

Gatesville Elementary School Student / Parent Handbook



2024--2025

Joyeria Brothers - Principal

Table of Contents

Topic
Welcome Letter
Professional Staff List
Gates County Schools Calendar
GES Dragons ROAR Behavior Matrix
Arrival and Departure
Safe and Orderly Schools
Health and Safety
After School / Academics
Parent Involvement Throughout the Year
GES Master Schedule
Inclement Weather / CMS Delay and Early Release Schedules
Library Schedule
Computer Schedule
Homework and Make-up Policies
Attendance
Policy Code: 4400 Attendance
GES Attendance Notification/Parent Meeting
Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow
Gates County Public Schools Reporting Term for Grades K-12 (Tentative)
Policy Code: 6220 Operation Of School Nutrition Services
Policy Code: 4316 Student Dress Code
Policy Code: 3226/4205 Internet Safety
Policy Code: 3225/4312/7320 Technology Responsible Use
No Bullying Zone
Bus Behavior
Federal Legislation Prohibiting Discrimination
Respect for ALL!



Gatesville Elementary School

Mrs. Joyeria Brothers
Principal



709 Main Street
Gatesville, NC 27938
(252) 357-0613
fax (252) 357-2809

Dear Gatesville Elementary Students and Parents,

We are looking forward to another great year! Last year went by so quickly, but yet, it was very productive. We are very proud of the overall growth achieved by our students. Our goal is to offer a superb education to your child. This year, we will continue to focus on the following: 1) Increasing school attendance, 2) Increasing positive behavior, and 3) Increasing student academic growth in all subjects.

In order to reach optimal success, we must work together: parents, students, and staff. One way to strengthen our partnership is through open communication. Communication is imperative! We will keep you informed via our school website, Parent Page, School Dojo Board, Class Dojo, Remind, Parent Portal, Monthly School Calendar of Events, and/or School Connect Calls.

In closing, we ask you to continue encouraging students to stay focused, work hard, try their best, and treat others the way they want to be treated. We will maintain our high expectations for students academically and behaviorally. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Joyeria Brothers

Gatesville Elementary School Professional Staff

Professional Staff

Joyeria Brothers	Principal
Mary Bunch	Prek
Nikki Galzerano	Prek
Helen Smith	Prek
Leslie Keith	Kindergarten
Jennifer Rose	Kindergarten
Meredith Barnhill	1st Grade
Faye Freeman	1st Grade
Tammy Evans	2nd Grade
Jessica Harrell	2nd Grade
Crystal Lee	3rd Grade
Lori Lollies	3rd Grade
Gracie Boyce	4th Grade
Robin Mitchell	4th Grade
C. Hailey Hedgepeth	5th Grade
Dorisha Walton	5th Grade
Sherry Jones	EC
Tricia Lewis	Art
Suzanne Newbern	Dance
Aretha Ruffin	Guidance
Andy Riddick	Health/PE
Heather Turner	Media
Vacant	Music
Lisa Lassiter-Jordan	Nurse
Wanda Hathaway	Technology Assistant

Support Staff

Carolyn Hurdle	Day Care Director
Ginny Cowper	Bookkeeper/Payroll
	School Secretary
Dennis Lassiter	FT Custodian
Timothy Rice	PT Custodian
Hurley Jones	PT Custodian
Devin Riddick	Teacher Assistant
Madison Mills	Teacher Assistant
Tracey Carr	Teacher Assistant
Robin Boone	EC Assistant
Shalland Beamon	EC Assistant
Angela Pierce	EC Assistant
Jo Chatman	Prek Assistant
Amanda Ward	Prek Assistant
Kristin Knapp	Prek Assistant
Danielle Smith	Prek Assistant

Child Nutrition

Wendy Carpio	Manager
Vanda Bond	Assistant
Lisa Knight-Ralph	Assistant
Janet Thorpe	Assistant
_____	Assistant

Itinerant Staff

Amanda Dillard	EC/Prek Coordinator
Erica Bradley	Speech

Gates County Public Schools Website:
<https://coserver.gates.k12.nc.us/>

Gatesville Elementary School Website:
<https://coserver.gates.k12.nc.us/Domain/110>

Gates County Public Schools

2024-2025 School Calendar

July

4.....Independence Day Holiday

JULY 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January

1.....New Year Holiday
2.....Annual Leave
3.....Optional Workday
6.....1st day of 2nd Semester
20.....Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

JANUARY 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August

12-16.....Optional Workdays
19-21.....Mandatory Workdays
22-23.....Optional Workdays
26.....First Day of School

AUGUST 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February

17.....Optional Workday
18.....Mandatory Workday

FEBRUARY 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

September

2.....Labor Day

SEPTEMBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

March

13.....End of 3rd Nine Weeks
14.....Optional Workday

MARCH 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13*	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

October

24.....End of Nine Weeks
25.....Optional Workday

OCTOBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24*	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April

17-18.....Optional Workdays
21-25.....Spring Break

APRIL 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

November

11.....Veterans Day
27.....Annual Leave
28-29.....Thanksgiving Holiday

NOVEMBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May

26.....Memorial Day Holiday
30.....Last Day of School
30.....End of 4th Nine Weeks/Early Release

MAY 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30*	31

December

20.....Early Release
20.....End of the Nine Weeks
23.....Annual Leave
24-26.....Winter Break
27-30-31.....Annual Leave

DECEMBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20*	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June

2-3.....Mandatory Workdays
4-6.....Optional Workday





JUNE 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

First Day of School/ First Day Z nd Semester	Mandatory Workday (No School for Students)	Holidays (No School)	Annual Leave Days (No School)
Early Release Days (1:00pm)	Optional Workday (No School for Students)	*End of the Nine Weeks	

Approved – 2/12/24



Gatesville Elementary School Dragons ROAR Behavior Matrix

	Playground	Lunch Room	Bathroom	Hall	Bus	Classroom
	Wait your turn. Share.	Have your lunch number ready. Use your inside voice.	Let others have privacy.	Keep hands to yourself.	Keep hands, feet, and materials to yourself. Use your inside voice while talking to others.	Have materials ready and be prepared. Use your inside voice.
	Stay in your class area.	Wait your turn.	Three students at a time.	Walk on the correct side of the hall.	Keep feet and book bag out of the aisle.	Raise your hand. Keep materials in your area.
	Include everyone.	Make good food choices.	Wash your hands.	Keep quiet.	Raise your hand to talk to the bus driver.	Complete all work. Follow classroom rules.
	Throw any trash in trashcans.	Take your trash to the trashcan.	Pick up trash. Flush the toilet.	Keep hands off walls and artwork.	Pick up trash. Keep candy or food in book bag.	Turn in completed work.

MANAGEMENT OF STUDENT BEHAVIOR

It is the intent of Gatesville Elementary to provide a learning environment for all students that is safe, orderly, and inviting. In order to create such an environment, Student Behavior Policies are established by the local School Board (Series 4300) and communicated through the Gates County School Student Policy and Information Manual. Gatesville Elementary School utilizes a continuous improvement model known as PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) that applies positive behavior interventions and systems that will reinforce clearly defined expectations. The PBIS matrix for our school is included in this handbook. Throughout the school year, our administration and staff will provide opportunities to reward appropriate behaviors and teach new behavior and skills where needed. In addition, the school has established a student behavior plan to support state and district policies. These guidelines will be used in situations when corrective action is necessary to maintain an orderly environment in which students can learn, accept consequences, and develop self-discipline.

The school's student behavior plan is applicable before, during, or after school hours when a student is on any school premises managed by the school (including the Community Center), on a school-sponsored activity, school transportation (including waiting at any bus stop), or under the direction of school personnel. Students shall comply with the directions of administrators or their designee, teachers, substitute teachers, student teachers, teacher assistants, bus drivers, and all other school personnel who are authorized to give such directions during any period of time when they are subject to the authority of such school personnel. Administrators and other school officials are authorized to involve law enforcement in serious violations in any category and are required to involve law enforcement in cases of certain alleged criminal acts as set forth in G.S. 115C-288(g). In such cases, school officials shall cooperate fully with the law enforcement agency.

The student behavior plan is meant to be a guide that is supportive of positive behavior and provides constructive measures for correcting and managing student behavior in a way that repeated misbehavior and suspensions are avoided. The plan may be changed at the discretion of the principal or their designee, if warranted, based upon the investigation of the incident and/or severity of the situation. Students and parents may appeal any consequence imposed by a school administrator per the procedure outlined in the student behavior plan and the county's Student Policy and Information Manual. The following information should assist parents and students in understanding how behavior policies will be specifically implemented.

Classroom Management Plan:

Each teacher will communicate to students their behavior and academic expectations for their classes. The teacher, using strategies that include conferencing, warnings, phone calls to parents, and removal from the classroom for short time periods, will handle minor classroom disruptions. Classroom rules will be communicated to students and parents.

Dragon Care (JSS):

Reflection time will be assigned by the administration for class periods or full days depending on the consequences for the student's behavior. Reflection will be served during the regular school day. Written and/or verbal notification will be provided to parents outlining the behavior and resulting consequence. Students will be supervised by grade-level teachers and are expected to spend time working on assignments and adhering to the reflection classroom management plan. If a student

refuses to work during the reflection time period, they will be referred to administration, and if after conferencing, a student still refuses to comply, the student will receive OSS. The time assigned for reflection must be completed prior to a student returning to the classroom. Students may not choose to serve OSS rather than serving the assigned reflection. If a student is referred to reflection for a full day(s), they may not attend school-sponsored events after school (athletics, trips, club activities, etc.).

Out-of-School Suspension (OSS):

OSS is assigned by the administration for situations in which behavior is deemed to be severely disruptive, harmful to the student and/or others, in violation of North Carolina Criminal Statutes, or a pattern of repetitive violations. In addition to an incident referral, every effort will be made to immediately contact parents by phone to advise them of the situation, and make transportation arrangements. Students who are placed on OSS cannot participate in any school-sponsored events or be present on any Gates County school property (including the Community Center) during the time of suspension.

Discipline Review:

In addition to individual conversations held with students and parents by classroom teachers and administration, parents are encouraged to contact school personnel if they have concerns regarding classroom management plans or consequences for student misconduct. It is the desire of the school administration that most situations can be resolved at the local school level by working together.

Exceptional Children/Students with Disabilities:

Consequences and actions for misbehavior for students identified as exceptional children according to the North Carolina guidelines will conform to *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities*. Any consequence (ISS or OSS) resulting in a student being removed from their designated instructional area will be communicated to the student's case manager and/or the director of the exceptional children's program to ensure that the student still receives mandated services.

Behavior and Resulting Consequence:

The following is a list of behavior policy violations and a guideline for consequences. The administration will take into consideration the severity/frequency of the student's misbehavior when applying the consequence. Following an investigation, the consequence may be changed at the administration's discretion. All incident referrals that receive a consequence will become a part of the student's disciplinary record for the current school year. For the purpose of the GES Behavior Management Plan, repetitive is defined as three (3) occurrences. Three (3) minor consequences for the same behavior will result in a Major consequence. Three (3) major consequences for the same behavior will result in an Extreme consequence.

Behavior Response Matrix

<u>Minor</u> <i>Consequence – Administrative Conference, then 1 to 3 days Silent Lunch. If this continues the consequence will be to the administrator's discretion.</i>			
Inappropriate Location on or off campus - student is not in designated area based on their daily schedule or do not have permission from school personnel to be in an area; this includes being off campus during lunch	Disruption - horseplay, loud voices, etc. either in classroom, hallways, cafeteria, etc. that is not of an aggressive nature	Spitting/Biting	
Inappropriate Language - inadvertent use of profane language overheard but not directed towards a student or staff member	Dress Code – after student has failed to comply with attempts to adhere to policy (<i>students who violate dress code will be asked to remain in ISS until a change of clothes can be provided then they will be allowed to return to class; upon the third violation, ASD will be assigned</i>)	Cheating/Plagiarism – 1 st incident will be submitted as a referral and result in counseling. Student receives a zero and the classroom teacher contacts the parent. Extracurricular bylaws and guidelines will be followed	
Inappropriate display of affection – kissing, prolonged hugging			
<u>Major</u> <i>Consequence – First offense, Administrative conference, then 1 to 3 days during the class period or full day Dragon Care (ISS) up to 3 days (Referrals accumulated by school year)</i>			
Failure to Follow Classroom or School Rules and Policies - Repetitive failure to comply with directions or requests to follow classroom or school rules that impact the academic goals of Buckland or the need to keep order	Abusive Language - repetitive use of insulting, harassing, profane language, or gestures overheard/ seen but not directed towards a student or staff member. Includes race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, nationality, or religion	Property Damage - resulting from student misbehavior or negligence (may include restitution for damages)	

Major

Consequence – First offense, Administrative conference, then 1 to 3 days class period or full day Dragon Care (ISS) up to 3 days (Referrals accumulated by school year)

Misrepresentation/ Forgery - providing false information to school personnel verbally or by forging notes or other documents that interferes with a behavior management investigation or academic integrity.	Disruption Endangering the safety and welfare of self and others - arguing, yelling, and refusing to cooperate in such a manner that it causes a disruption to the learning environment or disturbance that affects the ability to maintain order of other students during any school activity or location <i>(nonaggressive physical contact could occur – bumping or attempts to protect oneself)</i>	Instigating others to participate in inappropriate behaviors (not including physical contact).
	Bullying – intimidation through verbal and/or cyber attacks during or after school time <i>(these communications are not conducting sexual or physical threats but are disruptive to student learning)</i> **	

Extreme

Consequences – Dragon Care (ISS) or OSS as outlined below *(Referrals accumulated by school year)*

Noncompliance or insubordination with administration's requests (including refusal to comply with electronic device policy) following counseling and attempts to remediate First Offense -1 Full day of Dragon Care, Second Offense - 2-3 days Dragon Care Third Offense - 1 day OSS	Aggressive or threatening physical behavior (may or may not constitute physical contact) towards other students First Offense -1 day Dragon Care Second Offense - 2 days OSS Third Offense - 3 days OSS	Aggressive or threatening physical behavior towards school personnel* First Offense - 1 Day OSS Second Offense - 2 days OSS Third Offense - 3 days OSS
Harassment/ Communication of a threat of either a physical or sexual nature (verbal and/or written) towards a student* 1 day OSS – 1 st offense 2 days OSS – 2 nd offense 3 days OSS - 3 rd offense	Harassment/ Communication of a threat of either a physical or sexual nature (verbal and/or written) towards school personnel* 1 day OSS – 1 st offense 2 days OSS – 2 nd offense 3 days OSS - 3 rd offense	Harassment/ Sexual Harassment/ Aggressive Acts of Intolerance -- includes race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, nationality, and/or religion (may or may not involve physical acts towards a student) ** 1 to 3 days OSS or Administrative Discretion
Fighting and/or instigating a fight* 1 day OSS – 1 st offense 2 days OSS – 2 nd offense 3 days OSS - 3 rd offense	Assault against a student or school personnel* 2 day OSS with mandatory Discipline Review	Bullying of a physical nature and/or repetitive intimidation and or Extortion (personal property, money, and/or information) ** 1 day OSS – 1 st offense 2 days OSS – 2 nd offense 3 days OSS - 3 rd offense
Cell Phone usage during school hours without permission from school personnel		

Phone confiscated (returned to parent) - 1st offense 1/2 day Dragon Care - 2nd offense 1 day Dragon Care - 3rd offense		
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Extreme

Consequences – OSS as outlined below (*Referrals accumulated by school year*)

Abusive Language - insulting, harassing, profane language and/or gestures directed specifically towards a student	Abusive Language - insulting, harassing, profane language and/or gestures directed specifically towards school personnel	Extensive Property Damage of a vandalism nature or negligence will include restitution for damages*
1 day OSS – 1 st offense 2 days OSS - 2nd offense 3 days OSS - 3rd offense Next offense - Administrative discretion	3 days OSS - 1st offense 4 days OSS - 2nd offense 5 days OSS - 3rd offense Next offense - Administrative discretion	2 days Dragon Care - 1st offense 1 day OSS - 2nd offense 3 days OSS - 3rd offense Next offense - Administration offense
Use/Possession of Tobacco , E-Cigarettes, Tobacco Products, lighter and/or other paraphernalia*	Use or Possession of Drugs and/or Alcohol /could also constitute a violation of North Carolina Criminal Statute* <i>and/or other paraphernalia. **</i>	Unlawful Entry/Theft and/or Burglary* 1 day Dragon Care - 1st offense 2 days OSS - 2nd offense 4 days OSS - 3 rd offense
3 days OSS - 1st offense 5 days OSS - 2nd offense 10 days OSS - 3rd offense	5 day OSS with mandatory Discipline Review	
Inappropriate (consensual) sexual behavior or contact. 3 days OSS - 1st offense Next offense - Administrative Discretion	Gambling (dice, cards, or any other activity which results in the exchange of money or products) 1 to 3 days OSS	Arson, Possession of Explosive or Incendiary Devices, Possession of Mace/Pepper Spray* 10 day OSS w/mandatory Discipline Review

Extreme

Consequences – OSS as outlined below (*Referrals accumulated by school year*)

Possession of a Firearm* 10 day OSS/w mandatory Discipline Review	Possession of a Dangerous Weapon or Instrument other than a Firearm* 10 day OSS/w mandatory Discipline Review	Inappropriate social networking of a threatening or bullying nature or repeated offenses after previous consequences. Social networking which takes places after school hours will be addressed if it is disruptive to the school learning environment or student/ staff safety** 1 to 3 days OSS – 1 st offense 5 to 10 days OSS – 2 nd and 3 rd offense
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Bus Behavior Management

In order for students to be transported safely to and from school, it is critical that students demonstrate appropriate behavior. Any misbehavior which distracts the driver is serious as it endangers the student and others. Bus drivers have the responsibility to correct misbehavior through strategies such as seating charts, bus conduct rules, and in extreme cases, immediate removal or assistance from law enforcement. When a problem arises, the parents will be contacted and encouraged to cooperate with the bus driver to resolve the problem. The following bus rules and regulations have been established:

General Bus Rules & Regulations

- * Follow the driver's directions.
- * Refrain from making loud, distracting noises.
- * Respect the driver, the bus, and each other.
- * Remove earbuds and headphones when crossing the road to enter and exit the bus.
- * Remain in assigned seats.
- * Keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves.

Students wishing to ride another bus, or needing to get off at another bus stop going to or from school must submit a note to the office to ensure consideration. The front office must receive a note from the parent and may call a parent to verify the authenticity of the date, as it deems necessary. Because of the limited capacity on buses and in cases where a student's bus behavior is not satisfactory, requests to ride a different bus may not always be honored.

ANY BUS SUSPENSION INCLUDES ALL BUSES IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.

BUS VIOLATIONS AND RESULTING CONSEQUENCES

<u>Level I Violation</u>	<u>Level I Consequences</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disrespectful/ Defiant behavior toward driver Talking too loudly Spitting/ Spittingballs Inappropriate Behavior Bullying, harassment, name calling Unauthorized eating and/ or drinking Throwing items on the bus or out of the bus window Distracting the driver's attention while the bus is moving. Failure to keep the bus clean/ littering Use of profanity/ Unacceptable language Tampering with the possessions of others Annoying other students Failure to remain in seat 	<p>First Offense: Parent contact and/or bus level consequence</p> <p>Possible 1-3 day suspension depending on the severity of the situation</p> <p>Second Offense: 3-5 day bus suspension</p> <p>Third Offense: 5-10 day bus suspension</p> <p>Fourth Offense: Fourth and any other offenses will be handled at the discretion of a school administrator</p>
<u>Level II Violations</u>	<u>Level II Consequences</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damaging/ Tampering with bus Fighting/ Aggressive behavior Profanity directed toward driver/ student Endangering the safety of others Threatening the driver Possession or use of controlled substances Striking Driver Possession of a weapon 	<p>Bus suspension time will be determined at the discretion of a school administrator. Guidelines for school code conduct will be followed. Out of school suspension is possible for this level of violation.</p>

BUS BEHAVIOR

Riding a school bus to and from school is a privilege that must not be abused. We believe all students can behave appropriately and safely while riding on a school bus. We are unable to tolerate any student stopping drivers from doing their job or creating a situation where other students are being denied safe transportation.

For a student to ride safely on the bus, he or she must:

1. Follow the directions of the driver and/or monitor.
2. Remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop.
3. Refrain from using earbuds/headphones while entering or exiting the bus.
4. Keep hands, feet, and objects to self.
5. Use appropriate language at all times - no profanity or derogatory language.
6. Keep noise level to a minimum by conducting conversations only with close neighbors.
7. Refrain from eating, drinking, or smoking on the bus.
8. Refrain from fighting!
9. Go straight in the house when getting off the bus. Do not check the mail or go to a neighbor's house.

If a student chooses to break a rule or rules on the bus, the first step will be that the bus driver warns the student of the minor infraction. If the student does not choose to follow directions, after the driver's warning, the student will be reported to the principal. The bus driver's referral will be sent home for the parent to sign. If there is a second referral, it will also be sent home to the parent. In addition, a call will be made to the parent by a school official. Appropriate steps will be taken by all parties to resolve the bus infractions regarding each referral, which may include bus suspension. **The third bus referral will result in a suspension from the bus.**

A student may automatically and/or immediately be taken off the bus for one or more days for fighting, using profanity, or causing an extremely unsafe situation to exist. **A student demonstrating highly inappropriate behavior will be returned to school and must be picked illl by the parent or legal guardian immediately.** If, during the bus route, a driver must stop at an unassigned stop because of dangerous or aggressive behavior of a student, the student will automatically be removed from the bus for at least three days.

It is the student's responsibility to help the bus driver assure safe transportation, by following the bus rules. It is the responsibility of the parents to help the bus driver by stressing to your child/children the importance of positive bus behavior. **PLEASE REMEMBER, RIDING THE BUS IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT.**

A student must always ride his/her assigned bus **UNLESS** the school office is provided a written note by the parent or legal guardian. Permission may be granted, in cases of emergency by the principal or office staff, by talking with the parent or legal guardian. **GES STAFF WILL NOT ALLOW A STUDENT TO CHANGE HIS/HER REGULAR ROUTINE UNLESS THERE IS A NOTE FROM THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN. THE STUDENT MAY NOT COMMUNICATE THIS CHANGE.**

When a student arrives at home and there is no one present, an immediate attempt will be made to contact the parent or legal guardian. **If contact is not made, the student will be brought back to school and the parent or legal guardian will be required to make arrangements for the student to be picked up immediately.**

Bus Double-Runs and Split-Runs

Decisions involving a double-run or split-run are made by the Transportation Director or Designee when there are unforeseen circumstances in which a driver has to be absent and a substitute cannot be secured. A **double-run** is when a driver completes his/her first route, and returns to school to pick up students for another route. Please be patient, as this will require students waiting at school with a designated staff member (s). A **split-run** means that a driver will have extra students on the bus. He/she will drop-off students in various locations (which will extend your child's arrival home). Parents will be notified by a School Reach/Connect call. Please make sure your number is current so that you will receive the notification in a timely manner.

Arrival and Departure

Arrival

Arrival: Our cafeteria doors are unlocked for students to enter the building at 7:30 a.m. **ALL Doors will be locked prior to 7:30 a.m. Please do not drop-off students prior to this time as no one will be available to receive your child.** If you plan to come in during morning arrival, please park in designated areas only. **Do not park in front of the school in the "Kiss 'n Go Lane."** Please be considerate of others and ever mindful of the safety of all. Being patient, alert and respectful to others can help prevent accidents.

Tardiness: Students are expected to be on time for the beginning of the school day. Students arriving late to school are required to sign in at the main office **(with an adult). We ask that parents do not escort their children to class when they are tardy to avoid interrupting instructional time.** If you need to speak with the teacher, please make an appointment to meet with the teacher during planning time or before or after school. **Habitual tardiness will be addressed by the school counselor and/or principal.**

Departure

Entrance: Parents picking up students in the Loading Zone, should follow our traffic pattern and please be patient - Safety First! If you need to speak to a staff member, please go around and park your car in a parking space.

Bus Departure: Students are called to buses at 3:10.

Transportation Changes: **Phone calls will not be accepted for change in transportation after 2:00 p.m. except in emergency situations.** Changes in transportation should be sent to school via note to ensure the safety and well being of your child. If it is necessary for a student to ride a different bus, ride with someone else, remain after school or in any way change the normal method of departure, the student must bring a note to the homeroom teacher indicating specifically what the student should do. The note must be signed and dated by the parent/guardian with a phone number so that school personnel can contact and verify the change in transportation (if necessary). This is very important for the safety of your child.

Early Departure: Please avoid taking your child out of school before 3:10. If it is necessary for a student to leave school early, we encourage parents to write a note. Before a student leaves the school property, the parent/guardian must sign the student out in the main office. If a student returns to school after being permitted to leave, he/she must sign back in (with an adult). We discourage early departures unless there is an emergency or an appointment. Character building lessons, PBIS activities, class meetings, Dragon Fire, lesson review, etc may occur at the end of the day. This is also a time for organizing materials for homework and making announcements. Try to schedule appointments for after school hours. **Students will not be called to the office after 2:45. Parents will have to wait until dismissal, unless there is an emergency or appointment. Early departures will be monitored. Excessive early departures will be reported to the attendance counselor and/or principal for investigation. Dismissal time is 3:10.**

Parking: Please use parking spaces when available. On special occasions, drivers may be directed to other areas.

Safe and Orderly Schools

Expectations: Gatesville Elementary School believes all children can learn. It is our responsibility to provide a safe, orderly and effective learning environment for all children. We expect students to use the Positive Behavior Intervention Matrix. We have included a copy of the matrix in this handbook. Appropriate behavior will be taught, modeled, and monitored through class meetings, role playing, character education and positive reinforcement that promote a respectful atmosphere for all. We ask that parents support our efforts to create and maintain a safe, orderly environment of mutual respect where all teachers can teach and all students can learn. Inappropriate behavior will be addressed in a fair, firm, and consistent manner. Consequences will be reasonable, related (when possible), and respectful. Our goal is to provide students with alternative methods for handling peer pressure, bullying, frustration, and conflict. Students, teachers, parents and administrators must work cooperatively to ensure the safety of our children. We will document minor incidents to help students redirect their behavior whenever they do not follow the PBIS Matrix. The parent will be notified by the teacher or principal. Excessive Dragon Tracks Referrals will result in an Office Discipline Referral. We do not tolerate bullying or physical/verbal threats of any nature. **Please report bullying as soon as possible.**

Safety Drills: Drills are held frequently. Teachers will teach and review safety procedures throughout the school year for all types of emergencies. If you have any questions, please contact the teacher, school counselor, or principal.

Vandalism & Property Damage: The construction and maintenance of our school buildings and their contents are a cost to the taxpayers. **Students who destroy or vandalize school property will be required to pay for loss or damage they inflict.** If students willfully destroy school property, suspension may be necessary. If a student happens to damage school property by accident, he/she should report it to a teacher or to the office immediately.

Personal Belongings: All of your child's belongings (sweaters, hats, supplies, etc.) should be labeled with some type of permanent marker in case items are lost. This will help to find them more easily if they are marked. A Lost and Found Department will be designated in the building.

All Summer and Regular School Day Programs will abide by the rules and procedures listed above.

Dress Code: Students are encouraged to maintain a standard of dress that meets the measure of being modest, clean and appropriate. We look to parents for their support in meeting this standard. Inappropriate clothing would be the attire that draws abnormal attention to the wearer (which includes very short attire). **Parents will be notified to bring a change of clothes for students not adhering to the dress code.** All staff members are required to model appropriate dress and we ask parents to model appropriate dress when they attend school events.

Electronic Devices, Toys and Trading Cards: Students are not allowed to use electronic devices (including cell phones), during school hours. Any electronic device of any type brought to school may be confiscated by staff members and returned to the parent. Parents will be required to pick up the device. Toys nor trading cards (Example: Pokemon Cards) should not be brought to school unless the teacher specifically requests them (Example: for Show and Tell). Staff members are not responsible for lost or stolen items. Please refer to Policy Code: 4318 Use of Wireless Communication Devices to gain a thorough understanding of student use while being at school.

Health and Safety

Child Nutrition: Research indicates that nutritious, well-balanced meals improve student performance.

Therefore, breakfast and lunch are available to all students. Breakfast is served from 7:45 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. If school is delayed one hour, breakfast will be served from 8:45 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. If school is delayed two hours, breakfast will not be served. Application forms for free and reduced price meals are available on the district website. **Applications for the program must be made each year and one form can be completed for several children in the same family.**

Immunizations: The North Carolina Immunization law requires that all students be immunized. If your child does not have the proper immunizations, you will be contacted by the school nurse. Non-compliance with this immunization requirement means that your child will not be able to attend school until the requirement is fulfilled.

Medication: Students will be administered medicine by a designated school employee. In order for this to occur, an authorization form must be submitted and signed by the physician and either a parent or guardian. The form will be kept on file until the end of the school year. All medication will be secured. If your child has an Asthma Plan, please submit it to us immediately. Our school nurse is Mrs. Lisa Lassier Jordan. She will serve our school 3-4 days a week. We also have First Responders on hand.

Accident or Illness: In the event of illness at school or minor accidents needing medical attention, the school staff will notify parents as soon as possible. A parent or other responsible adult must be reached and give permission before any student will be allowed to leave school. If we cannot reach a parent, we will use the emergency contact information you have provided. **Please make sure the emergency information is up to date at the school, should there be any changes during the school year.**

Emergency Contact: All students should have the name and phone number (and address, if possible) of someone who can be reached in case of an emergency when the parent cannot be reached. **This information should be updated throughout the year.**

Change of Address and/or Telephone Numbers: Parents are requested to keep the school staff informed of any changes of address or telephone number. **This information is needed in case of emergency.**

Telephones & Messages: School phones are for office use only. Students will not be allowed to use the phone for personal calls except in an emergency and with staff permission. During instructional time between 8:30 a.m. and 3:10 p.m., messages will be given to the teachers (if parents call) except under urgent circumstances; however, please feel free to call your child's teacher during his/her planning time or before/after school.

Voicemail: When your calls are directed to voicemail, please leave a message. If you do not receive a response within 2 school days, please notify the main office.

After School Program

In the years past, 4-H has offered after school care at Gatesville Elementary. If offered this year, 4-H After School Enrollment Packets can be obtained from the school office. If there is a regular Early Release, the program will run from 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. If the school is closed or has to close for whatever reason, this program will not operate.

Academics

Expectations: We believe all children can learn. It is our job as partners - parents, teachers, and students - to help each child reach their full potential.

Instructional Time: We value instructional time because it is very important to your child's success. Visitors will be allowed into the classrooms during instructional time if they are volunteering upon the approval of the principal. If you need to speak with your child's teacher, please make an appointment to meet with him/her during planning time, before school, or after school. If you have an emergency and need to see your child during the school day, please notify the office and we will get someone to bring your child to the lobby.

Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies: All subjects are important; however, students need to have proficient reading skills to do well in other subject areas. Students learn how to read in Grades K - 3, and they read to learn in Grades 4 and 5. We spend about 90 minutes every day teaching and practicing the essential skills of reading. **Students in all grade levels should read between 15 and 30 minutes every day outside of school hours.** They should read from a variety of fiction and nonfiction materials. As students become more proficient in reading, they will be able to apply the essential skills of reading in science and social studies using higher order thinking skills to advance their comprehension.

Assessments: Student performance is assessed through a variety of measures for reading fluency and comprehension. Selection Tests are provided by publishers of the textbooks. Students in Grade 3 take a Beginning of Year Test, and students in Grades 3, 4 & 5 take End-of-Grade tests. Students in Grades K-3 participate in state reading assessments. Progress is shared with parents in the weekly folders, on interim reports, and on report cards. Please contact your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns about your child's progress. A Parent-Teacher conference can be scheduled during any 9-weeks. Also, please share any information that will help us determine how to best meet your child's academic needs.

Home-School Partnership



Parent Involvement Throughout the Year

Forms: We know that the first day of school is very exciting, and can be somewhat overwhelming. Please take some time each day to fill out a few important forms to make sure we have the imperative information for your child. It is important that we have accurate phone numbers, addresses, and emergency information. If your information changes, please notify us as soon as possible. If we have inaccurate information, we will be unable to contact you in emergency situations, and you will not be able to receive our School Connect calls.

Classroom Visits: We welcome parents to our school and encourage participation. In an effort to ensure the safety and well being of all students and staff and to protect instructional time, we ask that you make arrangements in advance with your child's teacher about observations and volunteering in the classroom if possible. Please talk with your child's teacher to make these arrangements about volunteering or observing in classrooms.

Safety Note: All parents and visitors will enter through the front entrance only. Please do not knock on other doors or windows as we have taught the students NOT to open doors for anyone. This is a part of our Safety procedures.

Visitors: If there are any safety issues with certain people visiting your child, please inform the teacher and Office Staff immediately! Also, if there are legal custody documents, please advise us and provide a copy.

Lunch With Your Child: Feel free to eat lunch with your child. On occasion, our lunch schedules may change due to Benchmark Testing, State testing, or school delays.

Report Cards: These reports will be distributed four times during the year.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Conferences may be scheduled at any time throughout the year by writing a note to the teacher, calling the school office or setting up an appointment via email. Teachers will review academic and behavior progress at the end of the 1st 9 weeks with all parents and students. If a child is working below grade level (Reading and/or Math) in the middle of the school year, the teacher will notify the parent to explain that the child is at-risk of being retained. Sometimes a child's grades begin to fall during the second semester. If this happens, parents will be notified as soon as there is a concern that the child may be retained. The teacher and parent should collaborate to brainstorm alternative strategies to help the child.

School Improvement Team: Representatives from each grade level, department, and parents work together to build the level of commitment and the level of expertise required to educate all students for success. Regular meetings are held the first Monday (Wednesday if a holiday falls on that day) of each month beginning at 3:30 p.m. in the school's media center. These meetings are open to the public. The entire plan will be on file in the

main office, and posted on the school website as well. Please take time to read our plan. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Lories or Heather Turner at the school.

Emergencies: Please have a plan in place for your child in case there is an emergency. Think about situations in which the school may have to close unexpectedly. Also, there may be times when the school may have to close earlier than expected due to weather or other unforeseen reasons.

Parties/Special Occasions: Food items brought to school for birthday parties and other events must be purchased from vendors (bakeries, stores, restaurants) where proper quality control and sanitation are required. Food should arrive, and be served in the original container. We cannot allow homemade goods. Purchased items may be distributed after 1:00 p.m.

Special Events/Fees: We will try to offer various special events for students. Some of the events may require a fee. If students/parents owe fees to the school, those fees will have to be paid BEFORE the students participate in the event or trip. We try to make every effort to work with parents. If you are having financial difficulty, it is important that you contact the guidance counselor or principal in a timely manner.

Gatesville Elementary School Master Schedule 2024-2025



Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade
8:30-9:20 CMS	8:30-9:20 Math	8:30-10:10 Block 1	8:30-10:30 Block 1	8:30-10:45 Block 1	8:30-10:30 Block 1
9:20-9:30 Calendar	9:20-10:10 CMS	10:10-11:00 CMS	10:30-12:30 Block 2	10:45-12:00 Block 2	10:30-12:00 Block 2
9:30-11:00 ELA	10:10-11:00 ELA	11:00-11:20 Block 1	12:30-1:00 Lunch	12:00-12:30 Lunch	12:00-12:30 Lunch
11:00-11:30 Lunch	11:00-11:30 Lunch	11:20-11:30 Block 2	1:05-1:35 DF	12:30-1:20 Block 2	12:30-1:20 CMS
11:30-12:30 Math	11:30-12:30 SCI/SS	11:30-12:00 Lunch	1:35-2:05 Recess	1:20-2:10 CMS	1:20-1:50 Block 2
12:30-1:00 Recess	12:30-1:00 Recess	12:00-1:50 Block 2	2:10-3:00 CMS	2:10-2:30 Recess	1:50-2:30 DF
1:00-1:30 Math	1:00-2:00 Letterland	1:50-2:30 DF		2:30-3:00 DF	2:30-3:00 Recess
1:30-2:30 SCI/SS	2:00-2:30 Small groups	2:30-3:00 Recess			
2:30-3:00 DF	2:30-3:00 DF				

CMS (PE/Arts)	Lunch	Recess
8:30 - 9:20 Kindergarten	11:00 - 11:30 Daycare	12:30 - 1:00 1st grade
9:20 - 10:10 1st grade	11:00 - 11:30 Kindergarten	12:30 - 1:00 Kindergarten
10:10 - 11:00 2nd grade	11:00 - 11:30 1st grade	1:35 - 2:05 3rd grade
11:00 - 12:30 Lunch/Planning	11:30 - 12:00 2nd grade	2:10 - 2:30 4th grade
12:30 - 1:20 5th grade	11:50 - 12:20 PreK (little tables)	2:30 - 3:00 5th grade
1:20 - 2:10 4th grade	12:00 - 12:30 5th grade	2:30 - 3:00 2nd grade
2:10 - 3:00 3rd grade	12:00 - 12:30 4th grade	
	12:30 - 1:00 3rd grade	
Group A: PE on Mon/Wed and Arts on Tues/Thurs	Duty:	
Group B: Arts on Mon/Wed and PE on Tues/Thurs	11:00-12:00 - H. Turner & D. Riddick	
Friday students will report to their Thurs CMS but will spend time in both PE and Arts classes.	12:00-1:00 - M. Mills & T. Carr	

Inclement Weather

Decisions made to begin the school day late, shorten the day or cancel school are made to maintain the safety of our students. School Reach calls will be made in the morning as soon as decisions are made. Please make sure your telephone number is current so you will receive your information in a timely manner. Announcements will be made on the local television channels 3 WTKR, 10 WAVY, and 13 WVEC.

2024-2025 Computer Schedule

Mondays and Wednesdays		Tuesdays and Thursdays	
8:00-9:00	Morning Duty/Planning	8:00-9:00	Morning Duty/Planning
9:00-9:40	2nd Grade - Harrell Block 1	9:00-9:40	2nd Grade - Evans Block 1
9:50-10:30	4th Grade - Boyce Block 1	9:50-10:30	4th Grade - Mitchell Block 1
10:40-11:20	5th Grade - ?? Block 2	10:40-11:20	5th Grade - Hedgepeth's Block 2
11:30-12:10	Kindergarten* - ??	11:30-12:10	Kindergarten* - Keith
12:20-1:00	Lunch	12:20-1:00	Lunch
1:00-1:40	3rd Grade - Lee's Block 2	1:00-1:40	3rd Grade - Lolies' Block 2
1:50-2:30	1st Grade - Reid	1:50-2:30	1st Grade - Barnhill
2:30-3:00	Planning/Sanitizing	2:30-3:00	Planning/Sanitizing

Fridays - Mrs. Hathaway will be assisting with technology needs throughout the county.

*Coming from lunch, they'll need to wash hands and use the bathroom. They may be a little late in arriving but if they arrive by 11:40, that still gives them 30 minutes of class.

Delay Computer Schedule (Same schedule for 1 & 2 hour delays. Lines with an asterisk are for 1 hour delay days only.)		Early Release Computer Schedule	
9:00-10:30	Morning Duty / Planning *	8:45 – 9:15	Kindergarten
10:30 - 11:00	Kindergarten	9:20 – 9:50	4th Grade
11:10 - 11:40	3rd Grade	9:55 – 10:25	3rd Grade
11:50 - 12:20	1st Grade	10:25 – 10:45	Mini Planning
12:30 - 1:00	Lunch	10:45 – 11:15	1st Grade
1:05 - 1:35	5th Grade	11:20 – 11:50	5th Grade
1:45 - 2:15	4th Grade	11:55 – 12:25	2nd Grade
2:25 - 2:55	2nd Grade	12:25 – 1:00	Lunch

Homework and Make-Up Policies

The faculty and staff at Gatesville Elementary School believe students should receive meaningful homework and project assignments on a regular basis. Homework provides the opportunity for students to practice independently what is learned in the classroom. Purposeful homework extends the lesson and provides valuable reinforcement of key concepts taught in the classroom. Projects give students the opportunity to explore those key concepts in a more extensive manner. Students are expected to complete all assignments in a timely manner.

Uncompleted and/or missing homework assignments have been handled several different ways during the past years. This means that it is acceptable for a student to work on homework during designated times during the day or after school as deemed appropriate by the teacher.

The teacher will call the parent or send a note that must be signed after the first missed homework assignment. If a second homework assignment is missed, a call will be made by the teacher to discuss homework with the parent. Teaming with the parent, the teacher will attempt to resolve the homework issue. The guidance counselor will meet with the student the third time an assignment is missed. She will contact the parent as well.

Additionally, after school detention will be used as a consequence for the third missed assignment. After School detention will be held from 3:15-3:45 p.m. (Grades 3-5).

Teachers of grades K-2 will handle homework issues during the day. The parent will be responsible for picking up the student at 3:45 p.m. The teacher will contact the parent to make arrangements regarding the after school detention.

When students are absent, it is the responsibility of the student (Grades 3-5) to see the teacher to arrange for make-up following an absence, missed classroom period, or early departure. Parents of students in Grades K-2 may ask for students' work. Grade level teachers will work with students on deadlines to complete work. Parents are encouraged to ask for make-up work when a student is out or will be out for more than one day.

Attendance

The staff of Gatesville Elementary School believes attendance is one of the most important factors in a student's academic success. A student is not able to learn if he or she is not in school. As stated in the Rules and Regulations of the State Board of Education governing Compulsory Attendance and Student Accounting, "Attendance must be taken each day of the school year. In order to be considered in attendance, a student (except for hospital, homebound or staggered kindergarten) must be present in the school for the school day or a place other than the school with approval of the school official for the purpose of attending an authorized school activity...a student must be present one-half of the school instructional day in order to be recorded present for that day."

Additionally, "The State of North Carolina requires that every child in the state between the ages of 7 (or younger if already enrolled) and 16 attend school. Parents and legal guardians are responsible for ensuring that students attend and remain at school daily."

Our school day begins at 8:00 a.m. (tardy bell rings at 8:15 a.m.). Students arriving after 8:15 a.m., but before 11:30 a.m. are counted as tardy. **A student must be present by 11:30 a.m. to be counted present for the day. If a student is present at school, yet leaves before 11:30 a.m., he/she will be counted absent.**

Students are expected to arrive at school no later than 8:15 a.m. in the morning and depart in the afternoon at the 3:10 p.m. dismissal bells. **A student arriving late or leaving early misses a portion of the instructional day.** Staff recognizes all doctor and dental appointments cannot be made outside of school hours. **Occasional tardiness and early dismissals are quite acceptable.** However, when late arrivals and early dismissals become frequent, the minutes lost from the instructional day become a matter of concern. **If this occurs, the principal or school counselor will set an appointment with the parent to discuss ways in which this can be resolved.**

The staff of our school will follow the policy of the Gates County School District (see next page) regarding students with excessive absences and tardies. The teachers, school counselor, and principal will address these situations accordingly. Our priority is optimum student learning. Decreasing student absences is one of our school goals for the year! We will work diligently to maximize time for student learning. Thank you in advance for helping us to achieve this goal.

Policy Code: 4400 Attendance

Attendance in school and participation in class are integral parts of academic achievement and the teaching-learning process. The board believes that prompt and continuous attendance during the school term is essential for a child to profit from education. Through regular attendance, students develop patterns of behavior essential to professional and personal success in life. Regular attendance by every student is mandatory. The State of North Carolina requires that every child in the State between the ages of 7 (or younger if enrolled) and 16 attend school. Parents and legal guardians are responsible for ensuring that students attend and remain at school daily.

A. ATTENDANCE RECORDS

School officials shall keep accurate records of attendance, including accurate attendance records in each class. Attendance records will be used to enforce the Compulsory Attendance Law of North Carolina.

B. EXCUSED ABSENCES

When a student must miss school, a written excuse signed by a parent or guardian must be presented to the student's teacher on the day the student returns after an absence. Absences due to extended illnesses may also require a statement from a physician. An absence may be excused for any of the following reasons.

1. personal illness or injury that makes the student physically unable to attend school;
2. isolation ordered by the State Board of Health;
3. death in the immediate family;
4. medical or dental appointment;
5. participation under subpoena as a witness in a court proceeding;
6. a minimum of two days each academic year for observance of an event required or suggested by the religion of the student or the student's parent(s);
7. participation in a valid educational opportunity, such as travel or service as a legislative or Governor's page, with prior approval from the principal;
8. pregnancy and related conditions or parenting, when medically necessary. Or
9. visitation with the student's parent or legal guardian, at the discretion of the superintendent or designee, if the parent or legal guardian (a) is an active duty member of the uniformed services as defined by policy [4050](#), Children of Military Families, and (b) has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting.

In the case of excused absences, short-term out-of-school suspensions and absences under [G.S. 130A-440](#) (for failure to submit a school health assessment form within 30 days of entering school), the student will be permitted to make up his or her work (see also policies [4110](#), Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission, and [4351](#), Short-Term Suspension). The teacher will determine when work is to be made up. The student is responsible for finding out what assignments are due and completing them within the specified time period.

The principal shall determine whether an absence will be excused based on this policy.

C. SCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITIES

All classroom activities are important and difficult, if not impossible, to replace if missed. Principals shall ensure that classes missed by students due to school-related activities are kept to an absolute minimum. The following school-related activities will not be counted as absences from either class or school:

1. field trips sponsored by the school;
2. job-shadowing and other work-based learning opportunities, as described in G.S. 115C-47(c4a);
3. school-initiated and -scheduled activities;
4. athletic events that require early dismissal from school;
5. Career and Technical Education student organization activities approved in advance by the principal; and
6. in-school suspensions.

Assignments missed for these reasons are eligible for makeup by the student. The teacher will determine when work is to be made up. The student is responsible for finding out what assignments are due and completing them within the specified time period.

D. EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

Class attendance and participation are critical elements of the educational process and may be taken into account in assessing academic achievement. Students are expected to be at school on time and to be present at the scheduled starting time for each class. Students who are excessively tardy to school or class may be suspended for up to two days for such offenses. The principal shall notify parents and take all other steps required by G.S. 115C-378 for excessive absences. Students may be suspended for up to two days for truancy. Each school shall establish a school-based attendance waiver committee (hereafter "committee") to consider whether a student's grades should be reduced due to excessive absences, tardies and early dismissals; to grant or deny waivers; and to contact the parent or guardian of a student with poor attendance. The committee shall set aside a day after each nine weeks grading period to meet with students and the parents or guardians of students with excessive absences. A student will have to appear before the committee if, during the course of a nine weeks grading period, the student accumulates: (1) more than five unexcused absences; (2) more than five tardies; or (3) more than five early dismissals. Furthermore, after the final grading period, students who have accumulated more than 20 unexcused absences for the school year may also be subject to review by the committee.

The committee shall invite parents or guardians of students with excessive absences to attend such meetings. The committee will notify parent or guardians of a meeting by sending a letter and following up with a phone call if necessary. If there is no response, the matter will be turned over to the superintendent's office.

The committee shall review other measures of academic achievement, the circumstances of the absences, the number of absences, and the extent to which the student completed missed work. The committee may recommend to the principal and the principal may make any of the following determinations:

1. the student will not receive a passing grade for the semester;
2. the student's grade will be reduced;
3. the student will receive the grade otherwise earned; or
4. the student will be given additional time to complete the missed work before a determination of the appropriate grade is made.

Students with excused absences due to documented chronic health problems are exempt from this policy.

Excessive absences may impact eligibility for participation in interscholastic athletics. See policy 3620, Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -84.2, -288(a), -375.5, -378 through -383, -390.2(c), -390.2(f), -390.5, -407.5, 130A-440, 16 N.C.A.C. 6E .0102, .0103, State Board of Education Policies ATND-000, -003, NCAC-6E 0104

Cross References: Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations (policy 3620), Education for Pregnant and Parenting Students (policy 4023), Children of Military Families (policy 4050), Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission (policy 4110), Short-Term Suspension (policy 4351)

Adopted: June 28, 2011

Revised: July 15, 2013; February 3, 2014; June 26, 2015; December 7, 2016; July 17, 2017

Gates County Schools (New)

GATES COUNTY SCHOOLS \ Section 4000 - Students \

Gatesville Elementary School
Attendance Notification

Date: _____

According to our records your child has 5 unexcused absences in this grading period. The missed assignments have not been completed and turned in to the teacher.

Your child will need to stay after school on _____ to complete the missed assignments. Please pick up your child promptly at 3:45 p.m.

If assignments are not completed at this time, your child may be required to stay after for another afternoon.

Thank you,

Joyeria Brothers, Principal

Gatesville Elementary School
Attendance Notification
Parent Meeting

Date: _____

According to our records your child has 5 or more unexcused tardies and/or left early during the month of _____. Being in attendance for the entire school day is important for our students' academic growth.

Please meet with us on _____ at _____ to determine a plan to get your child on track academically. This may include completing missed assignments to catch up. The team you will be meeting with will consist of the guidance counselor, classroom teacher(s), and the principal.

Thank you,

Joyeria Brothers, Principal

ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



PRESCHOOLERS

Build skills and develop good habits for showing up on time



ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Read well by the end of third grade



MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLERS

Stay on track for graduation



COLLEGE STUDENTS

Earn their degrees



WORKERS

Succeed in their jobs

Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.

GRADING PERIODS AND REPORT CARDS

Students at Gates County High School will receive two interim progress reports during each grading period and a report card at the end of each nine-week grading period.

Students at Buckland Elementary School, Gatesville Elementary School, TS Cooper Elementary School, and Central Middle School will receive one interim progress report during each grading period and a report card at the end of each nine week grading period.

1st Nine Weeks

Reporting Term Ends October 24, 2024
Progress Reports Out September 13, 2024 (High School)
 September 27, 2024 (Elementary and Middle Schools)

Grades Due October 4, 2024 (High School)

Report Card Distributed October 29, 2024
 November 1, 2024

2nd Nine Weeks

Reporting Term Ends December 20, 2024
Progress Reports Out November 15, 2024 (High School)
 November 26, 2024 (Elementary and Middle Schools)

Exams December 6, 2024 (High School)

Grades Due December 16-20, 2024

Report Cards Distributed January 3, 2025
 January 10, 2025

3rd Nine Weeks

Reporting Term Ends March 13, 2025
Progress Reports Out January 24, 2025 (High School)
 February 7, 2025 (Elementary and Middle Schools)

Grades Due February 14, 2025 (High School)

Report Cards Distributed March 18, 2025
 March 21, 2025

4th Nine Weeks

Reporting Term Ends May 30, 2025
Progress Reports Out April 4, 2025 (High School)
 April 30, 2025 (Elementary and Middle Schools)

Exams May 9, 2025 (High School)

Report Cards Distributed May 23-30, 2025
 To be mailed home

GCHS

GRADUATION DATE:

May 30, 2025
(Please do not schedule any other school events on this day.)

Policy Code: 6220 Operation of School Nutrition Services

All schools will participate in federal National Child Nutrition Programs and will receive commodities donated by the United States Department of Agriculture. All federal and state revenues will be accepted and applied to maximize the use of such funds for the purposes of providing nutritional meals to students at the lowest possible price. The superintendent or designee shall develop procedures as necessary to implement the operational standards established in this policy.

A. Operational Standards

The school nutrition services program will be operated in a manner consistent with board goals and board policy. The program also will be operated in compliance with all applicable state and federal law, including requirements of the National School Lunch Program and all federal guidelines established by the Child Nutrition Division of the United States Department of Agriculture. Specific legal requirements that must be met include, but are not limited to, the following.

1. School officials may not discriminate based on race, sex, color, national origin, disability, age or eligibility status for free and reduced-price meals. School officials are also prohibited from retaliating against an individual for prior civil rights activity.
2. The school nutrition services program will meet safety and sanitation requirements established in local, state and federal rules and guidelines for school nutrition services programs.
3. The school nutrition services program will have a written food safety program that includes a hazard analysis critical control point plan for each school.
4. Menu preparation, purchasing and related record keeping will be consistent with applicable state and federal rules and guidelines.
5. Banking, financial record keeping, budgeting and accounting will be conducted in accordance with generally accepted practices and procedures, as dictated by the School Budget and Fiscal Control Act and in accordance with state and federal guidelines.
6. Commodity foods donated by the United States Department of Agriculture will be used and accounted for in accordance with federal regulations.
7. Preference will be given in purchasing contracts to high-calcium foods and beverages, as defined in [G.S. 115C-264.1](#) and to foods grown or raised within North Carolina.

8. Child Nutrition Program (CNP) funds will be used only for the purposes authorized by law. Indirect costs, as defined by law, will not be assessed to the CNP unless the program has a minimum of one month's operating balance.
9. The price for meals will be determined in accordance with federal law.
10. Nonprogram foods will be priced to generate sufficient revenues to cover the cost of those items. A nonprogram food is defined as a food or beverage, other than a reimbursable meal or snack, that is sold at the school and is purchased using funds from the child nutrition account.
11. All school nutrition services will be operated on a non-profit basis for the benefit of the CNP. School nutrition services are those that are operated from 12:01 a.m. until the end of the last lunch period.
12. All income from the sale of food and beverages that is required by law or regulation to be retained by the CNP will be deposited to the CNP account and will be used only for the purposes of the school's non-profit lunch and breakfast programs. All funds from food and beverage sales not otherwise required by law to be deposited to the CNP account will be deposited into the proper school account in accordance with guidelines developed by the superintendent or designee.
13. All competitive foods sold on school campuses will meet federal and state standards for nutrient content.
14. All employees whose job duties include procurement activities for the Child Nutrition Program shall adhere to the conflict of interest rules and standards for ethical conduct established by the board in policies 6401/9100, Ethics and the Purchasing Function, and 8305, Federal Grant Administration. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in disciplinary action.

B. Meal Charges

Students who are required to pay for meals are expected to provide payment in a timely manner. The board recognizes, however, that students occasionally may forget or lose their meal money. It is the board's and child nutrition department's view that all students deserve a hot meal; therefore, in the event that a student is unable to pay for a meal on a particular day, the alternative meal will be the same meal provided to all students. Appropriate modifications to the alternative meal will be made when required by the student's documented special dietary needs. In order to safeguard the dignity and confidentiality of students in the serving line and to avoid calling attention to a student's inability to pay, at no time will a meal be retrieved from a student who has been served through the line. High school and

middle school students will be asked to bring in the negative balance the following day and cafeteria managers will inform building level administration as soon as possible to see what support can be provided for the following school day.

Elementary students will be allowed to carry a negative balance not to exceed the cost of two breakfast and two lunch meals. Cafeteria managers will notify building level administrators in cases where elementary students are close to the maximum of their negative balance.

The child nutrition director and principal shall work jointly to prevent meal charges from accumulating and shall make every effort to collect all funds due to the child nutrition program on a regular basis and before the end of the school term. Notices of low or negative balances in a child's meal account will be sent to parents and the principal at regular intervals during the school year. If a parent regularly fails to provide meal money and does not qualify for free meal benefits, the child nutrition director shall inform the principal, who shall determine the next course of action, which may include notifying the department of social services of suspected child neglect and/or taking legal steps to recover the unpaid meal charges. Parents are expected to pay all meal charges in full by the last day of each school year. Negative balances on student accounts will be carried forward to the following school year. However, the superintendent shall ensure that federal child nutrition funds are not used to offset the cost of unpaid meals and that the CNP is reimbursed for bad debt resulting from uncollected student meal charges prior to September 30 each year.

This policy and any applicable procedures regarding meal charges must be communicated to school administrators, school food service professional, parents, and students. Parents will receive a written copy of the meal charges policy and any applicable procedures at the start of each school year and at any time their child transfers into a new school during the school year.

Legal References: Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.; National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq., 2 C.F.R. pt. 200; 7 C.F.R. pt. 210; 7 C.F.R. pt. 215; 7 C.F.R. pt. 220; United States Department of Agriculture Policy Memos SP 46-2016, 47-2016, and 23-2017, available at <https://childnutrition.npublicschools.gov/regulations-policies/usda-policy-memos>; G.S. 115C-47(7), -47(22), -263, -264, -264.1, -426, -450, -522; 147 art. 6E, art. 6G; 16 N.C.A.C. 6H .0104; State Board of Education Policy NCAC-016

Cross References: Parental Involvement (policy 1310/4002), Goals of School Nutrition Services (policy 6200), School Meal and Competitive Foods Standards (policy 6230), Goals of the Purchasing Function (policy 6400), Ethics and the Purchasing Function (policy 6401/9100), Federal Grant Administration (policy 8305)

Adopted: July 16, 2014

Revised: June 3, 2015; April 10, 2017; July 17, 2017; January 12, 2018; August 6, 2018; January 7, 2019; December 3, 2019

Gates County Schools



GATES COUNTY SCHOOLS
DR. PAULA SIMPSON
OFFICE OF SCHOOL NUTRITION
205 MAIN STREET/PO BOX 125
GATESVILLE, NC 27938
252-357-1113

simpsonp@gatescountyschools.net

The following criteria will be used for checks written in the School Nutrition Program.

1. All checks require First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name or Initials and Last Name, Current Address and Local Phone Number.
2. Address has to be local; no out of state address will be accepted.
3. Bank can be out of state, but address has to be local.
4. No check numbers below 300.
5. No change will be given from a check, the entire amount must be credited to the child's account.
6. **Returned Checks:** School Nutrition will work with you to settle your check that is returned for Non-Sufficient Funds (NSF). The second NSF check will result in checks no longer being accepted if given within a two-year period. Immediate restitution of NSF check will be considered.
7. If your NSF check has to go to collections, checks will no longer be accepted even if it is the first NSF check.
8. A fee of \$25.00 will be added to all returned checks.

Smart Snacks Options Declaration Form* (2024 – 2025)

School Food Authority (SFA): Gates County Public Schools SFA #: 370
Print Name of SFA

Please choose from one of the five options described below and place an X on the corresponding line.

Option 1: The LEA may extend the existing SBE Policy from 12:01 AM through 30 minutes after the dismissal bell rings (which prohibits the sale of foods and beverages to students in competition with the school nutrition program until 30 minutes after the dismissal bell rings.)

Option 2: The LEA may turn all vending sales, their profits and the responsibility to sell products that meet the Smart Snacks nutrition standards over to the school nutrition department to ensure all foods and beverages sold on campus are sold only through the school nutrition program and comply with the Smart Snacks nutrition standards. Foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks requirements would be available through vending machines to students throughout the instructional day in locations to be determined by the LEA. Under this option, school nutrition personnel would be responsible for compliance with Federal regulations and for providing required documentation during a review.

Option 3: The LEA may purchase foods and beverages that meet the "Smart Snacks" standards from the school nutrition department; simultaneously, the LEA may also purchase the expertise and administrative services of the school nutrition department to determine which products meet the standards. The LEA may also purchase the services of the school nutrition department to maintain all required documentation (including but not limited to procurement specifications, bid awards, contracts, nutrition facts labels, allergen labels and ingredient lists) indicating all foods and beverages sold to students on in any location on the school campus including vending machines, school stores and other sales venues outside the school nutrition department meet the Smart Snacks nutrition standards. Under this option, School Nutrition Personnel will provide documentation to the LEA for use during an Administrative Review or Audit. The LEA will ultimately be responsible for demonstrating compliance with the Smart Snacks Rule. Consistent with SBE policy, under this option, foods and beverages may not be sold in competition with the school nutrition program from 12:01 AM until after the cafeteria closes for the day.

X Option 4: The LEA will be responsible for purchasing all items to be sold to students outside the school nutrition program and will be responsible for determining whether the products sold in school-owned vending machines, school stores, and other venues anywhere on the school campus comply with the Smart Snacks nutrition standards. LEA personnel will be responsible and accountable for obtaining and maintaining documentation for all purchases (including but not limited to procurement specifications, bid awards, contracts, nutrition facts labels, allergen labels and ingredient lists) for each school within the LEA. Under this option, LEA personnel outside the school nutrition program will be responsible for compliance during an Administrative Review or audit. Consistent with SBE policy, under this option, foods and beverages may not be sold in competition with the school nutrition program from 12:01 AM until after the cafeteria closes for the day.

Option 5: *Combination of Options – Please note prior approval of the SA is required if the LEA chooses a combination of options. Submit documentation to the Office of School Nutrition describing, in detail, the reason more than one option is necessary.

My signature below indicates that I understand the option chosen for the LEA and I agree to inform school personnel of the option and of their responsibilities to comply with the option.

Superintendent:

Dr. Barry Williams
[Print]

Dr. Barry Williams
[Signature]

5/22/2024
[Date]

Smart Snacks in School

USDA's "All Foods Sold in Schools" Standards

schools to offer healthier snack foods to children, while limiting junk food.

School day.

and the school community, all working hard to instill healthy habits in students.

Nutrition Standards for Foods

Any food sold in schools must:

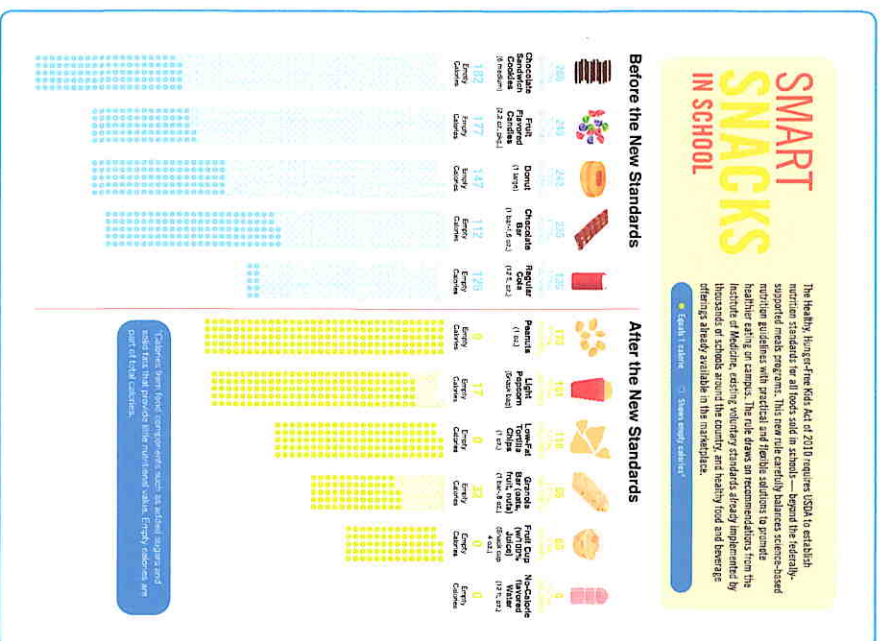
- Be a “whole grain-rich” grain product; or
- Have as the first ingredient a fruit, a vegetable, a dairy product, or a protein food; or
- Be a combination food that contains at least ¼ cup of fruit and/or vegetable; or
- Contain 10% of the Daily Value (DV) of one of the nutrients of public health concern in the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (calcium, potassium, vitamin D, or dietary fiber).*

- **Foods must also meet several nutrient requirements:**

- Calorie limits:
 - Snack items: ≤ 200 calories
 - Entrée items: ≤ 350 calories
- Sodium limits:
 - Snack items: ≤ 230 mg**
 - Entrée items: ≤ 480 mg
- Fat limits:
 - Total fat: $\leq 35\%$ of calories
 - Saturated fat: $< 10\%$ of calories
 - Trans fat: zero grams
- Sugar limit:
 - $\leq 35\%$ of weight from total sugars in foods

*On July 1, 2016, foods may not qualify using the 10% DV criteria.

**On July 1, 2016, snack items must contain ≤ 200 mg sodium per item



Nutrition Standards for Beverages

- **All schools may sell:**
 - Plain water (with or without carbonation)
 - Unflavored low fat milk
 - Unflavored or flavored fat free milk and milk alternatives permitted by NSLP/SBP
 - 100% fruit or vegetable juice and
 - 100% fruit or vegetable juice diluted with water (with or without carbonation), and no added sweeteners.
- **Elementary schools may sell up to 8-ounce portions, while middle schools and high schools may sell up to 12-ounce portions of milk and juice. There is no portion size limit for plain water.**
- **Beyond this, the standards allow additional "no calorie" and "lower calorie" beverage options for high school students.**
 - No more than 20-ounce portions of
 - Calorie-free, flavored water (with or without carbonation); and
 - Other flavored and/or carbonated beverages that are labeled to contain < 5 calories per 8 fluid ounces or ≤ 10 calories per 20 fluid ounces.
 - No more than 12-ounce portions of
 - Beverages with ≤ 40 calories per 8 fluid ounces, or ≤ 60 calories per 12 fluid ounces.

Other Requirements

- **Fundraisers**
 - The sale of food items that meet nutrition requirements at fundraisers are not limited in any way under the standards.
 - The standards do not apply during non-school hours, on weekends and at off-campus fundraising events.
 - The standards provide a special exemption for infrequent fundraisers that do not meet the nutrition standards. State agencies may determine the frequency with which fundraising activities take place that allow the sale of food and beverage items that do not meet the nutrition standards.
- **Accompaniments**
 - Accompaniments such as cream cheese, salad dressing and butter must be included in the nutrient profile as part of the food item sold.
 - This helps control the amount of calories, fat, sugar and sodium added to foods by accompaniments, which can be significant.

Public Comment

USDA is seeking comments on these standards. The formal 120-day comment period is open through October 28, 2013. We also want to continue to receive feedback during implementation of the standards, so that we are able to make any needed tweaks to the standards based on real-world experience. Feedback from students, parents, school food staff, school administrators, State agencies and other interested parties is critical to ensuring successful standards.

To find the standards online, simply go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search by the docket number, which is FNS-2011-0019, or you may type in the name of the rule "Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in School".

Comment Online:

<http://www.regulations.gov>

Comment by Mail:

William Wagoner
Section Chief, Policy and
Program Development Branch
Child Nutrition Division
Food and Nutrition Service
P.O. Box 66874
St. Louis, MO 63166



Policy Code: 6140 Student Wellness

The board recognizes that it is important for students to maintain their physical health and receive proper nutrition in order to take advantage of educational opportunities.

The board further recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to a student's physical well-being, growth, development, and readiness to learn. The board is committed to providing a school environment that promotes student wellness, proper nutrition, nutrition education, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning experience. As part of that commitment, the board directs the superintendent to oversee the development, implementation and ongoing evaluation of this policy and other school system efforts to encourage students to be healthy and active, including compliance with the State Board of Education's Healthy Active Children Policy, [SHLT-000](#), as further described in Section F, below. The superintendent may designate a school system official to carry out this responsibility ("lead wellness official").

The superintendent or designee shall make the most current version of this policy available to members of the school community and the public by posting it on the school system website and/or by distributing it annually through other means reasonably intended to reach the school community and public. In addition, the superintendent or designee shall provide a copy of this policy to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) when requested to do so.

A. School Health Advisory Council

The board will maintain a school health advisory council to help plan, update, implement, promote and monitor this policy as well as to address other health and nutrition issues within the school system. The council serves as an advisory committee regarding student health issues and works in conjunction with the lead wellness official charged with oversight of this policy and the school system's efforts to promote student and employee health and wellness in compliance with state and federal requirements. The council is authorized to examine related research and laws, assess student needs and the current school environment, review existing board policies and administrative regulations, collaborate with appropriate community agencies and organizations, and help raise awareness about student health issues. The council also may make policy recommendations to the board related to this policy and other policies concerning student wellness and in conjunction with the lead wellness official, shall periodically review and suggest revisions to this policy. In addition, the council may assist in the development of a plan for measuring and assessing implementation of this policy and in developing methods to inform and update the public about the content and implementation of this policy as described in Sections F and G, below.

The council will be composed of representatives from the school system, the local health department and the community. The council must include members of each of the following groups: the school board, school system administrators, school system food service representatives, physical education teachers, school health professionals, students, parents or guardians and the public. The council will provide information to the board about the following areas or concerns: (1) physical activity, (2) health education, (3) employee wellness, (4) health services, (5) social and emotional climate, (6) nutrition environment and services, (7) counseling, psychological and social services, (8) physical environment, (9) family engagement and (10) community involvement.

The council shall provide periodic reports to the board and public regarding the status of its work. In addition, the council shall assist the lead wellness official in creating an annual report that includes the minutes of physical activity and the minutes of physical education and/or healthful living education received by students in the system each school year, as well as any other information required by the State Board of Education or NCDPI.

B. Nutrition Promotion and Nutrition Education

The board believes that promoting student health and nutrition enhances readiness for learning and increases student achievement. The general goals of nutrition promotion and nutrition education are (1) to provide appropriate instruction for the acquisition of behaviors that contribute to a healthy lifestyle for students and (2) to teach, encourage and support healthy eating by students.

The board will provide nutrition education within the Healthful Living Standard Course of Study and the grade level expectations outlined in the Healthful Living Essential Standards adopted by the State Board of Education. Nutrition education should be designed to provide all students with the knowledge and skills needed to lead healthy lives. Students should learn to address nutrition-related health concerns through age-appropriate nutrition education lessons and activities.

Nutrition education and promotion should extend beyond the school environment by engaging and involving families and communities. School system personnel may coordinate with agencies and community organizations to provide opportunities for appropriate student projects related to nutrition. School system personnel are to work to disseminate and promote consistent nutrition messages throughout the school system, schools, classrooms, school dining areas, homes, community and media.

In conjunction with the school health advisory council, the board establishes the following additional specific evidence-based goals and strategies for nutrition

promotion and education. The board will periodically measure and report progress toward meeting these goals.

C. Nutrition Standards and Guidelines for All Food and Beverages Available at School

Consistent with policy 6200, Goals of School Nutrition Services, all foods available in the system's schools during the school day that are offered to students should help promote student health, reduce childhood obesity, provide a variety of nutritional meals and promote lifelong healthy eating habits. All foods and beverages sold at school must meet the nutrition standards established in policy 6230, School Meal and Competitive Foods Standards, including the following:

1. School Lunch, Breakfast and Snack Programs

Foods provided through the National School Lunch, School Breakfast or After School Snack Programs must comply with federal and state nutrition standards. The director of child nutrition shall ensure that school system guidelines for reimbursable meals are not less restrictive than regulations and guidelines issued for schools in accordance with federal law.

2. Competitive Foods

All foods sold on school campuses in areas that are accessible to students during the school day (defined as the period from midnight through 30 minutes after the dismissal bell rings) in competition with the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs ("competitive foods") must comply with the federal Smart Snacks in Schools standards. Competitive foods include food, snacks and beverages from a la carte menus, vending machines and outside suppliers, as well as foods or beverages sold in school stores and at fund-raisers. Vending machine sales also must comply with the requirements of [G.S. 115C-264.2](#) and *Eat Smart: North Carolina's Recommended Standards for All Foods in Schools*.

3. Other Foods Available on the School Campus During the School Day and After the School Day

School principals shall establish rules for foods and beverages brought from home for classroom events or parties during the school day or for extracurricular activities after the school day. The board encourages principals to establish rules that are consistent with the Smart Snacks in Schools standards.

Fundraising activities that involve the sale of foods and/or beverages to students during the school day (from midnight until 30 minutes after the dismissal bell rings) must comply with the Smart Snack Rules and may not be conducted until after the end of the last lunch period. See policy 6230, School Meal and Competitive Foods Standards.

School principals may establish standards for fund-raising activities conducted after the school day (beginning 31 minutes after the dismissal bell rings) that involve the sale of food and/or beverages. The board encourages alternative fundraising activities such as non-food items or physical activity.

4. Food and Beverage Marketing

Food and beverage marketing on school campuses during the school day must meet federal and state standards. In accordance with these standards, only foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snack standards (as described in subsection C.2, above) may be marketed or advertised on school campuses during the school day. To comply with this requirement, existing supplies, materials or equipment that depict noncompliant products or logos will be replaced or removed in accordance with normal lifecycles or as otherwise would occur in the normal course of business.

D. Physical Education and Physical Activity

1. Goals of the Physical Education Program

The goal of the physical education program is to promote lifelong physical activity and provide instruction in the skills and knowledge necessary for lifelong participation in physical activity. To address issues such as obesity, cardiovascular disease and Type II diabetes, students enrolled in kindergarten through eighth grade must have the opportunity to participate in physical activity as part of the system's physical education curriculum. The goal for elementary schools is to provide 150 minutes weekly of quality physical education with a certified physical education teacher. The goal for middle schools is to provide 225 minutes weekly of Healthful Living Education, divided equally between health and physical education with certified health and physical education teachers.

2. The Physical Education Course

The physical education course should be designed to foster support and guidance for being physically active, help students know and understand the value of being physically fit, and teach students the types of activities that

contribute to total fitness. The course is to be taught in an environment where students can learn, practice and receive assessment on developmentally appropriate skills and knowledge as defined in the North Carolina Healthful Living Standard Course of Study. Students should be engaged in moderate to vigorous physical activity for fifty percent or more of class time. Class for physical education should be equivalent in size to those of other academic classes.

3. Physical Activity Requirements and Goals

School personnel should strive to provide opportunities for age- and developmentally appropriate physical activity during the day for all students so that students can learn how to maintain a physically active lifestyle. Schools must provide a minimum of 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity daily for kindergarten through eighth-grade students. Such activity may be achieved through a regular daily physical education class as described in Section D.1 and D.2 above, or through recess, dance, classroom energizers, and/or other curriculum-based physical activity programs of at least 10 minutes duration, that, when combined, total 30 minutes of daily physical activity. Principals shall work with teachers to ensure that students meet the minimum physical activity requirement. The board will periodically measure and report progress toward meeting these goals.

To ensure that students have ongoing opportunities for physical activity and maintain a positive attitude towards physical activity, structured/unstructured recess and other physical activity may not be taken away from students as a form of punishment. In addition, severe and inappropriate exercise may not be used as a form of punishment for students.

E. Other School-Based Activities to Promote Wellness

In addition to the standards discussed above, the board adopts the following goals for school-based activities designed to promote wellness:

1. Schools will provide a clean and safe meal environment.
2. Students will be provided adequate time to eat meals.
3. Drinking water will be available at all meal periods and throughout the school day.
4. Professional development will be provided for school system nutrition staff.

5. To the extent possible, the school system will utilize available funding and outside programs to enhance student wellness.
6. Food will not be used in the schools as a reward or punishment.
7. As appropriate, the goals of this wellness policy will be considered in planning all school-based activities.
8. Administrators, teachers, school nutrition personnel, students, parents or guardians, and community members will be encouraged to serve as positive role models to promote student wellness.

F. Implementation and Review of Policy

1. Oversight and Monitoring of Implementation and Progress

The lead wellness official, in conjunction with the school health advisory council, shall oversee the implementation of this policy and monitor system schools, programs and curricula to ensure compliance with and to assess progress under this policy, related policies and established guidelines or administrative regulations. Each principal shall be responsible for and shall report to the lead wellness official regarding compliance and measurements of progress in his or her school. Staff members responsible for programs related to student wellness also shall report to the lead wellness official regarding the status of such programs.

2. Review of Policy

The lead wellness official shall work with members of the school health advisory council to periodically review and update this policy based on the triennial assessment of the school system's compliance with the policy (see subsection F.4, below), progress toward meeting the policy goals, and other relevant factors. The lead wellness official shall document the review process and participants, and the method used to notify the school health advisory council and/or other stakeholders of their ability to participate.

3. Annual Reporting

The lead wellness official shall prepare annual written reports to the superintendent and NCDPI/State Board of Education that provide all information required by the superintendent and/or the state pertaining to the school system's efforts to comply with this policy and SBE policy [SHLT-000](#).

4. Triennial Assessment

Beginning with school year 2017-18, and at least once every three years thereafter, the superintendent or designee shall report to the board and public on the system's compliance with laws and policies related to student wellness, the implementation of this policy and progress toward meeting the goals of the policy. At a minimum, the superintendent or designee shall measure and report the following:

- a) the extent to which the individual schools are in compliance with this policy;
- b) the extent to which the board's wellness policy compares to model local school wellness policies and meets state and federal requirements; and
- c) a description of the progress made in attaining the goals of this policy.

The report may also include the following items:

- d) a summary of each school's activities undertaken in support of the policy goals;
- e) an assessment of the school environment regarding student wellness issues;
- f) an evaluation of the school nutrition services programs;
- g) a review of all foods and beverages sold in schools for compliance with established nutrition guidelines;
- h) a review of guidelines for foods and beverages available, but not sold, during the school day, as described in subsection C.3, above;
- i) information provided in the report from the school health advisory council, as described in Section A, above; and
- j) suggestions for improvement to this policy and other policies or programs.

G. Public Notification

1. The school system will publish contact information for the lead wellness official on the school system website.

2. The lead wellness official shall assist the school health advisory council with annually informing and updating the public about this policy and its implementation and State Board policy [SHLT-000](#).

3. The superintendent or designee shall make public the results of the triennial assessment described in subsection F.4 of this policy.

4. All information required to be reported under this section and any additional information required by the state to be reported publicly shall be widely disseminated to students, parents, and the community in an accessible and easily understood manner, which may include posting on the school system website.

H. Recordkeeping

The superintendent shall maintain records to document compliance with this policy and all federal and state requirements. These records, at a minimum, must include:

1. a written copy of this policy and any updates;
2. the most recent triennial assessment for each school;
3. documentation demonstrating:
 - a. the efforts to review and update this policy, as described in subsection F.2 of this policy;
 - b. how this policy and information about the most recent triennial assessments have been made available to the public, as described in Section G;
 - c. compliance with the annual reporting requirements of subsection F.3; and
 - d. other efforts to involve the school health advisory council and/or other community members in the implementation of or assessment of compliance with this policy.

Legal References: Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, [42 U.S.C. 1751](#); Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, [P.L. 111-296](#); National School Lunch Act, [42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.](#); [7 C.F.R. 210.11](#), [210.12](#), and [210.31](#); [G.S. 115C-264.2](#), [-264.3](#); State Board of Education Policies [SHLT-000](#), [CHNU-000](#), [CHNU-002](#); *Eat Smart: North Carolina's Recommended Standards for All Foods in Schools*, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, N.C. Division of Public Health (2004)

Cross References: Goals of Student Health Services (policy 6100), Goals of School Nutrition Services (policy 6200), School Meal and Competitive Foods Standards (policy 6230)

Adopted: February 3, 2014

Revised: June 3, 2015; September 11, 2017

Gates County Schools (New)



K12PaymentCenter

The Complete Online Payment Solution

Online Payment Information to Parents

Dear Parents,

Dealing with your children's school money just got a lot easier! You can now add money to their accounts for meals, pay for school-related fees online securely and even see what they are buying.

You may have previously used www.K12PaymentCenter.com to access your child's meal account, but now the website is new and improved, with more features that make it easier to manage your child's account. You can now pay for school fees like merchandise, apparel, supplies, tickets, yearbooks and more online. You'll even receive email and text notifications when school fees are assigned to your student.

If you already have an online payment account, just login with your current login credentials. All of your information will be transferred over. If you haven't used the website before, go to www.K12PaymentCenter.com and click "Register Now" to create an account. Select **Gates County Public Schools** from the drop-down lists of school districts, fill in your information, input your credit or debit card information and you're ready to go! Note that you will need your child's student ID number; simply contact us for their ID number and with any other questions you may have.

Online Payment Website Facts:

- Make payments for meals and school fees online securely using your credit card
- Have more than one child in the district? You can deposit money into multiple accounts with just one payment!
- You get quick and easy access to your child's account 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- The ability to:
 - see 120 calendar days of purchases and payments
 - Check your child's meal account balance
 - Get low balance alerts by e-mail and text
- Pay for not only school meals but school fees, such as merchandise, apparel, supplies, tickets, yearbooks, etc.
- Receive email and text notifications when school fees are assigned to your student
- Less hassle and no more "lost lunch money" or sending checks into the district office
- Setup monthly or weekly recurring payments
- Peace of mind, knowing exactly what you money is being spent on
- You can access [online payments on Facebook](#)
- There are no banners, pop ups ads or advertising
- We do not share any information with third parties, other than your financial institution and your child's school
- The website is secure site and utilizes all of the current industry privacy standards

For more information, go to www.K12PaymentCenter.com or call the **Gates County Public Schools** at (252) 357-1113.

[Click here](#) to see a video on how to start managing your child's account online today!

How it Works

- Once the account is set up, parents have access to make payments, set up recurring payments, view student meal history...

Meal History for LISA WHITE

Date	Description	Price	Qty	Balance	Voided
02/20/2013	NET PAYMENT	\$10.00	1	-\$3.60	
02/20/2013	CUPCAKE	\$0.50	1	-\$3.25	
02/20/2013	TINY PRETZELS	\$0.50	1	-\$3.25	
02/20/2013	LUNCH REGULAR	\$2.20	1	-\$5.25	
02/20/2013	CUP WITH ICE	\$0.10	1	-\$5.05	
02/20/2013	FRESH FRUIT	\$0.50	1	-\$5.05	
02/20/2013	FRENCH TOAST ST (5)	\$1.00	1	-\$5.05	
02/19/2013	FRUIT - FRESH	\$0.50	1	-\$13.60	
02/19/2013	GATORADE/POWERADE	\$1.50	1	-\$13.60	
02/19/2013	BBQ HONEY MUSTARD SAUCE	\$0.30	1	-\$13.60	
02/19/2013	CHICKEN NUGGET (7)	\$1.25	1	-\$13.60	
02/19/2013	JUICE 4OZ	\$0.30	1	-\$10.05	
02/19/2013	FRESH FRUIT	\$0.50	1	-\$10.05	
02/19/2013	PANCAKES (2)	\$1.00	1	-\$10.05	
02/12/2013	LUNCH REGULAR	\$2.20	1	-\$3.45	
02/11/2013	LUNCH PAYMENT	\$2.20	1	-\$1.25	
02/11/2013	LUNCH REGULAR	\$2.20	1	-\$1.25	
02/11/2013	BREAKFAST REGULAR	\$1.25	1	-\$1.25	



K12PaymentCenter

The Complete Online Payment Solution

How it Works

...and even setup 'low balance' email and text alerts when your meal account reaches an amount you choose

Low Balance Notifications

☒ Send Low Balance E-mail Notifications

when my balance is below

Text Message Phone Number: Carrier:



K12PaymentCenter

The Complete Online Payment Solution

GATES COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL



MEAL PRICES FOR 2024-2025

	BREAKFAST		LUNCH	
	FULL PAY/ REDUCED		FULL PAY/ REDUCED	
ELEMENTARY	\$1.75	\$.00	\$2.75	\$.40
MIDDLE	\$1.75	\$.00	\$3.00	\$.40
HIGH	\$1.75	\$.00	\$3.00	\$.40

Policy Code: 4316 Student Dress Code

The board believes that the dress and personal appearance of students greatly affect their academic performance and their interaction with other students. The board requests that parents outfit their children in clothing that will be conducive to learning.

A. General Guidelines

Generally, dress and grooming standards as determined by the student and his or her parents will be deemed acceptable. However, the board prohibits appearance or clothing that does the following:

1. violates a reasonable dress code adopted and publicized by the school;
2. is substantially disruptive (for information on gang-related attire, see policy 4328, Gang-Related Activity);
3. is obscene; or
4. endangers the health or safety of the student or others.

Before receiving disciplinary consequences, a student who is not in compliance with this policy or a school dress code will be given a reasonable period of time to make adjustments so that he or she will be in compliance. A student's failure to comply after being offered this opportunity or a student's second or repeated violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action. Such disciplinary consequences shall be consistent with Section F of policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies. The superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violation of the dress code.

B. Specific Guidelines

Principals will maintain specific guidelines to assist students in determining appropriate dress and appearance for each particular school, copies of which will be made available to parents and students.

Reasonable accommodations shall be made by the school principal or designee for those students who, because of a sincerely held religious belief, cultural heritage or medical reason request a waiver of a particular guideline for dress or appearance.

Reasonable accommodations shall be made by the principal or designee to accommodate students involved in special duties, activities or projects approved by the school. This would include but not be limited to: athletics, career and technical classes and projects, special events or other activities that would allow for non-conforming dress on a school campus.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -390.2

Cross References: Student Behavior Policies (policy 4300), School Plan for Management of Student Behavior (policy 4302), Disruptive Behavior (policy 4315), Gang-Related Activity (policy 4328)

Adopted: June 6, 2011

Revised: June 28, 2011; June 27, 2013; August 6, 2018

Gates County Schools (New)

A. INTRODUCTION

It is the policy of the board to: (a) prevent user access via its technological resources to, or transmission of, inappropriate material on the Internet or through electronic mail or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access to the Internet and devices or programs connected to or accessible through the Internet; (c) prevent other unlawful online activity; (d) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (e) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act.

B. DEFINITIONS

1. Technology Protection Measure
The term "technology protection measure" means a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors.
2. Harmful to Minors
The term "harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file or other visual depiction that:
 - a. taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex or excretion;
 - b. depicts, describes or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
 - c. taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value as to minors.
3. Child Pornography
The term "child pornography" means any visual depiction, including any photograph, film, video picture or computer or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical or other means, of sexually explicit conduct, where:
 - a. the production of such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;
 - b. such visual depiction is a digital image, computer image or computer-generated image that is, or is indistinguishable from, that of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct; or
 - c. such visual depiction has been created, adapted or modified to appear that an identifiable minor is engaging in sexually explicit conduct.
4. Sexual Act; Sexual Contact
The terms "sexual act" and "sexual contact" have the meanings given such terms in [section 2246 of title 18, United States Code](#).
5. Minor
For purposes of this policy, the term "minor" means any individual who has not attained the age of 17 years.

C. ACCESS TO INAPPROPRIATE MATERIAL

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") will be used to block or filter access to inappropriate information on the Internet and World Wide Web. Specifically, blocking will be applied to audio and visual depictions deemed obscene or to be child pornography or harmful to minors. Student access to other materials that are inappropriate to minors will also be restricted. The board has determined that audio or visual materials that depict violence, nudity or graphic language that does not serve a legitimate pedagogical purpose is inappropriate for minors. The superintendent, in conjunction with a school technology and media advisory committee (see policy [3200](#), Selection of Instructional Materials), shall make a determination regarding what other matter or materials are inappropriate for minors. School system personnel may not restrict Internet access to ideas, perspectives or viewpoints if the restriction is motivated solely by disapproval of the viewpoints involved.

Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled during use by an adult for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

D. INAPPROPRIATE NETWORK USAGE

All users of school system technological resources are expected to comply with the requirements established in policy [3225/4312/7320](#). Technology Responsible Use. In particular, users are prohibited from: (a) attempting to gain unauthorized access, including "hacking," and engaging in other similar unlawful activities; and (b) engaging in the unauthorized disclosure, use or dissemination of personal identifying information regarding minors.

E. EDUCATION, SUPERVISION AND MONITORING

To the extent practical, steps will be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the school system's online computer network, especially when they are using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging and other forms of direct electronic communications. It is the responsibility of all school personnel to educate, supervise and monitor usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy, the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.

Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures are the responsibility of the technology director or designated representatives.

The technology director or designated representatives shall provide age-appropriate training for students who use the school system's Internet services. The training provided will be designed to promote the school system's commitment to educating student in digital literacy and citizenship, including:

1. the standards and acceptable use of Internet services as set forth in policy [3225/4312/7320](#), Technology Responsible Use;
 2. student safety with regard to safety on the Internet, appropriate behavior while online, including behavior on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response; and
 3. compliance with the E-rate requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act.
- Following receipt of this training, the student must acknowledge that he or she received the training, understood it and will follow the provisions of policy [3225/4312/7320](#), Technology Responsible Use.

The superintendent shall develop any regulations needed to implement this policy and shall submit any certifications necessary to demonstrate compliance with this policy.

Legal References: Children's Internet Protection Act, [47 U.S.C. 254\(h\)](#); Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, [47 U.S.C. 254\(i\)](#); Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act, [47 U.S.C. 254\(h\)](#)

Cross References: Professional and Staff Development (policy [1610/7800](#)), Technology in the Educational Program (policy [3220](#)), Technology Responsible Use (policy [3225/4312/7320](#)), School Improvement Plan (policy [3430](#)), Use of Equipment, Materials and Supplies (policy [6524](#)), Network Security (policy [6524](#))

Adopted: September 10, 2012, at a public meeting, following normal public notice
Replaces: Internet/Network Acceptable Use (policy IIBH)

Gates County Schools (New)

Policy Code: 3225/4312/7320 Technology Responsible Use

The board provides its students and staff access to a variety of technological resources. These resources provide opportunities to enhance learning and improve communication within the school community and with the larger global community. Through the school system's technological resources, users can observe events as they occur around the world, interact with others on a variety of subjects, and acquire access to current and in-depth information.

The board intends that students and employees benefit from these resources while remaining within the bounds of safe, legal and responsible use. Accordingly, the board establishes this policy to govern student and employee use of school system technological resources. This policy applies regardless of whether such use occurs on or off school system property, and it applies to all school system technological resources, including but not limited to computer networks and connections, the resources, tools and learning environments made available by or on the networks, and all devices that connect to those networks.

A. EXPECTATIONS FOR USE OF SCHOOL TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES

B.

The use of school system technological resources, including access to the Internet, is a privilege, not a right. Individual users of the school system's technological resources are responsible for their behavior and communications when using those resources. Responsible use of school system technological resources is use that is ethical, respectful, academically honest and supportive of student learning. Each user has the responsibility to respect others in the school community and on the Internet. Users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. General student and employee behavior standards, including those prescribed in applicable board policies, the Code of Student Conduct and other regulations and school rules, apply to use of the Internet and other school technological resources.

In addition, anyone who uses school system computers or electronic devices or who accesses the school network or the Internet using school system resources must comply with the additional rules for responsible use listed in Section B, below. These rules are intended to clarify expectations for conduct but should not be construed as all-inclusive.

Before using the Internet, all students must be trained about appropriate online behavior as provided in policy [3226/4205](#), Internet Safety.

All students and employees must be informed annually of the requirements of this policy and the methods by which they may obtain a copy of this policy. Before using school system technological resources, students and employees must sign a statement indicating that they understand and will strictly comply with these requirements and acknowledging awareness that the school system uses monitoring systems to monitor and detect inappropriate use of technological resources. Failure to adhere to these requirements will result in disciplinary action, including revocation of user privileges. Willful misuse may result in disciplinary action and/or criminal prosecution under applicable state and federal law.

B. RULES FOR USE OF SCHOOL TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES

1. School system technological resources are provided for school-related purposes only. Acceptable uses of such technological resources are limited to responsible, efficient and legal activities that support learning and teaching. Use of school system technological resources for commercial gain or profit is prohibited. Student personal use of school system technological resources for amusement or entertainment is also prohibited. Because some incidental and occasional personal use by employees is inevitable, the board permits infrequent and brief personal use by employees so long as it occurs on personal time, does not interfere with school system business and is not otherwise prohibited by board policy or procedure.
2. Under no circumstance may software purchased by the school system be copied for personal

- use.
3. Students and employees must comply with all applicable laws, including those relating to copyrights and trademarks, confidential information, and public records. Any use that violates state or federal law is strictly prohibited. Plagiarism of Internet resources will be treated in the same manner as any other incidents of plagiarism, as stated in the Code of Student Conduct.
 4. No user of technological resources, including a person sending or receiving electronic communications, may engage in creating, intentionally viewing, accessing, downloading, storing, printing or transmitting images, graphics (including still or moving pictures), sound files, text files, documents, messages or other material that is obscene, defamatory, profane, pornographic, harassing, abusive or considered to be harmful to minors.
 5. The use of anonymous proxies to circumvent content filtering is prohibited.
 6. Users may not install or use any Internet-based file sharing program designed to facilitate sharing of copyrighted material.
 7. Users of technological resources may not send electronic communications fraudulently (i.e., by misrepresenting the identity of the sender).
 8. Users must respect the privacy of others. When using e-mail, chat rooms, blogs or other forms of electronic communication, students must not reveal personal identifying information, or information that is private or confidential, such as the home address or telephone number, credit or checking account information or social security number of themselves or fellow students. For further information regarding what constitutes personal identifying information, see policy [4705/7825](#). Confidentiality of Personal Identifying Information. In addition, school employees must not disclose on school system websites or web pages or elsewhere on the Internet any personally identifiable, private or confidential information concerning students (including names, addresses or pictures) without the written permission of a parent or guardian or an eligible student, except as otherwise permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or policy [4700](#), Student Records. Users also may not forward or post personal communications without the author's prior consent.
 9. Users may not intentionally or negligently damage computers, computer systems, electronic devices, software, computer networks or data of any user connected to school system technological resources. Users may not knowingly or negligently transmit computer viruses or self-replicating messages or deliberately try to degrade or disrupt system performance. Users must scan any downloaded files for viruses.
 10. Users may not create or introduce games, network communications programs or any foreign program or software onto any school system computer, electronic device or network without the express permission of the technology director or designee.
 11. Users are prohibited from engaging in unauthorized or unlawful activities, such as "hacking" or using the computer network to gain or attempt to gain unauthorized or unlawful access to other computers, computer systems or accounts.
 12. Users are prohibited from using another individual's ID or password for any technological resource without permission from the individual. Students must also have permission from the teacher or other school official.
 13. Users may not read, alter, change, block, execute or delete files or communications belonging to another user without the owner's express prior permission.
 14. Employees shall not use passwords or user IDs for any data system (e.g., the state student information and instructional improvement system applications, time-keeping software, etc.), for an unauthorized or improper purpose.
 15. If a user identifies a security problem on a technological resource, he or she must immediately notify a system administrator. Users must not demonstrate the problem to other users. Any user identified as a security risk will be denied access.
 16. Teachers shall make reasonable efforts to supervise students' use of the Internet during instructional time.
 17. Views may be expressed on the Internet or other technological resources as representing the view of the school system or part of the school system only with prior approval by the superintendent or designee.

C. RESTRICTED MATERIAL ON THE INTERNET

The Internet and electronic communications offer fluid environments in which students may access or be exposed to materials and information from diverse and rapidly changing sources, including some that may be harmful to students. The board recognizes that it is impossible to predict with certainty what information on the Internet students may access or obtain.

Nevertheless school system personnel shall take reasonable precautions to prevent students from accessing material and information that is obscene, pornographic or otherwise harmful to minors, including violence, nudity or graphic language that does not serve a legitimate pedagogical purpose. The superintendent shall ensure that technology protection measures are used as provided in policy [3226/4205](#), Internet Safety, and are disabled or minimized only when permitted by law and board policy. The board is not responsible for the content accessed by users who connect to the Internet via their personal mobile telephone technology (e.g., 3G, 4G service).

D. PARENTAL CONSENT

The board recognizes that parents of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards their children should follow when using media and information sources. Accordingly, before a student may independently access the Internet, the student's parent must be made aware of the possibility that the student could obtain access to inappropriate material while engaged in independent use of the Internet. The parent and student must consent to the student's independent access to the Internet and to monitoring of the student's Internet activity and e-mail communication by school personnel.

In addition, in accordance with the board's goals and visions for technology, students may require accounts in third party systems for school related projects designed to assist students in mastering effective and proper online communications or to meet other educational goals. Parental permission will be obtained when necessary to create and manage such third party accounts.

E. PRIVACY

Students, employees, visitors and other users have no expectation of privacy in anything they create, store, send, delete, receive or display when using the school system's network, devices, Internet access, email system or other technological resources owned or issued by the school system, whether the resources are used at school or elsewhere and even if the use is for personal purposes. Users should not assume that files or communications created, transmitted, or displayed using school system technological resources or stored on servers or on the storage mediums of individual devices will be private. The school system may, without notice, (1) monitor, track and/or log network access, communications and use; (2) monitor and allocate fileserver space; and (3) access, review, copy, store, delete or disclose the content of all user files, regardless of medium, the content of electronic mailboxes and system outputs, such as printouts, for any lawful purpose. Such purposes may include, but are not limited to maintaining system integrity, security, or functionality, ensuring compliance with board policy and applicable laws and regulations, protecting the school system from liability and complying with public records requests. School system personnel shall monitor online activities of individuals who access the Internet via a school-owned device.

By using the school system's network, Internet access, email system, devices or other technological resources, individuals consent to have that use monitored by authorized school system personnel as described in this policy.

F. USE OF PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY ON SCHOOL SYSTEM PROPERTY

Each principal may establish rules for his or her school site as to whether and how personal technology devices (including, but not limited to smart phones, tablets, laptops, etc.) may be used on campus. Students' devices are governed also by policy [4318](#), Use of Wireless Communication Devices. The school system assumes no responsibility for personal technology devices brought to school.

G. PERSONAL WEBSITES

The superintendent may use any means available to request the removal of personal websites that substantially disrupt the school environment or that utilize school system or individual school names, logos or trademarks without permission.

1. Students

Though school personnel generally do not monitor students' Internet activity conducted on non-school system devices during non-school hours, when the student's online behavior has a direct and immediate effect on school safety or maintaining order and discipline in the schools, the student may be disciplined in accordance with board policy (see the student behavior policies in the [4300](#) series).

2. Employees

Employees' personal websites are subject to policy [7335](#), Employee Use of Social Media.

3. Volunteers

Volunteers are to maintain an appropriate relationship with students at all times. Volunteers are encouraged to block students from viewing personal information on volunteer personal websites or online networking profiles in order to prevent the possibility that students could view materials that are not age-appropriate. An individual volunteer's relationship with the school system may be terminated if the volunteer engages in inappropriate online interaction with students.

Legal References: [U.S. Const. amend. 1](#); Children's Internet Protection Act, [47 U.S.C. 254](#)(n)(5); Electronic Communications Privacy Act, [18 U.S.C. 2510-2522](#); Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, [20 U.S.C. 1232g](#); [17 U.S.C. 101 et seq.](#); [20 U.S.C. 7131](#); [G.S. 115C-325\(e\)](#) (applicable to career status teachers), [-325.4](#) (applicable to non-career status teachers) Cross References: Curriculum and Instructional Guides (policy [3115](#)), Technology in the Educational Program (policy [3220](#)), Internet Safety (policy [3226/4205](#)), Copyright Compliance (policy [3230/7330](#)), Web Page Development ([3227/7322](#)), Student Behavior Policies (all policies in the [4300](#) series), Student Records (policy [4700](#)), Confidentiality of Personal Identifying Information (policy [4705/7825](#)), Public Records - Retention, Release and Disposition (policy [5070/7360](#)), Use of Equipment, Materials and Supplies (policy [6520](#)), Network Security (policy [6524](#)), Staff Responsibilities (policy [7300](#)), Employee Use of Social Media (policy [7335](#)) Adopted: September 10, 2012
Revised: June 3, 2015; February 6, 2017
[Gates County Schools \(New\)](#)

Policy Code: 4318 Use of Wireless Communication Devices

The board recognizes that cellular phones and other wireless communication devices have become an important tool through which parents communicate with their children. Therefore, students are permitted to possess such devices on school property so long as the devices are not activated, used, displayed or visible during the instructional day or as otherwise directed by school rules or school personnel. Additionally, these devices should not be used during transition time or during non-instructional times, such as lunch breaks.

Wireless communication devices include, but are not limited to, cellular phones, electronic devices with internet capability, paging devices, two-way radios and similar devices.

Administrators will establish guidelines regarding the proper storage of these devices during times when their use is not authorized.

A. Authorized Use

Administrators may authorize individual students to use wireless communication devices for personal purposes when there is a reasonable need for such communication. Teachers and administrators may authorize individual students to use the devices for instructional purposes, provided that they supervise the students during such use.

Although use generally is permitted before and after school, use of cellular phones and other wireless communication devices may be prohibited on school buses when noise from such devices interferes with the safe operation of the buses. In addition, elementary and middle school students who participate in after-school programs are prohibited from using wireless communication devices during such programs.

B. Consequences for Unauthorized Use

School employees may immediately confiscate any wireless communication devices that are on, used, displayed or visible in violation of this policy. Absent compelling and unusual circumstances, confiscated wireless communication devices will be returned only to the student's parent in accordance with the Schools Code of Conduct.

The disciplinary consequences for violations of this policy shall be consistent with Section F of policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies. The superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violations of this policy.

The following factors should be considered when determining appropriate consequences: whether the wireless communication device was used (1) to reproduce images of tests, obtain unauthorized access to school information or assist students in any aspect of their instructional program in a manner that violates any school board policy, administrative regulation or school rule; (2) to bully or harass other students; (3) to send illicit text messages; (4) to take and/or send illicit photographs; or (5) in any other manner that would make more severe disciplinary consequences appropriate.

The taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (e.g. texting, emailing, "sexting," etc.) may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be reported to law enforcement and/or other appropriate state or federal agencies, which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution, and/or lifetime inclusion on sex offender registries.

C. Search of Wireless Communication Devices

In accordance with policy 4342, Student Searches, a student's wireless communication device and its contents, including, but not limited to, text messages and digital photos, may be searched whenever a school official has reason to believe the search will provide evidence that the student has violated or is violating a law, board policy, the Code of Student Conduct or a school rule. The scope of such searches must be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the nature of the suspected infraction.

D. Liability

Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their wireless communication devices. The school system is not responsible for the theft, loss or damage of a cellular phone or other personal wireless communication device.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-36, -390.2

Cross References: Student Behavior Policies (policy 4300), Disruptive Behavior (policy 4315), Student Searches (policy 4342)

Adopted: June 28, 2011

Revised: July 15, 2024

NO BULLYING ZONE

All decisions related to student behavior are guided by the Board of Education's objectives to teach responsibility and respect for cultural identity and ideological differences and by the Board's commitment to safe, orderly, and inviting schools. The Gates County Board of Education recognizes bullying as a school safety issue, and the bullying policy was created to protect students and staff.

Bullying involves repeated harmful acts and an imbalance of power. It involves repeated physical, verbal, or psychological attacks. It is also intimidation directed against a victim who cannot properly defend himself/herself because of size or strength, the victim is outnumbered, or less psychologically resilient. Bullying can include, but is not limited to the following:

- Unwanted touch of any sort - pinching, shoving, hitting, slapping, etc.
- Tripping
- Intimidation
- Rumor spreading and isolation
- Demands for money
- Destruction of property
- Theft of possessions
- Destruction of another's work or personal items
- Name calling
- Sexual harassment
- Ostracism based on perceived sexual orientation or ethnicity
- Hazing.

Recognizing that bullying entails any of the aforementioned acts, the building principal or designee must determine if the situation in question is bullying. To prevent bullying, the GC Board of Education advocates system-wide prevention efforts that promote positive school and community climate. During the school year the guidance teacher and the classroom teachers will address issues of bullying regularly during special classes and group sessions.

Staff members will assess the extent of the problem at their site, and will involve staff, students, parents and the community in accomplishing the following objectives:

- Identifying victims and their bullies
- Empowering students who witness bullying to speak out
- Assisting parents in ways to help their child if the child is a victim or perpetrator
- Finding assistance for the victims and their perpetrators
- Disciplining the perpetrator if deemed appropriate and
- Reaching out to the community to prevent bullying outside of the school setting.

****Please encourage your child to tell a trusted adult at school. Also, please contact the teacher, school counselor, and/or principal. In order for us to intervene, we have to be aware.**

FEDERAL LEGISLATION PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION

TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 - "No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal Financial Assistance."

TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972 - "No person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program receiving Federal Financial Assistance."

SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 - No otherwise qualified handicapped individual...shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under a program or activity receiving Federal Financial Assistance.

RESPECT for ALL!

**It is the policy of the Board of Education for Gates County Schools
that all students and employees will be treated with respect.**

The Gates County Board of Education believes that all employees and students should be free from discrimination, harassment, and bullying as a part of a safe, orderly, caring, and inviting working and learning environment. The board commits itself to nondiscrimination in all its educational and employment activities.

Protected Categories

Race	Color	National Origin	Disability
Gender	Age	Religion	Pregnancy

SEXUAL HARASSMENT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED

Sexual harassment is one form of harassment. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when: (1) submission to the conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of an individual's employment, academic progress, or completion of a school-related activity; or (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual, or in the case of a student, submission to or rejection of such conduct is used in evaluating the individual's performance within a course of study or other school-related activity; or (3) such conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive so that it has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an employee's work or performance or a student's educational performance; limiting a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or environment; or creating an abusive, intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or educational environment.

RETALIATION against a student or employee who files a complaint is prohibited by law.

If any students, employees, or applicants have a complaint of discrimination or harassment that cannot be resolved, they should contact the appropriate personnel at the address and phone number listed below:

Gates County Schools, P. O. Box 125, Gatesville, NC 27938 – 252-357-1113

Title IX Coordinator (for gender[sex] discrimination) - Student Services Director
Section 504 Coordinator (for discrimination on the basis of disability)
Exceptional Children's Director (also for discrimination on the basis of disability)
Career Technical Education Coordinator (discrimination on the basis of program)
Nondiscrimination Officer (all other areas) - Student Services Director