have been damaged a fine will be assessed. Textbooks that are lost or damaged beyond reasonable use, parents or guardians will be charged the full replacement price. Grades and report cards will be withheld until a student's textbooks (and library books) are returned or purchased.

SELLING ON CAMPUS

Students may not sell products on campus for personal gain or for any organization other than the school.

GRADES

Computer report card printouts will be given out on the Thursday following each nine-week period.

Blue Mountain Grading policy/scale

Major	70%
Minor	30%

There shall be a minimum number of grades given in the tests and daily grades categories. A minimum of 4 test grades and 8 daily grades shall be given each 9 weeks.

EXEMPTIONS GRADE 5-12

Students can be exempt from final exams in one of two ways:

1. The students enrolled in a full year (1 Credit) course are permitted exemption the last semester if they have a yearly average of 90 or above and no more than 6 absences excused or unexcused for the year in this course.
2. The students enrolled in a one semester course are permitted exemption at the end of the semester if they have an average of 90 or above and no more than 3 absences excused or unexcused for the semester.
3. Students who have perfect attendance for the year shall be exempt, provided they have passing grades. The classroom teacher will keep attendance records for each of his/her classes.

HONORS

VALEDICTORIAN and SALUTATORIAN

Valedictorian will be chosen 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 QPA over all courses attempted through 3T of the senior year.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian must complete at least two weighted (5.0) courses. Because a higher number of non-weighted courses can skew a student's QPA, a student with all As and a higher number of weighted (5.0) core courses will outrank a student with all As and with a fewer number of weighted (5.) core courses regardless of QPA.

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) will be Valedictorian. In the event 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.

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.

Quality Points 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 point

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= 0 points

Quality Points Calculation

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

$(\text{Sum of quality points}) / (\text{Sum of credits})$

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 points for calculation purposes

*2-credit courses will be awarded two times the quality points 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:

$(\text{Sum of Final Averages}) / (\text{Sum of Credits})$

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

*2-credit courses will be awarded two times the grade points for calculation purposes

Seniors who have maintained an overall 3.5 GPA will be recognized as Honors Graduates.

BUS REGULATIONS

School buses will load and unload around the gym. Stay away from moving buses. You are under the supervision of the driver, and you conduct and responsibilities are the same as if you were in the classroom.

LUNCHROOM

The Blue Mountain lunchroom provides breakfast and lunch for the convenience of the students. Meals are served in accordance with regulations of the Federal Lunch program and State Health Department. Students desiring reduced or free meals must fill out an application following the link and directions from the district website.

All food and drinks served in the lunchroom must be consumed in the lunchroom and not taken outside.

GUIDANCE PROGRAM

The guidance program is established to assist students in gaining greater benefits from the total education program at Blue Mountain School. Students are encouraged to use the guidance counselor. The guidance counselor of Blue Mountain School subscribes to the statement of philosophy as defined in the Mississippi Personnel and Guidance Association's operational model of Secondary School Guidance Services.

The primary role of the school counselor is to attend to the development needs and the personal social-emotional problems which the students encounter as they interact within their environment. The school counselor does assume the role of a teacher and disciplinarian. The counselor is an active member of the staff of professionals assigned to the task of providing students the opportunity to develop self-direction. To this end, the counselor works closely with other educators, parents, and community to help the students adjust to school life in its facets-academic, vocational, social and personal.

LIBRARY

Books may be borrowed at any time the library is open. Magazines and reference books may not be taken from the library except at the request of a teacher and then for classroom work only.

Each student has access to the library for at least one period each day.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council of Blue Mountain High School is composed of student body officers and representatives of grades 9 through 12. The purpose of the Student Council is to provide students an opportunity to acquire experience in the democratic process, to serve as a link between the student body and staff and administration, and to promote cooperation and efficiency at Blue Mountain High School.

CLUBS

BETA CLUB

The Beta Club is an organization which stresses leadership and service. Requirements for membership are maintaining a semester average of at least "85" in each subject.

JUNIOR BETA CLUB

Students in grades 7 and 8 who maintaining a semester average of at least "85" in each subject area may be members of the Junior Beta Club. This organization stresses leadership and service.

YEARBOOK STAFF

These students are responsible for publishing the school yearbook and school newspaper.

FCA

Fellowship of Christian Athletes is a non-denominational club for all students 7-12.

DISASTER DRILL

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

1. Signal for the drill will be two long rings on the regular bell system.
2. Faculty members will be responsible for students under their direction and will close all doors and windows of the room.
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.
4. Students and teachers having classes in the gymnasium, auditorium, or other buildings will go immediately to the main building and be seated.
5. Principal will check all buildings before anyone is to move from the designated place of safety.
6. Signal for the end of the drill will be the ringing of the regular bell system.

FIRE DRILLS

Fire drills at regular intervals are required and are an important safety precaution. When the first signal is given, it is essential for everyone to obey orders promptly and to clear the building by the prescribed route as quickly as possible. The teacher in each classroom will give the instructions to the students.

The following rules will apply to this situation:

1. The signal for drill will be three short rings on the regular bell system.
2. When the alarm is sounded, the teacher will be the person to identify it. Students will leave their classrooms in an orderly fashion under the supervision of the teacher. To be sure that this is done properly and without delay, the teacher, upon hearing the signal, will remind the students of the exit route and then be the last one to leave the room. There will be no talking except by the teacher.
3. Students will file out in a single file at a quick walk, no running.
4. The teacher will be responsible for designing a plan for the safe exit of all physically handicapped children in his/her classroom.
5. Students will exit from the door indicated by the teacher, and they will remain with the class while the teacher calls the roll.
6. After each fire drill, the all-clear signal will be given by sounding a very long ring on the regular bell system. This will be done with as little confusion and delay as possible.

Fire Drill Instructions

Main Building

West Hall

North Exit

Rm. 11

go to entrance of parking lot (NW section of campus)

Rm. 14

go to lunchroom road (Running N and S on west side of school building)

West Exit (by girls' bathroom)

Rm. 20

go to lunchroom road

South Exit
Rm. 24 go to area behind gymnastic set
Rm. 23 go to area by lower swing set
Rm. 19 go to area behind garbage dumpster
Rm. 21 go to west end of elementary building

East Hall

North Exit
Rm. 10 go to bench area behind school buses
Library go to bench area behind school buses
South Exit
Lollar go to road behind gym (north end)

Lunchroom

go to north side area of elementary building

Gym

South Exits go on road behind gym to elementary parking lot
(East side of campus)

Fire in Lower Elementary Building

Exit:

South Door.....Rooms on the south side of the lower end of the building
(pine Trees)
North Door.....Rooms on the north side of the lower end of the building
(by basketball courts)
East Door.....Rooms on the upper end of the building (metal building)

Fire in Upper Elementary Building

Exit:

South Door.....Rooms on the south side of the upper end of the building
(west to highway)
North Door.....Rooms on the north side of the upper end of the building
(by basketball court)
West Door.....Rooms on the lower end of the building
(toward high school parking lot)

Fire in High School Area

Exit: All rooms will exit to the south side of the elementary building to the highway area using the following exits:

East Door.....Rooms on the upper building
South Door.....Kindergarten, offices, lounge, and restrooms
West Door.....All rooms on the lower end of the building not listed in
south door exit.

Be familiar with all escape plans. Teachers will be responsible for getting their class out safely and checking the roll. Assign one or two responsible students to be the leaders to the designated safe area outside. The color-coded escape plan located in your rooms will be the one to follow during fire drills in the elementary building.

STEPS TO FOLLOW WHEN ABSENT

1. Bring written excuse to the office upon your return (excuse should contain your name, date, day/days of absence, reason for absence). Or the child's parent or guardian must call the office with the appropriate information. Must be brought within 3 days. Each student will be able to use three parent notes per semester for unexcused absences.
2. Present the note to office personnel between 7:20 and 7:50 a.m. or call before 10:00 a.m.

TARDINESS

Elementary Grades K-6:

It is very important that your child be at school on time each day. Students are to be in their classroom at 7:45 a.m. Students arriving after that time must report to the office for permission to enter class. Excessive absences and tardies will be reported to the attendance officer. This will be strictly enforced.

High School Grades 7-12:

Tardiness is categorized under two headings:

1. The initial appearance on campus: A student who is late arriving must check in at the office.
2. Homeroom and classes: Students who are late for classes will have their tardy recorded by the teacher in Sam's.

On the accumulation of the 5th and for every subsequent tardy, the student will be punished by ISS / corporal punishment / suspension at the principal's discretion. The accumulation of tardies will be done on a nine weeks basis.



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.