HARRISON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
AGENDA
November 9, 2026
5:30 PM

I. **Opening Procedures:**
- Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

A. Approve Agenda/Add Items:

B. Approve School Board Minutes:
- 10/26/2026

II. **Presentations (SP 1, 2)**

A. School Banner Presentations for A- and B-Rated Schools

III. **Public Comments (sign-ins) (BCAF) (SP 2)**
- The School Board will allow up to 30 minutes for public comments.
- Individuals wishing to address the Board must sign in before the meeting begins. The sign-in sheet will be collected immediately upon the start of the meeting.
- The first 10 individuals on the sign-in roster will be allotted three (3) minutes each to speak.
- Each individual speaker or designated spokesperson for a group will be limited to three (3) minutes.

IV. **Old Business**

A. **Annual Review of Policy — Policy Review and Revisions (SP 2, 3)**
Second Reading and Recommended Adoption

1. Policy Review and Revisions 5
   - BCAF — Public Comments at Board Meetings
   - EBB — Safety Program

V. **New Business**

A. **Annual Review of Policy — Policy Review and Revisions (SP 3)**
First Reading

1. Policy — Section K: General Public Relations 14
2. Policy — Section L: Organizational Relations 41
3. Policy — Section M: Education Agency Relations
4. **Policy Revisions:** **70**
   - Policy JGCC — Communicable Diseases

B. Discussion Policy KJ — Advertising in Schools **(SP 1, 2)**

C. Approve the proposed entrance notice signs for the east and west entrances to 16th Section Land — Wolf River Cemetery.

D. Approve request to Utilize Hearing Officers in Employee Due Process Hearings. **(SP1, 3)**

E. Approve 2027-2028 School Board Meeting Calendar **(SP 1, 2, 3, 4)**

F. **Superintendent Report — District Updates — NO ACTION (SP 1, 2, 3, 4)**
- Superintendent Summary
- Policy GBREA - 10/30/2026 Attendance Incentive Eligibility by School

G. **Discipline (JCCA)(SP 1)**

1. **Discipline Committee Decisions**

H. **Consent Agenda Items**

The items listed below are consent agenda items, which may be approved in one action of the Board. It is noted that any item may be removed from the consent agenda for separate action or discussion of the Board. An asterisk (*) denotes an item added to the agenda after the original release on Thursday.

1. Approve Claim Docket for checks prepared and reconciled by the Accounting Department. **(DJ) (SP 3)**
    - 10/30/2026
    - 11/09/2026
2. Authorize payment in the amount $2,601.00 to Carr Allison for professional services rendered through October 31, 2026, 2026. Specific cases are detailed in the document provided and on file. **(FDGB) (SP 3)**
    - **09/30/2026 - $ 832.50**
    - **10/31/2026 - $1,768.50**
3. Authorize payment in the amount of $367,202.35 to Dan Hensarling, Inc. for pay application #11 — DHS Stadium Phase II, Project No:024-054, for work completed through 09/30/2026. The project is currently eighty-nine percent (89%) complete, less withheld retainage. **(FDGB) (SP 1, 3)**
4. Authorize payment in the amount of $839,721.15 to Dan Hensarling, Inc. for pay application #12 — DHS Stadium Phase II, Project No:024-054, for work completed through 10/31/2026. The project is currently ninety-five percent (95%) complete, less withheld retainage. **(FDGB) (SP 1, 3)**
5. Approve the request to name the new football field house at D'Iberville Warrior Stadium be named in honor of Coach Louis Smith. **(FB) (SP 3)**
6. Approve Agreement (MOU) between the Harrison County School District and the University of Southern Mississippi for its School of Social Work effective from 01/01/2027 through 05/30/2027. **(SP 1)**
7. Approve 2027 calendar year Ameritas Renewal rates HCSD's dental program. **(SP 3)**
8. Approve affidavit for removal of property from the fixed asset inventory list for HCCTC. These items are broken, beyond repair, outdated, stolen, or damaged. **(DM) (SP 3)**
9. Approve request to reactivate Capital Assets. In a review of the fixed asset inventory, we found several items that have been disposed of in our Capital Asset system that are still active in the district. A list of items is attached. **(DM) (SP 3)**
10. Approve Federal Program funds to pay FY27 Title IV Fall Dual Credit Fees 1st Semester for students that are eligible through Title IV. Attached is a list of names for each high school. **(IDAG) (SP 1)**
11. Approvals for Crossroads Elementary School:
    - **2026-27 Fundraisers (FK) (SP 2):**
        - List Attached
12. Approval for North Woolmarket Elementary & Middle School:
    - **Memorandum of Understanding (SP1):**
        - Participate in the Reach MS MTSS-B PBIS Tier 1 Cohort through the University of Southern Mississippi
13. Approval for West Wortham Elementary & Middle School:
    - **Donation/Grant (DFK) (SP 1):**
        - $1,717.35 from the West Wortham Band Boosters for Bari Sax Payment
    - **2026-27 Fundraisers (FK (SP 2):**

- Boy's Basketball Booster Club Fundraiser (list attached)

14. Approvals for D'Iberville High School **(SP 1)**:
    - **Out-of-State-Travel (JFCA) (SP 1, 2, 3)**
        - **English Language Learners (ESL)** - 11/20/2026 travel to Mobile, AL to participate in the Mobile International Festival. Transportation will be HCSD buses. Costs $12.00 paid by students.
        - **The International Club — 11**/20/2026 travel to Mobile, AL to participate in the Mobile International Festival. Transportation will be HCSD buses. Costs $12.00 paid by students.
        - **DHS Indoor Guard - Transportation will be HCSD Buses:**
            - **01/23/2027** - Lakeshore HS - Mandeville, LA
            - **02/13/2027** - Hardy Municipal Center, Thibodaux, LA
            - **03/20/2027** - Denham Springs HS, Denham Springs, LA
            - **04/03/2027** - Hardy Municipal Center, Thibodaux, LA - Circuit Championship
        - **DHS Indoor Drum line - Transportation will be HCSD Buses:**
            - **02/13/2027** - Hardy Municipal Center, Thibodaux, LA
            - **03/20/2027** - Dutchtown HS, Dutchtown, LA
            - **04/04/2027** - Hardy Municipal Center, Thibodaux, LA - Circuit Championship
15. Approvals for Harrison Central High School **(SP 1)**:
    - **Adopt Bylaws and/or organization of an agency account:**
        - PERKS CENTRAL Club Bylaws (Revised)
    - **2026-27 Fundraisers (FK) (SP 2):**
        - Mu Alpha Theta — World's Finest Chocolate
    - **Out-of-State Travel (JFCA) (SP 1, 2, 3)**
        - **HCHS Band** - 11/19/2026 - 11/23/2026 travel to Chicago, IL. Round-trip transportation will be Charter buses. All fees will be paid for by Band Booster Club.
        - **Reward for Student Achievement 2025-2026 MAAP Assessments —** 11/20/2026 travel to New Orleans, LA to visit the Audubon Zoo. Transportation will be HCSD buses. All costs will be paid for by students and HCHS activity funds.
        - **MU ALPHA THETA** - 12/05/2026 travel to New Orleans, LA for a Math Competition at Brother Martin High School. Transportation will be HCSD buses.
        - **HCHS Indoor Guard — Transportation will be HCSD Buses:**
            - **01/23/2027** - Lakeshore HS - Mandeville, LA
            - **02/13/2027** - Hardy Municipal Center, Thibodaux, LA
            - **02/20/2027** - Collierville HS, Memphis, TN
            - **03/20/2027** - Denham Springs HS, Denham Springs, LA
            - **03/20/2027** - Dutchtown HS, Dutchtown, LA - Novice Championships
            - **04/03/2027** - Hardy Municipal Center, Thibodaux, LA - Circuit SAA Championships
16. Approvals for West Harrison High School **(SP 1)**:
    - **Adopt Bylaws and/or organization of an agency account:**
        - International Club Bylaws and Constitution

17. Authorize extending home bound services for students due to medical condition, as follows: **(IDDC) (SP 1)**
    - WHHS Student ID: 001395653
    - WHHS Student ID: 001447198
    - *DHS Student ID: 001497100

I. Approval of the following:
1. **Personnel (GBD:GBQ) (SP 1)**
   a. *Personnel Recommendations
2. **Lowest Quote, Contract Services, Professional Development and/or Travel (DJED) (SP 1, 3)**
3. **Single Source (DJED) (SP 1, 3)**

J. **Executive Session**
1. Student Appeals **(SP 1)**
   a. Student Appeal No.: 003-16-3-1 (HCHS)
   b. Student Appeal No.: 066-16-2-2 (HCHS)

K. **Reminders**
- 11/16/2026 — 11/17/2026 MSBA Policy Fall Leadership Conference, Sheraton Flowood Refuge Hotel & Conf. Center
- 11/30/2026 —- 5:30 p.m. School Board Meeting
- 12/14/2026 —- 5:30 p.m. School Board Meeting held at Center for Excellence
  - Parent, Teacher, and Administrator of the Year Awards
- 12/21/2026 — 01/04/2027 Christmas Break

VI. Adjourn

October 26, 2026

To: Mr. William Bentz
Superintendent of Education

From: Natasha R. Williams, Ph.D.
Director of Research & Development

Re: Approval of Revisions to Policy BCAF-Public Comments at Board Meetings

Please find attached the revisions for Policy BCAF-Public Comments at Board Meetings. The Harrison County School Board subscribes to the Mississippi School Board Association Policy Service, and it is up to each district that subscribes to this service to adopt, review, revise, and implement policy to ensure compliance with current practices.

Please advise if you have any questions or concerns regarding the attached policy. Thanks in advance for your consideration.

11072 Highway 49
Gulfport, MS 39503
Telephone: (228)539-6500 Facsimile: (228)539-6507
William Bentz, Superintendent of Education

October 26, 2026

To: Mr. William Bentz
Superintendent of Education

From: Natasha R. Williams, Ph.D.
Director of Research & Development

Re: Approval of Revisions to Policy EBB-Safety Program

Please find attached the revisions for Policy EBB-Safety Program. The Harrison County School Board subscribes to the Mississippi School Board Association Policy Service, and it is up to each district that subscribes to this service to adopt, review, revise, and implement policy to ensure compliance with current practices.

Please advise if you have any questions or concerns regarding the attached policy. Thanks in advance for your consideration.

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Telephone: (228)539-6500 Facsimile: (228)539-6507
William Bentz, Superintendent of Education

Harrison County School District

Board Policy Manual

Board Policy Manual

B. School Board Operations

Policy BCAF: Public Comments at Board Meetings 3

E. Business Management

Policy EBB: Safety Program 5

Policy BCAF: Public Comments at Board Meetings **Status:** DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 05/16/2016 | **Last Revised Date:** 11/29/2021 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 12/15/2025

PUBLIC COMMENTS AT BOARD MEETINGS

This school board encourages the public to express to the school board its viewpoints on issues vital to the operation of the school district. In order to conduct board business in an orderly, efficient manner and to allow public input into board meetings, the board authorizes a "Public Comments" item on its agenda for its regularly board meetings.

DEFINITION: Public comments are an opportunity for members of the general public to briefly express their ideas, concerns, and suggestions to the school board on matters of individual or community interest.

LIMITATIONS: Public comments are limited to three (3) minutes per individual or group. Public comments at special meetings must be related to the call of the meeting.

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~~In order to address comments to the board, individuals must sign in at the beginning of the meeting. Individuals will be allowed to address the board in the order of sign-in. The school board will allow 30 minutes on the agenda for public comments; the first ten people signing the roster at the board meeting will be given three minutes each to comment to the board.~~ The School Board will allow up to 30 minutes for public comments. Individuals wishing to address the Board must sign in before the meeting begins. The sign-in sheet will be collected immediately upon the start of the meeting. The first 10 individuals on the sign-in roster will be allowed three(3) minutes each to speak. Each individual speaker or designated spokesperson for a group will be limited to three(3) minutes.

The public comments time is not a forum for in-depth discussion of issues with the board, nor is it a public discussion. Rather, it is a time that the public may use to make the board aware of matters related to student achievement and school operations. The board will not debate any issues raised through public comments, other than to decide if any issues brought before the board through the public comments require further consideration. If the board deems that an issue has arisen that requires investigation and possible board action, the board shall direct the superintendent to investigate the matter and to report back to the board at a subsequent board meeting.

Issues requiring more than three minutes and possibly requiring board action or response should be addressed through the process outlined in Policy BCBI, Public Participation at Board Meetings.

The Board will not hear any complaints or grievances from staff members until the individual or group has followed the chain of command in trying to resolve the issue. See Policy GAEP Licensed Staff Complaints and Grievances, for any staff complaints.

PARAMETERS: The public is reminded that issues protected by privacy laws (student discipline and school personnel, for example) cannot be discussed in open session and are therefore not suitable items for public comments. Remarks of this nature and personal remarks will be ruled out of order by the board chair. Further, the board reserves the right to "make and enforce rules and regulations for the conduct of persons attending its meetings." Sec. 25-41-9

DISRUPTION OF THE BOARD MEETING: The chairman of the school board shall ask anyone causing a disturbance at the school board to leave the meeting. Anyone failing to abide by the chairman's request and continuing to disturb the board meeting will be arrested and possibly fined. Sec. 37-11-23.

This Mississippi Public School Accreditation Standard for this Policy Standard 12.

Policy EBB: Safety Program

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 **| Last Revised Date:** 10/27/2025 **| Last Reviewed Date:** 10/27/2025

Please Note: For information related to student conduct and disciplinary action, please refer to MS Code 37-11-55 and sample policy JCB, Code of Conduct.

STUDENT SAFETY

This school board is aware of its duty to provide due care to its students and not expose them to any serious hazards to safety exceeding those which normally attend school operations. Therefore, the school board provides the following specific guidelines to be followed by its employees and directs the superintendent of schools to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to protect its students. The specific guidelines include but are not limited to the following:

SCHOOL BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

The superintendent or designee will establish procedures that promote protection and safety of students, employees, visitors, and others present on school property or at school - related events.

The practice of safety shall be taught in educational programs in traffic and pedestrian safety, driver education, fire prevention, emergency procedures, and disaster preparedness and shall be appropriately geared to students in different grade levels. Areas of emphasis shall include, but not be limited to, in-service training, accident record keeping, physical plant inspection, driver and vehicle safety programs, fire prevention, and emergency procedures in traffic safety problems relevant to students, employees, and the community.

The school principal shall have a current disaster plan and conduct regular safety drills.

Each school in the district presently has a weather radio. 37-11-6

Fully charged and recently inspected fire extinguishers of the appropriate type shall be accessible every 75 feet and also located in the cafeteria, hallways, heater/boiler room, science labs and shops.

The school principal shall develop contingency plans for the operation of his school. These policies and procedures for dealing with routine and emergency situations, ill or injured students or staff shall be posted in a well-known, readily accessible location in the school.

The school principal shall develop a weekly schedule of inspection to ensure that the building and grounds are safe, clean and orderly and promptly notify appropriate school personnel of any dangerous condition of the board's property.

Any activity taking place in the school building or on the school grounds shall be adequately supervised.

Transportation of Students

The private vehicles of students shall remain parked and locked while at school and until the end of the student's school day. The private vehicle of a student shall not be used by the student or by another student to run errands, transport students to school-sponsored activities, field trips or for any other purpose other than the personal transportation of the student to and from school. The parent reassumes control over the student at the time the student leaves the school premises.

Students who are to be players, participants, or performers in school-sponsored activities shall be transported to all such activities in school district owned or leased vehicles. Such vehicles shall meet the standards set by the National Transportation Safety Board. Students, as members of clubs, teams, groups, etc. who are to be players, participants, or performers are expected and shall travel to and from school-sponsored activities as a group.

All school buses shall meet minimum specifications approved by the State Board of Education and shall be well maintained. Each bus driver shall have a valid bus driver's certificate and a commercial driver's license and shall operate the bus according to all specified safety procedures to ensure optimal safety of passengers. Each school bus shall be systematically inspected for maintenance problems on a quarterly basis.

SCHOOL-SPONSORED CLUBS / EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

For any school-sponsored activity for which there is a reasonable risk of injury or death to the student, each participant shall be required to furnish to the sponsor the required form(s) signed by parent/guardian, prior to being allowed to participate. Said form(s) shall include a notice to parent/guardian of risk of injury or death, waiver of liability in the event of injury or death and acceptance by parent/guardian of responsibility for health care due to injury or death. There shall be stand-by medical assistance and an ambulance at any and all varsity football games; home or away.

All practices and rehearsals for any school-sponsored activity shall take place in a school or on the school grounds under the supervision of school personnel. There shall be no practices or rehearsals for school-sponsored activities in private homes or public businesses.

The school district shall furnish and each sponsor/director shall require the use at each practice, performance or event, each and every kind of safety equipment, device, mat, pad, net and like kind of implement generally recognized by the sport or activity as being necessary to provide adequate security and protection to the participants.

There shall be no school-sponsored performance or competition by school students in places where alcoholic beverages are being served.

The school superintendent or designee shall make personnel assignments for those school-sponsored activities for which there is a reasonable risk of injury or death only to those district employees specifically trained to properly instruct and supervise such activities. It shall be the duty of the superintendent or designee to review the credentials of prospective sponsors/directors to determine an individual's fitness for such an assignment. No school principal shall offer or promote any activity not appropriate to the age and maturity of the student.

Student club members/athletes who have competed through school-sponsored activities for state or national honors and who are eligible and elect to attend a final event which takes place after the regular school term shall, should such a trip be approved by the principal, be accompanied by the appropriate competent adult to such an event, which shall also be considered a school-sponsored activity. Sponsors/directors of clubs/extra-curricular activities shall not allow student participants or chaperons to smoke or otherwise use tobacco products while involved in such activities.

Open Gate Screening and Weapons Detection System

The Harrison County School District is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for students, employees, visitors, and other individuals on district property and at school-sponsored activities. To support this commitment, the District may implement Open Gate Screening and Weapons Detection Systems, or other approved security screening technologies, at designated school facilities, entrances, and school-sponsored events.

Screening procedures shall be established by the Superintendent or designee and administered by authorized personnel in accordance with applicable federal and state laws, Board policies, and district safety procedures.

The procedures shall address system operation, screening alerts, secondary screening, response to suspected prohibited items, notification of appropriate school or district officials, law enforcement involvement when warranted, equipment maintenance, and personnel training.

Students, employees, visitors, and other individuals entering designated screening areas shall comply with established screening procedures. Any suspected weapon or prohibited item shall be addressed in accordance with applicable law and Board policies, including the District's weapons policy.

The screening system shall supplement, and shall not replace, other established school safety, emergency response, visitor-management, and access-control measures. The Superintendent or designee shall develop and maintain administrative procedures necessary to implement this policy.

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS K-12

The school principal shall provide for adequate supervision of students while in the school building or on the school grounds, before, during and after school. Students shall not be permitted to arrive more than 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the school day and are expected to leave school promptly at the end of the school day unless staying in or participating in a school-sponsored and supervised activity.

Classroom teachers, club sponsors and sponsors/directors of extracurricular activities, including sports shall never leave those in their charge unsupervised and unattended whether at school, away from school, during school hours or after school hours. This includes field trips, club trips and sports events.

All supervision of school students shall be conducted by a competent adult regular staff member except where competent adult chaperons have been selected and assigned by the school principal. The school principal shall determine the fitness of a chaperon to supervise. A chaperon shall not be allowed to supervise any school-sponsored activity wherein there lies a reasonable risk of injury or death to the student (some sports, labs, shops, etc.).

The Director of Transportation shall provide for adequate supervision of students using the pupil transportation system in compliance with all laws, rules and regulations of the State Board of Education which governs pupil transportation.

STUDENT MEDICAL CARE
School district employees shall not render medical care to students except for first aid. Parents/guardians shall be notified immediately by school authorities should a student become ill or injured at school or school-sponsored activity so parent/guardian may re-assume control over the student. In the event of serious illness or injury and parent/guardian cannot be contacted, school authorities shall seek immediate professional medical care. Such care shall be at the expense of parent/guardian.

STUDENT MEDICATION
School personnel may not exceed the practice of first aid in dealing with pupil injuries and sickness, and only qualified personnel shall administer first aid to pupils.

Medication shall not be provided or administered by the school or its employees. Parents/guardians may come to the school and administer medication to their child. Students may self-administer medications according to Policy JGCDA.

RELEASE OF STUDENTS
No student shall be allowed to withdraw from school or school-sponsored activity prior to the scheduled release time. Students shall not be allowed to leave and return to school or to a school-sponsored activity to run personal errands, purchase supplies, parts or food. No student shall be released at the conclusion of any out-of-town school-sponsored activity to return home via alternate means.

No student shall be abandoned by a sponsor/director/chaperon at the completion of a school-sponsored activity to wait for a ride or to walk home.

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards for this policy are standards 29, 30, and 31.

MS Code	Description
37-11-55	Code of student conduct.
37-11-6	Purchase and installation in each school of weather radio.

Other References	Description
MPSAS	Public School Accountability Standards

Cross References	Description
EBBA	School Safety Plan
EBBAB	Sex Offender
GAEA	Staff Protection

Cross References	Description
GBRHC	Return To Work Policy
GBRHC-E(1)	Return To Work Policy
GBRHC-E(2)	Return To Work Policy
JGCD	Student Health Services -- Medicines
JGCD-E(1)	Student Health Services -- Medicines
JGCDA	Self Administration of Asthma and Anaphylaxis Medications
JGF	Student Safety
JGFB	Off-Campus Student Educational Activity
JGFB-E(1)	Off-Campus Student Educational Activity
JGFG	Accidents / First Aid

November 9, 2026

To: Mr. William Bentz
Superintendent of Education

From: Natasha R. Williams, Ph.D.
Director of Research & Development

Re: Annual Review of Policy Section K- General Public Relations

Attached you will find Policy Section K- General Public Relations. The Harrison County School Board subscribes to the Mississippi School Board Association Policy Service, and it is up to each district that subscribes to this service to adopt, review, revise and implement policy to ensure compliance with current practices.

Please advise if you have any questions or concerns regarding the attached policies. Thanks in advance for your consideration.

11072 Highway 49
Gulfport, MS 39503
Telephone: (228)539-6500 Facsimile: (228)539-6507
William Bentz, Superintendent of Education

Board Policy Manual - Table of Contents

K. General Public Relations (15)

Code	Title	Type	Original Adopted Date	Last Revised Date	Last Reviewed Date
KB	Public Information Program	P	09/17/2013	11/17/2025	11/17/2025
KBA	Public's Right to Know	P	09/17/2013	11/17/2025	11/17/2025
KBB	Media Access to School Campuses	P	09/17/2013	09/17/2013	11/17/2025
KCB	Community Involvement in Decision Making	P	09/17/2013	11/17/2025	11/17/2025
KF	Broadcasting And Taping of Board Meetings	P	09/17/2013	11/17/2025	11/17/2025
KHD	Gifts to Staff Members	P	09/17/2013	05/20/2019	11/17/2025
KHE	Gifts to Schools	P	09/17/2013	10/07/2019	11/17/2025
KJ	Advertising in the Schools	P	09/17/2013	05/20/2019	11/17/2025
KJA	School Volunteers Policy	P	09/17/2013	11/17/2025	11/17/2025
KK	Service of Process	P	06/06/2022	06/06/2022	11/17/2025
KL-R	Public Complaints	P	10/03/2016	06/21/2021	11/17/2025
KM	Visitors to the Schools	P	09/17/2013	06/29/2026	06/29/2026
KN	Complaints - Title I	P	09/17/2013	09/17/2013	11/17/2025
KNBA	Complaints About Instructional Materials	P	09/17/2013	09/17/2013	11/17/2025
KNBA-E(1)	Complaints About Instructional Materials	E	09/17/2013	09/17/2013	

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Harrison County School District

Board Policy Manual

Board Policy Manual

K. General Public Relations

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Policy KBA: Public's Right to Know 6
Policy KBB: Media Access to School Campuses 7
Policy KCB: Community Involvement in Decision Making 8
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Policy KHD: Gifts to Staff Members 11
Policy KHE: Gifts to Schools 12
Policy KJ: Advertising in the Schools 13
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Policy KK: Service of Process 15
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Policy KB: Public Information Program

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 **| Last Revised Date:** 11/17/2025 **| Last Reviewed Date:** 11/17/2025

PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM

COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

It is the desire of the Board that the citizens of the community be fully informed of the official actions of the Board, the programs and activities of the district.

To this end, the Board directs the Superintendent's work to make the public fully aware of all aspects of the schools by:

1. Keeping the public informed regarding the policies, administrative operations, objectives, educational programs, and successes or failures of the schools.

2. Furnishing full and accurate information, favorable or unfavorable, together with interpretations and explanations of the schools plans and programs.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Only through full community understanding of school issues and the school programs can effective means of developing and maintaining a good school system be achieved. The Board and school administration are responsible for encouraging the use of all appropriate means of keeping the community accurately informed about its school and for understanding community attitudes and aspirations for its schools. To this end, free and open exchange of views is desirable, proper, and necessary.

School-Sponsored Media

The superintendent and his/her staff are encouraged to use all available school-sponsored media of communication to keep the goals, programs, achievements, and needs of the schools before the public. This includes publications, radio and TV.

S/He may delegate authority to the central administrative staff, and to the school principals as s/he sees fit. But, the ultimate responsibility for their performance is his/hers.

It is this board's belief and faith that citizens who are adequately informed will vote more constructively in bond elections.

The administration is responsible for all informational services to and from the public, except for such matters as the board may from time to time wish to deal with publicly itself.

Announcements to Parents and the General Public

Materials for district-wide distribution will be released through the central office and carry the approval of representatives of the superintendent's staff.

The principal of each school is responsible for routine school announcements to the parents of his/her school. S/He will keep a file copy of all such releases for needed future reference, for at least two years.

All such announcements and releases of individual school activities must be cleared by the principal before being released.

School Sponsored Publications, Radio and Television

Publications issued by and in the name of the schools of this district shall reflect the high regard and aspirations of our

people for their schools.

There must be no compromise with high quality of editorial content and effective format. The exercise of appropriate economy in materials and production is expected so long as the main purpose is not jeopardized.

Regular and special radio and TV programs shall be consistent with the goals of our schools approved by the board. It is important that such programs also reflect the high regard and aspirations of our people for their schools.

School District Directory

The School District Directory will be distributed only to those governmental agencies and other school-related parties which have been authorized by the superintendent.

A copy of the directory will always be available in the superintendent's office for review by interested persons.

Individual School Publications

Each school may, with the approval of the principal, establish a school newspaper for the children of the school and their parents. Such publications should be carefully prepared if undertaken.

The principal is responsible for supervising such publications to conform with the intent of board policy on communications with the public.

Commercial establishments whose primary source of revenue is the sale of intoxicants should not be permitted to appear as advertisers in school publications.

Communications from Outside the Schools

Students and faculty of the schools shall be protected from intrusions on their time by announcements, posters, bulletins and communications of any kind from individuals and organizations not directly connected with the schools.

The principals shall interpret this policy strictly. Exceptions may be made when, in their judgment, the best interests of the students will be served. In case of differences of opinion, the decision of the superintendent of schools will be final.

Publications, Radio and Television

This board invites and welcomes the active interest and participation of newspapers, magazines, radio and television and other mass media of communication in promoting the cause of good education in our city and elsewhere.

Newscasts, spot announcements, sports, coverage of other school activities and programs dealing with the schools must be presented in the public interest. No identification of the schools with the promotion of any commercial or political enterprise shall be permitted. Pupils enrolled in the school district who appear on radio or TV programs during or after school hours shall not be permitted to associate the name of a particular school, school activity, or the school district with the promotion of any commercial or political enterprise.

Commercial Mass Media

It is the responsibility of the principal to be advised of and to supervise all radio and television presentations made in the individual school.

Students who represent the school through such media should have prior permission from the principal, who should obtain full information concerning the presentation.

A member of the staff designated by the principal should be assigned the responsibility for informing communications media of newsworthy school activities. Faculties should be informed that suggestions for such releases must be

channeled through this individual.

Cross References	Description
BCBI	Public Participation at Board Meetings
BCBI-E(1)	Public Participation at Board Meetings
BDD	Board Policy Dissemination
KBA	Public's Right to Know
KBB	Media Access to School Campuses
KCB	Community Involvement in Decision Making
LA	Parental Engagement

Policy KBA: Public's Right to Know

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 11/17/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 11/17/2025

PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO KNOW

"...The public has every right to observe the process, but not to control the proceedings."

The formation and determination of public policy is public business and shall be conducted at open meetings except as otherwise provided by law.

Except as otherwise provided by MS Code sections 25-61-9 and 25-61-11, this school declares all public records to be public property, and any person shall have the right to inspect, copy or mechanically reproduce or obtain a reproduction of any public record in accordance with the district's adopted written procedures concerning the cost, time, place and method of access.

This district shall establish and collect fees reasonably calculated to reimburse it for, and in no case exceed, the actual cost of searching, reviewing and/or duplicating and, if applicable, mailing copies of public records. Such fees shall be collected by the district in advance of complying with the request. '25-61-5

MS Code	Description
25-61-11	Records exempted or privileged by law.
25-61-5	Public access to records; written explanation required when records cannot be produced within specified time; form and retention of denials.
25-61-7	Fees for costs incident to providing records.
25-61-9	Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information

Cross References	Description
BCBI	Public Participation at Board Meetings
BCBI-E(1)	Public Participation at Board Meetings
BCBJ	Board Meeting News Coverage
BDD	Board Policy Dissemination
CNA	Access to Public Records
CNA-E(1)	Access to Public Records
KB	Public Information Program
KCB	Community Involvement in Decision Making

Policy KBB: Media Access to School Campuses

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 11/17/2025

MEDIA ACCESS TO SCHOOL CAMPUSES, STAFF AND STUDENTS

It shall be the policy of this school board that access to school campuses shall be by permission granted by the superintendent of schools or his/her designee on all occasions. Without such authority having been granted, all representatives of the media will be denied access to the campuses, buildings, staff or students of the schools and principals are hereby instructed to deny such access.

The district is committed to providing up-to-date information about the district and its activities in a timely and appropriate manner. The school board designates the Superintendent or his designee as the spokesperson for the district when the media requests information. No employee other than those designated may provide information on behalf of the school district without prior board approval.

It is the responsibility of the board of education and superintendent to maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning with as few disruptions as possible.

All requests should be directed to the office of the superintendent whose responsibility it shall be to issue in writing permission for all access.

NEWS-MEDIA RELATIONS

The Board wishes to assist the press and other communications media to obtain complete and adequate coverage of the programs, problems, planning, and activities of the school system.

All representatives of the media shall be given equal access to information about the schools. General releases of interest to the entire district shall be made available to all the media simultaneously. There shall be no exclusive releases except as media representatives request information on particular programs, plans, or problems.

The Board shall review periodically district relations with the news media.

NEWS RELEASES

The Superintendent or his/her designee will be the press liaison person for coordinating the release of information concerning the school system and action of the Board.

The Board President shall be the official spokesman for the Board, except as this duty is delegated to the Superintendent.

Teachers and other staff members shall submit news or news releases regarding the classroom and other school activities to the school public information liaison who shall submit copies to the Superintendent or his/her designee for appropriate action.

Cross References	Description
BCBJ	Board Meeting News Coverage
JGF	Student Safety
KB	Public Information Program
KM	Visitors to the Schools

Policy KCB: Community Involvement in Decision Making

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 **| Last Revised Date:** 11/17/2025 **| Last Reviewed Date:** 11/17/2025

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

"The public has every right to observe the process, but not to control the proceedings."

Community participation in the affairs of schools is an important facet of achieving an improved quality of education for the students. Therefore, the board intends to make every effort to identify the desires of the community and to be responsive to those desires.

Citizens of the district will be encouraged to express their ideas, concerns, and judgments about the schools through (1) written suggestions or proposals, (2) presentations at hearings, (3) responses to surveys made through interviews, written instruments, (4) comments at meetings of the board, and (5) service on citizens' advisory committees.

The advice of the public will be carefully considered. In the evaluation of such advice, the first concern will be the educational program as it affects students.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The governing authorities of the county, counties or city in which a school district is located and the school board of each school district shall develop a five-year plan to encourage community involvement with the schools in such district. Districts meeting the Highest Levels of Performance as defined by the State Board of Education, shall be exempted from the provisions of this section.' 37-7-337

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard for this policy is standard 12.

AD VALOREM TAXES

As it relates to Ad Valorem Taxes, this district shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Sections 37-57-105, 37-57-107, and 27-39-207.

When an advertisement is required under this section, it shall be in the form set forth in Section 27-39-207, and shall include the following language:

- "Any citizen of Harrison County School District is invited to attend this public hearing on the proposed ad valorem tax increase, and will be allowed to speak for a reasonable amount of time and offer tangible evidence before any vote is taken."

BOND REFERENDUM

As it relates to Bond Referendums, this district shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Sections 37-59-11.

BUDGET ADOPTION

Prior to the adoption of a budget pursuant to this section, this school board shall hold at least one (1) public hearing to provide the general public with an opportunity to comment on the taxing and spending plan incorporated in the proposed budget. The public hearing will be held at least one (1) week prior to the adoption of the budget with advance notice. After final adoption of the budget, a synopsis of such budget in a form prescribed by the State Department of Audit shall be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the school district on a date different from the date on which the county or any municipality therein may publish its budget. ' 37-61-9 (3)

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard for this policy is standard 12.

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

For information related to student conduct and disciplinary action, please refer to Mississippi Code Section '37-11-55.

MS Code	Description
27-39-207	Advertisement of intention to increase ad valorem tax by school district; form and content of public notice; hearings.
37-11-55	Code of student conduct.
37-57-105	Authorization and procedure for levy.
37-57-107	Limitation on aggregate receipts from taxes for school purposes; disposition of excess receipts.
37-59-11	Adoption of bond issue resolution; requirement of election on issuance of bonds.
37-61-9	Preparation of budget by county superintendent of education; reduction of amount budgeted for administration expenditures.
37-7-337	37-7-337

Cross References	Description
BBF	Advisory Committees to the Board
DFA	Local Tax Revenues
GAH	Community / Parent Relations
KB	Public Information Program
KBA	Public's Right to Know
LA	Parental Engagement

Policy KF: Broadcasting And Taping of Board Meetings

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 **| Last Revised Date:** 11/17/2025 **| Last Reviewed Date:** 11/17/2025

BROADCASTING AND TAPING OF BOARD MEETINGS

Photographic and electronic audio and video broadcasting and recording devices may be used at regular and special school board meetings according to the following guidelines.

1. Persons operating cameras, broadcasting and/or recording devices must do so with a minimum of disruption to those present at the meeting. Specifically, the view between Board members and the audience must not be obstructed, interviews must not be conducted during the meeting and no commentary is to be given in a manner that distracts Board members or the audience.

2. The Board has the right to halt any recording that interrupts or disturbs the meeting.

3. Students may not be photographed by the school district without the consent of their parents.

The Board may make the necessary arrangements to make audio recordings of all regular meetings and any special meeting that it deems appropriate.

Last Review Date: November 17, 2025

Review History:[06/06/16][06/20/16][05/01/17][05/15/17][04/16/18][04/30/18][05/06/19][05/20/19][04/06/20][04/20/20][06/07/21][06/21/21][05/16/22][06/06/22][06/05/23][06/12/23][06/03/2024][06/17/2024][11/17/2025]

Policy KHD: Gifts to Staff Members

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 05/20/2019 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 11/17/2025

GIFTS TO STAFF MEMBERS

Many school patrons in their sincere effort to express appreciation to school employees at various times participate in money-raising campaigns among parents in order to purchase gifts for school employees. These activities are often misunderstood, frequently cause embarrassment to our personnel and are illegal.

No public servant shall use his official position to obtain, or attempt to obtain, pecuniary benefit for himself other than that compensation provided for by law, or to obtain pecuniary benefit for any relative or any business with which he is associated. ' 25-4-105 (1) (1994)

There shall be no fund raising for gifts, or any gift giving, or any exchange of gifts.

This does not in any way prohibit Christmas and other parties that are held in schools where students contribute for food and refreshments. The policy is designed to stop solicitation of funds for gifts.

MS Code	Description
25-4-105	Certain actions, activities and business relationships prohibited or authorized; contracts in violation of section voidable; penalties.

Cross References	Description
KHE	Gifts to Schools

Policy KHE: Gifts to Schools

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 10/07/2019 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 11/17/2025

GIFTS TO SCHOOLS

The superintendent, on behalf of the board, is authorized to accept gifts to particular schools or the district. He shall report such acceptance to the board which shall officially acknowledge the gifts and thank the donors.

In instances where the superintendent doubts the appropriateness or usefulness of a gift, he shall refer the offer to the board for its decision.

Assets which are donated to the school district must be recorded at their fair market value at the date of donation. The school board must acknowledge in their official minutes who will maintain title of ownership to the donated assets.

MS Code Section 21-17-1 provides that the governing authorities of a municipality "may donate such lands and necessary funds related thereto to the public school district in which the land is situated" for the purposes set forth within the statute.

NOTE: See also Financial Accounting Manual for Mississippi School Districts, as amended.

MS Code	Description
21-17-1	General grant of powers.

Cross References	Description
BHA	Board Member Conflict
DFK	Gifts and Bequests to School District (Donations)
KHD	Gifts to Staff Members

Policy KJ: Advertising in the Schools

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 05/20/2019 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 11/17/2025

ADVERTISING IN THE SCHOOLS

No advertising of commercial products, services or religious beliefs shall be permitted in school buildings or on school grounds or properties. This policy does not prevent advertising in student publications, which are published by student organizations, subject to administration control, nor the use of commercially sponsored free teaching aids if the content is approved by the administration. Solicitation of sales or use of the name of the school system to promote any product or religious belief shall not be permitted.

ADVERTISEMENTS AND POSTERS

Public:

Such practices as allowing advertising and posters should be avoided as often as possible. Under no conditions may public advertisements with profit motives be condoned without explicit permission from the Superintendent of Schools. Any public advertisement may be announced or posted in the school only after permission from the Superintendent of Schools has been granted.

Pupils:

Pupil advertisements, posters, and handouts before released, revealed, or given to pupils must be cleared through the principal's office.

APPEARANCES, FILMS, PERFORMANCES

Neither the faculties, the staff, nor the children of the schools shall be employed in any manner for advertising or otherwise promoting the interest of any commercial, political, or other non-school agency, individual or organization, except that:

1. The schools may cooperate in furthering the work of any non-profit community wide social service agency, provided that such cooperation does not restrict or impair the educational program of the schools.

2. The schools may use films or other educational materials bearing only simple mention of the producing firm and provided such materials can be justified on the basis of their actual educational values.

The superintendent may, at his discretion, announce or authorize to be announced, any lecture, community activity, or film of particular educational merit.

The schools may, upon approval of the superintendent, cooperate with any agency in promoting activities in the general public interest which are non-partisan and non-commercial, and which promote the education or other best interests of the pupil.

Cross References	Description
DK	Student Activities Fund Management

Policy KJA: School Volunteers Policy

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 **| Last Revised Date:** 11/17/2025 **| Last Reviewed Date:** 11/17/2025

SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS POLICY

The Board recognizes that community members can provide valuable services to the schools by sharing their time, talents and experience. An effective volunteer program allows students to benefit from individual attention, provides enrichment opportunities that supplement the regular educational program, allows teachers to focus on teaching and learning by relieving them of non-teaching tasks, provides interested community members an opportunity to become directly involved with education, and strengthens the relationship between school and community.

The Board approves the use of volunteers to support the school system's instructional programs and extracurricular activities. The Board adopts this policy to provide direction for the school system's volunteer program.

For the purpose of this policy, a volunteer is a person who provides services, without compensation or benefits of any kind or amount, on an occasional or regular basis in the schools or in school activities.

All volunteers shall be at least 18 years of age unless their volunteer work is part of a class, is done to fulfill a service learning or community service requirement for graduation, or is done by a recognized student organization.

Volunteers serve under the direction and supervision of the building principal or designated staff. When volunteers work with children, their activities will be under the direct and immediate supervision of the classroom teacher, coach, activity adviser, or other designated employee.

Approval, assignment, continuation, or termination of volunteers shall be at the discretion of the building principal.

Volunteers are expected to abide by all Board policies, procedures and school rules when performing their assigned responsibilities. The building principal shall make volunteers aware of applicable policies, procedures, and rules before they undertake their first assignment through a volunteer orientation, volunteer handbook, or other means.

Volunteers shall perform only those tasks that have been assigned.

Volunteers will not have access to confidential information in student records.

Volunteers may not transport students in private vehicles except as allowed by Board policy.

The Superintendent or assigned designee shall establish procedures for the support of this policy.

Persons interested in volunteering time or services should contact the building principal. Prospective volunteers may be required to complete a written application.

Last Review Date: **November 17, 2025**
Review History:[06/06/16][06/20/16][05/01/17][05/15/17][04/16/18][04/30/18][05/06/19][05/20/19][04/06/20][04/20/20][06/07/21][06/21/21][05/16/22][06/06/22][06/05/23][06/12/23][06/03/2024][06/17/2024][11/17/25]

Policy KK: Service of Process

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 06/06/2022 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 11/17/2025

Service of Process

The only person authorized to receive service of process for the Harrison County School District is the superintendent. Principals, teachers, school board members, and all other employees should inform any individual attempting to serve the school district that they do not have the authority to accept process on behalf of the school district. Any process server should be directed to the superintendent for proper service of process.

Immediately upon receipt of service, the superintendent shall document the date and time that the documents were served and notify the district's insurer and the school board attorney.

MS Code	Description
79-35-13	Service of process on entities.

Policy KL-R: Public Complaints

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 10/03/2016 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/21/2021 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 11/17/2025

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

This school board welcomes comments and suggestions for improvements from the community and general public served by the school district. Constructive criticism of the schools is welcome whenever it is motivated by a sincere desire to improve the quality of the educational program or to allow the schools to do their tasks more effectively. The public is reminded that this board has confidence in its professional staff and desires to support their actions in order that they may be free from unnecessary, spiteful, or negative criticism and complaint. With this in mind, whenever a complaint is made directly to the board as a whole or to a board member as an individual, the complaint will be promptly referred to the school administration for study and possible solution.

ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES FOR RESOLVING COMPLAINTS

Since individual board members have no authority to resolve complaints, other than by formal board action, administrators are expected to follow up on all complaint referrals and to advise the board members of the nature of the complaint and the action/s taken. The board expects that the administration will develop a procedure for receiving complaints courteously and that it will take steps to make a proper reply to the complainant. Follow-up shall be in the form of a written memorandum to the board members.

Anonymous complaints provide no avenue for response or redress of the complaint; therefore, it is the policy of this board that anonymous complaints will not be pursued. An unsigned complaint will not be read or acted upon at any meeting of the board and anonymous telephone complaints will not be brought to the board by any individual board member, administrator, or other district employee. Further, the administration will not act on any anonymous complaint.

Complaints for which specific resolution procedures are provided shall be directed to those channels. This includes complaints about personnel, instructional materials, etc.

Complaints should be resolved at the lowest possible level of authority. If the complaint cannot be resolved at the building level, either party is encouraged to bring the matter to the attention of the superintendent.

If all other remedies have been exhausted and a complaint can be satisfactorily resolved, the complaint may be appealed to the school board. No appeal will be heard by the board and no charges or accusations against an employee will be investigated or acted upon unless the accusations are reduced to writing, signed by the party making the complaint, and presented to the board through the superintendent.

In addition to the above, the board will request written reports be provided to the board prior to the meeting from the following:

1. The person against whom the complaint is made;

2. The principal of the school involved;

3. The superintendent; and,

4. The complainant.

Generally, all parties involved will be asked to attend the board meeting for the purpose of presenting any additional facts, making further explanations, and clarifying the issues.

The board will not consider or act upon complaints that have not been explored at the appropriate administrative level or complaints for which specific resolution procedures have been established that do not include board review. If the board decides to hear the complaint, the board shall make a decision which shall be sent to all parties. The board's decision is final.

The superintendent shall provide a copy of said complaint or request for information to each board member prior to the meeting involved.
The superintendent is directed to have a report from the administration regarding the subject matter attached to the complaint and placed in the agenda of each board member at the meeting involved.
No subject shall be allotted more than 30 minutes time of the board meeting. A maximum of 15 minutes shall be allotted to the proponent of the subject, of which 10 minutes may be used for presentation and the remaining five minutes for questions by the board. If there is more than one speaker on each side of the question, it is the responsibility of the chairman of each group to divide the 10 minute period.

Cross References	Description
BBF	Advisory Committees to the Board
BCAF	Public Comments at Board Meetings
BCBI	Public Participation at Board Meetings
BCBI-E(1)	Public Participation at Board Meetings
KNBA	Complaints About Instructional Materials
KNBA-E(1)	Complaints About Instructional Materials

Policy KM: Visitors to the Schools

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/29/2026 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 06/29/2026

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOLS

All visitors to schools shall report immediately to the school office, sign in and obtain a visitor's badge so that visitors can be readily identified by school personnel. All visitor ID's will be scanned through the National Sex Offender Registry database before a visitor's badge is issued. Exceptions to this requirement are when visitors are attending a general school function such as a pep rally, assembly program, athletic event, etc. Unauthorized persons shall not be permitted in school buildings or on school grounds. School principals are authorized to take appropriate action to prevent such persons from entering buildings or from loitering on grounds. Such persons will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOL VISITATION

Any person desiring to visit a school must report upon arrival at the school to the principal's office for clearance. The principal shall have the right to deny visitation rights to any individual if in the judgment of the principal the visit might negatively affect school procedures.

Members of the supervisory or administrative staff who have invited professional visitors may elect to serve as hosts to the visitors whom they have invited, as well as to other visitors who may have a mutual interest and area of competency.

Parents and other persons who wish to visit the public schools should be routed to the school office, be greeted by the principal and guide services. All visitors are to be made to feel welcome. Parents and visitors are requested to wear appropriate attire that meets dress code standards. There shall be no solicitation of teachers or pupils on personal matters on the school premises by salesmen or agents. Out-of-town visitors who have made arrangements through the superintendent's office will have a member of the superintendent's staff or a principal as host for the visitor or delegation.

PUPIL VISITATION

The schools, because of space factors in the classrooms, will not be able to allow school pupils to have pupil visitors accompany them as visiting guests in the school. Younger children will not be allowed to attend any activities/events held during the school day unless it is designated as a family event.

CLASSROOM VISITATION

As part of the district's safety and security program, only school or district personnel, law enforcement officials, or educational professionals designing an individual educational program shall be allowed to visit classrooms during instructional times. However, scheduled visits may be requested at the discretion of the principal.

VENDORS AND CONTRACTORS

Any individual who purports to be a vendor, temporary worker, contractor, or who has an appointment to do work at the district shall be verified before being allowed access to the campus. The identity of the visitor and the reason for the visit must be verified directly by a district administrator. If the visitor cannot be verified, he/she shall be turned away and denied access. Verified vendors shall be issued a vendor pass or vendor identification badge to be presented to any district staff on request and returned to the district administration at the close of the visit.

TRESPASSING

Unauthorized presence on school district property and grounds will constitute trespassing. Such persons may be requested to leave the premises by school district personnel or by a law enforcement officer. Failing to comply with any of the above regulations shall be considered trespassing and in violation of the rules and regulations of the school district. Such persons shall be liable and prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Cross References	Description
EBA	Public Conduct Policy
JRAA	Student Recruitment and Student Directory Information
KBB	Media Access to School Campuses
LEB	Relations With Parent Organizations

Policy KN: Complaints - Title I

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 11/17/2025

COMPLAINTS

TITLE I, ECIA PROCEDURE FOR COMPLAINT RESOLUTION

The following procedures will be followed if a complaint concerning TITLE I, ECIA is received by the school district:

1. Record initiated - Within five (5) days of receipt of a written complaint, or an appeal from a person or persons against the operation of TITLE I, ECIA at the local level, the local TITLE I, ECIA office will acknowledge receipt of the complaint in writing. All written complaints must include signature and address of the complainant.

2. Within ten (10) working days of the acknowledgment of the complaint, the complainant will be afforded an opportunity for an informal hearing with representatives of the Local TITLE I, ECIA office at which time oral and written testimony may be taken.

3. Failure to resolve the complaint in an informal sitting will necessitate a formal hearing on the matter. The complainant will be advised on the right to request in writing a formal hearing. The complainant will have fifteen (15) days from the date of the informal hearing to make a written request for formal hearing. Upon receipt of the request for a formal hearing the LEA shall make, when necessary, an on-site investigation of the complaint.

4. The formal hearing will be conducted by the local superintendent and school board. The local hearing panel will provide opportunity for the complainant or the complainant's representative, or both, and the local educational agency involved to submit evidence, including the opportunity to question parties to the dispute and any of their witnesses.

5. The entire procedure, from receipt of the complaint to a satisfactory resolution, shall be completed within a period of not more than sixty (60) days.

6. The complainant has the right to appeal the final resolution of the Local Educational Agency to the Commissioner of Education within thirty (30) days after receipt of the written decision.

Cross References	Description
KNBA	Complaints About Instructional Materials
KNBA-E(1)	Complaints About Instructional Materials

Policy KNBA: Complaints About Instructional Materials

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 11/17/2025

COMPLAINTS ABOUT INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The board assumes final responsibility for all books and instructional materials it makes available to students. However, it recognizes the right of individual parents regarding controversial materials used by their own children.

While the board will not permit any individual or group to exercise censorship over instructional materials and library collections, provision will be made for the reevaluation of the materials upon formal request. On the other hand, students' right to learn and the freedom of teachers to teach shall be respected.

MS Code	Description
37-7-301	General powers and duties.

Cross References	Description
BCBI	Public Participation at Board Meetings
BCBI-E(1)	Public Participation at Board Meetings
KL-R	Public Complaints
KN	Complaints - Title I

Exhibit KNBA-E(1): Complaints About Instructional Materials

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013

See PDF on the next page.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

COMPLAINTS ABOUT INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS
(Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of a Book)

Author_____ Hardcover ( ) Paperback ( )

Title_____

Publisher (if known)_____

Request initiated by_____

Telephone_____ Address_____

Complainant represents: _____ himself
_____ (name of organization)_____
_____ (identify other group)_____

1. To what in the book do you object? (Be specific; cite pages).
_____

2. What, in your opinion, might be the result of reading this book?
_____

3. For what age group would you recommend this book?_____

4. What do you feel is of value about this book?_____
_____

5. Did you read the entire book?_____ What parts?_____
_____

6. Are you aware of the judgment of this book by literary critics?_____

7. What is the theme of this book?_____

8. What would you like the school to do about this book?
_____ do not assign it to students
_____ withdraw it from all patrons of the school
_____ refer it to an official committee for re-evaluation

9. In its place what book of equal literary quality would you recommend that would convey as valuable a picture and perspective of our civilization? _____
_____

_____ _____
Signature of Complainant *Date*

MS Code	Description
37-7-301	General powers and duties.

Cross References	Description
BCBI	Public Participation at Board Meetings
BCBI-E(1)	Public Participation at Board Meetings
KL-R	Public Complaints
KN	Complaints - Title I

November 9, 2026

To: Mr. William Bentz
Superintendent of Education

From: Natasha R. Williams, Ph.D.
Director of Research & Development

Re: Annual Review of Policy Section L-Organizational Relations

Attached you will find Policy Section L- Organizational Relations. The Harrison County School Board subscribes to the Mississippi School Board Association Policy Service, and it is up to each district that subscribes to this service to adopt, review, revise and implement policy to ensure compliance with current practices.

Please advise if you have any questions or concerns regarding the attached policies. Thanks in advance for your consideration.

11072 Highway 49
Gulfport, MS 39503
Telephone: (228)539-6500 Facsimile: (228)539-6507
William Bentz, Superintendent of Education

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L. Organizational Relations (8)

Code	Title	Type	Original Adopted Date	Last Revised Date	Last Reviewed Date
LA	Parental Engagement	P	09/17/2013	11/17/2025	11/17/2025
LAA	Title I Family and Community Engagement	P	09/17/2013	06/29/2026	06/29/2026
LAA-E(1)	Title I Family and Community Engagement	E	09/28/2026	09/28/2026	09/28/2026
LAB	Regulations for Title I Parent Engagement	P	09/17/2013	11/17/2025	11/17/2025
LB	Custodial / Non-Custodial Parents Rights	P	09/17/2013	09/17/2013	11/17/2025
LC	Parental Rights	P	09/17/2013	11/17/2025	11/17/2025
LDAJB	Operation SALE	P	10/07/2019	11/17/2025	11/17/2025
LEB	Relations With Parent Organizations	P	09/17/2013	11/17/2025	11/17/2025



Harrison County School District

Board Policy Manual

Board Policy Manual

L. Organizational Relations

Policy LA: Parental Engagement 3
Policy LAA: Title I Family and Community Engagement 5
Exhibit LAA-E(1): Title I Family and Community Engagement 10
Policy LAB: Regulations for Title I Parent Engagement 18
Policy LB: Custodial / Non-Custodial Parents Rights 20
Policy LC: Parental Rights 22
Policy LDAJB: Operation SALE 25
Policy LEB: Relations With Parent Organizations 26

Policy LA: Parental Engagement

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 11/17/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 11/17/2025

This school board reaffirms the school district's strong commitment to the role of parents in their children's education and to effective, comprehensive parental engagement. In this policy, a parent is intended to include parents, guardians, and other family members involved in supervising the child's schooling. Parental/family engagement in a child's learning is a critical link to achieve academic success and to promote a safe and disciplined learning environment.

Schools and families will work together to ensure that the educational process includes quality learning at home, in school, and in the community.

The following steps will be taken to achieve this goal:

1. The superintendent will assess the status of parental engagement, review existing policies and procedures, and develop necessary regulations and procedures to support this policy, including a review of staff and budget support.

2. The Board of Education will support parental engagement by seeking parental input on school system policies, including curriculum, facilities, and funding issues.

STRATEGIES FOR PARENT/ FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

1. Effective two-way communication between all parents and schools regarding school system policies and regulations, local school policies, and an individual child's progress.

2. Activities to encourage parental volunteer opportunities in schools both in the classroom and in other areas of the school including attendance at local school programs and events.

3. Information and programs for parents on how to establish a home environment to support learning and appropriate behavior.

4. Information and programs for parents about how they can assist their own children to learn.

5. Assistance to develop parental engagement in educational advocacy through PTAs and other organizations, including school system task forces and advisory committees.

ROLE OF LOCAL SCHOOLS

While each division, office, and school must assess its role and plan of action to meet these goals, all school district employees are expected to convey a commitment to parental engagement. Consistent with this commitment, local schools are expected to:

1. Develop activities and materials that provide for effective two-way communication between parents and the school on local school policies and individual student progress;

2. Support and encourage parental volunteer opportunities;

3. Provide programs that assist parents in learning how they can help children learn, including activities that are connected to what children are learning in the classroom; and,

4. Work with PTA leadership to ensure parental input.

ROLE OF CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF

In addition to the role of the local schools, appropriate staff in central offices are expected to support local school efforts and, where relevant:

1. Communicate with parents on school system policies and regulations;
2. Provide for the development of parenting programs and materials, including the use of cable television, pamphlets, adult education courses, parent resource centers, and programs designed to orient new parents to the school district;
3. Maintain and support with appropriate information and training parental volunteer opportunities countywide;
4. Assist in the development of parental leadership through PTAs and other recognized groups;
5. Work with businesses, organizations, and other government agencies which by their policies and activities can provide support and assistance for parental engagement efforts;
6. Provide appropriate teacher and staff training to support effective parental engagement; conduct staff and parent training in ways to communicate and work together including problem solving, conflict resolution skills, and outreach strategies;
7. Identify and publicize promising programs and practices related to parental engagement;
8. Work with colleges and universities that prepare teachers and administrators to support the inclusion of school and family connections in their training programs;
9. Develop methods to accommodate and support parental engagement for all parents with special needs including those with limited English proficiency and individuals with disabilities; and,
10. Develop mechanisms for local schools to use in order to assess the effectiveness of their parental engagement efforts.

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard for this policy is Standard 12.

Other References	**Description**
MPSAS	Public School Accountability Standards

Cross References	**Description**
GAH	Community / Parent Relations
KB	Public Information Program
KCB	Community Involvement in Decision Making
LAA	Title I Family and Community Engagement
LAA-E(1)	Title I Family and Community Engagement
LAB	Regulations for Title I Parent Engagement
LC	Parental Rights

Policy LAA: Title I Family and Community Engagement

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/29/2026 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 06/29/2026

PURPOSE

NOTE: Schools receiving federal ESSA funds are required to have a Family and Community Engagement Policy.

The Harrison County School District recognizes that meaningful Family and Community Engagement (FACE) is essential for improving academic outcomes and strengthening school–family–community partnerships. This policy outlines the district's expectations and objectives for FACE in accordance with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended by ESSA, Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) FACE guidance, and evidence-based best practices.

The Harrison County School District is committed to building and sustaining meaningful, equitable, and collaborative partnerships between schools, families, and communities. Through shared responsibility and continued improvement, the district ensures that all students are supported in reaching their highest potential.

This policy is jointly developed with parents, families, and community members, is distributed annually, and is incorporated into the district's Local Educational Agency (LEA) Plan.

JOINT DEVELOPMENT, AGREEMENT, AND DISTRIBUTION OF FACE POLICY

The district shall jointly develop the district FACE Policy with parents, families, and community stakeholders through meetings, surveys, public forums, and/or online feedback mechanisms. The district shall agree upon the policy with participating parents and families prior to Board adoption.

The policy shall be distributed annually to all families of participating Title I students.

The policy shall be accessible to families with limited English proficiency, disabilities, or limited literacy.

INCORPORATION INTO LEA PLAN & ESTABLISHING EXPECTATIONS & OBJECTIVES

The FACE Policy shall be incorporated into the LEA Plan and establishes district-wide expectations for:

- Meaningful two-way communication
- Family and community participation in decision-making
- Removal of engagement barriers
- Integration of FACE across programs
- Evidence-based engagement strategies
- Shared responsibility for student academic success

PARENT & FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN DISTRICT & IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

The district will involve families in the joint development of:

- The LEA Title I Plan
- Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) Plans
- Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) Plans
- Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) Plans

This will be accomplished through annual planning meetings, online input opportunities, surveys, advisory councils, and/or documented parent consultation.

COORDINATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, & CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SCHOOL

The district will provide all Title I schools with the support needed to implement effective FACE practices by:

1. Conducting annual and/or as requested Title I technical-assistance meetings with all participating schools, specifically addressing:

a. Evidence-based family and community engagement strategies

b. Progress monitoring of FACE practices

c. Best practice sharing

2. Ensuring schools have adequate resources (funding, tools, training, communication supports) to implement scheduled FACE activities. Offering professional development to strengthen staff capacity in:

a. Building relationships with families

b. Collaborating with community organizations

c. Cultural responsiveness

d. Effective communication strategies

3. Coordination and Integration with Other Programs — To the extent feasible and appropriate, the district will coordinate and integrate FACE strategies with other district, state, and federal programs by:

a. Holding annual and/or as requested coordination meetings to create a unified FACE activity calendar across

i. IDEA / Special Education

ii. Career & Technical Education (CTE)

iii. Early Childhood Education

iv. Head Start

v. English Learners (EL) / Title III

vi. Homeless Education / McKinney-Vento

vii. Other federal, state, and local initiatives

b. Sharing communication tools, training resources, and joint engagement opportunities across programs

ANNUAL EVALUATION OF FACE POLICY CONTENT & EFFECTIVENESS

The district, with meaningful participation of families and community members, will annually evaluate the FACE Policy to determine:

1. Effectiveness of current FACE activities

2. Impact on academic achievement and school performance

3. Barriers preventing effective engagement

4. Needs of families to support their children academically [48]

5. Strategies that strengthen school-family relationship

To conduct the evaluation, the district will:

1. Host an annual district-wide Family & Community Engagement meeting each year.

2. Provide online and paper surveys / feedback forms for families to evaluate FACE activities and identify needs.

3. Collect and analyze data from school-based events, advisory groups, and parent input sessions.

IDENTIFICATION OF BARRIERS, NEEDS, & STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

As part of the annual evaluation, the district will identify:

1. Barriers to participation, especially for families who are:

    a. Economically disadvantaged

    b. Limited English proficient

    c. Disabled

    d. From racial or ethnic minority backgrounds

    e. Experiencing homelessness

    f. Migratory

    Method: Surveys, interviews, focus groups, and open-comment opportunities

2. Family needs to support their children's learning

    Method: Annual surveys assessing academic support needs, communication needs, and family resource gaps.

3. Strategies to support positive school–family interactions

    Method: Surveys, reflection tools, and feedback sessions to identify what families need from schools to improve partnership quality.

USING EVALUATION RESULTS TO STRENGTHEN & REVISE FACE POLICY

The district will use annual evaluation findings to:

- Develop evidence-based strategies for more effective engagement.
- Allocate Title I FACE funds based on identified needs.
- Strengthen school-level family engagement plans.
- Improve district communication systems.
- Revise the district FACE Policy as needed.

To ensure transparency and accountability, the district will establish an LEA Planning Committee that will include family and community members. The committee will:

1. Review evaluation results

2. Recommend improvements

3. Participate in revisions to the FACE Policy

4. Provide ongoing guidance to district leadership

The committee will include parents, guardians, community partners, educators, and district staff.

RESERVATION & USE OF TITLE I ENGAGEMENT FUNDS

In accordance with ESSA §1116:

1. The district will reserve at least 1% of its Title I allocation for FACE.
2. Families will participate in decision-making regarding the use of these funds.
3. Funds will be distributed to schools and used for:

- Capacity-building
- Training
- Communication tools
- FACE events and workshops
- Removing engagement barriers

SCHOOL-LEVEL FACE POLICIES & COMPACTS

Each Title I school will:

- Jointly develop and annually update a School-Level FACE Policy with families
- Distribute the policy to all families each year
- Develop and annually review a School-Family Compact
- Maintain consistent communication with families about student progress, curriculum, and assessments
- Ensure FACE activities are timely, accessible, and inclusive

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INPUT

The district will ensure multiple opportunities for families and community members to provide input on the:

- District FACE Policy
- LEA Plan
- Use of Title I FACE funds
- School improvement efforts
- Evaluation findings

Input will be collected through meetings, forums, surveys, email submissions, and public comment periods.

Cross References	Description
GAH	Community / Parent Relations
LA	Parental Engagement

Cross References	Description
LAB	Regulations for Title I Parent Engagement

Exhibit LAA-E(1): Title I Family and Community Engagement

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/28/2026 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 09/28/2026

See PDF on the next page.

2026-2027
District Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Policy
Harrison County School District

Last Updated: June 2026

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Harrison County School District** receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy, agreed on by such parents, that shall describe the means of carrying out the requirements of The Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1116. Parents shall be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. Such policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the parents and the school's changing needs. The policy establishes the school's or district's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement several specific parental and family engagement activities.

Harrison County School District understands that parent and family engagement means the participation of parents and families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- Parents and families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- Parents and families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- Parents and families are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.

Harrison County School District agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by ESSA Section 1116:

A. ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Harrison County School District will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting at a convenient time and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents' requirements, the school parental involvement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

B. **FLEXIBLE NUMBER OF MEETINGS**

Harrison County School District will offer a flexible number of engagement meetings at school sites during convenient times for families, such as meetings in the morning or evening and/or recorded and shared on social media sites.

C. **JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

Harrison County School District will take the following actions to involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan.

HCSD will present the Parent and Family Engagement Policy to stakeholders at the Annual Title I Planning Meeting for suggestions and approval. HCSD will also post the district/school Parent and Family Engagement Policies on the website and, to the extent practical, elicit feedback on these policies through a survey.

D. COMMUNICATION

Harrison County School District will provide parents of participating children timely information about programs under Title I, including:

a) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use,
b) forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress,
c) achievement levels of the challenging state academic standards, and
d) if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicable possible.

Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, will be sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Schools will distribute the Parent and Family Engagement Policies at the school level and post the approved policy on their website. The district will distribute the Parent and Family Engagement Policy to parents in the handbook annually and publish to the district's website once the Harrison County School Board has approved said policy. Schools will use (but are not

limited to) student planners, student folders, social media sites, phone calls, conferences, parent meetings, workshops, Parent Square, and the district web site to keep parents informed of information related to school and parent programs, students' expected proficiency levels, meetings, and other activities. The district and schools will use meetings, workshops, Facebook, Parent Square, and the district website to keep parents informed. To the extent practical, this information will be provided in a language that parents can understand and is free from educational jargon.

E. **DISSENSION PROCESS**

Harrison County School District will submit any comments/concerns to the Harrison County School District Superintendent's office if the schoolwide plan and/or parent and family engagement policy is not satisfactory to parents.

Any comments/concerns can be sent to the Director of Federal Programs, Melissa Garrison, at mgarrison@harrison.k12.ms.us or by phone at 228-539-6500.

F. **SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT**

Harrison County School District will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how families, school, staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards and how the plan is used, reviewed, and updated.

Schools accepting Title I A funds will convene an Annual Title I Schoolwide meeting annually within the first semester of the school year to jointly develop with parents and faculty a school-parent compact (if this is not completed the Spring prior). Upon parent approval, the schools will distribute to all parents this document. Administrators, teachers, and parents will use this document in ongoing, two-way conversations about student achievement and behavior. In the Spring of each year, the schools will review this document and revise it as necessary for the coming year. Using this method of updating the compact, schools will elicit feedback from students, faculty, and families annually in the spring.

G. BUILD CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Harrison County School District will build the parents' capacity for strong parental involvement to ensure effective involvement of parents and families and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- Materials and training to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as content related activities, parent workshops, orientation activities and using technology), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.
- Provide assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:

    - the state's academic content standards,
    - the state's student academic achievement standards,
    - the state and local academic assessments, including alternate assessments,
    - the requirements of Title I, Part A,
    - how to monitor their child's progress, and
    - how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.
- Educate school personnel, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of the contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school.
- Coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents to fully participate in the education of their children.

The district will support the schools in parental involvement activities with both financial as well as personnel resources to meet the programming identified in school Parent and Family Engagement Plans. Assistance will be provided to schools to support parent and family engagement in the following ways

- Training opportunities during scheduled parent nights;
- Parent/teacher conference trainings;
- Orientation activities;
- EL Parent and Family nights will also be planned throughout the year
- District Resources – a list of district resources appears on the district's website at www.harrison.k12.ms.us under the tab "Families."
- HCSD also maintains social media pages to highlight events in the school district.
- In addition, each Title I school must maintain a monthly parent workshop focused on helping parents help students at home (will be provided virtually, if needed).

H. DISTRICT SUPPORT, CROSS-PROGRAM COORDINATION, AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT The Harrison County School District Federal Programs Department provides ongoing coordination, technical assistance, and strategic support to ensure all Title I participating schools effectively plan and implement robust family engagement practices.

1. **School Improvement Planning:** The district office will ensure schools actively involve parents and family members in the joint development, review, and implementation of school improvement plans. This includes providing specific data, training, and collaboration opportunities for schools designated for **Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI)**, **Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI)**, and **Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI)** status under state and federal accountability models.
2. **Technical Assistance and Staff Development:** The district will conduct regular technical-assistance meetings and capacity-building sessions with school leadership teams. These sessions will focus on evidence-based engagement strategies, progress monitoring, and

sharing best practices. Additionally, the district will support professional development for school faculty and staff rooted in cultural responsiveness, building community partnerships, and fostering a welcoming school environment.

3. **Cross-Program Coordination:** To maximize resources and reduce communication fatigue for families, the district will deliberately align and integrate its Family and Community Engagement (FACE) strategies across multiple federal, state, and local programs. This includes holding coordination meetings to streamline initiatives, share communication tools, and build a unified family support network among:
    - Title I, Part A (Basic Programs)
    - Title III, Part A (English Learners and Immigrant Students)
    - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA / Special Education)
    - Early Childhood Education and Pre-K Programs (as available)
    - Career and Technical Education (CTE)
    - McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act initiatives (as available)

I. ACCESSIBILITY

Harrison County School District, in carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of this part, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members with limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children), including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

Parent meetings will be offered at flexible times throughout the school year. All announcements, to the extent practical, will be available through the district/school website, Parent Square, and Facebook pages in a language that can be understood by parents. Progress reports, Report Cards, state assessment results, and other information regarding student achievement will be sent to parents in a timely manner. HCSD will also maintain a district data site for parents to access student grades at any time. All schools, as well as the district office, maintain normal business hours and welcome feedback in the form of personal visits, conferences, emails, and phone calls. Please note, appointments are preferred so that parents may be offered our full attention. In addition to HCSD Title I Parent Meetings, we will also hold parent meetings for parents of students in the English Learner Program.

J. ANNUAL POLICY EVALUATION AND BARRIER IDENTIFICATION The Harrison County School District will conduct a formal, comprehensive annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Parent and Family Engagement Policy in improving the academic quality of all Title I schools.

1. **Purpose:** The primary objective of this evaluation is to identify:
    - Barriers that hinder greater participation by parents (with specific attention given to parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited

English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background);
    - The specific needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and
    - Strategies and action steps that support successful school and family partnerships.
2. **Data Collection and Methodologies:** To ensure wide representation and authentic stakeholder input, the district will utilize an evaluation process each spring:
    - **Multi-Platform Surveys:** Distributing comprehensive annual family engagement surveys, made available in multiple languages, to gather quantitative and qualitative feedback.
3. **Policy Revision:** The district, will use the findings and data points from this evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise this district-level FACE policy.

Cross References	Description
GAH	Community / Parent Relations
LA	Parental Engagement
LAB	Regulations for Title I Parent Engagement

Policy LAB: Regulations for Title I Parent Engagement

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 **| Last Revised Date:** 11/17/2025 **| Last Reviewed Date:** 11/17/2025

TITLE I PARENT INVOLVEMENT REGULATIONS

In order to achieve the level of Title I parent involvement desired by the board of education policy on this topic, these regulations guide the development of each school's annual plan designed to foster a cooperative effort among the parents, school, and community.

GUIDELINES

Parent involvement activities developed at each school will include opportunities for:

- Volunteering;
- Parent education;
- Home support for child's education;
- Parent participation in school decision-making.

The school system will provide opportunities for professional development and resources for staff and parent/community regarding effective parent involvement practices.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Parents - It is the responsibility of the parent to:

   a. actively communicate with school staff;

   b. be aware of rules and regulations of the school;

   c. take an active role in the child's education by reinforcing, at home, the skills and knowledge the student has learned in school; and

   d. utilize opportunities for participation in school activities.

2. Staff - It is the responsibility of the staff to:

   a. develop and implement a school plan for parent involvement;

   b. promote and encourage parent involvement activities;

   c. effectively and actively communicate with all parents about skills, knowledge, and attributes students are learning in school and suggestions for reinforcement; and

   d. send information to parents of Title I children in a format and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

3. Community - Community members who volunteer in the schools have the responsibility to:

   a. be aware of rules and regulations of the school; and

   b. utilize opportunities for participation in school activities.

4. Administration - It is the responsibility of the administration to:

   a. facilitate and implement the Title I Parent Involvement policy and plan;

   b. provide training and space for parent involvement activities;

   c. provide resources to support successful parent involvement practices;

d. provide in-service education to staff regarding the value and use of contribution of parents on how to communicate with and work with parents as equals partners; and

e. send information to parents of Title I children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Cross References	Description
LA	Parental Engagement
LAA	Title I Family and Community Engagement
LAA-E(1)	Title I Family and Community Engagement

Policy LB: Custodial / Non-Custodial Parents Rights

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 11/17/2025

CUSTODIAL / NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS RIGHTS

The School Board of the Harrison County School District presumes that the person who enrolls a student in school is the student's custodial parent. If both parents claim to be the custodial parent, enrollment records will be examined. The parent who enrolled the child is considered by the school district to be the custodial parent until a legal document naming the custodial parent is provided to the school.

Parents or guardians have the right to receive information contained in the school records concerning their minor child, and the right to forbid the disclosure of such information to others unless authorized to do so. This board, unless informed otherwise, assumes there are no restrictions regarding the non-custodial parent's right to be kept informed of the student's school progress and activities. If restrictions are made, the custodial parent will be requested to submit a certified copy of the court order which curtails the specific right/s.

Unless there is a legal document that specifies otherwise, both natural parents have the right:

1. To view the child's school records;
2. To receive school progress reports;
3. To visit the child briefly at school; and,
4. To participate in parent and teacher conferences (together or separately).

While both parents can see child at school, only the custodial parent has the right to remove the child from school property. In the non-custodial parent asks to take the child from school, the principal or designee will adhere to the following procedure:

1. Explain that the school staff is responsible for the child's welfare while at school.
2. In plain view of the non-custodial parent, telephone the custodial parent and explain the request. If the custodial parent agrees, then comply with the request.
3. If the custodial parent objects, explain to the non-custodial parents that his/her rights do not include removing the child from school property. Confirm that the school will allow brief visits and describe the conditions so that both parents hear the information. Emphasize that the child will stay in the office area for the visit, will return to class afterward, and will not leave school property.
4. Escort the child to the office. Do not send the parent to the classroom. Explain to the child how the visit is to proceed. Emphasize that you (or a school security official) will return the child to class when the visit is finished.
5. Provide a place for the visit which can be observed by office staff. Escort the child back to class after the visit.
6. Maintain a file of such visits and have the non-custodial parent sign in and sign out so there is an official record of each visit.

Cross References	Description
JBC	School Admission
JBC-E(1)	School Admission

Cross References	Description
JGFC	Dismissals
LC	Parental Rights

Policy LC: Parental Rights

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 11/17/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 11/17/2025

The Board recognizes the importance of promoting parental input in decision-making related to their student's health and general well-being, in determining district and student needs for educational services, in program development and district operations. The district affirms the right of parents, upon request, to inspect:

1. A survey created by a third party before the survey is administered or distributed by the district to a student.

2. Any instructional material used by the district as part of the educational curriculum for the student;

3. Any instrument used in the collection of personal information from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose.

As provided by law, parents of district students will also, upon request, be permitted to excuse their student from covered activities. The rights provided to parents under this policy, transfer to the student when the student turns 18 years old, or is an emancipated minor under applicable state law.

The superintendent will ensure that activities requiring parental notification are provided as required by law and that reasonable notice of the adoption or continued use of this policy is provided to parents of students enrolled in district schools. The input of parents will be encouraged in the development, adoption and any subsequent revision of this policy.

DEFINITIONS

1. Survey, as defined by federal law and as used in Board policy and this regulation, includes an evaluation. It does not apply to a survey administered to a student in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;

2. Covered survey items means one or more of the following items: political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's family; sex behavior or attitudes; illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior; critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships; legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians and ministers; religious practices, affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent; and income, other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program;

3. Covered activities requiring notification means those activities involving the collection, disclosure or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose; the administration of any survey containing one or more covered survey items; and any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is required as a condition of attendance and administered and scheduled by the school in advance;

4. Third parties include, but are not limited to, school volunteers, parents, school visitors, service contractors or others engaged in district business, such as employees of businesses or organizations participating in cooperative work programs with the district and others not directly subject to district control;

5. Instructional material means instructional content that is provided to a student, regardless of its format, including printed or representational materials, audiovisual materials and materials in electronic or digital formats (such as materials accessible through the Internet). The term does not include academic tests or academic assessments;

6. Personal information means individually identifiable information including a student or parent's first and last name; a home or other physical address (including street name and the name of the city or town); telephone number; or a social security identification number.

7. Invasive physical examination means any medical examination that involves the exposure of private body parts, or any act during such examination that includes incision, insertion or injection into the body. It does not include a

hearing, vision or scoliosis screening and does not apply to any physical examination or screening that is permitted or required by an applicable state law, including physical examinations or screenings that are permitted without parental notification;

REQUESTS TO INSPECT MATERIALS

Parents may inspect surveys, instructional materials or instruments used to collect personal student information for marketing purposes before such items are administered or distributed by a school to a student as follows:

1. Requests may be directed to the school office by phone or in person;
2. Requests must be received by the district no later than [five] working days following receipt of notification by the district of its intent to administer or distribute such items;
3. Materials may be reviewed at the school office or mailed by the district;
4. Requests to mail materials must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

REQUESTS TO EXCUSE STUDENT FROM COVERED ACTIVITIES

A parent may request that his/her student be excused from participation in any of the following covered activities:

1. The collection, disclosure or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or selling that information to others;
2. Any district or third party survey;
3. The administration of nonemergency, invasive physical examinations or screenings.

All such requests must be:

1. Directed to the building principal in writing;
2. Received by the district no later than [five] working days following receipt of notification by the district of its intent to administer or distribute such items.

STUDENT PRIVACY

The district recognizes its responsibility to protect student privacy in the event of administration or distribution of a survey to a student containing one or more covered survey items.

A student's personal information that may be collected as a result of such surveys will be released only with prior, written parental permission.

NOTIFICATION

Each building principal shall be responsible for ensuring appropriate notification to parents of their rights under federal law, Board policy and this regulation. Accordingly, notification will:

1. Be made at least annually at the beginning of the school year or at other times during the school year when enrolling students for the first time in school;
2. Include the specific or approximate dates during the school year when covered activities are scheduled or expected to be scheduled.

Cross References	Description
LA	Parental Engagement

Cross References	Description
LB	Custodial / Non-Custodial Parents Rights

Policy LDAJB: Operation SALE

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 10/07/2019 | **Last Revised Date:** 11/17/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 11/17/2025

The local school board and law enforcement entities seek to create a positive, trusting relationship between students, school district personnel, and local law enforcement. In order to help facilitate this relationship, the local school board and law enforcement seek to create a program called Operation Students and Law Enforcement (Operation SALE). The program would allow, with the permission of the local school board and school administrators, on-duty law enforcement officers to work out with student athletes in school physical fitness facilities and/or in physical education classes.

The goals of the program include: (1) providing students with positive role models and mentors in participating law enforcement officers; (2) reducing disciplinary issues among students; (3) increasing law enforcement presence on school campuses to assist in keeping schools safe; (4) encouraging students to make healthy choices regarding physical activity and nutrition; and (5) keeping law enforcement officers, including school resource officers, physically fit.

DEFINITIONS:

- Operation SALE: a program approved by the local school board to allow on-duty law enforcement officers in the community to work out with student athletes in school physical fitness facilities or students during physical education classes.
- Interlocal agreement: an agreement between law enforcement entities and the local school board regarding the parameters of the Operation SALE program.
- Law enforcement: any official licensed law enforcement agency, and officers within the agency, in the jurisdiction including police, sheriff's deputies, or highway patrol.
- Weapon: any pistol, firearm, or other instrument used to inflict bodily harm or physical damage. Weapons include law enforcement officers' service weapons.

PARAMETERS:

I. Extent of Program

The extent of Operation SALE on specific schools campuses shall be determined by the local school board in cooperation with participation with law enforcement entities.

II. Interlocal Agreements

A local school board may enter into an interlocal agreement with participating law enforcement entities regarding the implementation and function of Operation SALE. Such an agreement shall have no bearing on any agreement or policies already in place between the school board, school resource officers, and law enforcement entities regarding school safety programs.

III. Weapons

Unless law enforcement and the local school board agree to other terms, law enforcement entities shall leave their service weapon(s) and any other weapon in their locked service vehicle(s) while engaging in Operation SALE program activities. Service vehicle(s) shall be parked in a conspicuous place on school campus so as to act as a deterrent and enhance school safety.

Policy LEB: Relations With Parent Organizations

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 11/17/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 11/17/2025

RELATIONS WITH PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

Close cooperation between home and school is fostered by the Parent-Teacher Associations. Parents are encouraged to join the PTA and to attend meetings. Notification of meeting dates will be sent home by students.

Each school's PTA or other similar parenting organizations will establish a set of by-laws to govern the organization that share the common objectives and policies established by the National PTA and the State PTA. A copy of the constitution and by-laws of each parenting group must be on file in the district office, and the organization must operate according to the rules established in its constitution and by-laws. The decision to have a PTA/PTO is at the discretion of the school's principal and must follow the Harrison County District Policy.

The PTA units and the PTA Council of the Harrison County School District shall be bonded at the beginning of each school year. The officers who shall be bonded shall be the president and the treasurer of each unit and of the council. The value of the bond shall be based on an average of the gross receipts for the past three years with a $5,000 bond as minimum.

The cost of the bond shall be a budgeted expense for each unit and for the council.

A PTA unit or the PTA council cannot participate in any fund-raising activities unless the unit has been bonded.

All PTA units and parenting organizations must conform to all accounting procedures as established by the Harrison County Schools, and all expenditures involving contributions to students, schools and the school district must be approved by the principal. The following policies regarding the finances of the PTA units or similar parenting organizations of the Harrison County School District shall be in effect:

1. Funds Received

A. Each organization will continue to have its own checking and/or savings accounts for the deposit of its funds.

B. The treasurer of the organization shall maintain a copy of all deposits, withdrawals, bank statements and other financial records pertinent to the account(s). Such information will be used to prepare a monthly financial report.

2. Expenditures

A. In Parent-Teacher Associations, both the president and the PTA treasurer must sign both checking and/or savings accounts, with an alternate individual signing in the absence of either.

B. The PTA president and treasurer shall not be school employees.

3. Other

A. Each organization shall present a monthly financial report to its membership and to the principal, using reporting forms supplied by the school business office. A copy of this report shall be submitted to the school business office no later than the 15th day following the end of the reporting month.

B. Annually, the retiring treasurer shall submit a written inventory of equipment owned by the organization, giving a description of the equipment with serial numbers or other identification, location, and name of custodian.

C. The organization shall maintain a perpetual inventory of fund-raising merchandise.

D. The organization shall appoint an auditing committee from its membership. This committee will annually arrange for an outside review of the treasurer's books and financial records and issue a written report covering its examination prior to turning the records over to the newly-elected officers.

E. Books of accounts and records of a school's PTA shall at all reasonable times be open to inspection by an authorized representative the Mississippi PTA.

F. Minutes of all meetings and actions of the organization will be kept for review for a period of not less than five (5) years.

MS Code	Description
37-3-73	Rewarding of parents for invovlement in school improvement; parent of year awards.

Cross References	Description
BCBI	Public Participation at Board Meetings
BCBI-E(1)	Public Participation at Board Meetings
KM	Visitors to the Schools

November 9, 2026

To: Mr. William Bentz
Superintendent of Education

From: Natasha R. Williams, Ph.D.
Director of Research & Development

Re: Approval of Revisions to Policy JGCC- Communicable Diseases

Please find attached the revisions for Policy JGCC- Communicable Diseases. The Harrison County School Board subscribes to the Mississippi School Board Association Policy Service, and it is up to each district that subscribes to this service to adopt, review, revise, and implement policy to ensure compliance with current practices.

Please advise if you have any questions or concerns regarding the attached policy. Thanks in advance for your consideration.

11072 Highway 49
Gulfport, MS 39503
Telephone: (228)539-6500 Facsimile: (228)539-6507
William Bentz, Superintendent of Education

Policy JGCC: Communicable Diseases

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 09/17/2013 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/16/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 05/04/2026

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

This school board has the power, authority and duty to exclude from the schools, students with what appear to be infectious or contagious diseases; provided, however, such student may be allowed to return to school upon presenting a certificate from a public health officer, duly licensed physician or nurse practitioner that the student is free from such disease. ' 37-7-301 (h)

INFESTATIONS: HEAD/BODY LICE, AND BED BUGS Infestations:

Invasion of the body by arthropods, including insects and mites.

HEAD LICE

When a student is identified as having head lice, the parent and/or guardian will be notified, and the student shall be sent home. The student must be free of live lice and nits (eggs) before returning to school. A pediculicide treatment should be used on the student and live lice and nits (eggs) must be removed from the hair. A second treatment is required in seven (7) days to prevent the re-occurrence of lice.

For any student who has had head lice on three (3) consecutive occasions during one (1) school year, the principal shall notify the county health department of the recurring problem of head lice with that student. When a student returns to school, a parent must provide proof of approved medical treatment. ' 41-79-21 (1999)

BED BUGS

Bed bugs are often spread through hitchhiking on items transported by individuals from one location to another. There is no evidence that bed bugs transmit disease. However, bed bugs can severely reduce the quality of life by causing discomfort, sleeplessness, embarrassment, and, for some people, anxiety.

When a student is identified with bed bugs present on them at school, the parent will be contacted and education materials about transporting bed bugs and care at school will be given to the parent to prevent the spread of bed bugs at school. Prompt reporting is necessary so their presence can be confirmed and prompt action taken to prevent the spread. If repeated efforts to resolve the situation are unsuccessful and the parent or guardian fails to cooperate with reasonable prevention and treatment measures, the student may be excluded from school until acceptable proof of treatment is provided, consistent with district procedures.

NOTE

Based on an assessment, the principal and/or the school nurse may require the student to be dismissed for the remainder of the day to address the infestation.

MENINGCOCCAL DISEASE

Local school boards shall ensure that all public schools and agricultural high schools provide parents and guardians with information about meningococcal disease and the effectiveness of vaccination against meningococcal disease. Such information may be provided through the school district website, student handbook or other appropriate means of dissemination of information. Such information shall be updated annually if new information on such disease is available. This information shall include the causes, symptoms and means by which meningococcal disease is spread and the places where parents and guardians may obtain additional information and vaccinations for their children. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a local school board or school to provide or purchase vaccine against meningococcal disease.

The State Board of Health shall develop and make available educational materials appropriate for distribution so that the information required by this section can be provided to parents and guardians. The Department of Health may provide this information, at its discretion, electronically, on its website. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the Department of Health to provide or purchase vaccine against meningococcal disease.

EDUCATING STUDENTS WITH CHRONIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES POLICY

The following shall be the policy of this school district for educating students known to have a chronic infectious disease (persistent illness in the carrier state as compared to an acute short-term self-limiting illness) such as, but not limited to hepatitis B, herpes simplex, AIDS/ARC or cytomegalovirus.

1. A student with a chronic infectious disease shall be removed from the classroom temporarily and until the district's medical adviser, in consultation with the student's physician, determines whether the student's presence in the school poses a risk of transmission of such chronic infectious disease to others.

2. Should it be determined by the school's medical adviser that attendance poses no threat, the student shall be allowed to resume attendance at school subject to whatever restrictions or limitations, if any, that the school's medical adviser shall recommend. The student's school attendance shall be reviewed by the school's medical adviser in consultation with the student's physician at least once every month to determine if continued school attendance poses any risk of transmission of such chronic infectious disease to others.

3. Should it be determined by the school's medical adviser that attendance at school poses a risk of transmission of such chronic infectious disease to others, an appropriate alternative education program shall be established for that student which shall continue until the district's medical adviser determines that the risk of transmission to others has abated, and normal school attendance can resume.

4. The decision of the district's medical adviser shall be final.

The law provides the school district with the power to exclude from school any student suffering from a contagious or infectious disease. Students with communicable diseases listed below are required to remain at home until a physician or qualified health care provider certifies them able to return to school. Children exposed to these diseases but not confirmed to have become infected themselves may attend school.

Chickenpox after the lesions are crusted and dry and no new lesions are forming.

Flu (Influenza) Free of fever for 24 hours and feeling well.

Measles (Rubella) Free of fever and the rash is fading (this usually takes 5 to 7 days).

Mumps until all gland swelling has subsided (usually 9–12 days).

Scarlet fever (with antibiotic) 4 days after onset of rash or 24 hours after treatment with antibiotics.

Conjunctivitis (Pink eye) 24 hours after treatment is begun with antibiotic eye drops or when redness/discharge is improving.

Hepatitis clearance by a physician.

HIV, AIDS See section on “HIV/AIDS”

Impetigo 24 hours after treatment has been started. Lesions that are still oozing and are on exposed skin surfaces should be covered.

Mononucleosis clearance by a physician.

Ringworm until treatment is begun with antifungal medication.

Scabies until treatment is administered.

Pediculosis — See Section on “Head Lice”

Other — As advised by the Public Health Department

RATIONALE

The communicable diseases which warrant exclusion from school pose a known threat of high contagion and may result in large numbers of children or staff becoming ill and being absent from school. Exclusion from school while a child is most contagious to others is intended to avoid “epidemics” of illness.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
All staff shall use the following routine and standard procedure to clean up after a student has an accident or injury at school.

1. Blood or body fluids emanating from ANY student, including ones known to have a chronic infectious disease, shall be treated cautiously.

2. Rubber gloves shall be worn when cleaning up blood spills. These spills shall be disinfected with a solution of bleach and water (1 part bleach to 7 parts water) and persons coming in contact with them shall wash their hands immediately.

3. Blood-soaked items shall be placed in leak-proof bags for washing or further disposition.

4. The same procedures shall be used for dealing with the vomit and bodily waste of ANY student.

5. Hand-washing immediately after contact with a student is routinely recommended if physical contact has been made with the student's blood or bodily fluids, including saliva.

The school district shall provide gloves and other appropriate materials for use by the staff for compliance with this policy.

MS Code	**Description**
37-7-301	General powers and duties.
41-79-21	Notification by school officials of recurrent head lice.

Cross References	**Description**
JGA	Pandemic / Epidemic Emergencies
JGC	Student Health Services
JGCB	Student Health Services Inoculations