

# DESOTO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

## 2021 – 2022 Student Handbook

DeSoto Central High School  
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## DESOTO COUNTY SCHOOLS

### 2021-2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR

August	Teachers' 1 <sup>st</sup> Day
August 5	Students' 1 <sup>st</sup> Day
September 6	Labor Day Holiday
October 11	Fall Break
November 22 - 26	Thanksgiving Holidays
December 20– January 2	Christmas Holidays
January 5	Students Return
January 17	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
February 18	Professional Development Day (Student Holiday)
February 21	Presidents' Day
March 14 - 18	Spring Break
April 15	Good Friday Holiday
April 18	Easter Holiday
May 24	Students' Last Day
May 25	Teachers' Last Day

**Tentative Make-up Days: February 18, April 18, May 25, May 26 and May 27**  
 State law requires a student schedule of 180 days. This is subject to change due to emergency conditions.

## ACADEMICS

### MISSION STATEMENT OF DESOTO COUNTY SCHOOLS

Desoto County Schools is dedicated to ensuring world-class academic excellence within a safe learning environment, while providing a variety of exceptional extracurricular programs that foster the physical, social, and emotional growth of all students.

### CLASSIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR DESOTO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Freshmen	Grade 9	Has earned fewer than 6 Carnegie Units.
Sophomores	Grade 10	Has earned at least 6 Carnegie Units and has successfully completed English I and 2 additional Core Carnegie Units.
Juniors	Grade 11	Has earned at least 13 Carnegie Units and has successfully completed English II, Algebra I, and 3 additional Core Carnegie Units.
Seniors	Grade 12	Has earned at least 18 Carnegie Units and has successfully completed 3 English Carnegie units and on track to graduate.

\*\*\*\*\*In order to graduate, students must pass the Subject Area Tests in U.S. History from 1877, English II, Biology I, and Algebra I. These students must pass all four Subject Area Tests even if they take the course(s) prior to their 9<sup>th</sup> Grade year.

### DUAL ENROLLMENT

Dual enrollment is a program that allows high school students to simultaneously earn college or vocational credit toward a postsecondary diploma at a Mississippi public institution that will also count as credit toward a high school diploma.

In order to be eligible for a dual enrollment course at a community college, students must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Students must have completed a minimum of fourteen (14) core high school units.
- Students must have a 3.0 cumulative GPA.
- Students must have an unconditional written recommendation from their high school principal and/or guidance counselor.
- Students must meet minimum ACT requirement in some courses. For example, to take College Algebra, a student must have a 19-math sub score.
- Any dual credit classes are subject to change.

### EXEMPTIONS

The absence requirement in the DeSoto County Schools exemption policy has been removed for the 2021-2022 school year. Students are encouraged to stay at home if they are showing COVID-19 symptoms.

For the 2021-2022 school year in order for a student to be exempt from a final exam, he/she must

- have an eighty-five (85) or above average.
- have not been assigned to an Alternative Learning Class (ALC) for more than five (5) days, have not been suspended and/or placed in DeSoto County Alternative Center (DCAC) or the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) at any time during the semester. (August - December or January – May)

### GRADING SCALE

A – 90 - 100  
B – 80 - 89  
C – 70 - 79  
D – 65 - 69  
F – 0 - 64

Each term grade is computed by averaging the grades for that term. Eighty percent of the grade will be a compilation of the grades that the teacher has for the student in his/her gradebook including but not limited to formative assessments, quizzes, homework, classwork, unit tests, mid-term tests, etc. Twenty percent of the grade will be the grade received on the end of course final exam for half credit courses and end of term exams for full credit courses. In full credit courses, the final grade will be the average of the two term grades. English, Math, Science and Social Studies assessments may be generated by district test or through the development of common assessments.

High schools on the block schedule will test at the end of each nine-week grading period for full credit courses. Students who are enrolled in the ½ (one-half) credit courses will take an assessment at the end of the course.

Students may not be exempt from the district assessments. The district assessments will count as a major test grade – at a minimum. Most district assessments count at two test grades.

### GRADUATES OF DISTINCTION AND SPECIAL DISTINCTION

**Graduates of Distinction:** A “Graduate of Distinction” must have an overall weighted numerical average of 90 - 94 for the freshman, sophomore, and junior years and the first three (3) terms of the senior year. The student must meet the twenty-four (24) credit graduation requirements. Beginning with 2021-2022 entering freshmen, students must also successfully complete an endorsement option (Career & Technical, Academic, Distinguished) to be considered a “Graduate of Distinction”.

**Graduates of Special Distinction:** A “Graduate of Special Distinction” must have an overall weighted numerical average of 95.00 or higher for the freshman, sophomore, and junior years and the first three (3) terms of the senior year. The student must meet the twenty-four (24) credit graduation requirements. Beginning with 2021-2022 entering freshmen, students must also successfully complete an endorsement option (Career & Technical, Academic, Distinguished) to be considered a “Graduate of Special Distinction”.

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Graduation requirements will be consistent with the Mississippi Department of Education graduation requirements.

Graduating Class of 2022 and following:

See the following link for MS Diploma Endorsement Options.

<sup>1</sup>Compensatory Reading and Compensatory Writing may not be included in the four English courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the 7 ½ general electives required for graduation.

<sup>2</sup>Compensatory Mathematics and any developmental mathematics course may not be included in the four mathematics courses required for graduation; however, these courses may be included in the general electives required for graduation. One of the four required mathematics units may be in Drafting if the student completes the 2-course sequence for Drafting I and II. At least 2 of the four required mathematics courses must be higher than Algebra I. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I are Geometry, Algebra II, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, and Calculus. Students can take Pre-Algebra, Transition to Algebra, and Algebra I in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit.

<sup>3</sup>Two units may be in the following courses if the student completes the 2-course sequence: Agri science I and II, Allied Health I and II, Technology Applications I and II. Beginning in the 2008-2009 school year for all entering eighth graders, one unit must be a lab-based physical science. The allowable lab-based physical science courses are Physical Science, Chemistry I, Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, and Physics.

<sup>4</sup>The credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student who enters after the sophomore year can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies. If the transfer student took a State / Local Government course in a grade level that did not award Carnegie unit credit, then any other ½ unit social studies course may be accepted. An out-of-state student who transfers after their junior year may substitute any other ½ unit social studies course.

<sup>5</sup>Evidence of proficiency in Keyboarding or Computer Applications is accepted in lieu of the required courses if the student earns one unit in any of the courses listed in the *Business and Technology Framework* (academic and vocational).

<sup>6</sup>Elective units in physical education include participation in interscholastic athletic activities that meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* and that are sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association.

## GRADUATION TESTS

The required high school graduation tests, commonly called the Mississippi Subject Area Testing Program (SATP), are mandated by the State Legislature to ensure that upon high school graduation, Mississippi students are prepared to enter the workforce or further their education. In order to graduate, students are required to earn passing scores on four subject area tests: Algebra I, Biology I, English II, and US History from 1877 or the student must meet one of the assessment options.

## HALL OF FAME

The process for the Hall of Fame selection for graduating seniors is outlined below.

- A student must have a GPA of 90.00 or above.
- A student must have attended DCHS for a minimum of 3 semesters.
- A student must be participating in at least two extracurricular school activities.
- No disciplinary infractions, with the exception of no more than 6 tardies during junior year and first semester of senior year; no more than 2 dress code violations; no more than 2 cell phone infractions
- Fourteen to sixteen students are selected by a point system based on school involvement, leadership roles, honors, awards, community service, discipline, and grades.
- A Hall of Fame Committee consisting of teachers, an administrator, and a counselor will review nominees' information and tally points.

## INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING (IHL) GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All 2018-2019 incoming freshmen and beyond must meet one of the following graduation options: 1) Traditional 24 Credit Diploma, 2) Traditional 26 Credit Diploma with a Career Technical Endorsement, 3) Traditional 26 Credit Diploma with an Academic Endorsement, or 4) Traditional 28 Credit Diploma with a Distinguished Academic Endorsement. Incoming freshmen (2018-2019 and beyond) with Significant Cognitive Disabilities are eligible to earn an Alternate Diploma.

All students are required to meet the Mississippi Department of Education state assessment requirements.

Contents of each required and elective course must include the core objectives identified in the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards. Course titles and identification numbers must appear in the current edition of the Approved Courses for Secondary Schools in Mississippi. Students enrolled in grades 7 -12 may be awarded a Carnegie unit credit provided the course content is a Carnegie unit credit provided the course content is a Carnegie unit bearing course in the current edition of the Approved Courses for the Secondary Schools of Mississippi Manual and meets the specifications outlined in the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards. Enrollment in online courses listed in this manual must have prior approval granted by the principal.

### Traditional Diploma 24 Credit

See Appendix A-6 of the Mississippi Public Accountability Standards for additional details regarding allowable courses for each curriculum area.

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	English I, English II
Mathematics	4	Algebra I
Science	3	Biology I
Social Studies	3 ½	World History, U.S. History, U.S. Government, Economics, Mississippi Studies
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
The Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	*Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	5 ½	
Total Units Required	24	

Requirements:

- Student should identify an endorsement area prior to entering 9th grade. Endorsement requirements can only be changed with parental permission.
- For early release, students must have met the College or Career Readiness Benchmarks (ACT sub scores: 17 English and 19 Math or earned a Silver level on ACT WorkKeys or SAT equivalency sub scores). Alternately, a student must meet ALL the following:
  - Have a 2.5 GPA
  - Passed or met all MAAP assessment requirements for graduation
  - On track to meet diploma requirements
  - Concurrently enrolled in Essentials for College Math or Essentials for College Literacy

## Traditional Diploma with a Career and Technical Endorsement 26 Credits

See Appendix A-7 of the Mississippi Public Accountability Standards for additional details regarding allowable courses for each curriculum area.

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

Additional Requirements:

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5.
- Earn a Silver level on ACT WorkKeys.
- Earn two additional Carnegie Units for a total of 26.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
  - One CTE dual credit or earn articulated credit in high school CTE course
  - Work-based Learning experience or Career Pathway Experience
  - Earn a State Board of Education-approved national credential
  - One (1) AP, Diploma Program-IB, or Cambridge (AICE) course aligned to their career pathway. Students must earn a C or higher and take the appropriate exam

## Traditional Diploma with an Academic Endorsement 26 Credits

See Appendix A-8 of the Mississippi Public Accountability Standards for additional details regarding allowable courses for each curriculum area.

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	English I, English II
Mathematics	4	Algebra I plus two additional math courses above Algebra I
Science	3	Biology I plus two additional science courses above Biology I
Social Studies	3 ½	World History, U.S. History, U.S. Government, Economics, Mississippi Studies
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
The Arts	1	



College and Career Readiness	1	*Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	7 ½	Must meet 2 advanced electives of the CPC requirements for MS IHLs
Total Units Required	26	

Additional Requirements:

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5.
- Two (2) elective courses must meet Mississippi IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC).
- Earn Mississippi IHL and community college readiness benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17 English and 19 Math as approved by postsecondary for non-remediation at most community colleges and IHL college ready courses in senior year, or the SAT equivalency sub score).
- Earn two additional Carnegie Units for a total of 26
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
  - One AP course with a C or higher and take the appropriate AP exam
  - One Diploma Program IB course with a C or higher and take the appropriate IB exams
  - One academic dual credit course with a C or higher in the course

### **Traditional Diploma with a Distinguished Academic Endorsement 28 Credits**

See Appendix A-9 of the Mississippi Public Accountability Standards for additional details regarding allowable courses for each curriculum area.

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

Additional Requirements:

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

## Alternate Diploma Option

(Entering ninth graders of 2018-2019 and thereafter for students with significant cognitive disabilities)

See Appendix A-10 of the Mississippi Public Accountability Standards for additional details regarding allowable courses for each curriculum area.

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

### Requirements:

- The Alternate Diploma is not equivalent to a traditional high school diploma and is not recognized by postsecondary entities that require a traditional high school diploma.
- All students are required to participate in the Mississippi Assessment Program-Alternate Assessment (MAAP-A) and achieve a level Passing or Proficient
- Students who have met the criteria on their IEP for having a Significant Cognitive Disability (SCD) may participate in a program of study to earn the Alternate Diploma.
- 

### LATE ENROLLMENT

Any student who enrolls after the first day of the school year and has not been attending school must make up all work missed because of late enrollment. If a student enrolls after the beginning date of the school year and he/she has not been attending school, the days missed because of late enrollment will be counted as absences.

Failure to make up work missed will be cause for withholding credit for the term's work. All make-up work due to late enrollment must be completed by the end of the current nine-week term.

## **MAKE-UP WORK**

When a student is absent from school (excused or unexcused), the number of days allowed to complete any required make-up work is commensurate with the number of days missed to a maximum of five (5) days.

For example, if a student is absent from school for one (1) day, the student has one (1) day to complete the required make-up assignments. If the student is absent for five (5) days, he/she will have five (5) days to complete his/her make-up work. If the student is absent for twelve (12) days, the student has five (5) days to complete the missed work.

If a student misses school because of school business (activity, athletics, field trips, etc.), he/she is responsible for all make-up work. If a teacher gives an assignment before that school activity, the student is responsible for turning in that assignment upon returning from the activity.

## **PROGRESSION OF CLASSES**

In order to be prepared for advanced classes, students must have the proper foundation in the particular subject area. The teachers and administration of Desoto Central High School have determined that the following standards should be met before our students are enrolled in certain classes. These standards will serve as a guide for our students as they prepare to take upper-level courses. All dual credit courses require a 3.0 and at least 14 credits.

### **BUSINESS, COMPUTER, AND VOCATIONAL CLASSES**

Business Finance (Accounting II) Prerequisite: Accounting Fundamentals (Accounting I)

### **ENGLISH**

Accelerated English

Prerequisite: An average of 90 or higher in the previous year's regular English class or an average of 85 or higher in the previous year's accelerated English class.

DC Composition I

Prerequisite: ACT English sub score of 17 or higher

DC Speech

Prerequisite: Student must have taken the ACT

DC Composition II

Prerequisite: ACT English sub score of 17 or above AND earned credit for Composition I

### **MATHEMATICS**

Algebra II

Prerequisites: Algebra I

Algebra III

Prerequisites: Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II

Recommended: 80 or higher in Algebra II

Calculus

Prerequisites: Algebra III OR Dual Credit College Algebra AND Trig.

AP Calculus

Prerequisite: Algebra III OR Dual Credit College Algebra AND Trig.

Recommended: Calculus

DC College Algebra

Prerequisites: Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. Student must have a 19 or higher on the math section of ACT.

DC College Trigonometry

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II. Student must have an ACT Math subscore of 20 or higher OR completion of College Algebra with a grade of "C" or higher

## SCIENCE

Chemistry I

Prerequisites: Algebra I and Biology I

Co-requisite: If a student has not completed Algebra II, he/she must be enrolled in Algebra II while taking this course.

Physics

Prerequisites: Algebra II and an average of 80 or higher in Chemistry I

Co-requisite: If a student has not completed Algebra III, he/she must be enrolled in Algebra III while taking this course.

AP Physics I

Prerequisite: Algebra II and an average of 80 or higher in Chemistry I

Co-requisite: If a student has not completed Algebra III, he or she must be enrolled in Algebra III while taking this course.

AP Physics II

Prerequisite: Physics or AP Physics I

Human Anatomy and Physiology

Prerequisite: An average of 80 or higher in Biology I

DC Biology

Prerequisite: Student must have taken the ACT

Zoology II

Prerequisite: Zoology I

Marine II

Prerequisite: Marine I

## SOCIAL STUDIES

AP European History

Recommended: An average of 85 in English I

AP Government

Recommended: An average of 90 or higher in US History

AP World History

Recommended: An average of 85 or higher in English I

AP U.S. History

Recommended: An average of 85 in English II

DC Psychology

Prerequisite: Student must have taken the ACT

DC Economics

Prerequisite: Student must have taken the ACT

DC Government

Prerequisite: Student must have taken the ACT

DC U.S. History

Prerequisite: Student must have taken the ACT

### FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Latin II

Prerequisite: Latin I

Spanish II

Prerequisite: Spanish I

DC Spanish I

Prerequisite: Student must have taken the ACT

## **VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN**

The Valedictorian and/or Salutatorian of each DeSoto County High School must be enrolled in the school on or before September 1 of the student's junior year and attend the school for both the junior and senior school years. The student must meet the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning entry requirements. The Valedictorian must have the highest overall weighted numerical average based on grades from the freshman, sophomore, and junior years and the first three (3) terms of the senior year. The Salutatorian must have the second highest overall weighted numerical average based on grades from the freshman, sophomore, and junior years and the first three (3) terms of the senior year.

## **DISCIPLINE**

### **DESOTO COUNTY SCHOOLS CODE OF DISCIPLINE**

#### **FORWARD**

The Uniform Discipline Code has been developed in consultation with students, parents, teachers, and administrators so they will know and understand that firm, fair and consistent discipline policies are to be maintained in all DeSoto County public schools. Use of this Code is intended to ensure a stable learning environment in an atmosphere which encourages academic excellence. It is expected that staff members, students and parents will work together to support and enforce the code regulations with equity and consistency for all students.

**A copy of this Code shall be distributed to each student and the parents, legal guardian or custodian of each such student shall sign a statement verifying that they have been given notice of the Code.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The uniform Discipline Code of the DeSoto County Schools provides a uniform standard of conduct for all public school students. It describes inappropriate student behavior, ensures equal treatment for misconduct, and prescribes specific actions for remediating prohibited behaviors. The Code is based on the premise that rules must be enforced fairly, firmly and consistently and in a fashion equitable and just, while complying with state mandates and regulations. It recognizes that as students' progress in school and advance in age and maturity, they will assume greater responsibility for their actions. It is also recognized that differences in age and maturity require different types of disciplinary action.

In this Code, discipline is defined as the implementation of and adherence to behavioral rules and regulations which will ensure an educational environment free of mental and physical hazards to students, teachers and staff. Such an environment is conducive to the practice of good citizenship and encourages learning. The enforcement of the Code will help ensure a safe and orderly school climate for students and staff alike.

Specific provisions of the Code include:

1. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school age child enrolled in the DeSoto County Schools shall be responsible financially for his or her minor child's destructive acts against school property or persons.
2. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school age child enrolled in the DeSoto County Schools may be requested to appear at school by the school attendance officer or the principal, for a conference regarding the destructive acts of their child, or for any other discipline conference regarding the acts of the child.
3. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school age child enrolled in the DeSoto County Schools who refuses or willfully fails to attend such discipline conference specified in paragraph (2) of this section may be summoned by proper notification by the superintendent of schools or the school attendance officer and be required to attend such discipline conference.
4. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school age child enrolled in the DeSoto County Schools shall be responsible for any criminal fines brought against such student for unlawful activity occurring on school grounds or buses.
5. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory school age child who:

A fails to attend a discipline conference to which such parent, guardian or custodian has been summoned under the provisions of this section, or

B refuses or willfully fails to perform any other duties imposed upon him or her under the law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction shall be fined not to exceed an amount provided by law.

6. The DeSoto County Schools shall be entitled to recover damages in an amount not to exceed an amount as provided by law, plus necessary court costs, from the parents of any minor (7-17) who maliciously and willfully damages or destroys property belonging to this school district. However, this section shall not apply to parents whose parental control of such child has been removed by court order or decree.
7. As an alternative to suspension, a student may remain in school by having the parent, guardian or custodian, with the consent of the student's teacher or teachers, attend class with the student for a period of time specifically agreed upon by the teacher and school principal. If the parent, guardian or custodian does not agree to attend class with the student or fails to attend class with the student, the student shall be suspended in accordance with this Code.

## **CODE OF DISCIPLINE**

### Student Conduct – Acts of Misconduct

These acts of misconduct include those student behaviors which disrupt the orderly educational process in the classroom or on the school grounds including the following:

## **LEVEL I**

- 1-1 Tardiness
- 1-2 Running and/or making excessive noise in the hall or building
- 1-3 Inappropriate personal contact including but not limited to pushing and shoving, inappropriate gestures and public display of affection, recklessness, or any inappropriate contact which does not result in physical harm, or any additional contact which the principal determines to be in this level.
- 1-4 In unauthorized area without a pass (halls, etc.)
- 1-5 Dress Code violation
- 1-6 Displaying any behavior which is disruptive to the orderly process of education

### **DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

#### First Violation

Minimum: Teacher-Student Conference

Maximum: Teacher-Student-Parent Conference

#### Repeated or Flagrant Violation:

Minimum: Mandatory Student-Parent-Administrator Conference (Home Suspension)

Maximum: Corporal Punishment, ALC, detention, and/or school suspension

\*Students, who after having teacher-student conference, a teacher-student-parent conference, home suspension, Teacher Support Team interventions, continue displaying behavior which is disruptive to the orderly process of education, can be suspended from school, pending a disciplinary hearing.

## **LEVEL II**

- 2-1 Leaving the school grounds without permission
- 2-2 Skipping class
- 2-3 Insubordination
- 2-4 Possession and/or use of tobacco products (smokeless tobacco included)
- 2-5 Exhibiting any hostile physical or verbal actions
- 2-6 Unauthorized and/or inappropriate use of electronic devices (as defined in Board Policy IJBA)
- 2-7 Cheating on tests or exams (The grade "0" will be assigned regardless of other punishment.)

### **DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

#### First Violation:

Minimum: Administrator-Conference, ALC, mandatory student-parent-administrator conference, corporal punishment

Maximum: School suspension (one to three days)

#### Repeated or Flagrant Violation:

Minimum: School suspension (three days)

Maximum: School suspension (three days) and/or ALC for up to ten (10) days and/or Teacher Support Team interventions

\*Students, who after having teacher-student conference, a teacher-student-parent conference, a mandatory student-parent-administrator conference, and Teacher Support Team interventions, continue displaying behavior which is disruptive to the orderly process of education, can be suspended from school, pending a disciplinary hearing.

## **LEVEL III**

- 3-1 Fighting
- 3-2 Gambling
- 3-3 Theft or possession of stolen property
- 3-4 Acts which threaten the safety and well-being of student and/or staff
- 3-5 Extortion – use of intimidation, coercion or force
- 3-6 Vandalism of personal and/or school property

- 3-7 Using profane, obscene, indecent, immoral, or offensive language and/or gestures, and/or possession of obscene, indecent, immoral or offensive materials
- 3-8 Inappropriate sexual contact
- 3-9 Bullying (as defined in Board Policy JDDA)

**DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

First Violation:

Minimum: School suspension from one to three days, ALC, corporal punishment  
 Maximum: School suspension (three days), report made to authorities when applicable

Repeated or Flagrant Violation:

Minimum: School suspension (three days), ALC (ten days) and/or Levels 3-4 and 3-8 Teacher Support Team interventions  
 Maximum: School suspension (three days) and possible assignment to DeSoto County Alternative Center pending the results of a disciplinary hearing

\* For theft or vandalism restitution shall be made regardless of other punishment

**LEVEL IV**

- 4-1 Possession, use or under the influence of alcohol, synthetic drugs, counterfeit drugs, illegal drugs, narcotics, controlled substance(s) or paraphernalia
- 4-2 Assault on a student
- 4-3 Assault on a school employee
- 4-4 Directing profanity, vulgar or threatening language, and/or obscene gestures toward a staff member

Any student in violation of the above shall be suspended by the principal for a period of three days and ordered to appear for a disciplinary hearing before a District Hearing Officer.

**DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

Minimum: Assignment to the DeSoto County Alternative Center and a report will be made to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.  
 Maximum: Expulsion

**LEVEL V**

- 5-1 Possession and/or use of a weapon

Disciplinary Action

Minimum: Possession other than gun will result in assignment to the DeSoto County Alternative Center and a report will be made to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

Maximum: Possession of fire arm/gun or use of other weapon will result in expulsion from school for a period of not less than one year (under certain circumstances expulsion can be from the student’s assigned school to the DeSoto County Alternative Center)

- 5-2 Sale or distribution, or conspiring to sell counterfeit drugs, synthetic drugs, illegal drugs/alcohol, narcotics or controlled substance(s)

Disciplinary Action

Minimum: Assignment to the DeSoto County Alternative Center and a report will be made to the appropriate law enforcement authorities

Maximum: Expulsion

- 5-3 Students are prohibited from wearing, displaying, or possessing in any manner on school property or at school-sponsored events clothing, apparel, accessories, drawings, or messages associated with any gang or social club that is associated with criminal activity, as defined by law enforcement agencies.



## Disciplinary Action

Minimum: Mandatory student/parent /resource officer/administrator meeting to investigate situation and determine proper discipline consequence

Repeated: Assignment to the DeSoto County Alternative Center

Maximum: Expulsion for repeated violations and/or gang activity that includes but is not limited to:

- Acts which disrupt the process of orderly education
- Recruitment with use of intimidation
- Tagging or marking
- Assault
- Battery

5-4 Threats of violence or harm: Any spoken, written, gestures, or electronically communicated threat that disrupts the educational environment of the school and/or suggest a student intends to cause bodily harm or carry out an act of violence against district property, students, employees, or others (e.g. bomb threats, school shooting threats, etc...)

Students found to have made threats of violence or harm against district property, students, employees or others will be subject to expulsion from school for a period of not less than one year (under certain circumstances expulsion can be from the student's assigned school to the DeSoto County Alternative Center)

In addition to these penalties, provisions of the Mississippi Criminal Code are applicable to illegal behavior. Principals are required to report illegal activities to the police. Students committing any crime or involved with any criminal behavior are subject to arrest by local law enforcement.

The DeSoto County Board of Education permits individual schools to adopt additional regulations governing actions not covered by Conduct Code. However, such additional regulations may neither substitute for nor negate any of the provisions, in spirit or intent of the Conduct Code, and must be approved in writing by the School Superintendent.

### **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

**AFTER-SCHOOL DETENTION:** Students may be assigned detention as a result of violating certain rules and regulations as set forth by school authorities. Students are expected to make the necessary arrangements to be present at the assigned time. Students will report to the designated location for after-school detention. Students are to remain quiet, and detention work materials must be brought to detention hall.

- Students must be on time. Students are expected to be in their seats by 3:50.
- Students should be prepared to stay until 4:50.
- The principal and assistant principals can assign after-school detention.
- Students must remember that after they enter the detention room they are not to leave. Students are to take care of their personal needs before reporting. Do not ask to leave detention to work on projects, go to the band hall, go to the gym, etc.
- No Visitors – Students will not be allowed to wait inside the school building for students assigned to after-school detention.
- Failure to meet detention time during the designated time will result in a maximum penalty of 3 days of ALC or suspension for each day that is missed.

**CORPORAL PUNISHMENT:** The Desoto County School Board of Education recognizes corporal punishment as a method that may be used in controlling student behavior. Even though parental permission is not required, parents may request in writing that this punishment is prohibited for their child.

**LUNCH DETENTION:** If a student is assigned to lunch detention, he/she must report immediately to the assigned lunch detention location after entering the cafeteria. Students will remain at the lunch detention table unless given permission to leave the table by a school official. Lunch detention students may get in the lunch line when the line is at its shortest point(or when instructed by administration). No talking is allowed at lunch detention. If a student does not follow the rules of lunch detention, he/she can be assigned after-school detention, in-school suspension, or an out-of-school suspension. Students in lunch detention are not being denied a lunch. Students in lunch detention are allowed to eat.

**IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ALC):** Students may be placed in in-school suspension (ALC) for disciplinary reasons. While in ALC, all school rules still apply regarding the school's discipline code and dress code policy. The ALC teacher will send for student's assignments, and students are expected to complete all assignments while in ALC. If a student does not receive his / her assignments while in ALC, the student should resolve the problem by meeting with the ALC teacher and / or an administrator. When ALC students return to regular classes, they are responsible for meeting with all of their teachers to ensure that all assignments are completed properly and no additional assignments are required (for example, projects or classwork that would have been impossible to complete while in ALC). If a student does not follow the rules of ALC, he / she may be suspended from school or have additional days added in ALC. Students who are suspended while in ALC must return and complete any remaining ALC days.

**HOME SUSPENSION (REQUIRED PARENT CONFERENCE):** School administrators may issue a home suspension (a required parent conference) as a form of discipline. In this situation, the student is not allowed to return to school until his / her parent brings the student to school for a required conference with an administrator. This type of conference may be required at the end of some out-of-school suspensions. In certain situations, students may not receive any type of out-of-school suspension with this form of discipline. If no out-of-school suspension is issued, the parent can bring the student to school for the conference on the next school day. If a student is issued a school suspension and the student returns to school without being accompanied by a parent, the student will receive further punishment and may be considered trespassing. In this case, the student will receive a maximum of 5 days ALC, and the parent conference will still be required.

**OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION:** The principal or assistant principal can suspend any student for violation of any school rule or for any other act of misconduct or insubordination for a period not to exceed three (3) days. Students are required to complete all make-up work that results from a suspension. Failure to complete and turn in the make-up work within the allotted time or by the time specified by the teacher will result in the student receiving a zero (0) for the work.

If a student is suspended from school, he / she is not allowed on any Desoto County Schools campus. A suspended student is not allowed to attend any extracurricular events during the suspension. Any suspended student who comes on campus during the suspension period will be considered trespassing.

**DESOTO COUNTY ALTERNATIVE CENTER (DCAC):** As the result of a disciplinary hearing, students may be assigned to the Desoto County Alternative Center (DCAC) for a minimum of six (6) weeks. The teachers and administrators at DCAC provide educational services to Desoto County students that are assigned to DCAC. While a student is assigned to DCAC, he/she is not allowed on any Desoto County school campus. If a student violates this policy, he/she will be subject to disciplinary consequences and be subject to arrest for trespassing. If a student is on the DCAC waiting list, he/she will not be allowed on any campus to attend extracurricular activities until his/her DCAC assignment is completed. Students may also be placed on probation after returning from DCAC for a maximum of one calendar year. If a senior has not completed his/her DCAC placement before senior exams are given, he/she will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony.

## **ALCOHOL AND DRUGS**

Any student guilty of using or being in possession of alcohol, drugs, or drug paraphernalia at school or at school-sponsored events will be suspended and may be recommended for expulsion. When violations involve controlled substances, the police will be notified. When available, drug dogs will be scheduled for school visits.

## **BULLYING**

The Desoto County School District does not condone and will not tolerate bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that (a) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, or (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits. A "hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior will not be condoned or tolerated when it takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus, or when it takes place off school property when such conduct, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders the offending person's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole. The DeSoto County School District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no student or school employee is subjected to bullying or harassing behavior by other school employees or students. Likewise, the District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no person engages in any act of reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness or a person with reliable information about an act of bullying or harassing behavior. The District encourages anyone who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or school employee has been subject to any act of bullying or

harassing behavior to report the incident to the appropriate school official. The School Board directs the superintendent or designee to design and implement procedures for reporting, investigating, and addressing bullying and harassing behaviors. The procedures should be appropriately placed in District personnel policy handbooks, school handbooks that include discipline policies and procedures, and any other policy or procedure that deals with student or employee behavior. The discipline policies and procedures must recognize the fundamental right of every student to take “reasonable actions” as may be necessary to defend himself or herself from an attack by another student who has evidenced menacing or threatening behavior through bullying or harassing. **Furthermore, the DeSoto County School District defines “reasonable action” as promptly reporting the behavior to a teacher, principal, counselor, or other school employee when subjected to bullying or harassing behavior.**

#### **Complaints of Bullying or Harassing Behavior**

Students and employees in the DeSoto County School District are protected from bullying or harassing behavior by other students or employees. It is the intent of the Board and the administration to maintain an environment free from bullying and harassing behavior. This complaint procedure provides a process for filing, processing, and resolving complaints of such conduct. Adherence to these procedures is mandatory. The failure of any person to follow these procedures will constitute a waiver of the right to pursue a complaint at any level, including review by the Board.

#### **Definition**

Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that (a) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, or (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student’s educational performance, opportunities or benefits. A “hostile environment” means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior will not be condoned or tolerated when it takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus, or when it takes place off school property when such conduct, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders the offending person’s presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole.

#### **Procedures for Processing a Complaint**

Any student, school employee, or volunteer who feels he/she has been a victim of bullying or harassing behavior, or has witnessed or who has reliable information that a

student, school employee, or volunteer has been subject to bullying or harassing behavior shall report such conduct to a teacher, principal, counselor or other school official. The report shall be made promptly after the alleged act or acts occurred. The school official shall complete a “Bullying/Harassing Behavior” complaint form which shall include the name of the reporting person, the specific nature and date of the misconduct, the name of the victim(s) of the misconduct, the names of any witnesses and any other information that would assist in the investigation of the complaint. The report shall be given promptly to the principal or superintendent who shall institute an immediate investigation. Complaints against the principal shall be made to the superintendent.

The complaint shall be investigated promptly. Parents will be notified of the nature of any complaint involving their student. The District official will arrange such meetings as may be necessary with all concerned parties after the initial receipt of the complaint by the District.

## **CHEATING**

Students at Desoto Central High School are expected to produce their own work except on projects designated by the teacher as cooperative efforts. Teachers will indicate which assignments are to be cooperative efforts and will establish guidelines for such projects. The teacher will also develop standards for the use of such aids as calculators, computers, word processors, and published study guides. If a student is in doubt about the ethical standards applicable to a particular situation, then the student is responsible for clarifying the matter with the teacher.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying, text messaging, faxing, emailing, or in any way duplicating assignments that are turned in, wholly or in part, as original work.
- Exchanging assignments with other students, either handwritten or computer generated, whether you believe they will be copied or not.
- Using any form of memory aid during tests or quizzes without the expressed permission of the instructor.
- Giving or receiving answers during tests or quizzes.

## **DRESS CODE**

Proper attire and grooming are deemed important to scholastic achievement and orderliness. The responsibility for the appearance of the students begins with the parents and the students themselves. Students’ clothing, make-up, and hairstyles should reflect neatness, cleanliness, and self-respect so that the school is a desirable place in which to promote learning and character development. It is virtually

impossible to formulate a set of regulations that adequately covers every detail of proper grooming. Violations of the Dress Code will be dealt with in accordance with the DeSoto County Schools Code of Discipline. It will be treated as insubordination and will be handled as stated in the Code of Discipline of the DeSoto County Schools. Insubordination is a Level II violation.

First Violation: Administrator-Parent conference, home suspension, or ALC

Second Violation: School suspension (three days)

Repeated Times: Suspension from school pending a disciplinary hearing.

1. Hair must be neat, clean and worn in a manner that does not interfere with vision or cause a disruption in the classroom. No combs, picks, rollers or extreme coloring will be allowed.
2. T-shirts with sleeves, white or colored, are acceptable. Shirts must be properly closed, zipped or buttoned.
3. No article of clothing that pertains to or depicts the following will be acceptable:
  - Substances or activities illegal by law for minors, such as, alcohol, drugs, tobacco, gambling
  - Profane, suggestive, or violent language
  - Derogatory symbols: remarks directed to any ethnic group
4. Sufficient underclothes must be worn appropriately and must not be exposed.
5. Tank tops, tube tops, transparent tops, muscle shirts, spaghetti straps, thin straps, or tops that expose the midriff, any part of the bust, excessive part of the back, are excessively tight or are distracting in class are not permitted. No slits in shirts are to be above the waistline of pants or skirts. Blouses/tops made to be worn outside should be at least three (3) inches below the waistline and no longer than five (5) inches below the waistline.
6. Students in grades K thru 5 are allowed to wear shorts as part of their daily attire. Shorts should be walking shorts or Bermuda shorts. Students in grades 6 thru 12 may wear walking shorts or Bermuda shorts that are knee length. They should not be excessively tight or baggy. Athletic shorts are not permitted unless they are a part of an approved gym class or athletic class/activity.
7. Knee length dresses and skirts are allowed. No slits in these skirts or dresses above the kneecaps are allowed, and transparent skirts are not allowed.
8. No spandex articles of clothing are allowed.
9. Shoes must be worn at all times, and no house shoes are allowed. Shoes with laces should be laced and tied.
10. No visible tattoos will be allowed. Neither male nor female students will be permitted to wear piercings that include hoops, chains or bars for safety purposes in areas other than ears.
11. Coaches, physical education classes or any organized athletics have the option to ban all jewelry due to safety reasons and/or violation of the Mississippi High School Activity Association regulations.
12. Sunglasses, other than prescription, must be removed when inside the building.
13. All pants must be worn fitted to the waist, at the waist, with or without a belt. Belts must be worn and buckled appropriately for pants that have belt loops. Pants should fit appropriately. No baggy pants are allowed. No writing is to be on the seat of the pants, even the cheerleader's uniform and dance team.
14. Leggings and jeggings are allowed when worn with a top/skirt/dress that meets the dress length guidelines specified in #8.
15. Pants must have no exposed skin above the knee.
16. Hats, caps, sweatbands, or other head coverings are not to be worn in the buildings or on the grounds of the school except for medical reasons as prescribed by a physician. Head coverings as part of a religious belief will be allowed if there is sufficient proof the student is a practicing member of the religious sect. Head coverings may be worn if authorized by the faculty and/or administration, if it is part of a uniform (i.e., wearing a full baseball uniform during games or practice) or as deemed necessary.
17. Specific outfits designated for extracurricular activities and decisions concerning any questionable clothing will be left to the discretion of the principal.
18. Local principals or their designee have the power and discretion to make all decisions on their campus.
19. Hoods are not to be worn at any time during the school day in the building.
20. Students are not allowed to wear any clothing, jewelry, etc. that may be considered gang related. This is a Level 5-3 conduct violation and carries harsher consequences than a regular dress code violation.
21. Students are not allowed to wear transparent clothing.
22. Pajamas and/or any sleep wear are not allowed to be worn as daily attire.
23. Students will be sent to ALC for a minimum of one day for dress code violations that cannot be corrected. This includes, but is not limited to short skirts, revealing clothing, inappropriate designs or language on clothing, shorts that do not meet the dress code policy, etc.
24. Students are not allowed to wear hats and/or caps in school building.

## ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

All electronic equipment must be stored, turned off, and “out of sight” in all areas of DeSoto Central High School during the school day (8:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.). Electronic equipment can only be used in the classroom when the teacher gives students permission to use their electronic equipment for instructional purposes.

Acceptable electronic equipment includes cell phones, tablets, laptops, notebooks, netbooks, and E-Readers.

Unacceptable electronic equipment includes, but is not limited to, gaming devices, modems, routers, televisions, or other accessories.

Authorized use of electronic equipment:

- In the classroom for instructional purposes with the permission of the classroom teacher.

Unauthorized use of electronic equipment:

1. Use in the classroom **without** the permission of the classroom teacher.
2. Use in any non-classroom area of DeSoto Central High School. This includes, but is not limited to, the hallways, cafeteria, restrooms, library, and gymnasium.
3. Use while under the supervision of a substitute teacher or while in ALC.
4. Use during lunch detention.
5. Use during school assemblies.
6. Possessing, viewing, sending, or sharing information having sexual, violent, or threatening content.
7. Connection to the Internet through a 3G, 4G, or any other content service provider. Access to the Internet must be through the school district’s content-filtered wireless network.

\*\*\* Inappropriate use of electronic devices will be handled as insubordination, but we will not collect student phones. \*\*\*

## FIGHTING

Any student who starts or participates in a disturbance may be suspended from school immediately and possible placement at the DeSoto County Alternative School. The student will be readmitted only after his/her parents or guardians have contacted the school or met personally with the supervising principal. Students involved in fighting can be referred to the Southaven Police Department. Also, students that are involved in fighting at school or at a DeSoto Central extracurricular activity will not be allowed to attend extracurricular activities for one calendar year.

## GANG POLICY

The DeSoto County School District prohibits gang activity, defined hereinafter. Students who engage in gang activity will be subject to discipline pursuant to the District’s Code of Discipline, up to and including possible expulsion. A “gang” is defined as a group that initiates, advocates, or promotes illegal activities, activities that threaten the safety or well-being of persons or property on school grounds, or at supervised school functions, or activities that are harmful to the education process.

Prohibited “gang activity” includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) Soliciting students to become gang members.
- (2) Participating in gang initiation or other gang ceremonies;
- (3) Deliberately wearing, displaying, or possessing prohibited gang symbols.
- (4) Engaging in gang-related violence or threats of violence;
- (5) Threatening others, including threats by brandishing a weapon or a replica of a weapon on school campuses, or at supervised school functions; or
- (6) Engaging in any behavior undertaken in such a manner as to be reasonably likely to incite violence or endanger persons or property.

Prohibited “gang symbols” may include, any type of clothing decoration, jewelry, patches, bandanas, gang names, depiction of gang signs or symbols, and/or body signal/movement which is recognized as denoting a gang or is a sign, signal or movement utilized in connection with gang communications, including, but not limited to those appearing with the DeSoto County Schools “Gang Awareness” pamphlet as well as the additions thereto in the future. School officials will keep a booklet containing known “gang symbols” in each school office. Students and parents who may have questions regarding this policy should contact the school principal for further clarification of any part of the policy. Students may be disciplined for engaging in any activity prohibited by this policy including the prohibited “gang activity” enumerated in the third paragraph hereof. District officials will cooperate with local law enforcement to provide the school with gang information to aid in the prevention of violence, gangs, and drugs in our schools. This information shall include, but is not limited to: gang names, colors, symbols, signals, and gestures associated with gangs (all of which are prohibited gang activity). School officials will publish notice of these prohibited names, signals, gestures, colors and symbols in the school office as made available by local police department and government authorities or otherwise made known to school officials. The school will continually update the information posted in the school office relating to prohibited gang symbols and gang activity. Notice of updated

prohibited gang activity and/or gang symbols will be sent home with each student, said notice shall advise students that the prohibited gang activity and gang symbols has been updated with updates maintained in the school office and the District website. Each school shall make regular announcements to the student body advising that gang activity and gang symbols are strictly prohibited. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, nothing herein prohibits the display of recognized religious symbols such as the Star of David or the Crescent or the Cross unless these or other religious symbols are altered or augmented in some way. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, wearing of clothing or particular colors in and of itself is not prohibited unless the clothing (color or otherwise) is worn in combination with other prohibited gang signs or symbols. The wearing or displaying in any manner of gang names however, is prohibited.

### **HALLWAYS**

Reasonable conduct and good common sense govern the movement of students through the hallways. Moving traffic should keep to the right, and some doors will be noted as “Enter” and “Exit” points. Students grouping and standing in classroom doorways or in the middle of the hall will not be tolerated during class change. We expect students to move as directed and to be considerate of others, and unacceptable conduct in the hallways can lead to disciplinary action. Students may also be disciplined for entering classrooms without permission.

### **LEAVING THE CAMPUS**

After arrival on campus, no one is to leave school at an unauthorized time without permission of the principal. Any student who leaves the campus without permission will be subject to disciplinary consequences such as in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, and loss of driving privileges.

Since dismissal constitutes an absence, it should be requested only in case of an extreme emergency. Any pupil dismissed because of an emergency will be sent home immediately or to a doctor only after the parents have been notified. Except in cases of illness, a student will be allowed to leave only upon request made in person to the school office by a parent or guardian. No pupil is to leave the school grounds for any reason during the school day without permission from the principal.

### **RESTRICTED ITEMS**

The following items are not allowed on the DeSoto Central High School campus. Students will face disciplinary actions if they bring any of these items to school. This list is not all-inclusive.

Look-a-like drugs	Bandannas	Fireworks	Stink bombs, sprays, etc.
Electronic equipment	Laser lights	Pillows	Fast food (food & drinks)
Cigarette lighters	Water Pistols	Matches	Look-a-like weapons
Noisemaking devices	Vape/Juuls	Blankets	Skateboards
Gang paraphernalia	Caps / hats	Stuffed Animals	

### **SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT**

In an attempt to keep DeSoto County Schools safe for all students and staff, the following behaviors will not be tolerated:

- The use or possession of gang graffiti, gang drawings, gang writings, gang dress, or gang activity
- Any organized factions which threaten the safety of students and/or staff.
- Distribution of illegal drugs, prescriptions drugs, or any substance dangerous to students. (Distribution includes giving substances to students intentionally or accidentally.)

Students who openly defy this warning(s) will be considered a threat to the safety of students and staff and suspended pending a disciplinary hearing. The student could be expelled from DeSoto County Schools.

### **TARDIES**

There are two types of tardies: (1) arriving to school after the 8:25 tardy bell and (2) being late to any class after arriving at school. Both types of tardies are included in students’ total number of tardies.

- Any student who arrives at school after the 8:25 tardy bell must report to the designated area for admit/tardy slip before reporting to class.
- Bus students who are late due to bus problems must report to the attendance office for admit slips; however, these tardies are not recorded.

- Oversleeping, heavy traffic, weather, clock failure, missed rides, etc., will not be excusable reasons for being late.
- If a student misses over half of the class period, he / she will be marked as absent for the entire class period. The details of a student's tardiness to school can be reported to the truancy officer.
- Teachers will send a written note when they detain a student. This note will include the time the student left, the student's name, and the date. It will be signed by the teacher who detained the student.
- Tardies are recorded per nine-weeks.
- If a student has excessive tardies because of not arriving at school on time, his/her driving privileges can be revoked.

**Disciplinary consequences for excessive tardiness:**

- 4 Tardies - 3 days of lunch detention
- 8 Tardies - ASD ( 1 ALC with proof of work)
- 12 Tardies - 2 ASD or 1 ALC with mandatory parent conference
- 16 Tardies - 2 days of ALC
- 20 Tardies - 3 days of ALC and mandatory parent conference for behavior plan
- 24 Tardies - 1-day Suspension
- 28 Tardies - 2 days Suspension
- 32 Tardies - 3 days Suspension with hearing
- The principals will make the decision regarding the choice of punishment.
- Every 4 tardies after 32 may result in 10 days ALC and/or a 3 day out of school suspension pending disciplinary hearing.

**VOCATIONAL STUDENTS**

Vocational students must ride the bus to and from the Vocational campus each day. In order to drive a personal vehicle, a student must have written permission from the Vocational principal or his/her designee.

**WEAPONS**

According to Mississippi State Law, any student who possesses a knife, handgun, other firearm or any other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm or who commits a violent act on school property as defined in MS Code § 97-37-17, shall be subject to automatic expulsion by the superintendent or principal of the school in which the student is enrolled.

No student is permitted to bring a firearm on school property which includes any school building, bus, campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field or other property owned, used or operated by the DeSoto County School District. The school district may use video camera equipment in classrooms for the purpose of monitoring school disciplinary problems.

The penalty for bringing a firearm on school property according to P. L. 107-110 (No Child Left Behind Act of 2001) shall be expulsion from the school program and all of its activities for a minimum period of one calendar year. The punishment shall take effect immediately following the provision of initial due process and pending the conclusion of due process on the recommendation of expulsion, all in accordance with Policies adopted by the board.

**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**ABSENCES AND EXCUSES K-12**

Instructional Day

Pursuant to Mississippi Code 37-13-91, a parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory- school-age child in this state shall cause the child to enroll in and attend a public school or legitimate nonpublic for the period of time that the child is of compulsory-school-age. Mississippi Code Section 37-9-14(2)(u) states that School District Superintendents are "to comply in a timely manner with the compulsory education reporting requirements prescribed in Section 37-13-92(6)." The State Department of Education shall prescribe a uniform method for schools to utilize in reporting the unlawful absences to the school attendance officer.

The instructional day is therefore defined as a school day in which pupils are in regular attendance for scheduled classroom instruction for not less than sixty-three percent (63%) of the required instructional time, as fixed by the local school board for each school in the school district. The school board will review and approve the instructional time for each school in the school district annually prior to the beginning of the school year.

Each of the following shall constitute an excused absence:

- Illness or injury which prevents the student from being physically able to attend school.
- When isolation is ordered by the county health officer, the State Board of Health, or an appropriate school official.

- Death or serious illness of a member of the immediate family, which includes grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters, stepbrothers, and stepsisters. The absences must be approved by the principal or his/her designee.
- A medical or dental appointment documented with the proper excuse from the attending physician/dentist upon return to school.
- Attendance at the proceedings of a court or an administrative tribunal if the student is a party to the action or under subpoena as a witness.
- Observance of a religious event, with prior approval of the principal or his/her designee. (Approval should not be withheld unless, in the professional judgment of the principal or his/her designee, the extent of absence would adversely affect the student's education.)
- Attendance at an authorized school activity with the prior approval of the principal or his/her designee.
- Participation in a valid educational opportunity, such as travel including vacations or other family travel, with prior approval of the principal or his/her designee.

An absence may be excused when it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the principal or his/her designee, that conditions are sufficient to warrant the child's non-attendance. However, no absences shall be excused by the principal or his/her designee, when any student suspensions or expulsions circumvent the intent and spirit of the compulsory attendance law.

#### High School Students (9-12)

Five (5) absences may be excused by a note from a parent/guardian. (Note must include student's legal name, date of absence, reason for absence, parent/guardian signature, and date note was written.)

Any additional absence after the five (5) excused by a parent/guardian note must be excused by a note from a doctor or other documentation excusing said absence.

Any documentation being given for excuse of absence(s) must be submitted to the principal or his/her designee within two (2) school days of returning to school, unless granted an exception by the principal for extenuating circumstances.

When a student has exceeded five (5) unexcused absences, the DeSoto County Attendance Officer shall be notified in writing within two (2) days by the school principal or his/her designee.

#### Make-up Work Policy

When a student is absent from school (excused or unexcused), the number of days allowed to complete any required make-up work is commensurate with the number of days missed to a maximum of five (5) days.

For example, if a student is absent from school for one (1) day, the student has one (1) day to complete the required make-up assignments. If the student is absent for five (5) days, he/she will have five (5) days to complete his/her make-up work. If the student is absent for twelve (12) days, the student has five (5) days to complete the missed work.

The principal has the discretion to allow additional time or limit the number of required assignments in extreme situations.

### **ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY**

In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, no students in the DeSoto County School District shall be subject to sexual harassment. It is the intent of the School Board to maintain an environment free from sexual harassment of any kind. Therefore, unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature amounting to or constituting harassment are prohibited. It shall be a violation of this policy for any student or employee to use sexual harassment toward any other student or employee. Any student who engages in the sexual harassment of anyone in the school setting may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. DeSoto County Schools will investigate all formal and informal, verbal and written complaints of sexual harassment.

### **ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL**

Students are not allowed to enter the building until 7:50 each morning. Bus riders will enter through the front doors and report immediately to the cafeteria. Car riders must exit the vehicle immediately upon arriving on campus. After exiting the vehicles, students will enter the building through the gym entrance and report to the gymnasium. Students are not allowed to get into anyone else's vehicle before school.



## **ASBESTOS PLAN**

The Desoto County School District has Asbestos management plans for each school in accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act. The management plan can be reviewed in the main office of the school.

## **ASSEMBLIES**

School assemblies will be held from time to time for special programs and communication purposes. Students will be given seating instructions prior to the scheduled assembly. Students are expected to conduct themselves properly going to the assembly, during the assembly, and returning to the building.

## **ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION**

Students must attend two academic blocks in order to attend a practice on a school day. Students must also attend two academic blocks in order to attend and/or participate in a game on a school day. This does not include absences that are considered a "school activity". If a student provides a doctor's note or there are unique circumstances, the coach can contact the athletic director or the principal for approval to override this policy.

When a student quits a sport, he/she often wants to move onto a new sport. However, depending on the circumstances, our coaches may or may not allow the student-athlete to participate in a new sport until the season has been completed for the former sport. Our athletic director will look at each situation on a case-by-case basis.

## **ATHLETIC EVENTS**

Students are not permitted to bring backpacks or outside drinks to athletic events.

## **ATTENDANCE FORMS**

Proof of attendance forms must be requested by students. Requests are to be submitted to the main office receptionist. Forms will be given to students within 48 hours of request.

## **AUTOMOBILES**

Students driving a motorized vehicle on school grounds must hold a valid license and be covered by insurance. All students must park in the student parking lot and follow all posted speed limits and traffic regulations. Students must be registered with the school. No student is permitted to return to his / her vehicle until the end of the school day. Students shall not sit in or upon vehicles parked on the school campus. Failure to follow school rules governing vehicles could lead to fines and/or loss of privilege to drive on the school campus. Automobiles parked illegally on campus are subject to being towed at owner's expense. Students who use their automobiles to leave campus without permission are subject to losing driving/parking privileges for one school year. The Desoto County School District is not responsible for damages done to automobiles because of vandalism, accidents, and the like. When students drive their vehicles on to school property, they agree to abide by campus rules, and they realize their cars may be searched to ensure the health and safety of the entire student body. Students can buy a parking permit to park in the front for \$5.00. These spaces will be limited and sold on a first come first served basis. Permits cannot be transferred between vehicles without notifying an administrator.

## **BREAK**

Desoto Central High School will have a short break on most days at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> block. Students will have the opportunity to buy snacks and drinks during break, and the students are responsible for disposing of their trash at the end of break.

## **BUS POLICY**

Transportation Department website is (<http://www.desoto.k12.ms.us/trans>)

- This website provides information such as stop locations, pickup and drop off times, etc.

If a student needs to ride home on a different bus, the student must give a parent note to the principal or the principal's designee before 10:15 a.m. on that morning. The principal will contact the parent, and the student will need to get verbal approval from the principal later in the day before trying to board another bus.

The DeSoto County School District Transportation Department operates as an extension of the school(s) and student conduct is governed accordingly. Students who do not conduct themselves properly are subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the DeSoto County School District policies. Punishments may include but are not limited to suspension and expulsion from school or from the bus for misconduct on the bus. Riding the school bus is a privilege. DeSoto County Schools are not responsible for items left on bus.

1. Responsibilities:

- a. Bus drivers and aides are responsible and authorized to maintain student order and discipline at all times.
- b. Principals are responsible and authorized to administer any and all necessary student discipline. Principals shall also ensure that all bus rules are communicated to eligible riders.
- c. Students have the responsibility to obey all policies and procedures established by the DeSoto County Board of Education, their respective schools and the Transportation Department while waiting for, boarding, riding or off-loading a DeSoto County school bus.
- d. The Transportation Department shall post rules clearly on every school bus and shall include but not be limited by the rules listed below.

2. Rules of Conduct

- a. Be waiting at your stop 5 minutes early.
- b. If you need to cross the street, wait for traffic to stop; driver will motion to you when it is safe to pass in front of the bus to load or unload.
- c. Obey the bus driver.
- d. No unauthorized items on bus. (No weapons, tobacco, combustibles, pets, large items, etc.)
- e. Be nice and courteous.
- f. Keep the bus clean.
- g. No profanity and no fighting.
- h. Keep hands and head inside of bus.
- i. Do not throw anything, anywhere.
- j. Stay in your seat. Driver may assign seats.
- k. No eating or drinking.
- l. Damage to bus interior may result in student paying for damage.
- m. Emergency door/windows may only be opened in case of emergency.
- n. Do not distract or bother the driver through loud talking or misbehavior.
- o. Report any problems you may have to the bus driver as soon as possible.
- p. The school district and drivers are not responsible for articles left on the bus.
- q. Use or possession of gang graffiti, gang drawings, gang writings, gang dress, or gang activity of any kind may result in expulsion from school.

**CAFETERIA**

Please remember the following rules as you participate in our lunch program:

- 1. Enter and exit the cafeteria in an orderly manner.
- 2. Students are not allowed to cut in front of other students in line. Because our cafeteria staff prepares food based on the number of people in line, students who plan to eat must get in the lunch line upon entering the cafeteria. Students who do not follow this policy could be placed in lunch detention and possibly ALC for multiple violations.
- 3. Please have your cafeteria number ready for the cashier.
- 4. All students are required to take trays and silverware to the receiving window when they have finished their meal. Please do not leave trays or silverware on the table. Each student must return his/her own tray.
- 5. Please pick up the food, napkins, etc., and clean up around your tray. Place paper in the trash can.
- 6. Do not take any food outside the cafeteria.
- 7. If you have a complaint about the service in the cafeteria, please be courteous in reporting it to the manager, your teacher, or an administrator.
- 8. Students are not allowed to leave campus during lunch.

**CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES**

Students may check out from school if a parent or guardian personally comes to the school and checks-out the student. Upon return to school, the student must personally sign-in.

Because of a high volume of student checkouts on exam days, additional restrictions or alternate procedures may be used regarding student check-outs on these dates. Students will be informed of these procedures in advance of the exam dates. And because of traffic issues, checkouts are not allowed after 3:00 on all school days.

### **CLOTHING THAT REPRESENTS DESOTO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL**

The principal must approve all clothing representing Desoto Central High School. Students and / or organizations must get prior approval before designing any clothing. This includes, but is not limited to, class t-shirts, homecoming shirts, and club shirts.

### **CLUBS / SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS**

All clubs and school organizations must have a faculty member as the sponsor, and all groups must be approved by the principal. And clubs and organizations could be combined if the purpose/mission is similar to those of another club and/or organization.

### **COLLEGE VISITS**

Seniors are allowed two (2) college visits per semester. The visits must be pre-approved by the principal or his or her designee, and documentation of the visits must be provided. A college visit will be documented as a school activity for attendance purposes.

### **COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

The term "minor" when used in any statute, shall include any person, male or female, under twenty-one years of age. Ms Code 1-3-27 DeSoto County School District shall comply with the requirements of the "Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law" (Ms Code 37-13-91). Appropriate reports as required by law shall be provided to the Mississippi Department of Education's Office of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement.

#### **COMPULSORY- SCHOOL-AGE CHILD**

"Compulsory-school-age child" means a child who has attained or will attain the age of six (6) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year and who has not attained the age of seventeen (17) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year; and shall include any child who has attained or will attain the age of five (5) years on or before September 1 and has enrolled in a full-day public school kindergarten program. A child, five (5) years of age, who enrolls in public kindergarten, will have to abide by the same guidelines as outlined in the §37-13-91.

Compulsory-school-age children must be enrolled in school unless the child is:

- Physically, mentally or emotionally incapable of attending school as determined by the appropriate school official based upon sufficient medical documentation.
- Enrolled in and pursuing a course of special education, remedial education or education for handicapped or physically or mentally disadvantaged children.
- Being educated in a legitimate home instruction program. Ms Code 37-13-91 (3)

#### **REPORTS**

If a compulsory-school-age child has not been enrolled in school within fifteen (15) calendar days after the first day of the school year or if a child has accumulated five (5) unlawful absences during the school year, the principal shall, within two (2) school days or within five (5) calendar days, whichever is less, report, on the form provided by the State Department of Education, the absences to the school attendance officer. The principal, or his/her designee, shall report any student suspensions or student expulsions to the school attendance officer when they occur. Ms Code 37-13-91 (6)

School districts shall maintain accurate records documenting enrollment and attendance in a manner that allows the State Department of Education to make an assessment of changes in enrollment and attendance, including dropout rates.

The State Department of Education shall compile annually a statewide report on school district effectiveness in reducing absentee problems, dropout rates, and other attendance-related problems during the previous school year, incorporate the information into the

annual Mississippi Report Card required by Section 37-3-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, on school district performance and offer technical assistance and coordination services to assist districts in improving performance.

#### UNLAWFUL ABSENCES / VALID EXCUSES

An "unlawful absence" is an absence during a school day by a compulsory-school-age child, which absence is not due to a valid excuse for temporary nonattendance. Days missed from school due to disciplinary suspension shall not be considered an "excused" absence under this section. Each of the following shall constitute a valid excuse for temporary nonattendance, provided satisfactory evidence of the excuse is provided to the principal or his/her designee:

- a. Attendance at an authorized school activity with the prior approval of the principal of the school district or his/her designee.
- b. Illness or injury which prevents the student from being physically able to attend school.
- c. When isolation is ordered by the county health officer, by the State Board of Health or appropriate school official.
- d. Death or serious illness of a member of the immediate family, which includes children, spouse, grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters, stepbrothers and stepsisters.
- e. A medical or dental appointment with prior approval of the principal or his/her designee, except in the case of emergency.
- f. Attendance at the proceedings of a court or an administrative tribunal if the student is a party to the action or under subpoena as a witness.
- g. Observance of a religious event, with the prior approval of the principal or his/her designee. (Approval should not be withheld unless, in the professional judgment of the principal or his/her designee, the extent of the absence would adversely affect the student's education.)
- h. Participation in a valid educational opportunity, such as travel including vacations or other family travel, with the prior approval of the principal or his/her designee. (Approval shall be based on the professional judgment of the principal or his/her designee but shall not be withheld unless the extent of the absence would adversely affect the student's education.)
- i. Other conditions sufficient to warrant nonattendance, with prior approval of the principal or his/her designee. However, no absences shall be excused when any student suspensions or expulsions circumvent the intent and spirit of the compulsory attendance law. Ms Code 37-13-91 (4)
- j. An absence is excused when it results from the attendance of a compulsory-school-age child participating in official organized events sponsored by the 4-H or Future Farmers of America (FFA). The excuse for the 4-H or FFA event must be provided in writing to the appropriate school superintendent by the Extension Agent or High School Agricultural Instructor/FFA Advisor.
- k. An absence is excused when it results from the compulsory-school-age child officially being employed to serve as a page at the State Capitol for the Mississippi House of Representatives or Senate.

#### SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICER

The superintendent and principals shall cooperate with the school attendance officer employed by the State Department of Education, pursuant to Ms Code 37-13-85.

Process Standard 10 is as follows:

10. The school district implements procedures for monitoring and reporting student absences as specified in the Mississippi Compulsory Attendance Law. (Ms Code 37-13-91)

#### **COMPUTER/INTERNET RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT**

A child enrolled in DeSoto County Schools will have the opportunity to use a computer for class activities, research, and internet functions. DeSoto County Schools' computers are equipped with filtering software in an effort to prevent contact with inappropriate sites. When your child uses the equipment, the following behaviors will not be tolerated:

1. The pirating of software
2. Damaging or abusing any equipment
3. Printing, accessing, or installing any obscene or dangerous materials on the computer
4. Exposing any DeSoto County computer to a virus
5. Changing any records or permanent operating system files
6. Bringing any personal software and using on school computers
7. Sending/receiving unauthorized e-mails

\*\*Students who abuse computer privileges are subject to lose access to all school computers for one school year.

## DELIVERIES

Students are not allowed to receive deliveries (balloons, food, flowers, etc.) at school. Parents, friends, and family members should not send any types of deliveries to students. Also, our office staff does not make deliveries to students (homework, lunch money, etc.)

## EARLY RELEASE/ LATE ARRIVAL

Seniors must be enrolled in **two** (2) courses each semester. Seniors are eligible for early release and /or late arrival if they meet the following requirements:

- **Must have met College or Career Readiness Benchmarks**(ACT sub scores 17 English and 19 Math or earned a Silver level on ACT WorkKeys or SAT equivalency sub scores).
- **Alternately, a student must meet ALL of the following:**
  1. **Have a 2.5 GPA**
  2. **Passes or met all MAAP assessment requirements for graduation**
  3. **On track to meet diploma requirements**
  4. **Concurrently enrolled in Essentials for College Math or Essentials for College Literacy or SREB Math Ready or SREB Literacy Ready**

## EMERGENCY DRILLS AND PROCEDURES

All students should thoroughly acquaint themselves with the following procedures:

### Fire Drill and School Evacuation Plan

At the beginning of the school year, students will become familiar with the school evacuation plan which is posted in each classroom. The signal to evacuate the school will be an announcement over the intercom and/or the fire alarm. When the announcement is made, all students should be silent immediately and follow the instructions of their teachers.

### Tornado Alert

At the beginning of the school year, students will become familiar with the school's tornado alert plan, which is posted in all classrooms. The signal for a tornado drill or alert will be an announcement over the intercom.

### Lockdown Drill

At the beginning of the school year, students will be instructed on lockdown procedures.

### Earthquake Drill

At the beginning of the school year, students will be instructed on the procedures to follow in the event of an earthquake.

## EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Each student in the Desoto County School District will have equal educational opportunities regardless of race, color, creed, sex, handicap, religion, or marital status. No student shall be excluded on such basis from participating in or having access to any course offerings, athletics, counseling, employment assistance, or extra-curricular activities.

Further, the Desoto County School District prohibits sexual harassment of or by any student. This policy applies to conduct during and relating to school and school-sponsored activities. Any student who engages in the sexual harassment of anyone in the school setting may be subject to disciplinary action.

## **FACILITY GUIDELINES**

Students do not have permission to be in the building or on campus unless under the direct supervision of a current faculty member. If a student is in the building or on campus without the direct supervision of a current faculty member, he/she could face disciplinary consequences and/or criminal prosecution. If a student does anything that could cause damage to school facilities or is offensive to students and/or employees, he/she could face disciplinary consequences and/or criminal prosecution.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

Students that attend field trips are responsible for all schoolwork that is missed during the field trip. If an assignment was given to the student prior to the field trip, he/she is responsible for turning in that assignment upon return from the field trip. If an assignment was given while the student was on a field trip, he/she will have one extra day to complete the assignment. The principal and/or sponsor have the authority to remove a student from the list of eligible students for a field trip and/or school activity. This decision could be based on the student's academic record and/or discipline record.

## **GENERAL DISCLAIMER**

School officials reserve the right to make any and all final decisions affecting student conduct, dress, attendance, eligibility, discipline, graduation, awards, grading, and any other areas where a difference of opinion has arisen from students, parents, or teachers.

## **GRADING POLICY**

### GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR GRADING

Minimum Standards: Students must demonstrate mastery of the content required for each grade/course.

Content for grades 6-12 is determined by Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards for Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and the Mississippi Content Frameworks for all remaining subjects.

#### Monitoring Student Progress

Each teacher has the responsibility of identifying pupils who are not making satisfactory progress toward the achievement of grade level or course objectives.

Teachers are encouraged to notify parents during each grading period if students do not meet minimum requirements. Progress Reports will be sent at week four or week five of the nine-week period.

Teachers are not required by district policy to take a specified number of grades. However, any grades taken must be posted to the electronic grade book bi-weekly.

The following guidelines apply to all subject areas:

The DeSoto County School District requires that the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards for Language Arts and Mathematics and the Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks for all other subject areas be included in the course scope and sequence. The district provides a curriculum manual for each teacher.

Required lesson plans are developed and include all the components outlined and approved by the school district.

DeSoto County Schools Grading Scale

A	–	90	-	100
B	–	80	-	89
C	–	70	-	79
D	–	65	-	69
F	–	0	-	64

## GRADING POLICY

### Grades 9-12

Each term grade is computed by averaging the grades for that term. Eighty percent of the grade will be a compilation of the grades that the teacher has for the student in his/her grade book including, but not limited to, formative assessments, quizzes, homework, classwork, unit tests, mid-term tests, etc. Twenty percent of the grade will be the grade received on the end of course final exam for half credit courses and end of term exams for full credit courses. In full credit courses, the final grade will be the average of the two term grades.

Advanced Courses, Advanced Placement Courses, and Dual Enrollment/Credit Courses will be weighted as outlined in policy IHEA.

### Exemption Policy (Grades 9-12)

Students in grades 9-12 may be exempt from end of course final exams for full credit and half credit courses if the following criteria are met:

1. The student has a ninety-five (85) or above semester/term average in the course.
2. Student has not been assigned to an Alternative Learning Center (ALC) for more than five (5) days, has not been suspended and/or placed in DeSoto County Alternative Center (DCAC) or the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) at any time during the semester (August-December or January-May).

### Grade Revisions

In accordance with House Bill 696 and State Board Policy 403, DeSoto County Schools will follow the following guidelines regarding the changing of student grades.

Any change of grades, other than the final grade, shall be addressed with the teacher who issued the grade and the building level administrator.

Any change of a final grade (as recorded on the cumulative folder or permanent record) shall be presented and approved by a panel consisting of, at a minimum, the teacher issuing the grade, the building level administrator, and a central office administrator.

Written documentation (which includes the signatures of all panel members) of all actions must be included in the cumulative folder and available for review by the Mississippi Department of Education. Any changes or corrections must be made on the cumulative folder and permanent record as required by the Mississippi Cumulative Folders and Permanent Records Manual of Directions.

DeSoto County Schools does not mandate or require the awarding of a minimum grade.

## **GRADUATION**

Seniors are required to participate in all practices for the graduation ceremony. If a graduating senior does not attend graduation practice, he/she will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony. If a senior misbehaves prior to, during, or after the graduation ceremony, he/she is subject to discipline as outlined in the district's discipline policy. Because graduation is a school event, the discipline policy is in effect. In any instance of misbehavior, the student's diploma and/or transcript will be held until the student has completed his/her disciplinary obligations. Also, seniors that have not completed their DCAC placement prior to senior exams may not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony.

## **GRADUATION DRESS CODE**

At DeSoto Central High School, our graduation ceremony is a distinguished event. In order to participate in the graduation ceremony, seniors must comply with the following dress code. If a student does not have clothing that meets these standards, he/she needs to meet with an administrator prior to graduation day.

**If dress code is not in compliance on Graduation Day student could risk not being able to participate in walking ceremony.**

### Female Graduates

1. Female graduates should wear black bottoms, i.e. capris, pants, skirts.
2. Female graduates should wear a light top.
3. Female graduates should wear nice dress shoes (No flip flops, Crocs, casual sandals, cowboy boots, or combat boots).
4. Dresses may be worn, preferably following the color scheme, but as long as the dress doesn't show from under the gown, and it is dress code appropriate, it will be allowed.

### **Male Graduates**

1. Male graduates should wear a white dress shirt and tie. \*\*See the principal before graduation day if you do not have a tie.
  2. Male graduates should wear navy blue or black pants (No shorts or capris)
  3. Male graduates should wear nice dress shoes (No Crocs, flip flops, sandals, cowboy boots, or combat boots).
- \*All attire should follow the DeSoto County Schools dress code policy.

### **INTERVIEWS**

Principals or his/her representative in the schools of the DeSoto County School District may question students regarding matters incident to school without limitation. The School Resource Officer (SRO) is an employee of either the DeSoto County Sheriff's Department or one of the city police departments. The SRO, present at the request of the school for the continued maintenance of safety and order, may assist with the interview as necessary regarding school-related issues as determined by the principal or his/her representative and parents will be contacted if the student is subsequently taken into custody or if the student is subject to disciplinary action.

### **LATE ARRIVAL**

If a student has late arrival for 1<sup>st</sup> block, he/she does not have to arrive at school until 10:00 each school day. Late arrival students are not allowed to park in the front parking lot. Late arrival students must park in the student parking lot and enter through the front doors of the school. If a student does not meet the Early Release/Late Arrival requirements on page 28 , the principal can deny a student's opportunity for late arrival.

### **LOCKERS**

Lockers will not be assigned to students.

### **MEDICATION POLICY**

1. Administration of medication is foremost the responsibility of the parent/guardian. All medications that can be given outside of school hours without serious effects must be given before or after school. No narcotic pain medications will be given at school without prior authorization from the principal and/or Health Services Department at the Board of Education.
2. Medications will only be administered if:
  1. A physician's order (a prescription label is considered an order) and a medical authorization form signed by a parent/guardian is received at school including the child's name, name of medication needed, and time of administration.
  2. Prescription medication must be supplied in the bottle dispensed by the pharmacy with the following on the label before the school can accept it: child's name, name of medication, how often the medication is to be given, the dosage, and the date of expiration. Non-prescription medication must be in the original package and it is up to the school principal if it can be given with parent consent only or parent consent plus a physician signature. The principal has the option of not allowing over the counter medication to be administered at their school.
3. Medications will not be accepted in household containers, envelopes, baggies, etc.
4. The first dose of any medication should be given at home in case there is an allergic reaction.
5. Medications are to be stored in a locked cabinet in a secure location. Medications requiring refrigeration will be stored in a refrigerator in a secured area (medication and food must be stored separately).
6. No medication will be administered without written parental/guardian consent. The schools will provide the parents/guardians with the necessary medication authorization forms and it is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to complete the form and return it to the school. The forms must be updated every school year and anytime there is a medication or dosage change. **NO CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MEDICINE WILL BE MADE UNTIL THE FORM IS SUBMITTED** to the designated staff member in the school. If there is a change in the dosage of medication, the parent/guardian will have to also supply the school with a new doctor's order indicating the change.
7. The designated staff member will maintain a daily log of medications administered to each individual student and will maintain these records in a secure location with the medication. The log should contain the student's name, date, medication given, time it was given, and the initials of the person who gave the medication along with a signature. If a medication dose is missed, the designated staff member is to document this on the daily log along with the reason why the medication was missed and notify the appropriate personnel. The school should keep medication logs on file for at least five (5) years.



8. Students that have asthma are allowed to keep their inhaler with them as long as they have an asthma medication permission form signed by their doctor and on file with the school. These forms are provided by the schools and should be updated every year.
9. Diabetic students should supply a diabetic care plan from their doctor to the school. Diabetic supplies are to be accessible to the student at all times. It is at the principal's (or principal designee's) discretion as to where medication and supplies are to be stored.
10. EpiPens are for severe allergic reactions. An EpiPen care plan should be sent to the parent/guardian for them to get their doctor to complete and send back to the school. The EpiPen should be stored as close to the student as possible, since it is for emergency use. Individual consideration will be given by the principal or principal designee to determine if the student is able to carry their own medication and properly self administer or if a designated staff member needs to keep and administer the medication.
11. Emergency medications should be taken on field trips (eg. asthma inhalers, EpiPens, diabetic supplies).
12. The proper disposal of unused medications is important and it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to obtain all unused medication from the school when the medication is discontinued, the school year ends, or the student transfers to another district or school. The unused medication has to be picked up by the parent/guardian by the deadline set forth by the school nurse and/or principal or it will be disposed of by a designated person at the school with a witness present. The medication disposal should be documented on the medication log and signed by both employees.
13. Schools will not provide medications to students.
14. Prescription drugs must be brought to the school by a responsible adult. A medication receiving form (see page 3 of policy) must be signed by the person bringing in the medication and an authorized staff member indicating the number of pills or amount of liquid received.
15. All prescription drugs will be counted on a regular basis by two designated staff members. It is at the principal's or his/her designee's discretion as to how often this is to be done
16. Medications that are not FDA approved will not be administered at school.

### **NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY**

The DeSoto County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups:

Compliance Coordinator  
Office of Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources  
DeSoto County Schools  
5 East South Street  
Hernando, MS 38632  
662-429-5271

The Compliance Coordinator has been designated to address all inquiries regarding the following Federal policies:

Title VI – race, color, ethnicity, and national origin  
Title IX – sex and pregnancy  
Section 504 of Americans with Disabilities Act  
Title II  
Age Discrimination Act  
Boy Scouts

After initial investigation, all inquiries shall be directed to the appropriate person(s). A thorough investigation shall be conducted in accordance with DeSoto County School Board Policy GAF: Staff Grievances and Complaints.

## PROMOTION/RETENTION

### Ninth – Twelfth Grade:

Promotion in grades 9-12 is based upon earning Carnegie units. A Carnegie unit or half-unit is earned when a student completes the course with an average of 65 or better. Half-units are earned in courses designed to be completed in nine weeks. (Refer to Classification of Students – IEDB)

The high school academic program in the DeSoto County School District requires four (4) full years or eight (8) semesters of work. Students may not take courses that are sequential in nature until the proper prerequisites have been successfully completed. (For example, a student may not take Algebra II without having passed Algebra I) Exceptions to this rule may be made for seniors who may be permitted to take two (2) sequential classes simultaneously.

The retention of a student for extracurricular purposes is prohibited.

## RECOMMENDATION LETTERS / FORMS

In order for students to receive a recommendation letter, students are required to provide a current resume form. Students should allow seven business days for processing the request.

## SCHEDULE CHANGES

Student schedules will be available for review in Parent Portal. If parents need to request a schedule change, they submit a digital schedule change form found on our counselors' website (<https://dchscounselors4.wixsite.com/dchs>) by August 12th. If parents need Parent Portal information, they contact Whitney White ([whitney.white@dcsms.org](mailto:whitney.white@dcsms.org)).

If parents have additional questions, they contact one of our school counselors.

9<sup>th</sup> Grade: Blakely Dendy [blakeley.dendy@dcsms.org](mailto:blakeley.dendy@dcsms.org)

10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade counselors are assigned based on first initial of last name:

A – G Adrian McNeil [adrian.mcneil@dcsms.org](mailto:adrian.mcneil@dcsms.org)

H- P Lauren Springer [lauren.springer@dcsms.org](mailto:lauren.springer@dcsms.org)

Q – Z Meghan Vaughan [meghan.vaughan@dcsms.org](mailto:meghan.vaughan@dcsms.org)

Schedule changes are requested through the counselor's office. Schedule changes can be requested during the first two school days of the fall semester. If a student would like to request a spring schedule change request, he/she must make the request before the completion of the first semester. Changes may be made if the counselor and the teachers feel it is in the best interest of the student. The counselor will inform the student as to the procedures involved in carrying out any change properly.

## SCHOOL DANCES

Students in grades 11 and 12 at DeSoto Central High School that are in good standing are allowed to attend the Prom. If DeSoto Central High School hosts any other school dances, restrictions on grade levels and guests could be put into place by the principal.

If guests are allowed to attend the DeSoto Central High School prom, the guest must meet the following criteria:

- Guests must attend the dance with a current Desoto Central High School 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade student. The guest's name must be registered in the main office by the deadline which will be announced in the weeks prior to the prom.
- An out-of-district prom date of a DeSoto Central High School junior or senior may attend the prom if he/she meet the following criteria and the following steps are taken:
  1. The prom date must still be a high school student without discipline issues reported from that school.
  2. A parent of the DeSoto Central High School student, who wants to bring the out-of-district date, must attend the prom as a chaperone. The parent must be listed in PowerSchool as the student's parent. The chaperone will assume the duty of student supervision and is expected to assist from 7:00 pm - 11:30 pm on the night of the prom. If the parent chaperone is not in attendance by 7:00 pm on the night of the prom, the out-of-district date will not be allowed to attend the prom and a refund of his/her ticket will be given in a timely manner. If the parent chaperone leaves before 11:30, the out-of-district prom date will

be asked to leave, if he/she is still in attendance. Approved guests must bring photo identification (driver's license or government-issued ID) to the prom in order to be admitted.

- DeSoto County Students who have been given a DCAC assignment during the 2020-2021 school year are not allowed to attend the DeSoto Central prom
  - Our students do not have to get permission to bring current Desoto Central High School 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> graders.
  - Guests cannot be enrolled in any grade lower than 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - Guests can be 2019, 2020 or 2021 graduates of high schools in Desoto County (Northpoint or DeSoto County Schools) if our principals are able to obtain a discipline report on that graduate. If the graduate had any discipline problems at his/her school, he/she will not be allowed to attend.
  - Guests can be homeschooled students that live in DeSoto County.
  - Approved guests must bring photo identification (driver's license or government-issued ID) to the prom in order to be admitted.
- Students will be notified prior to the prom if their guest will not be allowed to attend. If a student needs a decision to be made prior to the deadline, the student can ask his/her grade-level principal if a decision can be made earlier.

## **SEARCHES**

Desoto Central High School must maintain an atmosphere conducive to the pursuit of its educational goals, including the right to search students' personal belongings, cars, or lockers when it is in the interest of the overall welfare of other students or is necessary to preserve the good order, health, safety, and discipline of the school. The Southaven Police Department and/or the Desoto County Sheriff's Department may assist school authorities when searches are necessary.

School officials have the right to search and seize property, including school property temporarily assigned to students, when there is reason to believe that some material or matter detrimental to health, safety, and welfare of the student(s) exists. Items provided by the DeSoto County School District for storage (e.g., lockers, desks) or personal items are subject to its control and supervision. Students have no reasonable expectancy of privacy, and lockers desks, etc., may be inspected at any time with or without reason, or with or without notice, by school personnel.

## **SECTION 504**

A parent, staff member, student, or personnel may request a Section 504 Plan. This request may be made, in writing, to the school's Section 504 Coordinator. A meeting will be scheduled, at the school, to discuss a student's possible substantial limitation to access the facility and/or educational benefit.

No discrimination against any person with a disability will knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and practices of the DeSoto County School system

## **FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION**

DeSoto County Schools will provide a fee appropriate public education to children ages 3 through 20, with a disability who, by reason thereof, need special education and, as appropriate, related services as defined under Part B of the Individual with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2007 (IDEA), Mississippi statutes, and the Mississippi Department of Education policies. A free appropriate public education will be provided to students with disabilities residing within the jurisdiction of the district and who are enrolled in the DeSoto County School District.

## **SELLING / ADVERTISING ON CAMPUS**

Students are not allowed to sell any items on campus unless the principal has given prior approval. If a student is selling items without permission, he/she will face disciplinary consequences. The principal must also approve all posters, signs, and announcements. If the principal does approve any signs or posters to be on display in the hallway, the responsible party should remove the signs or posters in a timely manner. Students are not allowed to advertise or distribute material for non-school activities (church functions, parties, etc.)

## **SENIOR FIELD DAY**

Seniors will be allowed to participate in Senior Field Day activities in May. On Senior Field Day, seniors will be excused from all of their classes if they attend the event. Senior Field Day will take place from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., and seniors will be allowed to leave campus at the conclusion of the event. In order to participate in the activities (inflatables, games, etc.), seniors must submit a permission slip with parental consent.

## **SENIOR PICTURES**

Our seniors will have an opportunity to have their senior pictures made at Holland Studios in Germantown, Tennessee. Only pictures from Holland Studios will be included in the senior picture section of the yearbook and the school composite. Other senior pictures can be used in the senior ad portion of the yearbook.

## **STUDENT-TEACHER GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

Teachers at Desoto Central High School have been employed to help students. Their assistance is available in both academic and non-academic areas. With a mutual attitude of respect and cooperation, teachers and students can achieve their goals. The school board and the administration want to make it perfectly clear that the teachers have the responsibility to maintain a classroom atmosphere that favors good learning situations. Students are to obey those in positions of responsibility inside the classrooms, throughout the school building, on school property, and at school-sponsored events. Teachers and administrators act *in loco parentis* (as a parent for the student) while the child is at school or involved in a school activity. There are times when the student does not agree with every occurrence in the classroom or in other areas. If a student has questions or concerns about a teacher's actions, the student should follow these measures:

- Students should follow all directions from a teacher.
- Disagreements with teachers should be handled in a respectful manner after class to preserve the dignity of the student and the teacher.
- If a student and teacher are unable to resolve the conflict, the student can request a conference with a counselor or an administrator.

Students are not permitted to leave the classroom without permission because of a dispute with a teacher, and students will not be allowed to confront a teacher in a disrespectful manner. Students who do not follow these guidelines can be given punishment. Students who leave the classroom can be considered as skipping and defiant, and students who confront a teacher can be punished based on the severity of the situation.

## **Technology and Instruction/Electronic Information Resources**

All users of district provided laptops, tablets, or other personal computing devices will comply at all times with the DeSoto County School District Technology policies. Any failure to comply may result in termination of user rights of possession effective immediately and the District may repossess the device. Any lost, stolen and damaged devices must be reported to school authorities immediately.

### **Title**

The District has legal title to the property at all times. The user's right of possession and use is limited to and conditioned upon full and complete compliance with this agreement, the DeSoto County School District Technology policies, and all District policies and procedures.

### **Loss, Theft or Full Damage**

If a device is stolen, the parent/guardian (in the case of a student) should immediately notify the school administration. At that time, the user or the parent/guardian will be required to file a police report. Once a police report has been filed, the district, in conjunction with the local law enforcement agency may deploy locating software to aid authorities in recovering the device. It is imperative that a lost or stolen device be reported immediately. If the stolen device is not reported within three calendar days to a district school administrator, the employee or parent/guardian will be responsible for full replacement cost. If a device is damaged, lost or stolen as a result of irresponsible behavior, the user or the parent may be responsible for the full replacement cost. The user or the parent/guardian will be responsible for full replacement cost of the device if not reported to district personnel within three calendar days of missing or damaged device. In the event that a device is damaged, lost, or stolen, the user will be assessed a deductible for the repair or replacement of the device. A chart listing replacement cost is included in this policy. Students who leave the district during the school year must return all devices and additional accessories to the school administrator.

### **Repossession**

If the user does not fully comply with all terms of this agreement and the DeSoto County School District Technology policies, including the timely return of the property, DeSoto County School District shall be entitled to declare the user in default and come to the user's place of residence, or other location of the property, to take possession of the property.

### **Terms of Agreement**

The user's right to use and possession of the property terminates no later than the last day of enrollment **District:** Desoto County School District

### **Unlawful Appropriation**

Failure to timely return the property and the continued use of it for non-school purposes without the DeSoto County School District's consent may be considered unlawful appropriation of the District's property.

### **Fees for Device Use**

#### **Use and Maintenance Fees**

- Parents/Guardians shall pay a non-refundable annual support fee of \$25.00 for students' grades 6th-12th for the use of a DeSoto County School electronic device. This fee is to be assessed once per school year.
- Parents/Guardians shall pay a non-refundable annual support fee of \$12.50 for student grades K- 5th for the use of a DeSoto County Electronic device. This fee is to be assessed once per school year. VIP students in grades K-5th will be assessed a \$25.00 fee annually for the use of a DeSoto County Electronic device.
- The annual fee can be paid online through a link on the district's website or at the school.
- For damage that occurs to any district device there will be a required deductible to cover damage by incident (i.e. 1st damage, 2nd damage) AND by incident type (i.e. cracked glass, broken LCD, bent frame, etc.).
- If the device is lost, stolen, or totally damaged as a result of irresponsible behavior, the person the device is issued to may be responsible for the replacement cost. A police/sheriff report will be required for all stolen devices.
- District may disable the device remotely to protect the device and/or data on the device.
- Seniors must clear all records and pay all fees before they shall be allowed to participate in commencement exercises.

#### **Damaged Devices**

Any damage must be reported to school authorities immediately. Power adapters, and sleeves, case and hotspots must be returned to DeSoto County Schools or paid in full.

#### **Deductibles- Fees**

- First damage occurrence: \$50.00 deductible to cover damage.
- Second damage occurrence: \$50.00 deductible *plus* 25% of the repair cost to repair the laptop and possible loss of take-home privileges.
- Third damage occurrence: \$50.00 deductible *plus* 50% of the repair cost to repair the laptop and loss of take-home privileges.
- Fourth damage occurrence: Fair market value to repair the laptop or tablet.
- Full replacement cost for; adapter \$50.00, case \$25.00, hotspot \$84.00

#### **Handling and Care**

- Keep the device in the district-issued or approved sleeve and case if provided.
- Keep the device and sleeve free of any writing, drawing, stickers, or labels that are not applied by DeSoto County Schools.
- Use the device on a flat, stable surface.
- Do not place books on the device.
- Do not have food or drinks around the device.
- Wipe surfaces with a clean, dry soft cloth.
- Avoid touching the screen with pens or pencils.
- Do not leave the device exposed to direct sunlight or near any heat or moisture sources for extended periods of time.
- Do not remove bar code or existing labels that are on the device.

### **Power Management**

- It is the user's responsibility to recharge the device's battery, so it is fully charged by the start of the next school day.
- Devices with no battery life must be charged in the classroom. The student may be required to forfeit use of the device for the entire time it takes to charge it.
- All class work missed because of uncharged batteries must be made up on a student's own time.

### **Transport**

- Transport the device in its protective case and sleeve.
- Do not leave the device in a vehicle for extended periods of time or overnight.
- Do not leave the device in visible sight when left in a vehicle.

### **Monitoring and Supervision**

- Do not leave the device unattended in an unlocked classroom or during an extracurricular activity.
- Do not lend the device to a classmate, friend, or family member. If any person damages the device it will be the user's (parent/guardian in the case of a student) responsibility, and the damage cost policy will be in effect.
- Any attempt to "jailbreak" or remove the DeSoto County School District profile could result in disciplinary action, including suspension.
- Students are responsible for the safety and security of the device and any activity on the device.

### **User Data**

All users are responsible for keeping backups of important data. If a device must be repaired there may be a need to reset it to the original settings. The technology department will not be responsible for any user data that might be lost as a part of the process. Help and Support Each school will have a designated Distance Learning Support Person. An online help ticket will need to be filled out and submitted.

### **Use of Personal Laptops and Tablets**

In grades where students are issued a laptop or tablet by the district, students will not be allowed to use their personal laptops or tablets in place of a district device. The goal of the 1:1 initiative is to provide every student with the same device. If a parent refuses a device for home use, the student will be required to check out a device at school for use each day in class. The district is not able to provide support or install software in personal devices; therefore, the use of personal devices is not a viable alternative to a district provided device.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

State-owned textbooks are issued at the beginning of the school year and returned at the close of the school year. Parents are required to sign a book-card assuming responsibility for the books and their proper care until they have been checked back to the school. Students should see that their books are not abused as a fine will be charged for any state-owned book that shows unnecessary wear. In case a new book is lost, the list price of the book must be paid. Charges for lost books will be adjusted on the basis of age and use.

## **TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOL PROPERTY**

The DeSoto County Board of Education bans the use of all tobacco products in all school buildings and property in the district and on all school vehicles by all persons at all times. Tobacco products are defined as any substance that contains tobacco, including but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, snuff, smoking tobacco, smokeless tobacco, or electronic cigarettes.

This ban extends to all employees, students, and patrons attending school-sponsored athletic events and meetings and to school-owned or operated vehicles and facilities. The board issues this ban in a sincere appeal to all employees, students and patrons to cooperate in helping to create within our facilities a truly healthy environment for all concerned.

The Federal code states that neither a person nor a federal agency shall permit smoking within any indoor facility owned or leased or contracted for and utilized by such person or agency for provision of routine or regular kindergarten, elementary, or secondary education or library services to children.

Any failure to comply with a prohibition in this section shall be in violation of this section and any person subject to such prohibition who commits such violation may be liable to the United States for a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation, or may be subject to an administrative compliance order, or both. Each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate violation. In the case of any civil penalty under this section, the total amount shall not exceed the amount of Federal funds received by such person for the fiscal year in which the continuing violations

occurred.

REF: Public Law 103-227, 20 US CODE 6083 Section 1043 (a) and (c-1) and (f-1)

## TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS

Transcripts are issued using the following email address: <https://desotoms.scribborder.com>

## TRUANCY

"Compulsory-school-age child" means a child who has attained or will attain the age of six (6) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year and who has not attained the age of seventeen (17) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year; and shall include any child who has attained or will attain the age of five (5) years on or before September 1 and has enrolled in a full-day public school kindergarten program. '37-13-91 (2) (f)

A "truant" is a student who is absent without a valid excuse as identified in Policy JBA, Compulsory School Attendance.

"Truancy" also includes absence without permission from any class, study hall or school-related activity

for which a student is scheduled during the school day. Disciplinary action shall be taken against students who are truant. Continued truancy may lead to academic failure, placement in the alternative school program and/or suspension or expulsion from the regular and/or alternative school programs. Reports of truancy shall be made in accordance with the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law (MS CODE '37-13-91) and Policy JBA.

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards for this policy are standards 10 and 11.

## VISITORS

Visitors with legitimate reasons for coming to the school are welcome in any of the DeSoto County District Schools.

The following regulations shall be observed during the visitation:

1. All visitors must immediately report to the principal's office (including news media).
2. If the principal has any reason to question the legitimacy of the visit, the superintendent's office shall be consulted.
3. Teachers shall **not** be interrupted while teaching except for emergencies.
4. Pupils from other schools and pre-school children are not allowed unless specifically invited and pre-arranged through the principal's office.
5. News media must be granted permission by the Superintendent or his/her designee before they enter a school campus, or they will be considered trespassing and are subject to fines and/or arrest.

## WEBSITE

The Desoto Central High School website is <http://www.desotocountyschools.org/dch/>. Parents and students should visit the website often for information and updates. Parents and students can view the "Daily Announcements" section of the website to keep up with current school events.

The Desoto County School District website is <http://www.desotocountyschools.org>. Parents and students are encouraged to check the district website regularly for updates to school board policy.

## DESOTO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL ALMA MATER

### Hymn to the Purple and Gold

Here's a hymn to the Purple and the Gold,  
    Ringing to the sky.  
Here's a song for the men and women bold,  
    Sing with heads held high.  
    Striving ere to seek, to know,  
    Fight for victory,  
Alma Mater this song to you,  
    Echoes D.C. Pride!