



2025-2026

West Greenville

Student Handbook

**Middle School Alternative Program**  
**15 Endel Street, Greenville SC 29611**  
**(864) 355-0231**

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## **Attendance**

In South Carolina, all children are required to attend a public or private school or kindergarten beginning at age five (5) and continuing until their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. If a child is not six years of age on or before the first day of September in a particular school year, parents and guardians may choose not to send their children to kindergarten; however, they must sign a waiver which may be obtained at the local school.

In accordance with the South Carolina Compulsory School Attendance law, the School District of Greenville County has adopted uniform rules to ensure that students attend school regularly. Each day that students are not in school, they miss hours of valuable instruction and opportunities for learning that they will not have again. Students are counted present only when they are actually in school, on homebound instruction, or are present at an activity authorized by the school principal. A student is considered in attendance when present for at least three (3) hours of a school day.

All absences beginning with the first shall be approved or disapproved by the board's designee, the building principal. In making this decision, the principal shall be guided by the procedures as presented herein. Decisions regarding approval of absences and eligibility for credit may be appealed in accordance with district policy.

Any student who misses school must present a written excuse, signed by his or her parent or legal guardian or a health care professional, for all absences within two (2) days of the student's return to school. The written excuse should include the reason for and the date of absence. If a student fails to bring a valid written excuse to school, his or her absence will be recorded as unlawful. School will use the criteria below when deciding whether an absence is lawful or unlawful.

### **Lawful Absences**

- Absences caused by a student's illness and whose attendance in school would endanger his or her health or the health of others. These absences must be verified by a physician statement within two (2) days of the student's return to school.
- Absences due to an illness or death in the student's immediate family verified by a statement from the parent within two (2) days of the student's return to school.
- Absences due to a recognized religious holiday of the student's faith when approved in advance. Such requests must be made to the principal in writing.
- Absences for students whose parents/guardians are experiencing a military deployment. Specifically absences when the parent or legal guardian of a student is an active duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be excused as long as such absences are reasonable in duration as deemed by the principal so that the student can visit with his or her parent or legal guardian relative to such leave or deployment of the parent or legal guardian.
- Absences due to activities that are approved in advance by the principal. This would include absences for extreme hardships. Such approval should be prearranged when possible.

### **Unlawful Absences**

- Absences of a student without the knowledge of his or her parents
- Absences of a student without acceptable cause with the knowledge of his or her parents
- Suspension is not to be counted as an unlawful absence for truancy purposes

## **Absences**

For students in grades K-12, principals shall promptly approve or disapprove any student's absence in excess of ten (10) days, whether those absences are lawful, unlawful, or a combination of the two. A student does not exceed the 10 day absence limit until the student has reached his or her 11<sup>th</sup> unlawful absence. Furthermore, a student does not exceed the 5 day absence limit for a 90 day course until the student has reached his or her 6th unlawful absence.

## **Truancy**

Although the state requires students to only attend 170 of the 180-day school year, parents and students should be aware that SC Code of Regulations-Chapter 43-274 stipulates that a child ages 6 to 17 year is considered truant when the child has three consecutive unlawful absences or a total of five unlawful absences. For purposes of this section (truancy and compulsory attendance), a parent may provide up to 10 parent notes excusing a student's absence, 5 parent notes in a 90-day course, and 3 parent notes in a 45-day course. However, in order for any subsequent absence related to an illness to be lawful it must be supported by a physician statement/medical note.

## **Student Behavior Code**

The District expects students to conduct themselves in an orderly, courteous, dignified and respectful manner. This requirement refers to their actions toward other students and teachers, their language, their dress and their manners.

Students have a responsibility to know and respect the policies, rules and regulations of the school and District. Violations of such policies, rules and regulations will result in disciplinary actions. The school directs students to the District's Behavior Code set forth in [Policy JCDA](#) and this handbook. Schools are authorized to incorporate the use of electronic devices, including cell phones, tablets and other similar devices, into the school environment when appropriate to enhance learning and student achievement. Schools will establish rules and expectations for student use of electronic devices, and students will be disciplined in accordance with this policy for any inappropriate or unauthorized use of a device. School authorities are authorized to employ probation and suspension and to recommend expulsion, if necessary, to enforce this policy.

It is the philosophy of the District to handle all student disciplinary matters at the lowest supervisory level possible and in the most reasonable manner possible. Disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with appropriate procedural rights being afforded to students and their parents/guardians as provided by State law, State Board of Education regulation, and/or the policies of this District.

The Board and the administration offer the following listing of offenses and the required or recommended dispositions for the information of students, parents/legal guardians and school personnel.

### **Levels of offenses**

Students who engage in an ongoing pattern of behavior that is disruptive to the orderly operations of the school shall be recommended for expulsion. The following is a general listing of offenses and the required or recommended disciplinary actions which should be taken as a result of such offenses being committed.

#### **Disorderly conduct - Level I**

Disorderly conduct is defined as any activity in which a student engages that tends to impede orderly classroom procedures or instructional activities, orderly operation of the school or the frequency or seriousness of which disturbs the classroom or school.

Acts of disorderly conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- classroom tardiness
- cheating on examinations or classroom assignments
- lying
- blackmail of other students or school personnel
- acting in a manner so as to interfere with the instructional process
- abusive language between or among students, to include profane language
- failure to complete assignments or carry out directions
- use of forged notes or excuses
- violation of school bus regulations
- cutting class
- school tardiness
- truancy
- use of obscene or profane language or gestures
- other disorderly acts as determined at the school level, which are not inconsistent with Board policy

The administration may apply sanctions in cases of disorderly conduct which may include, but are not limited to, the following

- verbal reprimand
- withdrawal of privileges (a privilege, as defined by the Greenville County School Board, is a student's opportunity to participate in any function of the school beyond attending class, riding buses and participating in the school District's food service program)
- Demerits
- Detention
- In-school/out of school suspension
- Other sanctions approved by the Board or administration

### **Disruptive conduct - Level II**

Disruptive conduct is defined as those activities engaged in by student(s) which are directed against persons or property and the consequences of which tend to endanger the health or safety of themselves or others in the school. Some instances of disruptive conduct may overlap certain criminal offenses, justifying both administrative sanctions and court proceedings.

The administration may reclassify disorderly conduct (Level I) as disruptive conduct (Level II) if the student engages in the activity three or more times.

Acts of disruptive conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- fighting
- vandalism (minor)
- stealing
- use or possession of laser pointers, fireworks, smoke bombs, pepper-style sprays, and other similar devices or materials
- threats against others
- trespass
- abusive language to staff, to include profane language
- other disruptive acts which interfere with the educational process
- refusal to obey school personnel or agents (such as volunteer aids or chaperones) whose responsibilities include supervision of students

- possession or use of unauthorized substances, including tobacco and tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, non-prescription drugs, "look-a-like" drugs, and drug paraphernalia, including rolling papers
- illegally occupying or blocking in any way school property with the intent to deprive others of its use
- inappropriate verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature
- misuse of District technology resources
- gambling on school property
- unlawful assembly
- disrupting lawful assembly
- harassment, intimidation or bullying
  - o intimidating, threatening, or physically abusing another student
  - o any other acts as determined at the school level that are not inconsistent with Board policy

The administration may apply sanctions in cases of disruptive conduct which may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- in-school suspension
- withdrawal of privileges (a privilege, as defined by the Greenville County School Board, is a student's opportunity to participate in any function of the school beyond attending class, riding buses and participating in the school District's food service program)
- temporary removal from class
- out-of-school suspension
- referral to outside agency
- assignment to alternative school
- expulsion
- restitution of property and damages, where appropriate, should be sought by local school authorities
- other sanctions as approved by the Board or administration

### **Criminal conduct - Level III**

Criminal conduct is defined as those activities engaged in by students (whether or not they result in criminal charges) that result in violence to themselves or to another's person or property or which pose a direct and serious threat to the safety of themselves or others in the school or to the security of District resources. These activities usually require administrative actions which result in the immediate removal of the student from the school, the intervention of law enforcement authorities and/or action by the Board.

Whenever a student is engaging or has engaged in activities including, but not limited to, one of the acts specified below, while on school property or at a school sanctioned or sponsored activity which a principal or his/her designee has reason to believe may result, or has resulted, in injury or serious threat of injury to a person or to his/her property, the principal or his/her designee is required to notify law enforcement officials.

Acts for which principals must recommend students for expulsion include, but are not limited to, the following:

- bomb threat
- possession, use or transfer of weapons - a weapon is defined as a firearm (rifle, shotgun, pistol or similar device that propels a projectile through the energy of an explosive); a knife, razor, bludgeon, blackjack, metal pipe or pole, brass knuckles (to

include multi-finger rings); incendiary or explosive device; or any other type of device or object which may be used to inflict bodily injury or death.

- sexual offenses (which include sexual acts that do not result in a criminal offense)
- arson
- distribution, sale, purchase, manufacture, use, being under the influence of, or unlawful possession of alcohol or a controlled substance, as defined in S.C. Code Ann. §§ 44-53-110 through 44-53-270. (See Policy JCDAC)
- threatening to take the life of or inflict bodily harm upon a school employee or member of their immediate family
- ganging ("Ganging" or participating as a member of a gang and inflicting a violent act of bodily harm, however slight, upon another person will not be tolerated. A "gang" shall consist of two or more persons acting together for and with the purpose of committing an act of violence against another person. "Participation" also includes any act that interferes with or hinders a staff member from stopping the infliction of bodily injury that is the objective of the gang.)
- Unauthorized access, use, or attempted access or use of District computer systems

Additional acts for which principals may recommend students for expulsion include, but are not limited to, the following:

- vandalism (major)
- theft, possession or sale of stolen property
- disturbing the schools
- possession, use, or transfer of "look-a-like" weapons
- assault and battery
- extortion
- any other acts as determined by the Board

**NOTE: In determining whether a student is under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance, the student's appearance, behavior, manner, presence of an odor of the substance, and statements made by the student as to the use of controlled substances or alcohol may be considered without regard to the amount of alcohol/controlled substance consumed.**

**The principals must recommend students for expulsion if they have committed offenses which are outlined above.** If a student commits an offense that is not outlined above, the principals may recommend the student for expulsion when the circumstances warrant it. The administration may apply sanctions in cases of criminal conduct which may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- withdrawal of privileges (a privilege, as defined by the Greenville County School Board, is a student's opportunity to participate in any function of the school beyond attending class, riding buses and participating in the school District's food service program)
- out-of-school suspension
- assignment to alternative school
- expulsion
- restitution of property and damages, where appropriate, should be sought by local school authorities
- other sanctions as approved by the Board or administration

## **Dress Code**

Students are expected to dress and be groomed in such a way as to not distract or cause disruption in the educational program or orderly operation of the school. Personal appearance of students should promote health and safety, contribute to a climate conducive to teaching and learning and project a positive image of the District to the community. Students should dress for the educational setting and not the recreational one. The principal may create further guidelines regarding student dress which are consistent with the guidelines below.

- Clothing and/or hair should not be so extreme or inappropriate to the school setting as to disrupt the education process. Therefore, clothing deemed distracting, revealing, overly suggestive or otherwise disruptive will not be permitted.
  - WGMSAP – Uniform requirement; khaki pants, collared shirt, belt
  - WGMSAP – No garment with a hood is allowed
- Wearing accessories or clothing that could pose a safety threat to oneself or others is not allowed.
  - WGMSAP - no jewelry that is metal or dangles, only rubber or plastic and not in excess
- Hats and sunglasses may not be worn in the building.
- Attire must not evidence membership or affiliation with a "gang" in any negative sense of the term.
- Proper shoes must be worn at all times.
  - WGMSAP – No Crocs, house slippers, or slides
- Attire must not be immodest, obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, indecent or offensive.
- Clothing that inappropriately exposes body parts is not permitted. Students shall not expose undergarments.
- Pants must be worn at the natural waistline and undergarments are not to be visible. Pants and slacks must not bag, sag, or drag.
  - WGMSAP - Tuck-in requirement for shirts
  - WGMSAP -No shorts, sweats or leggings under the uniform
- No clothing, jewelry, or tattoos are permitted that display profanity, suggestive phrases, or advertisements for, or messages or pictures depicting or suggesting alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or sex.
- WGMSAP does not allow cell phones or electronic devices; to include earbuds, smart watches, etc...

In the event the administration determines a student's dress is inappropriate for school in accordance with this policy, the administration will either require the student to change or will inform the student not to wear the garment to school again. Repeated violations of the dress code will be treated as disruptive behavior in violation of the District's Behavior Code.



# **Transportation**

## **Discipline**

In order to ensure the safety of all students riding buses in Greenville County Schools, appropriate behavior is required for all students. Transportation to and from school is an extension of the classroom and should be considered part of the school day. The issue of safety requires students to be on their best behavior while on school buses or vehicles. Violations of school bus rules will be addressed in the manner listed below.

The School District Behavior Code (Board Policy JCDA) is in effect for all students at all times when being transported on school buses to and from school or school activities. Thus, while students may lose the privilege to ride the bus due to their conduct as contained below, the student may also be disciplined in accordance with the District's Behavior Code up to and including being recommended for expulsion.

### **Level I Offenses - Disorderly Conduct**

- Refusing to follow driver directions
- Getting on or off the bus at an unauthorized stop without permission
- Standing or sitting improperly while the bus is moving
- Intentionally riding the wrong bus without permission from the principal
- General horseplay
- Making loud noises
- Profanity/Obscene Gestures
- Littering
- Possession of tobacco products, e-cigarettes or vaping devices
- Delaying bus services by tardiness, loitering, etc.
- The school administration may classify a Level I offense as a Level II offense if the infraction seriously jeopardizes the health and/or safety of others.

### **Level I Consequences**

- 1st Referral -- Warning and parent contact
- 2nd Referral -- In school punishment, parent contact and/or one (1) day bus suspension
- 3rd Referral -- Suspended from bus up to three (3) days and parent conference
- 4th Referral -- Suspended from bus up to five (5) days and parent conference
- Additional Level 1 referrals will result in administrative review and may be accelerated to a Level consequence.

### **Level II Offenses**

- Use of tobacco products, e- cigarettes, or vaping devices
- Throwing objects out of bus
- Profanity directed at staff
- Rude, discourteous behavior directed at staff
- Vandalism [restitution may be required]
- Harassing, threatening or intimidating another student
- Fighting
- Stealing
- Inappropriate verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature
- Other safety violations that may interfere with the safe operation of the school bus
- The school administration may classify a Level II offense as a Level III offense if the infraction seriously jeopardizes the health and/or safety of others.

### **Level II Consequences**

- 1st Referral -- Suspension from bus up to ten (10) days and parent conference
- 2nd Referral -- Suspension from bus up to ten (10) days and parent conference

- 3rd Referral -- Suspension from bus up to thirty (30) days, possible removal and parent conference

### **Level III Offenses**

- Possession, use or transfer of weapons
- Sexual offenses (which include sexual acts that do not result in criminal offense)
- Arson
- Impeding the operation of a school bus
- Distribution, sale, purchase, use or being under the influence of alcohol or controlled substance
- Threatening to take the life of or inflict bodily harm to a school employee
- Ganging
- Bomb threat

### **Level III Consequences**

- Any referral - Minimum thirty (30) days suspension from bus and possible removal from bus for remainder of school year and parent conference.

### **Discipline of Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities will be disciplined in accordance with federal and state law including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as set forth in the procedures developed by the administration.

### **Anti-Bullying and Safe Schools**

The District is committed to fostering an environment that both promotes learning and prevents disruptions to the educational process. In order to create and maintain an atmosphere that promotes learning and prevents disruption, the District has implemented the following procedures to address student concerns, complaints, and grievances in regards to bullying, discrimination, harassment, intimidation or misconduct as provided in Board Policy and Administrative Rule JCDAG. All formal complaints of any allegation of bullying, discrimination or harassment will follow the below process, except for complaints filed on the basis of sex (Title IX), which will follow the procedures contained in that Section II below.

#### **Reporting Bullying, Harassment & Discrimination**

Any student who believes that he/she has been subject to harassment, intimidation, bullying or misconduct by other students, employees of the District or third parties in the school setting should immediately inform the school's administration and may also file a formal complaint under Board Policy and Administrative Rule JCDAG.

All complaints should be filed with the principal or his or her designee within sixty days of the date of the alleged incident using the Complaint Form attached to Rule JCDAG. Complaints may also be filed by a student's parent. If the allegation is against the school's administration, the student or parent should file a report directly with the District's Ombudsman. Anonymous reports may be made, but those reports must provide the District with adequate information in order to begin an investigation.

Additionally, students and parents should immediately report any concerns related to employee interactions with students that are inconsistent with the requirements and expectations contained in Board Policy GBV pertaining to staff and adult interactions with students. Concerns that should

be immediately reported to a school's administration include potential mistreatment of students and other conduct by employees that could constitute inappropriate interaction or communication, including those sexual in nature.

### **Investigation**

Complaints will be investigated promptly, thoroughly, and confidentially. The investigation shall include appropriate steps to determine what occurred and to take actions to end the harassment, intimidation, or bullying and prevent such misconduct from occurring again. A meeting will be scheduled within ten working days of the complaint with the complainant to discuss the complaint. The student and his/her parent(s) shall be informed in writing of the outcome of the investigation but all discipline of students and staff will remain confidential. The written notice will also outline the complainant's right to appeal.

### **Appeals**

An appeal related to disability discrimination or harassment should be made to the District's Section 504 coordinator. An appeal regarding color, race, or national origin discrimination or harassment should be made to the District's Title VI coordinator. The email contact information for the Section 504 Coordinator and Title VI Coordinator is [Section504@greenville.k12.sc.us](mailto:Section504@greenville.k12.sc.us) and [TitleVI@greenville.k12.sc.us](mailto:TitleVI@greenville.k12.sc.us). Both may also be contacted by mail at Post Office Box 2848, Greenville SC 29602 or by phone at 864-355-3100.

The appeal shall state the reasons for which the complainant is appealing the initial decision. The coordinator will examine the evidence presented by all the parties, and may conduct a meeting with both the complainant and the school principal or designee if needed. The coordinator must provide a written decision to the complainant within 10 working days of receiving the complainant's written appeal. The coordinator shall inform the complainant of the right to appeal to the Superintendent or his/her designee. If a coordinator or the Superintendent or his/her designee is alleged to be involved in the complaint, the District will appoint an objective and impartial administrator to address the complainant's appeal at that level.

If a student or parent/guardian is dissatisfied with the action or decision of the Coordinator, they may appeal the decision to the Superintendent or his/her designee within 10 working days of the decision of the Coordinator. The appeal shall be in writing and shall state the reasons for the appeal. The superintendent or designee, in his or her discretion, may choose to have a meeting with the complainant and the coordinator. The Superintendent or designee shall provide a written determination to the complainant and take appropriate action within 10 working days after the receipt of a written appeal.

## **Title IX Complaints (Sex-Based Discrimination/Harassment)**

The District, as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 and its corresponding regulations ("Title IX"), does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education program or activities. Title IX prohibits sex-based harassment, which may include acts of verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex even if those acts do not involve conduct of a sexual nature. The District prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex in all of its programs and activities by its employees, students or third parties.

### **Reporting**

Any student (or parent/guardian of student) who believes they have been the subject of sex-based harassment or discrimination should contact the school's administration immediately. A formal complaint may be filed in accordance with Administrative Rule JCDAG. Even if a formal complaint is not filed related to a Title IX concern, the District must still conduct a thorough review into the concern and implement appropriate supportive measures and disciplinary consequences

and provide a written summary to the student/parents related to its efforts and actions.

### **Investigation**

A school's Assistant Principal or other appointed school administrator (investigator) will initiate an investigation of any formal complaint of alleged sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature reported to them in consultation with the District's Title IX Coordinator following the detailed process outlined in Administrative Rule JCDA. The school's Principal will then separately review the findings of that investigation and render a determination as the decision-maker. If an allegation is made against a non-student, including an employee, the District Employee Relations Representative will serve as the investigator and a director in the District's Human Resources Department will serve as the decision-maker. A parent or legal guardian or Title IX Coordinator may also file a complaint on behalf of the student. If, for any reason, the student prefers not to share the complaint with the Assistant Principal, he or she may submit a complaint with the Principal.

The District prohibits retaliation or reprisal in any form against a student or employee who has filed a report. The District also prohibits any person from falsely accusing another person.

Additional information pertaining to Title IX, including contact information for the District's Title IX Coordinator, training received by District employees, and the process for appeals can be found at <https://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/Parents/main.asp?titleid=titleix>

## **Uniform Grading Scale**

The Uniform Grading Policy approved by the State Board of Education is effective for all students enrolled in unit-bearing classes, including those offered at the middle school level.

### **The SC Grading Scale is as follows:**

A= 90-100; B= 80-89, C= 70-79, D= 60-69, F= 0-59

WF= 50, FA=50, P= no value, WP= no value, AU= no value, NP=no value

Link to: [SC Uniform Grading Scale](#)

### **2<sup>nd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

The following grade scale will be applied to students in grades 2-12.

A=100-90 B=89-80 C=79-70 D=69-60 F=59-50

For Carnegie Unit courses please refer to the state Uniform Grading Policy (UGP) for quality points and state regulations guiding credit-bearing courses.

### **Grading Floors**

- **Middle School Students (Grades 6-8)**

A floor of 50 will be applied to all grades for middle school students (6-8)

## **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that affords parents (including legal guardians) and students over 18 years of age (eligible students) certain rights with respect to students' education records. "Student education records" include any records maintained by a school or the district that are directly related to the student. These rights are:

- The right to inspect and review a student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should write a letter to the school principal and identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access to those records and will notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where they may inspect them.
- The right to request an amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend an education record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading by writing the school principal. In that letter, they should not only clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, but also specify why they believe it is inaccurate or misleading. They should also provide any evidence to support their claim. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a district-level hearing regarding the request for amendment. The school will provide additional information regarding the district's hearing procedures when they notify the parent or eligible student of the decision. After the hearing, if the district still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his/her view about the contested information.
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. FERPA allows the district to disclose education records to school officials with a legitimate educational interest in the information contained in the record without consent from the parent or eligible student. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health and law enforcement staff); a person serving on the School Board; and a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor or therapist). A school official has a legitimate educational interest if that official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request and without consent, the district forwards and discloses education records to officials of another school district in which a student seeks/intends to enroll, specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes, appropriate parties in connection with financial aid, organizations conducting certain studies for the school, accrediting organizations, to comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena, to appropriate offices in cases of health and safety emergencies, and to state and local authorities within a juvenile system.
- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

The name and address of the federal agency that administers FERPA is as follows:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-5920

\*An eligible student is defined as a student who reaches 18 years of age or attends a post-secondary school.

## **Directory Information**

Information that the District has designated as "directory information" regarding a student may be released to outside organizations without prior written consent from the parent/eligible student. The District defines directory information as a student's name, address, telephone number, photograph, grade level, school to which he/she is assigned, years of attendance at

that school, awards received, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, and weight and height of athletic team members. Outside organizations requesting directory information include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, the No Child Left Behind Act requires that local high schools must provide military recruiters, upon request, access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone listings. If you do not wish for the District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the School in writing no later than 30 calendar days after the first day of school.

## **School Insurance**

Student accident insurance is offered as a service to parents. The available insurance coverage includes school-only or 24-hour coverage. Coverage, cost, and enrollment information is provided on the District's website at <https://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/Parents/main.asp?titleid=faginsurance>

Voluntary student accident insurance is different from athletic insurance, which is required.

## **Parent's Right to Know**

As the parent or family of a student enrolled in Greenville County Schools, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers and instructional assistants who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for the following information about your child's classroom teachers and requires the District to give you this information in a timely manner:

- whether a teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- whether a teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- the baccalaureate degree major of a teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree;

If you would like to receive this information, please call the Human Resources Department.

## **Student Use of Technology**

Students must use school technology in an appropriate manner and in accordance with Board Policy and Administrative Rule EFE. This school technology includes District email, network, equipment, and assigned devices to students. Students will be disciplined in accordance with the District's Behavior Code (JCDA) for any misuse of school technology. While the District implements filters and safeguards for school technology, the District cannot guarantee that these measures will detect or prevent inappropriate use of technology by students. Parents and students should immediately contact the student's school with any concerns pertaining to the use of technology.

## **Board Policies and Administrative Rules**

All current policies of the Greenville County School District Board of Trustees and administrative rules can be found on Board Docs on the District's website at:

<https://go.boarddocs.com/sc/greenville/Board.nsf/Public>

**Mrs. Cecilia Cameron – M.S.A.P. Program Administrator**

**ccameron@greenville.k12.sc.us**

**(School Direct Line) 864-355-0200**

**(School Phone) 864-355-0202**

**Dr. Kathie Greer –Director of Alternative Education**

***MESSAGE FROM Mrs. Cameron***

*Dear Students,*

*The staff of West Greenville Middle School Alternative Program looks forward to assisting you in your academic and social development. We expect you to cooperate with the staff and accept responsibility for your actions. It is your responsibility to become familiar with this handbook and follow all rules of the M.S.A.P. and the School District of Greenville County.*

*We hope you will take advantage of the opportunities offered by the M.S.A.P. We encourage you to make good choices concerning your behavior and academic success. It is our goal to help you successfully return to a regular school setting.*

*Dear Parents,*

*We look forward to working with your child while he / she is attending the Middle School Alternative Program. This important time in your child's life is most likely to be successful when students, parents, and school work together.*

*Please review this handbook with your child. Please, remind your child that he / she is expected to obey all rules, respect others, and accept responsibility for his / her own actions. Let's work together to help your child be successful in his / her education and social development.*

**DISCLAIMER: Neither this handbook nor any part of it should be construed as a contract itself. This handbook is not intended to be comprehensive and is advisory only to guide the student and parent. The school reserves the right to make changes or exceptions to statements in this handbook. Final interpretation of all school rules is left up to the Director of Alternative Education.**

*Cecilia Cameron, Program Administrator, West Greenville MSAP*



## **The Middle School Alternative Program**

The Middle School Alternative Program provides services to students in grades 6th-8th who are experiencing difficulty at the middle school level. Students with frequent discipline problems and academic deficiencies are considered for acceptance into the program. These students are identified as those that interfere with the learning of other class members and refuse to follow The School District Discipline Code. Transportation and lunch are provided. For additional information call: West Greenville MSAP 355-0200

### **Entrance Requirements**

Students are placed in the West Greenville Middle School Alternative Program through one of the following ways:

1. Administrative Placement By District Level Staff/School Principal
2. Board placement

### **Education Plan**

1. Provide a school environment that is safe and supportive of learning
2. Commitment to quality personnel in all positions
3. Facilitate growth in academics and equip each student with strategies and skills to improve behavior

### **Exit Requirements**

Students will be required to engage and the measurement of that engagement will earn them points during their time in our program. The three tiers are designed to help students return to their home school. We require that students demonstrate over a substantial period of time the ability to function academically and socially in the school environment. Our staff will consistently contact parents as needed to answer questions and share student progress. Students will also complete lessons based on the three

domains during their time with us. Students will share what they have learned during their exit meetings.

**Morning Drop -Off** **8:00-9:00**

Morning Drop off: Our school day starts when students transition upstairs. This time can range based on the enrollment numbers at the time. Our start time will range from 8:30-9:00. Students are to be dropped off between 8:15-9:00. We will have a staff member on duty starting at 8:00 am. Please work to drop your student off during the requested time. If special arrangements need to be made please communicate with the school in advance.

**Afternoon pick-up** **2:50-3:15**

Pick-up: We start dismissal at 2:50 based on our bussing. We ask that all students are picked up no later than 3:30.

**Starting on Day one - Confiscated items / Prohibited items**

All confiscated items will be returned to adults only. When an item is confiscated it will be held in the Coordinators office and a note will be sent home with the student to inform the parent. You may pick up items before or after school 5 days a week or during school on M / W / F between 11-1. The adult must come into the building and check in at the main office. They will then contact the MSAP Coordinator and the item will be brought to the office. Plan accordingly as the process can take approximately :15 minutes depending on what is happening at that moment in the building.

No extra items need to be brought to school

Money / lip gloss / decorative headbands / snack food / combs / jewelry / phones / electronic devices / headphones

# **MSAP Tier Program Overview**

**Students will be placed by the Coordinator on a Tier based off the offense and level of need for the student to meet the goals of the program.**

- **Tier One:** student has little history of poor behavior choices, first time to MSAP
- **Tier Two:** student committed a level one or two offense in the student code of conduct
- **Tier Three:** student has committed a level three offense in student code of conduct, and/or is a repeater to the alternative program

**Students will progress on a point scale while at West Greenville MSAP. Students may earn up to 5 points a day and 25 points a week. Tiers are designed for a student to earn points based on behavior along with meeting classroom work expectations.**

- **Tier One:** 100 points to be considered for transition
- **Tier Two:** 150 points to be considered for transition
- **Tier Three:** 225 points to be considered for transition

**Students will also focus on three domains - in classwork**

- **Accountability**
- **Communication**
- **Self-Regulation**

**Transitions will be on a set schedule. Approximately every two weeks students will have the opportunity to transition back to their home school.**

## **Behavior Issues**

**West Greenville MSAP:** The goal is to empower students to return to their home school. We have a smaller environment that allows for closer oversight and adult interactions. We have policies and procedures that maintain safety and are conducive for learning. We want students in the classroom and understand sometimes issues arise that impede their ability to remain in the setting. The “recovery process” is employed at that time.

### **Recovery Process**

Behavioral interventions are based on daily behavioral performance within the classroom to removal from the classroom environment. The following steps are implemented for most problem behaviors:

**Step One:** Teacher addresses the issue in the classroom, gives student an opportunity to continue with the learning

**Step Two:** Student is removed from the situation and given the opportunity to “cool down”. This is done with adult direction and reflection on the incident. At that time, students may earn the right to re-enter class by successfully completing the Recovery process. The parent/guardian will be contacted whenever your child has been temporarily removed for recovery by the teacher, within a 24-36 hr window.

**Step Three:** Administrative intervention where the Coordinator or the designee reaches out to the parent to ask for help in the matter. Again, students may be re-admitted to class when they are calm and refocused on how they will fix their problem and become a productive student. If the student continues to refuse to cooperate, the parent may be asked to come and pick the student up.

## **MSAP Student Dress Code**

### **Do's and Don'ts: (Parent/Student Copy)**

#### **Starting on Day One -**

##### **Allowed**

- **Khaki pants only (tan, black, navy, and gray)**
- **Collar or polo shirts must be tucked in and a belt must be worn.**
- **Students will be checked upon arrival.**
- **Unopened water bottles to be filled at school**

**Not Allowed (any collected items will be confiscated and need to be picked up by an adult - Mon, Wed, Fri 11-1 or before school)**

- **No Cell phones or personnel electronics (incl. earbuds)**
- **No hoodie sweatshirts or jackets (crewneck sweatshirt allowed)**
- **No personal or beauty items to include metal jewelry, dangle bracelets, watches, necklaces, hoop earrings, hats, or fashion head bands**
- **No shorts, sweats, or leggings are allowed under the khaki's**
- **No jeans, sweat pants, joggers, or shorts**
- **No clothing with holes or shreds**
- **No sandals, slides, crocs, house slippers**
- **No book bags**

**Students who repeatedly are not in dress code could face school discipline consequences, plus it is factored into the student points and the determination of program completion.**