

Quitman School District Elementary Student Handbook

2025 - 2026



Empowering Excellence

Board Approved: June 10, 2025

ELEMENTARY STUDENT HANDBOOK
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WELCOME

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and administration it is my pleasure to welcome you to a new school year in the Quitman School District. Our goal is to provide a high-quality education to all of our students. Each new school year provides tremendous opportunities for staff, students, parents and the community to join together to support our students in their educational journey.

The primary purpose of this student handbook is to inform students and parents/guardians about the policies and procedures that are followed in the school district. Please read this handbook with your student and become familiar with its contents.

We strive to build a partnership with you by having open lines of communication. If you have any questions or suggestions about information contained in this handbook, please feel free to contact us.

Dr. Minnie Dace
Superintendent

QUITMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Vision, Mission, and Goal Statement

Vision Statement

Empowering Excellence

Mission Statement

The mission of Quitman School District is to empower our students to graduate as productive, competitive citizens in a global society.

Goals

Goal 1: Increase achievement for all students.

Goal 2: Provide a safe, healthy, and orderly learning environment.

Goal 3: Engage in open, honest, and responsive communication to build positive relationships with all stakeholders.

Handbook Disclaimer Notice

This Handbook is intended to cover the general day-to-day operations of the Quitman School District, and to address matters covered within frequently asked questions. While the administration and School Board have made every effort to review this Handbook for accuracy, there may still exist some unintended errors and omissions. If a conflict exists between the terms and provisions of this Handbook as opposed to the School District's Official Policies, then in said event the Official Policies will control. The School District's Official Policies can be accessed and reviewed at:

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Index.aspx?S=36031778>.

QUITMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.quitmanschools.org

Dr. Minnie Dace, Superintendent

Quitman Lower Elementary

Grades: Pre-K - 2

Amanda Allen, Principal

101 McArthur Street

Quitman, MS 39355

(601) 776-6156

Fax: (601) 776-1035

Quitman Upper Elementary

Grades: 3 - 5

Kristen Schrimphire, Principal

300 East Franklin Street

Quitman, MS 39355

(601) 776-6123

Fax: (601) 776-1043

Quitman Junior High

Grades: 6 - 8

Debbie Chapman, Principal

501 Lynda Street

Quitman, MS 39355

(601) 776-6243

Fax: (601) 776-1288

Quitman High School

Grades: 9 - 12

Latasha Shaw, Principal

210 South Jackson Street

Quitman, MS 39355

(601) 776-3341

Fax: (601) 776-6136

Clarke County Career & Technology Center

Grades 9 - 12

Eric Turbyfill, Director

910 North Archusa Avenue

Quitman, MS 39355

(601) 776-5280

Fax: (601) 776-5219

Alternative School

Dr. Nina McGhee, Director

200 South Jackson Avenue

Quitman, MS 39355

(601) 776-1047

Fax: (601) 776-1051

Quitman School Board Members

Cheryl Waltman, President

William Price, Vice-President

Lewis Jefferson, Secretary

Brenda McCormick, Board Member

Anthony Turner, Board Member

Quitman School District

School Calendar for 2025 - 2026

Board approved: 1/13/2025

Jul 16-25	2 Professional Days Required - Teachers Choice
Jul 25	New Teacher Orientation @ Schools
Jul 29	First Day for Teachers (Opening Convocation)
Jul 30	Teacher Day
Jul 31	First Day for Students
Sep 1	Labor Day Holiday
Sep 4	Progress Reports
Oct 2-3	Exams
Oct 3	End of 1 st Nine Weeks (46 days)
Oct 6-10	Fall Break
Oct 13	Beginning of 2 nd Nine Weeks
Oct 20	Report Cards
Oct 20	Parent Conf. Day (63% Day for Students)
Nov 6	Progress Reports
Nov 24-28	Thanksgiving Holidays
Dec 18-19	Exams
Dec 19	End of 2 nd Nine Weeks (60%) (45 days)
Dec 22 – Jan 2	Christmas/New Year's Holidays
Jan 5	Staff Returns
Jan 6	Students Return
Jan 6	Beginning of 3 rd Nine Weeks
Jan 8	Report Cards
Jan 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Feb 16	Progress Reports
Feb 16	Parent Conf. Day (No Students)
Mar 5-6	Exams
Mar 6	End of 3 rd Nine Weeks (42 days)
Mar 9-13	Spring Break
Mar 16	Beginning of 4 th Nine Weeks
Mar 19	Report Cards
Apr 3	Good Friday Holiday
Apr 6	Inclement Weather Make-up Day, (If Needed)
Apr 16	Progress Reports
May 15	QHS Graduation (7:00pm)
May 19 – 21	Exams
May 21	Last Day Students (60%) (47 days)
May 22	Last Day for Teachers

MESSAGE TO PARENTS

Parents,

We realize that from time-to-time issues may arise that require assistance from the school staff. In an effort to facilitate consistency and communication between parent(s) and staff, we request you **adhere to the following** chain of command to resolve these issues.

- 1st - Teacher
- 2nd - Principal and/or Transportation Director
- 3rd - Superintendent

QUITMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Quitman School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion or age in the admission and provision of educational programs, activities and services or employment opportunities and benefits. The district must also designate a compliance coordinator to respond to questions or complaints from applicants, employees, students and other interested persons. The district's designated coordinator is:

Dr. Minnie Dace, Superintendent
Quitman School District
104 East Franklin Street
Quitman, MS 39355
601-776-2186

ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION UPDATE

This annual notification is to advise you that the Quitman School District is in compliance with EPA's Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986. During the past school year, we have conducted the required annual six-month re-inspection of all buildings. The last AHERA inspection was conducted in March 2021. There was no abatement during school year 2022-2023. A two-hour awareness training was provided for maintenance. Management plans are located in the Quitman Public Library, as well as in each principal's office, maintenance office, and the district office. If you should have any questions, please contact the district's LEA designee, Mr. **Mitchell Kelly**, at 601-776-1045.

COVID-19 Statement

It is essential for the school community to work together to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in the school environment and in the community while still providing a quality education program.

Student Enrollment
Compulsory Age and Attendance

The Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law states that any child who has attained or will attain the age of six (6) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year and who has not attained the age of seventeen (17) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year, and shall include any child who has attained or will attain the age of five (5) years on or before September 1 and has enrolled in a full-day public school kindergarten program. Provided, however, that the parent or guardian of any child enrolled in a full-day public school kindergarten program shall be allowed to dis-enroll the child from the program on a one-time basis, and such child shall not be deemed a compulsory-school-age child until that child attains the age of six (6) years. (**§ 37-13-91**)

If a compulsory school age child has not been enrolled in a school within fifteen (15) calendar days after the first day of the school year, or such child is habitually absent without excuse, the principal shall report this child to the school attendance officer of the youth court or family court for investigation.

Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child who fails to perform any of the duties imposed upon him or her shall be guilty of contributing to the neglect of a child and, upon conviction, shall be punished in accordance with Section 97-5-39.

The presentation of evidence that shows that the child has not been enrolled within eighteen (18) calendar days after the first day of the school year or that the child has accumulated twelve (12) unlawful absences during the school year shall establish a *prima facie* case that the child's parent, guardian or custodian is responsible for the absences and has refused or willfully failed to perform the duties imposed upon him or her under this section.

Any parent, guardian or custodian who commits any act or omits the performance of duty shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or by imprisonment not to exceed one (1) year in jail, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

School Admission

The Quitman School District operates under a federal court order. Residency requirements are set by law and strictly enforced. The requirements stated above are minimum requirements which will be maintained on file. The school district reserves the right to require additional documentation and verification at any time.

The following is the Quitman School District policy JBC -School Admission Revised: 04/22/2024

SCHOOL ADMISSION

The term minor, when used in any statute, shall include any person, male or female, under twenty-one years of age. MS Code 1-3-27

ENROLLMENT AGE

Except as provided in subsection (2) and subject to the provisions of subsection (3) of MS Code 37-15-9, no child shall be enrolled or admitted to any kindergarten which is a part of the free public school system during any school year unless such child will reach his fifth birthday on or before September 1 of said school year, and no child shall be enrolled or admitted to the first grade in any school which is a part of the free public school system during any school year unless such child will reach his sixth birthday on or before September 1 of said school year. No pupil shall be permanently enrolled in a school in the State of Mississippi who formerly was enrolled in another public or private school within the state until the cumulative record of the pupil shall have been received from the school from which he transferred. Should such record have become lost or destroyed, then it shall be the duty of the superintendent or principal of the school where the pupil last attended school to initiate a new record. 37-15-9 (1) (2003)

EVIDENCE OF AGE

It shall be the responsibility of the person in charge of each school to enforce the requirement for evidence of the age of each pupil before enrollment. If the first prescribed evidence is not available, the next evidence obtainable in the order set forth below shall be accepted:

- a) A certified birth certificate;
- b) A duly attested transcript of a certificate of baptism showing the date of birth and place of baptism of the child, accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by a parent, grandparent or custodian;
- c) An insurance policy on the child's life which has been in force for at least two (2) years;
- d) A bona fide contemporary Bible record of the child's birth accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the parent, grandparent or custodian;
- e) A passport or certificate of arrival in the United States showing the age of the child;
- f) A transcript of record of age shown in the child's school record of at least four (4) years prior to application, stating date of birth; or
- g) If none of these evidences can be produced, an affidavit of age sworn to by a parent, grandparent or custodian. Any child enrolling in Kindergarten or Grade 1 shall present the required evidence of age upon enrollment. Any child in Grades 2 through 12 not in compliance at the end of sixty (60) days from enrollment shall be suspended until in compliance. 37-15-1 (2002)

PARENT, LEGAL GUARDIAN OR LEGAL CUSTODIAN

Whenever any minor child seeks or applies to enroll or gain entrance to any public school in this state, and the child is not accompanied by an adult or is accompanied by an adult who is not the child's parent, guardian, if a legal guardian has been appointed for the child, or legal custodian, the school official or officials or teacher to whom the child applies or reports for enrollment or admission may delay consideration of the enrollment or enlistment of the minor child and require the child's parent, legal guardian or legal custodian to accompany the child and apply for enrollment and admission into the school for and on behalf of the minor child. 37-15-11 (2002)

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

1. This school district shall admit into its free public schools all minor-age children (MS Code 1-3-27) and all compulsory school age children as defined by in MS Code 37-13-91 (2) (f).
2. Each minor child shall attend school in the school district of his/her residence unless legally transferred to another school district by the school board pursuant to MS Code 37-15-29.
3. Except for those students who have been legally transferred, each minor child seeking to enroll in this school district shall be a school district resident. All students shall register at the school they are assigned to attend. 37-15-29; 37-15-13
4. Any new student enrolling in this school district or any continuing student whose residence has changed shall be accompanied to enrollment by a parent, guardian, adult custodian or adult agent of a social service agency of the district who shall register the minor child for admission, except students who have been legally transferred. The accompanying adult shall be required to verify his/her residence as herein provided as part of the registration process. 37-15-11
5. The person in charge of each school shall require any child enrolling in kindergarten or grade 1 to present a certified birth certificate and valid immunization certificate upon enrollment. No child will be allowed to enroll in or attend any school without a certified birth certificate and a valid immunization certificate. 37-15-1
6. Subject to the provisions of MS Code 37-15-9, subsection (3), [see item 7 below] any child who transfers from an out-of-state public or private school in which that state's law provides for a first grade or kindergarten enrollment date subsequent to September 1, shall be allowed to enroll in this school district at the same grade level as their prior out-of-state enrollment, if:
 - a. The parent, legal guardian or custodian of such child was a legal resident of the state from which the child is transferring;
 - b. The out-of-state school from which the child is transferring is duly accredited by that state's appropriate accrediting authority;
 - c. Such child was legally enrolled in a public or private school for a minimum of four (4) weeks in the previous state; and
 - d. The superintendent of schools of this school district has determined that the child was making satisfactory educational progress in the previous state. 37-15-9
7. When any child applies for admission or enrollment in any public school in the state, the parent, guardian or child, in the absence of an accompanying parent or guardian, shall indicate on the school registration form if the enrolling child has been expelled from any public or private school or is currently a party to an expulsion proceeding. If it is determined from the child's cumulative record or application for admission or enrollment that the child has been expelled, the school district may deny the student admission and enrollment until the superintendent of the school or his designee has reviewed the child's cumulative record and determined that the child has participated in successful rehabilitative efforts including, but not limited to, progress in an alternative school or similar program. If the child is a party to an expulsion proceeding, the child may be admitted to a public school pending final disposition of the expulsion proceeding. If the expulsion proceeding results in the expulsion of the child, the public school may revoke such

admission to school. If the child was expelled or is a party to an expulsion proceeding for an act involving violence, weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs or other activity that may result in expulsion, the school district shall not be required to grant admission or enrollment to the child before one (1) calendar year after the date of the expulsion. 37-15-9 (3)

8. No child shall be allowed to enroll in or attend any school without a valid immunization certificate. 37-15-1

Valid certificates include:

1. Form 121 -- Certificate of Immunization Compliance
2. Form 122 -- Certificate of Medical/Religious Exemption

MEDICAL AND RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS FOR VACCINATION

Any child seeking admission or enrollment may seek a medical or religious exemption from the vaccination requirement. In order to seek an exemption, the parent or guardian must complete and submit the appropriate form to the Mississippi State Department of Health.

Once all requirements have been met, the Mississippi State of Health will issue a Certificate of Medical/Religious Exemption (Form 122) to the parent or guardian. That form must then be presented to the district. The district will not acknowledge any medical or religious exemption without the appropriate form on file in the central office.

In his/her discretion, the superintendent may grant an extension to allow a parent or guardian to obtain an appointment with a health care provider and to return the completed 139-R (religious) or 139-M (medical) exemption request form to the school district. The district reserves the right to revoke the exemption and remove the child from school if the parent or guardian does not return all completed forms in a timely manner.

Children with a Certificate of Medical/Religious Exemption who are not adequately immunized will be excluded from school if there is a threat of vaccine preventable disease occurring in the community. The child will be excluded until the infectious disease is no longer present or is no longer a threat to the safety and welfare of the child or other children in the school.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will develop procedures to support this policy.

RESIDENCE VERIFICATION PROCEDURE

Definition of residence for school attendance purposes: The student physically resides full time week days/nights and weekends, at a place of abode located within the limits of this school district.

Residency may be determined in the following manner:

1. **STUDENTS LIVING WITH PARENT(S) OR GUARDIAN(S)**

The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a student seeking to enroll must provide this school district with at least two of the items numbered 1 through 10 below as verification of their address, except that a document with a post office box as an address will not be accepted.

1. Filed Homestead Exemption Application form
2. Mortgage documents or property deed
3. Apartment or home lease
4. Utility bills
5. Driver's license
6. Voter precinct identification
7. Automobile registration
8. Affidavit and/or personal visit by a designated school district official
9. Any other documentation that will objectively and unequivocally establish that the parent or guardian resides within the school district
10. Certified copy of filed petition for guardianship if pending and final decree when granted

2. **HOMELESS CHILDREN**

When a child is determined to be homeless as defined by the Stewart B. McKinney Act 42 USC Section 11431 (1), 11432 (e) and 11302 (a), this school district shall consider and take enrollment action that is in the best interest of the child pursuant to 42 USC 11432 (e) (3).

3. **STUDENTS LIVING WITH ADULTS OTHER THAN PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS:**

1. The non-parent(s) claiming district residency must meet the criteria of subparagraph (a) (1) through (10) above, required of a parent or legal guardian.
2. The district resident must provide the school with an affidavit stating his or her relationship to the student, and that the student will be living at his/her abode full time, and provide documentation fully explaining the reason(s) (other than school attendance zone or district preference) for this arrangement. The superintendent or his/her designee will make the necessary factual determinations as required under this policy. Examples of situations where in loco parentis authority of an adult will be recognized to establish residency of the minor include but are not limited to the following:
 - a) Death or serious illness of the child's parent(s) or guardian(s);
 - b) Abandonment of the child;
 - c) Child abuse or neglect;
 - d) Unstable family relationships or undesirable conditions in the home of the child's parents or guardians having a detrimental effect on the child;
 - e) Students enrolled in recognized exchange programs residing with host families.

3. Whenever appropriate the person who has assumed responsibility for the care and custody of the child shall be encouraged to obtain legal guardianship of the child.
4. **STUDENTS OF MILITARY FAMILIES**
 - a. A pupil complies with the residency requirements for school attendance in a school district if the parent of the pupil is transferred to, or is pending transfer to, a military installation with this state while on active military duty pursuant to an official military order. A school district shall accept an application for enrollment and course registration by electronic means for a pupil who meets these requirements, including enrollment in a specific school or program within the school district.
 - b. The parent of a pupil who meets these requirements shall provide proof of residence to the school district within ten (10) days after the published date provided on official documentation.
 - c. The parent may use the address of any of the following as proof of residence.
 - A temporary on-base billeting facility.
 - A purchased or leased home or apartment.
 - Any federal government housing or off-base military housing, including off-base military housing that may be provided through a public-private venture

The school district may require additional documentation and verification at any time.

At the minimum, this school district shall maintain in a file a written instrument identifying the types of documents used to verify each student's residency and copies of any relevant guardianship petition or decree.

The provisions of this policy do not apply to students who reside outside the school district, but who have legally transferred into the school district.

Any court ordered procedure shall take precedent over any procedure contained herein.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

1. No student is to be enrolled in this school district until any and all questions regarding residence or immunizations have been resolved.
2. Students suspended or expelled from another school or school district may not be allowed to enroll. 37-15-9 (3)
3. No pupil shall be permanently enrolled in a school in this school district who formerly was enrolled in another school within the state or outside the state until the cumulative record of said pupil shall have been received from the school from which he transferred. Should such record have become lost or destroyed, then it shall be the duty of the superintendent or principal of the school where the pupil last attended school to initiate a new record. 37-15-9 (1)
4. Unless a transfer student is tested in the manner provided in paragraph 5 below, the student will be permanently enrolled and placed in a grade or class on the basis of an official transcript of credits from the last school attended. 37-15-33
5. All students seeking to transfer from any school, public or private, within or outside of the boundaries of the State of Mississippi, to this school district shall be required to take a standardized test to determine the grade and class to which the pupil shall be assigned at the time of pupil transfer.
The administrative head of the school shall administer the test or tests to such pupil or pupils as shall apply for transfer to such public school. Such test or tests shall be administered within thirty days after the filing of each such application for transfer. Notice of the giving of such test shall be given the applicant not less than five days prior to the date of the administration of such test. No transfer of a pupil shall be affected until the test has been given and the pupil is assigned to the grade and class for which the test shows he is best suited. No pupil shall be assigned to a grade and class more than three (3) grades above or below the grade or class that the pupil would have been assigned to had the pupil remained in the school from which the transfer is being made. Pending the administration of the test herein provided for and its grading and an assignment based thereon the superintendent of this school district or the attendance center principal to which the pupil seeks admission may assign the pupil temporarily to a grade and class comparable to that in which the pupil would have been had the pupil continued in the school from which the transfer was being made. If any student is transferred or reassigned within this school district by an order of the board of trustees of this school district as designated by law of the State of Mississippi and not at his own request, the requirement of that pupil's taking the standardized test shall be waived. Likewise, if a pupil shall transfer from one school district to another school district in the manner provided and required by the laws of the State of Mississippi, the requirement of such pupil taking the standardized test shall be waived. 37-15-33
6. Any legal guardianship formed for the purpose of establishing residency for school district attendance purposes shall not be recognized by this school board. 37-15-31 (1) (d)

NOTICE FOR DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal Law, requires that **Quitman School District**, with certain exceptions, obtain your consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, **Quitman School District**, may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without consent, unless you have advised the district to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Quitman School District to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be

disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistant under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories—names, addresses and telephone listings—unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without prior written consent. (1)

If you do not want **Quitman School District** to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the principal (of the building in which your student attends) in writing by September 1st (of each year). **Quitman School District** has designated the following information as directory information: [**Note: an LEA may, but does not have to, include all the information listed below.**]

- **Student's name**
- **Address**
- **Telephone number**
- **Electronic mail address**
- **Photograph**
- **Date and place of birth**
- **Major field of study**
- **Dates of attendance**
- **Grade level**
- **Participation in officially recognized activities and sports**
- **Weight and height of members of athletic teams**
- **Degrees, honors, and awards received**
- **The most recent educational agency or institution attended**
- **Student ID number, used ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems that cannot be used to access education records without PIN, *password*, etc. (A student's SSN, in whole or in part, cannot be used for this purpose.)**

Footnotes:

1. These laws are: Section 9528 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 7908), as amended, and 10 U.S.C. § 503©, as amended.

ATTENDANCE

ABSENCES

Regular attendance and academic success go hand in hand. The Quitman School District requires students to regularly attend class sessions in order to receive a grade.

Excessive unexcused absences (5 or more) must be reported to the School Attendance Officer. All absences must be followed by a note from home stating why the student was absent. The excuse shall contain the date written, the cause of the absence, physician's excuse (if applicable), the parent/legal guardian's signature. Only 2 days per nine-weeks will be excused with a parent note. If the school is not notified **in writing**, the absence will be unexcused. Absences will be considered excused if they are due to: illness of the student, a death in the family, doctor appointments, religious holidays, school-related absences, and absences pre-arranged with the principal.

An exception to this policy may be considered in the case of catastrophic illness or injury.

The Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law states that any child who has attained or will attain the age of six (6) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year and who has not attained the age of seventeen (17) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year, and shall include any child who has attained or will attain the age of five (5) years on or before September 1 and has enrolled in a full-day public school kindergarten program. Provided, however, that the parent or guardian of any child enrolled in a full-day public school kindergarten program shall be allowed to dis-enroll the child from the program on a one-time basis, and such child shall not be deemed a compulsory-school-age child until that child attains the age of six (6) years. (§ 37-13-91)

Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child who fails to perform any of the duties imposed upon him or her shall be guilty of contributing to the neglect of a child and, upon conviction, shall be punished in accordance with Section 97-5-39.

The presentation of evidence that shows that the child has not been enrolled within eighteen (18) calendar days after the first day of the school year or that the child has accumulated twelve (12) unlawful absences during the school year shall establish a *prima facie* case that the child's parent, guardian or custodian is responsible for the absences and has refused or willfully failed to perform the duties imposed upon him or her under this section.

Any parent, guardian or custodian who commits any act or omits the performance of duty shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or by imprisonment not to exceed one (1) year in jail, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Students who are consistently checked out early without just cause will be reported to the Attendance Officer. The Attendance Officer can be reached at 601-776-2186, ext. 1013.

The cut-off day for acceptance of doctor’s excuses is 3 days after the student returns to school. Parent notes are required to be turned in within 3 days after the student returns to school. After such day, no absences will be excused.

*Students should not return to school unless free of fever for 24 hours.

CHECK OUTS

Any student leaving school before dismissal time must be checked out through the office and will only be released to a parent, guardian, or their designee. In order to reduce the number of late afternoon interruptions, students will not be approved for check out after 2:30 p.m. at QLE and 2:45 p.m. at QUE on the regular schedule; and after 1:30 p.m. on the Wednesday schedule.

Students who are checked out early for reasons other than illness of the student, a death in the family, a medical appointment, or religious reasons which have been pre-arranged with the principal, may be reported to the attendance officer for further action.

DAILY SCHEDULES for QLE and QUE

QLE DAILY SCHEDULE

- 7:25 a.m. ----- Students arrive on campus.
- 7:25 - 7:45 a.m. -- QUE students go to the cafeteria for breakfast.
- 8:00 a.m. ----- Classes begin for grades PreK-2
- 3:10 p.m. ----- QLE dismissal begins

- PreK – 2 car riders should be dropped off in the parking area. A staff member is on duty until 7:50 a.m.
- No students will be checked out after 2:30 p.m. on Monday-Tuesday-Thursday-Friday and after 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday
- Only QSD employees may drop off their child/children before 7:25 a.m.
- PreK afternoon dismissal/car riders are at 2:30 p.m.

QUE DAILY SCHEDULE

- 7:25 a.m. ----- Students arrive on campus.
- 7:25 - 7:45 a.m. -- QUE students go to the cafeteria for breakfast.
- 7:50 a.m. ----- Classes begin for grade 3-5.
- 3:10 p.m. ----- QUE car riders and buses begin loading.

- Students **will not** be checked out after 2:45 p.m. on Monday-Tuesday-Thursday-Friday and after 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday
- All 3 – 5 car riders should be dropped off and picked up using the covered one-way drive-in front of the school. Please do not use this area for parking.
- Only QSD employees may drop off their child/children before 7:25 a.m.

Bell Schedules for Quitman Lower Elementary

QLE Delayed Start Schedule	
10:00am	Classes Begin
*Breakfast will not be served on a late start day.	
**Regular schedule will be followed from 10:00 a.m.	

QLE Early Dismissal Schedule	
8:00am	Classes Begin
10:00am – 11:15am	Lunch
11:00am	Pre-Kindergarten Dismissal
11:45am	Kindergarten – 2 nd Gr. Dismissal

QLE 60% Schedule	
8:00	Instructional Day Begins
11:50	Instructional Day Ends
200	Instructional Minutes
	*30 Minute Lunch
**No Activity Classes - Art, Music, PE, Library	

QLE 63% Schedule	
8:00	Instructional Day Begins
12:00	Instructional Day Ends
210	Instructional Minutes
	*30 Minute Lunch
**No Activity Classes - Art, Music, PE, Library	

Bell Schedules for Quitman Upper Elementary

QUE Regular Schedule				
Start	End	Activity	Time	Min.
7:50 AM	10:00 AM	1 st Class	2:10	130
10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Elective	1.00	60
11:00 AM	11:15AM	2 nd Class	0.15	15
11:15 AM	11:40 AM	Lunch	0.25	25

QUE Wednesday Schedule				
Start	End	Activity	Time	Min.
7:50 AM	10:05 AM	1 st Class	2:15	135
10:05 AM	11:45 AM	2 nd Class	1:40	100
11:45 AM	12:10 PM	Lunch	0:25	25
12:10 PM	12:15 PM	2 nd Class	0:05	5

11:40 AM	1:25 PM	2 nd Class	1: 45	105
1:25 PM	2:00 PM	Recess/RR	0:35	35
2:00 PM	3:00 PM	WIN Time	1:00	60
3:00 PM	3:10 PM	Prep for Dismissal	0:10	10
Total Daily Instructional Minutes				440

12:15 PM	1:15 PM	Elective	1.00	60
1:15 PM	1:50 PM	2 nd Class	0:35	35
Total Daily Instructional Minutes				360
*** No Recess or WIN Time on Wednesday				

QUE 60% Day Schedule				
Start	End	Activity	Time	Min.
7:50 AM	9:35 AM	1 st Class	1:45	105
9:35 AM	10:45 AM	2 nd Class	1:10	70
10:45 AM	11:15 AM	Lunch	0:30	30
11:15 AM	11:45 AM	2 nd Class	0:30	30
11:45 AM	11:50 AM	Prep for Dismissal	0:05	5
Delayed Start Schedule				
Start	End	Activity	Time	Min.
10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1 st Class	1:30	90
11:30 AM	11:55 AM	Lunch	0:25	25
11:55 AM	12:45 PM	1 st Class	0:50	50
12:45 PM	3:05 PM	2 nd Class	2:20	145
3:05 PM	3:10	Prep for Dismissal	0:05	5

QUE 63% Day Schedule				
Start	End	Activity	Time	Min.
7:50 AM	9:40 AM	1 st Class	1:50	110
9:40 AM	10:45 AM	2 nd Class	1:05	65
10:45 AM	11:15 AM	Lunch	0:30	30
11:15 AM	11:55 AM	2 nd Class	0:40	40
11:55 AM	12:00 PM	Prep for Dismissal	0:05	5

DISMISSAL

Under no circumstance may students be dismissed as a reward for performance or as a result of travel to participate in an extra-curricular activity the preceding day.

All proposed early dismissals should be submitted to the principal for approval at least one week prior to the proposed dismissal. All exceptions are to be approved by the superintendent.

MAKE-UP WORK

It is the student’s responsibility to make up work that is missed. A student who needs to make up work after an absence, must contact each of his/her teachers immediately upon returning to school to make arrangements for making up the work.

A student who receives out-of-school suspension will be allowed to make up any daily work missed. This will also apply for unexcused absences. A student will be allowed to make up all major exams (nine-week, semester, final).

TARDY

Definitions

Tardy to School - failure to report to school before 8:00 a.m. at Quitman Lower Elementary and 7:50 at Quitman Upper Elementary

When a student is tardy:

- a. A parent or legal guardian must sign the student in at the front office.
- b. Late buses will be excused, but the student is required to report to the office for an admittance slip to class.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS POLICY

Descriptor Code: CNA **Revised Date:** 11/17/2022

PUBLIC RECORDS ACCESS PROCEDURES

The following policies and procedures are adopted in order to comply with the requirements of the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983 (hereinafter the “ACT”).

RECORDS ACCESSIBLE

All “public records” maintained by the district, as defined by the Act, shall be made available for access and duplication, subject to the exceptions and requirements of these policies, and other state or federal laws.

REQUESTS FOR ACCESS

Requests for access to public records shall be filed in writing, on forms provided, with the Superintendent of Schools. The request must state with sufficient specificity the nature, location, and description of the public record sought in order to enable the appropriate official(s) of the district to obtain the records for review and/or duplication. In the event that the request lacks sufficient clarity or is otherwise unduly burdensome, it will be returned to the originator for classification or correction. All requests to inspect or duplicate public records must be

filed between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on any working day in the superintendent's office. Requests for inspection and/or duplication of records shall be honored at such time during the day as the documents are not being used by the appropriate officials of the district. After the records are located and made available for inspection and/or duplication, the originator of the request will be notified of a time, place and date, not later than seven (7) business days from the date of the receipt of the pre-payment of all copying, retrieval, and mailing expenses. **In certain cases, public records can be sent electronically.**

FEES CHARGED

As allowed by statute, the district shall charge and collect fees to reimburse it for the actual cost of searching, reviewing, duplicating and mailing copies of public records. All applicable charges shall be paid to the district in advance of complying with any requests, pursuant to the following schedule:

- Photocopying: 30 cents per page, with a minimum charge of \$1.00 per search.
- Transcripts: A cost of \$1.00 will be charged for transcripts.
- CDs: A cost of \$10.00 will be charged for CDs.
- Searching and Reviewing: An hourly charge of \$8.00 or in the event it is necessary for supervisory personnel to conduct the search and review then an amount which equals the actual wage per hour of such person. This charge will not apply when searching for and retrieving a student's educational records.
- Postage: Actual cost of postage shall be assessed for all records mailed.

Any request which will require considerable assistance of school personnel for searching and reviewing shall be subject to a minimum deposit of \$50.00. In the event that the actual cost is found to be less than \$50.00, the balance shall be refunded to the originator of the request at the appointed time for the inspection and/or duplication.

EXEMPT RECORDS

The following records are exempt from the Act and from this policy and shall not be subject to disclosure, except under other authority and under appropriate circumstances.

1. Records furnished to public bodies by third parties which contain trade secrets or confidential, commercial or financial information, as provided by the Act.
2. Records which are confidential or privileged, as provided by constitutional, statutory or case law of this state or of the United States.
3. Records which are developed among judges, judges and their aides, and juries.
4. Personnel records, including but not limited to applicants for employment, test questions and answers used in employment examinations, and letters of recommendation.
5. Test questions and answers in the possession of a public body which are to be used in future academic examinations.
6. Records which represent and constitute the work product of an attorney representing the district records which are related to litigation by or against the district, or in anticipation of prospective litigation, and communications between the district and the attorney in the course of an attorney-client relationship.
7. Records which disclose information about a person's individual tax payment or status.
8. Records concerning the sale or purchase of property for public purposes prior to the announcement of the purchase or sale where the release of the record would have a detrimental effect on the sale and purchase.
9. All educational records of students and former students, as defined by Policy JCG and by the Federal Privacy Act; such exemption shall also apply to letters of recommendation respecting admission to any educational agency or institution.
10. Records that are maintained regarding the process of detection and investigation of unlawful activity, in addition to such records as defined in Section 45-29-1 of the Mississippi Code of 1972.
11. Commercial and financial information of a proprietary nature required to be submitted to the district.
12. Certain information technology (IT) records in accordance with MS Code 25-61-11-2.
13. School safety plan documentation containing preventive services listed in Section 37-3-83.

DENIAL OF ACCESS

In the event that the district denies a request for access to or copies of public records, the denial will be in writing and contain a statement of the reasons for the denial. The district will maintain a record of all denials for a period of three (3) years.

BEVERAGES/OUTSIDE FOOD ON CAMPUS

Outside food or beverages must be in a non-descriptive container to be in compliance with the District Wellness Policy and Child Nutrition Guidelines. Water/clear liquids, if brought, must be in a clear container.

BOOK BAG POLICY

(Board policy JCDBB)

It is board policy that no student in grades 6 - 12 will be allowed to bring a book bag or any other carrying bag to school. ***Students may bring purses that do not exceed 7 inches in width by 10 inches in length.***

BUS NOTES FROM PARENTS

Bus notes should be for occasional use. It is the policy of both the Quitman Lower Elementary and the Quitman Upper Elementary that if any change in transportation becomes necessary a hand-written note must be received by the teacher or the receptionist no later than 2:00 pm. There will be no communications accepted by e-mail, fax, or telephone. The note must include the student's name, teacher's name, bus number or car-rider, dates of change, address for bus drop-off, date received and signature by parent or guardian and school official.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

The Quitman School District operates transportation services as required by state law which directs that all school districts furnish transportation to pupils living one or more miles from their attendance center. All district transportation service is handled through the Quitman School District Transportation Department. This department provides training to drivers, and informational programs to administration and students emphasizing transportation regulations and bus safety.

It is the driver's responsibility to drive safely. It is the student's responsibility to behave appropriately. The purpose of any rule or regulation related to bus transportation is to ensure the safety of our students and to provide for an orderly operation of the bus. Parents, students and school personnel can be most effective in promoting safety and orderly conduct when they work together.

Riding the school bus is a privilege. This privilege carries with it some responsibilities on the part of the student. Behavior which prevents the driver and the student from having a safe trip to and from school will not be tolerated.

Any violation of conduct by students, performed while on the school bus, waiting to board the school bus, or departing from the school bus, shall be addressed by utilizing the assertive discipline steps prescribed for elementary and secondary levels in the respective handbooks. Students may be denied the privilege of riding the bus because of improper behavior, including the suspension of the privilege of riding the bus for the remainder of the school year, if the Superintendent determines the action is necessary for the safety of the other students on the bus. (MS State Code 37-7-301, e). Consequences for misconduct on the bus will be consistently applied. Disciplinary problems on a bus may result in loss of riding privileges.

Student bus riders (absent for two (2) consecutive days)

If the student lives on a dead-end road or is the only pick-up on the road and the student is absent for two (2) consecutive days the bus driver will not be required to come by on the third day. In order for the bus driver to resume pick-up the student will need to ride the bus home to make the driver aware, a parent/guardian will need to call or send a parent note to the school the student attends stating the student will be riding the following morning or notify the Transportation Director at 601-776-1048 that pick-up will be needed.

Any questions regarding school transportation should be directed to Office of Transportation, Quitman School District, (601) 776-1048.

BUS VIDEOS

The Board of Education recognizes the district's continuing responsibilities to maintain and improve discipline and to insure the health, welfare and safety of its staff and students on school transportation vehicles. The Board supports the use of video cameras on its transportation vehicles as a means to promote the order, safety and security of students and staff.

Video cameras may be used on school buses to monitor student behavior while traveling to and from school and school activities. The Board believes that such monitoring will deter misconduct and help to ensure the safety of students and staff. Students found to be in violation of the district's bus conduct rules shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with district policy and regulation.

Due to Federal Laws regarding the rights to privacy for all individuals, only appropriate school personnel may view the video footage recorded by bus cameras. Parents will not be allowed to view any video footage recorded by bus cameras.

CHILD FIND PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN

It is the policy of the Quitman School District that the district-wide child identification, location, and evaluation process in Quitman be ongoing. Local school district personnel are continuing the search for unserved children with disabilities in the age range birth through 21 years of age.

Early identification of children in need of special educational experiences is most important to each child. Furthermore, this information gathered from contacts with parents and other agencies will be used to help determine present and future program needs as progress is made toward the goal of providing a free appropriate public education to all children with disabilities.

The child-find director works with the local Head Start, Welfare, Health and Mental Health agencies, as well as local education agencies, physicians, licensed day care providers, local juvenile correctional facilities, and other individuals to identify and locate children out of school and in school who may be in need of special education services. Information which could identify an individual child will be maintained by this agency and will be provided to other agencies only in accordance with the Family Rights and Privacy Act and IDEA-B. As a parent, you are guaranteed the right to inspect any such information about your child and to challenge its accuracy. Access to this information is forbidden to any unauthorized person without informed consent. If you have questions regarding the collection, maintenance, and use of data about your child, please contact:

*Quitman School District
Hope Roberts, Child-Find Director
104 East Franklin Street
Quitman, MS 39355 (601) 776-3754*

The child-find director is responsible for district-wide coordination of the planning and implementation of the child identification, location, and evaluation effort of children (birth through 21) who have disabilities (regardless of the severity of the disability), and who are in need of special education and/or related services.

The child-find director works with the local Head Start, Welfare, Health, and Mental Health agencies, as well as local education agencies, physicians, and other individuals to identify and locate children out of school and in school who may be in need of special education services.

Once a referral is made, it is the responsibility of the child-find director to ensure that the referral-to-placement procedures are followed. The director works with local survey committees at each school to implement the following procedures:

- Prior to evaluation, a copy of "Procedural Safeguards" is given to parents.
- District personnel explain to parents the "Procedural Safeguards."
- After parental consent for testing is obtained, a non-discriminatory evaluation is conducted.
- Students are evaluated in all areas related to the suspected disability by qualified personnel.
- Parents participate in the meeting to determine whether the child has a disability.
- An Individual Education Plan (IEP) is developed for the student before the student is placed.
- Parents must sign permission for placement.
- All students receiving special education services are reassessed at least once a year and reevaluated at least once every three years.

The district now has special education programs which serve student's ages three through 20 who have developmental delays, physical, mental, communicative, and/or emotional disabilities.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The Quitman School District will work in cooperation with the Mississippi State Health Department to prevent, control, and contain communicable diseases in schools. As required by state law, students with communicable diseases are not permitted to attend school. The recommended days to stay out of school are:

Mumps	Nine days
Measles	Until free of fever & rash is fading (usually 5-7 days)
Scabies	Until treatment has been initiated
Ringworm	Until treatment has been initiated
Chicken Pox	Until lesions are crusted & dry, with no new lesions forming
Impetigo	Student may return to class 24 hours after treatment has been initiated. Any exposed lesions must be covered.
Pink Eye	After a physician has been seen or when redness/discharge is improving
Fifth Disease	Until free of fever
Head Lice	(refer to policy JGCC)

If a child has head lice, the following procedures will be taken:

- Parents will be notified to pick up their child at school.
- After proper treatment with a killing product, the child may return to school.
- Upon his/her return to school, an empty box, bottle or box top from the louse killing product used must accompany him/her.
- If a nit product requires a re-treatment, a re-treatment date must be scheduled for seven (7) days later and proof should be sent to the school.

During the school year, students may be screened for head lice. Screenings should be done by appropriate school staff. Throughout the year any student suspected of having head lice is examined by an appropriate staff member with final determination made by the school nurse. In the absence of the school nurse from the district, the building administrator becomes the final determination. Finding a live nymph or adult louse is an indication of head lice infestation. If crawling lice are not seen, finding nits or lice eggs within ¼ inch of the base of hair shafts suggests, but does not confirm, the person is infested. Nits (eggs) may still be seen in an adequately treated child, and is not evidence of continuing infestation if the child has been properly treated and no adult lice are present (successful treatment should kill crawling lice). Care is taken not to embarrass the student and to ensure that no stigma is attached to him/her.

Parents will be notified by phone or letter regarding appropriate treatment. If lice are found, the parent or guardian will be called to take the student home for treatment.

"If a student in any public elementary or secondary school has had head lice on three (3) consecutive occasions during one (1) school year while attending school, or if the parent of the student has been notified by the school officials that the student has had head lice on three (3) consecutive occasions in one (1) school year, as determined by the school nurse, public health nurse, or physician, the principal/administrator shall notify the county health department of the recurring problem of head lice with that student." 41-79-21 (1999)

A student may return before the recommended number of days if he/she obtains permission from the attending physician or health nurse.

ANY STUDENT WITH A TEMPERATURE OF 100⁰, VOMITING OR DIARRHEA MUST BE PICKED UP IMMEDIATELY AND MUST BE FEVER FREE FOR 24 HOURS WITHOUT FEVER REDUCING MEDICATION.

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

Educational Amendments: 1964, 1972, Others

In accordance with policies: JAA, Equal Educational Opportunities; JB, Students Complaints of Sexual Discrimination/Harassment-Title IX; and IDDH, Section 504-Americans with Disabilities Act--Non-Discrimination, it is the policy of the Quitman School District to comply with all provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Carl Perkins Act of 1984, Section 504 or the Rehabilitation Act of 1983, and IDEA.

The school board directs that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or religion, be discriminated against, or excluded from, or denied the benefits of, any program or any opportunity or activity provided by this educational agency.

This action of the school board applies to all applicants for employment in this school system, present employees, and to students. Any inquiries regarding compliance should be directed to:

Quitman School District
Attn: Brian Goodman, Athletic Director
104 East Franklin Street
Quitman, MS 39355
(601) 776-2186

or
Director of the Office of Civil Rights
Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare
Washington, D. C.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Emergency drills are conducted periodically on each campus within the Quitman School District. Emergency procedures, unique to each individual campus, are in place and the principal and all staff are knowledgeable and well-trained in the implementation of all these procedures.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

It is extremely important that the following current information is on file in the school office:

1. Parent(s) or guardian(s) name(s)
2. Complete address, current, physical and mailing
3. Home phone and parent/guardians(s) work phone (connected and working)
4. Emergency phone number of friend or relative (connected and working)
5. Doctor's name and phone
6. Medical alert information
7. Authorized person(s) allowed to pick up child

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's educational records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the district receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or the eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy acts under FERPA. Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the Quitman School District to amend a record should write the school principal (or appropriate school official), clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to privacy of personally identifiable information in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has outsourced services or functions it would otherwise use its own employees to perform (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks..

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer. (NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.)

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office (202) 260-3887
U.S. Department of Education TTD: (202) 260-8956
400 Maryland Ave. SW
Washington, D. C. 20202-4605

FEES

Quitman School District acknowledges that from time to time a student may be unable to pay certain fees associated with attending school within the district. As stated in Section 37-7-335 of the Mississippi Code, students qualifying for the National School Lunch Program shall receive a hardship waiver (page 41) from the payment of:

- a) supplemental instructional materials and supplies, excluding textbooks: any other fees designated by the local school board as fees related to a valid curriculum educational objective, including transportation.

REPLACEMENT AND DAMAGE COSTS FOR DISTRICT FURNISHED CHROMEBOOKS

If a Chromebook is lost, stolen, destroyed or otherwise not returned to the district, a replacement fee will be charged. The amount of this replacement fee shall be based upon the Google management license average lifespan of 6. The amount of the replacement fee shall reflect a 20 percent discount off of the full replacement cost of the device based on the original purchase price for each subsequent year based on the following table:

Years Used	Description	Fee Amount
0 Years	Device used less than 1 year	Full replacement cost
1 Year	Device used at least 1 year but less than 2 years	Full replacement cost x 80 %
2 Years	Device used at least 2 years but less than 3 years	Full replacement cost x 60%
3 Years	Device used at least 3 years but less than 4 years	Full replacement cost x 40%
4 Years	Devices used at least 4 years or more but less than 5 years	Full replacement cost x 20%
5 Years +	Devices used a least 5 years or more	Full replacement cost x 20%

Chromebook chargers that are lost, stolen, destroyed or otherwise not returned to the district will be assessed a \$40.00 flat fee regardless of the age of the device.

Any device that is damaged or injured by willful negligence, defaced or purposely abused while it is in the possession of a student, either on school property or elsewhere will be considered as an act of vandalism. Such violations and associated costs will be determined on a case-by-case basis and be subject to the penalties set forth in Quitman School District Policy ECBA.

FEE POLICY

Policy JS, board approved: 02/10/2020

This school board hereby authorizes the superintendent to charge reasonable fees, but not more than the actual cost, for the following:

- A. Supplemental instructional materials and supplies, excluding textbooks;
- B. Other fees designated by the superintendent as fees related to a valid curriculum educational objective, including transportation; and
- C. Extracurricular activities and any other educational activities of the school district which are not designated by the superintendent as valid curriculum educational objectives, such as band trips and athletic events.

All fees authorized to be charged under this policy, except those fees authorized under (c) above, shall be charged only upon the condition that a financial hardship waiver may be granted upon request pursuant to the following.

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP WAIVER POLICY

All fees authorized to be charged under subsections (a) and (b) of the Fee Policy above shall be charged only upon the following conditions:

- A. Applications for hardship waivers shall be kept in the strictest of confidence with all files and personal disclosures restricted from review by the general public.
- B. Pupils eligible to have any such fee waived as a result of an inability to pay for said fees, shall not be discriminated against nor shall there be any overt identification of any pupil who has received a financial hardship waiver by use of special tokens or tickets announcements, posting or publication of names, physical separation, choice of materials or by any other means.
- C. In no case shall any of this school district's procedures expose any pupil receiving a hardship waiver to any type stigma or ridicule by other pupils or school district personnel.
- D. The confidentiality provisions of this policy shall apply equally to any students who have an inability to pay any fees authorized by this policy.

In no case shall the inability to pay the assessment of fees authorized under the provisions of this Fee Policy result in a pupil being denied or deprived of any academic awards or standards, any class selection, grade, diploma, transcript or the right to participate in any activity related to educational advancement.

The financial hardship waiver policy must be distributed in writing to pupils at the time of enrollment through publication in the School Student Handbook. Any family member who qualifies for the National School Lunch Program, as created by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 USCA 1751 *et seq.*) shall receive a financial hardship waiver.

The superintendent shall establish administrative procedures consistent with this policy for its implementation and duplicate the attached form for use by applicants. ' 37-7-335

FIELD TRIPS / ACTIVITIES

(Policies IFCB & IFCBB)

Field trips and related activities are used as a means of extending our classrooms. All trips/activities are supervised by professional staff members of the school. Parents will receive field trip/activity notices in advance of the scheduled trip/activity date and will be asked to sign the forms giving students permission to attend. ***Field trip/activity fees will not be refunded. Students with documented behavior issues may be required to have a parent chaperone. All criteria for field trips will be set by the building principal or his/her designee.*** Students are expected to ride to and from the field trip destination on the provided school transportation.

- **Note: Students will not be allowed to go on a field trip without a signed permission form.**

FOOD SERVICE

Students are assigned a lunch number when they enroll in our school system. The student's number stays the same **from year to year**. **If the student leaves the district and then returns, their lunch number may change**. Students will be expected to memorize this number. Parents are requested to include their child's number in any correspondence regarding food service matters. The School Breakfast Program will operate from 7:30 - 7:45. **Lunch meal times are determined each year in conjunction with building principals. The state requires each lunch period to be at least 24 minutes.**

Student Letters from the Child Nutrition Department will be sent home with the students. This letter will contain the price listing of meals and extra foods. The teachers will also be given the price listings.

Lunch Boxes/Outside Meals: Students who bring their lunch to school may purchase only bottled water, milk, and ice cream from the cafeteria. **In order to purchase extra items, the student's account must be in good standing.**

Payment: Cash or check payment is accepted. Payments can be sent/paid at the school cafeteria or at the Central Office. **The school cannot accept payment via debit/credit card.** A web-based payment system is available on-line for anyone that has a meal account. Funds may be deposited via this method. Instructions on how to create an account will be sent home with students **on the first day of school. There is a fee associated with depositing funds.**

Charges: **USDA does not allow any charges to the Federal School Lunch Accounts. If a student's account balance exceeds -\$50.00, the administration may prohibit participation in any future fee-based program (field trips, user-fee based programs, etc.) until the deficit balance is paid.** JGHRD – Child Nutrition Payment and Charge Policy

Free and Reduced-Price Meals: Free and reduced-price meal eligibility is determined by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) annually. Parents/guardians who meet those guidelines must complete a Meal Application for students to receive free or reduced-price meals. Paper applications will be sent home with students **on the first day of school.** Only one application per household is required.

All Child Nutrition menus meet the required meal pattern as required by USDA National School Lunch/Breakfast Program. Meals are planned with a goal of providing students with one-third of their recommended dietary allowances (RDA) for key nutrients and calories.

Extra Food: Students will be allowed to pre-pay for extra food. **Parents must notify the Cafeteria Manager if they do not wish their child to be allowed to pre-pay for extra food.** Students are allowed to go through the lunch line one time only. A student may not come back through the line to purchase additional items. **Students are encouraged to deposit funds ahead of time when purchasing extra items such as milk, ice cream, chips, etc. Please send exact amounts when possible, or deposit the whole amount into the student's account for future purchases.** This will help speed up the lunch line and help ensure that each student has enough time to enjoy his or her meal. **Students are not allowed to purchase extra food items if they have a negative balance. All money deposited must go towards outstanding charges. If a student has not purchased a full reimbursable meal, the only extra items that may be purchased are water and milk products.**

Students are not permitted to eat fast food in the cafeteria unless it is in a non-descript container/bag or lunch box. Colas/Soft Drinks/Sodas are to be in a thermos or poured into a non-descript drinking cup or container.

GIFTED EDUCATION

Classes are provided for gifted students who meet eligibility requirements for placement in Gifted/Talented program in grades 2 – 6.

HOLIDAYS

School will be in session every day except for holidays designated on the school calendar. Students will not attend classes on Professional Development days because all faculty will be attending required professional development. In the event of inclement weather, the decision to cancel classes will be made by the Superintendent and relayed to the local Emergency Operations Center who will broadcast the announcement over radio and television stations. If necessary, days missed due to inclement weather will be made up at a later date.

WEATHER

When bad weather threatens, all schools are equipped with either a weather-band radio or the weather channel on television, which the administration monitors constantly. During a tornado warning, all children are brought into the main building and arranged in the most secure manner possible. Students housed in portables are subject to movement into the main building at any time during bad weather, at the principal's discretion.

TORNADO WARNING:

- Buses and car riders are not dismissed, and students are secured in the main buildings.

SNOW AND ICE

- This type of weather creates an entirely different problem because of its unpredictable nature. Since lost days must be made up; our basic philosophy is that we will have school unless or until conditions (icy roads, downed power lines) dictate otherwise.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

- The decision to cancel classes will be made by the Superintendent and relayed to the local Emergency Operations Center who will broadcast the announcement over SchoolStatus and television stations.

Again, we constantly monitor the weather situation through the Quitman EOC, Quitman Sheriff's Department, local police departments, and actual district personnel who ride the roads in all areas of the county.

INTERFERENCE WITH SCHOOL BUSES

It is unlawful for any individual to board a school bus, other than a student scheduled to, a member of the public-school administration or faculty, or a law enforcement official. State law prohibits unauthorized board of school buses or interference with passenger boarding or leaving, under penalties of fines and/or imprisonment. (State Code 37-41-2)

LIBRARY

The library is considered a resource room with visual and written materials. The librarian is there to assist students in finding necessary materials and in completing assignments.

Fines for damaged books and materials will be assessed upon examination of the individual item by the librarian. Full replacement costs must be paid to replace lost materials. End-of-the-year report cards of those students who owe library fines will be held in the school office until the fine is paid.

Library Charges K-12th grades

Late fees:

\$ 0.05	Fine per day on overdue books
3.00	Maximum charge for overdue book
0.25	Fine per day on overdue reference book
10.00	Maximum charge for overdue reference book
0.25	Charge per page copied

Damages to library materials:

Lost book

Excessive damage, not usable

Cost of book + \$ 3.00

Spine or book cover damage

Torn, missing, or loose pages

Assessed by librarian up to cost of book + \$ 3.00

Damaged or missing book jacket

\$ 5.00

Missing or damaged spine label, barcode label, or Accelerated Reader label

\$ 1.00 per label

Excessive marking

25% of cost of book

Excessive damage, but usable

50% of cost of book

MEDICATION

(See policies JGCD, JGCD-R, and JGCDA)

Under exceptional circumstances, prescription may be administered by school personnel with the exception of any dietary supplements, herb products, or any other products not regulated by the FDA (Federal Drug Administration). If a student is required to take oral medication during normal school hours in order to remain in school, the medication may be administered under the following guidelines:

- A. Medication is **not** provided by the school district. No medication will be administered unless an official district medication administration form has been completed and signed by a parent or guardian, and placed on file in the school office. These forms are available in each school office and on the school district website www.quitmanschools.org under the School Nurse tab. **A physician's signature is required for any medications to be administered at school.**
- B. The medication will be delivered to the office and checked in by the School Nurse in its original container by a parent or guardian along with signed written instructions on its delivery. These instructions should include:
 - child's name, parent or guardian's name, address, home and business phone numbers
 - physician's name and phone number
 - name of medication
 - purpose of medication
 - time to be administered
 - dosage
 - possible side effects
 - termination of date for administering medication
- C. Parents must transport medication to and from school. No medication will be accepted from students

- D. Parents are responsible for informing the school office of any change in their child's health or medication.
- E. It is the parent's responsibility to notify the school that the child needs to take prescription.
- F. Controlled substances will be counted and signed in by the parent/guardian and witnessed by designated staff.
- G. **All medications must be picked up by the final day of school.**
- H. The district does not allow the use of medical cannabis while on District property.

PRE-K PROGRAM

The **Clarke County Early Learning Partnership** believes that children learn best through play and exploration. The classroom environment is set up in such a way that children can explore new activities and gain knowledge through their senses. Rather than completing worksheets in desks, children will experience a center-based teaching style. Developmentally appropriate practices that consider each child's level of maturity, age and current skill level will be used when structuring and planning classroom learning and fun.

Our goals:

- Plan developmentally appropriate activities and provide engaging materials to foster learning
- Create a structured, nurturing environment in which to learn
- Teach skills necessary to be successful in kindergarten through play-based learning strategies
- Provide opportunities for parent and family involvement

The **Clarke County Early Learning Partnership Pre-K program** will use *Opening a World of Learning Preschool Curriculum*. All learning activities will align with *Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Four-Year-Old Children*.

All preschool students will complete the *Mississippi Kindergarten Readiness Assessment* in the fall and spring, as required by the *Literacy Based Promotion Act (2013)*.

While students must be 4 years old on or before September 1 to be eligible for Pre-K, individual readiness is also important. Children are developmentally ready for Pre-K when they can handle separation, understand basic directions, communicate needs, interact well with other students, and demonstrate some independence. Students are expected to dress themselves after using the toilet independently.

Pre-K students are not allowed to ride the school bus. Students must be brought to school each morning by 8:00 and picked up each afternoon at 2:30 by a parent or guardian.

Unless a Pre-K student is under the care of a physician and doctor's order have been provided to the school nurse, students must be toilet trained and use the toilet independently. The use of diapers and pull-ups is prohibited.

When a Pre-K student misses twenty (20) absences (days), he/she may be removed from the program.

We believe a strong relationship between home and school is vital to the success of our program and well-being of our children. A folder will be used to relay information to each family via notes and weekly newsletters. Parents are welcome to also send notes for the teacher in the folder.

Because our main focus during the day is our students, we are not always available to take phone calls. If you need to speak with a teacher during the day, please email the teacher or call the office to leave a message. We will return your call as soon as possible.

As part of the Quitman School District, all classes meeting at Quitman Lower Elementary follow all rules and policies set forth by the district.

SCHOOL PARTIES

There will be two school-wide parties during the school year - the day before Christmas holidays and on Valentine's Day. The only other parties will be PTA / PTO sponsored parties for special recognition. Grades K-5 may have unit-related parties. There will be no birthday parties at school, and no invitations should be brought to school.

Balloons, flowers, and other special deliveries for students will not be accepted.

SECTION 504/AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

In accordance with board policy IDDH, Section 504-Americans with Disabilities Act-Nondiscrimination, the Quitman School District will not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its program and activities to the extent provided by law.

Quitman Schools is also seeking to identify and locate every qualified individual with a disability residing in its jurisdiction who is not receiving a public education.

The following person has been designated as the Section 504/Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator and will handle inquiries regarding the Quitman School District's child find, nondiscrimination policies, the filing of grievances, and requests for copies of grievance procedures covering discrimination on the basis of disability:

**Quitman School District
 Hope Roberts, 504 Coordinator
 104 East Franklin Street
 Quitman, MS 39355 (601)776-3754**

SMOKE/VAPING/E-CIGARETTE FREE BUILDINGS

Consistent with the provisions of public law 103-227, 20 USC 6083, the Quitman Board of Education bans the use of all tobacco products or vaping/electronic cigarettes and products in all school buildings in the district and on all school vehicles by all persons at all times.

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

Smoking/vaping/e-cigarettes are prohibited in all the public-school facilities, and on all school vehicles by all persons at all times. This ban includes all employees, students, and patrons attending school sponsored athletic events and meetings.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are assigned to each student on a yearly basis. Workbooks and other instructional supplies are purchased by the student through fees which are collected at the beginning of the school year. Some courses may use a classroom set of textbooks instead of issuing an individual book to each student. Other courses rely on trade books which are purchased by the student.

Students are responsible for damaged textbooks, and will be fined at the end of the year for damages. If a book is lost during the school year, the student should pay for the book and request a replacement from his/her teacher.

Mississippi State Law requires that teachers collect for damages to textbooks and for the loss of textbooks. A student will not be issued textbooks for summer school or for the following school year if fines have not been paid. Any student with outstanding fines or lost textbooks will be prohibited from participating in extra-curricular or non-academic activities until fines are paid or books returned.

I. Issuing books at the beginning of the year:

A. Books will be issued by each classroom teacher; the final accountability for books issued to students' rests with the teacher.

B. Procedures and Duties of Teachers:

1. Before the day for distribution of textbooks, check the books to be sure that you have enough copies of each textbook you will issue.
2. Examine the books to see whether you have received any unlabeled copies or any books whose condition is poor until all others have been issued. NUMBER new books and complete the information on the label if necessary.
3. In the presence of the student make the proper entries on the book check-out and on the book label. NOTE ANY UNUSUAL CONDITION OF THE BOOK! The book label must have the name of the student, date issued, and the condition of the book.
4. Keep the book check-out sheets on file in your room. Keep them up to date DAILY throughout the year.
5. Instruct students as to the care of books, fines for damages or loss, markings, etc.
6. Inspect books periodically and remind students of the importance of caring for the books. Check also to see that students have their own book regularly.

II. Issuing books during the year.

- A. Teachers will issue textbooks all during the year:

III. Taking up books during the year:

- A. Students who withdraw will turn in books to an administrator when he/she is dropped from school. Teachers should not accept books.
- B. The administrator will notify teachers as to the status of the books.
- C. Teachers will mark their book check-out sheets when notified.

IV. Purchasing new books during the year:

- A. Students who lose their books are required to purchase new ones in order to keep up their lessons.
- B. Individual teachers should give the student and the office the price of the lost book.
- C. An administrator will sell a new book to the student.
- D. The teachers will up-date the book check-out sheet.

V. Checking in books at the end of the year:

- A. Instruct all students to bring their textbooks to the final examination and to be prepared to pay any fines that have been assessed for damages or to pay for any lost books before they take the test if they have done so. YOU SHOULD ASSESS FINES BEFORE TEST DAY.
- B. Have the students place their books in some central place for checking at your convenience.
- C. While the examination is in progress, examine the books and check them in on your book check-out sheet.

TEXTBOOK FINES FOR QLE AND QUE

In compliance with Miss. Code Ann. §37-7-301(ff) the Board of Trustees of the Quitman School District requires that parents/guardians be responsible for the textbooks and for the compensation to the district for any textbooks that are not returned to the proper schools upon withdrawal of their dependent child. If a textbook is lost or not returned by any student who drops out of the Quitman School District, the parent or legal guardian shall also compensate the school district for the fair market value of the textbook/textbooks.

If a book is lost or otherwise not returned, a replacement fee will be charged. This fee shall be based upon an average life of four years for each book. The amount of replacement fee shall reflect a 25% discount off of the contract price.

Books which have been damaged and cannot be used another will be subject to the replacement fee as described in paragraph one. Some examples of books which cannot be used are as follows: pages torn out, back torn off, damaged by weather, and mutilated books, marked books.

If a book is lost or otherwise not returned, a replacement fee will be charged. This fee shall be based upon an average life of four years for each book. For each year a book has been used it will be discounted 25%. Books which have been damaged and cannot be used another year will be subject to the replacement fee as described above. Some examples of books which weather, mutilated books and marked books (obscene language).

The following schedule can be used to calculate the appropriate textbook replacement fee:

<u>YRS USED</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FEE AMOUNT</u>
0	Books used less than 1-year	Full Contract Price
1	Books used 1 year but less than 2	Contract Price x 75%
2	Books used 2 years but less than 3	Contract Price x 50%
3	Books used 3 years or more	Contract Price x 25%

Directions for assessing books which are damaged but can be used for another year.

<u>Condition of textbook</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>New</u>
<u>Marking</u>	.10	.15	.20	.25
<u>Excessively dirty</u>	.10	.15	.20	.25
<u>Drawing in book</u>	.10	.15	.20	.25
<u>General misuse</u>	.10	.15	.20	.25
<u>Mutilated or destroyed</u>	(see lost book schedule above)			

Accountability for liability of books includes books checked out by students and teachers and includes AR books from the library and leveled books from the Reading First Room.

TITLE I PARENT ENGAGEMENT POLICY
policy LAA, board approved 02/10/2020

The Quitman School District Board of Education endorses the parent engagement goals of Title I and encourages the regular participation by parents of Title I eligible children in all aspects of the program. The education of children is viewed as a cooperative effort among the parents, school, and community. In this policy, the word "parent" also includes guardians and other family members involved in supervising the child's education.

Pursuant of federal law, this district will develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to parents of children participating in the Title I program a written parent engagement policy.

A meeting of the parents of participating Title I students will be held annually to explain the goals and purposes of the Title I program.

Parents will be given the opportunity to participate in the design, development, operation, and evaluation of the program for the next school year and to participate in planning activities, to offer suggestions, and to ask questions regarding policies and programs. Parents will be encouraged to attend the meeting and to become involved.

In addition to the required annual meeting, at least three (3) additional parent meetings shall be held, at various times of the day and/or evenings, for the parents of children participating in the Title I program. Notices will be sent to the parents and articles will appear in the local newspaper advising parents and interested persons of the meetings. These meetings shall be used to provide parents with:

1. Information about programs provided under Title I;
2. A description and explanation of the curriculum in use, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet;
3. Opportunities to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children; and
4. The opportunity to bring parent comments, if they are dissatisfied with the school's Title I program, to the district level.

Title I funding, if sufficient, may be used to facilitate parent attendance at meetings through payment of transportation and childcare costs.

The parents of children identified to participate in Title I programs shall receive from the school principal and Title I staff an explanation of the reasons supporting each child's selection for the program, a set of objectives to be addressed, and a description of the services to be provided. Parents will be advised of their children's progress on a regular basis. Opportunities will be provided for the parents to meet with the classroom and Title I teachers to discuss their children's progress. Parents will also receive information and training that will assist them in helping their children at home and at school.

Each school in the district receiving Title I funds shall jointly develop with parents of children served in the program a "School-Parent Compact" outlining the manner in which parents, school staff and students share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement in meeting state standards. The school- Parent Compact shall:

- Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning

- environment enabling children in the Title I program to meet the state’s academic achievement standards;
- Indicate the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children’s learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, monitoring television watching, volunteering in the classroom, and participating, as appropriate, in decisions related to their child’s education and positive use of extracurricular time; and
- Address the importance of parent-teacher communication on an on-going basis, with at a minimum, parent-teacher conference, frequent reports to parents, and reasonable access to staff.

TITLE I SCHOOL – PARENT COMPACT

Please refer to the last two pages of this handbook for the School–Parent Compact.

The Quitman School District values a parent’s role in working to help their child or children achieve high academic standards. Our District and the parents of the students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I, Part A. In accordance to policy LAA, Title I Parent Engagement, this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State’s high standards. **During a scheduled parent conference, the parent compact will be discussed and signed by the parent and the teacher.**

Quitman School District
 Tiwari McLain, Title I Coordinator
 104 East Franklin Street
 Quitman, MS 39355

VISITORS

Visitors, parents, friends, solicitors, or **any person** else coming onto any campus or into any school building for any reason must first obtain permission from the principal or office personnel to visit or make personal contact with students or teachers. Visitors will be issued a visitor’s pass only after being approved! **Classroom visits must be prearranged with the principal.**

Staff members shall routinely check with visitors to confirm that they have permission from the office to visit. If permission has not been secured; the teacher should immediately escort the visitor to the principal’s office.

Parent Conferences - If your parent/guardian would like a parent conference, they may call the school secretary: Lower Elementary 601-776-6156; Upper Elementary 601-776-6123; Teachers may meet with parents after school (3:30 p.m.) or during the teacher’s preparation period. Please have parents call at least one day before they need the conference **to** be sure the teacher has no conflicts.

Recording of Meetings - It is the practice of the Quitman School District that recording of meetings between parents and school personnel will not be allowed. The only exception to this rule is that if the parent has a physical or mental disability that otherwise prohibits him/her from appropriate participation in the meeting or if the parent lacks the ability to read or write.

Parent Center - The Parent Center is located in the Support Service Building (Old Central Office). This center provides information and help for parents. For more information on the Parent Center, call the Parent Liaison at 601-938-3852.

GRADING

Explanation of Grades

Grades K-5

Report cards for grades K-5 will be sent home according to the school calendar. The report card should be signed by a parent and returned the following day. **Letter and number grades will appear on the report card for grades 1 – 5.**

Grading Scale (K)	S	Satisfactory	80% Mastery
	I	Improvement Needed	Progress made but not at Mastery Level
	U	Unsatisfactory	Failed to make adequate progress toward Mastery
Grading Scale (1-5)	A	Superior Work	90-100
	B	Excellent Work	80-89
	C	Average Work	70-79
	D	Below average work	60-69
	F	Failing Work	< 60

Progress reports will be issued during each grading period. This will allow parents or guardians to be informed of a student’s progress, or lack of progress, in a timely manner. Parents are encouraged to review their child’s progress report/ report card and contact the school if a conference is needed.

GRADING AND REPORT OF PROGRESS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES UNDER THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT

The policy used for reporting grades or progress for students with disabilities will be as follows:

- The grading system used in the regular education program will be utilized for students who receive instruction through the regular education program and are expected to master the same objectives as regular education students.
- For students who receive instruction through the regular education program but an alternate or parallel curriculum (which differs from that provided to grade level peers) is taught, grades will be assigned for each academic area addressed on the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). Grades given will be based on the mastery of objectives/benchmarks outlined on the IEP using the regular education grading system with input from both the regular and special education teachers. The student's report card will reflect that these grades are based on objectives/benchmarks outlined in the student's IEP. For those students in grades K-12, the regular education mathematics, reading and/or language arts benchmarks being taught will be marked according to the district's grading system. Any benchmark listed on the K-12 report card that is not being taught, according to the IEP, will be indicated as not applicable. At the end of each nine (9) weeks (or more often as outlined on the IEP), the Report of Progress for each objective/benchmark on the Annual Service Goal Page(s) of the IEP will also be completed and forwarded to the parent(s). The student will not earn Carnegie unit credit toward a regular high school diploma for this type of curriculum instruction.
- For students who receive direct instruction in academic areas from a special education teacher, grades will be assigned for each academic area based on mastery of objectives/benchmarks identified on the student's IEP using the regular education grading system. The student's report card will reflect that these grades are based on objectives/benchmarks addressed in the student's IEP. For those students in grades K-12, the regular education mathematics, reading and/or language arts benchmarks being taught will be marked according to the district's grading system. Any benchmark listed on the K-12 report card that is not being taught, according to the IEP, will be indicated as not applicable. At the end of each nine (9) weeks (or more often as outlined on the IEP), the Report of Progress for each objective/benchmark on the Annual Service Goal Page(s) of the IEP will also be completed and forwarded to the parent(s). The student will not earn Carnegie unit credit toward a regular high school diploma for this type of curriculum instruction.
- For students who receive direct instruction from a special education teacher in functional/life skills areas or from a speech pathologist in a language/speech area(s), grades will be given for each area based on mastery of objectives/benchmarks addressed on the student's IEP using the following grading system: N = No Progress Made; P = Progress Made; M = Objectives Taught During This Grading Period Mastered Based on Criteria Outlined on IEP. The student's report card will reflect that these grades are based on objectives/benchmarks addressed in the student's IEP. For students in grades K-12, the regular education report card will be completed when benchmarks on the report card are reflected in the student's IEP. At the end of each nine (9) weeks (or more often as outlined on the IEP), the Report of Progress for each objective/benchmark on the Annual Service Goal Page(s) of the IEP will also be completed and forwarded to the parent(s). The student will not earn Carnegie unit credit toward a regular high school diploma for this type of curriculum instruction.

Any student enrolled in regular education courses who does not meet course requirements, even though accommodations and modifications have been implemented in accordance with the student's IEP, may receive a failing grade. If it is obvious, however, that the student with a disability cannot function appropriately in a regular education class, the student's IEP should be revised.

HONOR ROLL AND AWARDS

OLE Awards

Students will be awarded at the end of the school year for the following:

- The **Superintendent's Award** shall be composed of all students with all A's
- The **Principal's Award** shall be composed of all students who receive all A's and B's (at least one A).
- The Honor Roll shall be composed of all students who receive all B's.
- Accelerated Reader Award
- Panther Award
- Cub Award
- Citizenship
- Perfect Attendance

A perfect attendance certificate will be awarded only to those students who have not been absent, tardy or checked out from any class for any reason during the entire school year.

QUE Awards

Students will be awarded at the end of the school year for the following:

- The **Superintendent's Award** shall be composed of all students with all A's
- The **Principal's Award** shall be composed of all students who receive all A's and B's (at least one A).
- The Honor Roll shall be composed of all students who receive all B's.
- Citizenship
- Elective Awards
- Perfect Attendance

A perfect attendance certificate will be awarded only to those students who have not been absent, tardy or checked out from any class for any reason during the entire school year.

INTERVENTION PROCESS POLICY

policy IEA, board approved 06/27/2019

Quitman School District provides instructional interventions to meet the behavioral and academic needs of all students. The Multi-Tiered

System of Supports (MTSS) consists of three tiers of instruction. The Three Tier Instructional Model is designed to meet the needs of every student (Pre-K – 12).

1. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the behavioral and academic needs of every student are met through an instructional model that is designed to address student learning with quality classroom instruction and opportunities for intervention. The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) shall require every school district to follow the instructional model, which consists of three (3) tiers of instruction:
 - a. Tier I: Quality classroom instruction based on Mississippi Standards
 - b. Tier II: Focused supplemental instruction
 - c. Tier III: Intensive interventions specifically designed to meet the individual needs of students
2. If strategies at Tiers 1 & 2 are unsuccessful, students must be referred to the Teacher Support Team (TST). The TST is the problem-solving unit responsible for interventions developed at Tier 3. Each school must have a TST implemented in accordance with the process developed by the Mississippi Department of Education. The chairperson of the TST shall be the school principal as the school's instructional leader or the principal's designee. The designee may not be an individual whose primary responsibility is special education.
Interventions will be:
 - a. Designed to address the deficit areas
 - b. Researched based
 - c. Implemented as designed by the TST
 - d. Supported by data regarding the effectiveness of interventions
3. Teachers should use progress monitoring information to:
 - a. determine if students are making adequate progress,
 - b. identify students as soon as they begin to fall behind, and
 - c. modify instruction early enough to ensure each student gains essential skills.

Monitoring of student progress is an ongoing process that may be measured through informal classroom assessment, benchmark assessment instruments and large-scale assessments.

4. After a referral is made, the TST must develop and begin implementation of an intervention(s) within two weeks. No later than eight weeks after implementation of the intervention(s) the TST must conduct a documented review of the interventions to determine success of the intervention. No later than 16 weeks after implementation of the intervention(s), a second review must be conducted to determine whether the intervention is successful. If the intervention(s) is determined to be unsuccessful, the student will be referred for a comprehensive assessment.
5. In accordance with the Literacy-Based Promotion Act of 2013, each public-school student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading at any time, as demonstrated through:
 - a. performance on a reading screener approved or developed by the MDE, or
 - b. through locally determined assessments and teacher observations conducted in Kindergarten and Grades 1-3, or
 - c. through statewide end-of-year assessments or approved alternate yearly assessments in Grade 3, must be given intensive reading instruction and intervention immediately following the identification of the reading deficiency. A student who was promoted from Grade 3 to Grade 4 under good cause exemption of the Literacy-Based Promotion Act must be given intensive reading instruction and intervention. The intensive intervention must include effective instructional strategies and appropriate teaching methodologies necessary to assist the student in becoming a successful reader, able to read at or above grade level, and ready for promotion to the next grade.
6. All students in kindergarten and grades 1 through 3 may be administered a screener within the first 30 days of school and repeated at mid-year and at the end of the school year to identify any deficiencies in reading. In addition to failure to make adequate progress following Tiers 1 & 2, students will be referred to the TST for interventions as specified in guidelines developed by MDE if any of the following events occur:
 - a. Grades 1-3: A student has failed one (1) grade;
 - b. Grades 4-12: A student has failed two (2) grades;
 - c. A student failed either of the preceding two grades and has been suspended or expelled for more than twenty (20) days in the current school year; or
 - d. A student scores at the Minimal level on any part of the Grade 3 or Grade 7 Mississippi Curriculum Test.
 - e. A student is promoted from Grade 3 to Grade 4 under a good cause exemption of the Literacy-Based Promotion Act.

Referrals to the Teacher Support Team will be made within the first twenty (20) school days of a school year if the student meets any of the criteria in **A-D** stated above.

Dyslexia Screener (policy IEBA, brd appv'd 12/11/17)

A dyslexia screener must be administered to all students during the spring of their kindergarten year and the fall of their first-grade year. The screening must include the following components:

- a. Phonological awareness and phonemic awareness;
- b. Sound symbol recognition;
- c. Alphabet knowledge;
- d. Decoding skills;
- e. Encoding skills; and
- f. Rapid naming (quickly naming objects, pictures, colors, or symbols (letters or digits) aloud).

Universal Screener

All students in kindergarten and grades 1 through 3 shall be administered a state- approved screener within the first 30 days of school and repeated at mid-year and at the end of the school year to identify any deficiencies in reading and math. In addition to failure to make adequate progress following Tier 1 and Tier 2, students will be referred to the TST.

MISSISSIPPI LITERACY-BASED PROMOTION ACT

The Mississippi Literacy Based Promotion Act *37-177-11 states - Good Cause Exemptions for promotion to grade 4 of student not meeting academic requirements.

All students in grade 3 are required to pass the 3rd Grade Reading assessment for promotion to grade 4. The Quitman School District follows the guidelines set forth in the Literacy-Based Promotion Act for promotion/retention. The purpose of the *Literacy-Based Promotion Act* is to improve the reading skills of kindergarten and first through third grade public school students so that every student completing 3rd grade reads at or above grade level. The intent is to increase the proficiency of all students in reading by the end of their 3rd grade year of school.

Student who exhibit a substantial deficiency in reading at any time, as demonstrated through performance on a reading screener approved or developed by the State Department of Education or through locally determined assessments and teacher observations conducted in Kindergarten and Grades 1 through 3 or through statewide end-of-year assessments or approved alternate yearly assessments in Grade 3, must be given intensive reading instruction and intervention immediately following the identification of the reading deficiency. The intensive reading instruction and intervention must be documented for each student in an individual reading plan, which includes, at a minimum, the following:

- The student's specific, diagnosed reading skill deficiencies as determined (or identified) by diagnostic assessment data;
- The goals and benchmarks for growth;
- How progress will be monitored and evaluated;
- The type of additional instructional services and interventions the student will receive;
- The research-based reading instructional programming the teacher will use to provide reading instruction, addressing the areas of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension;
- The strategies the student's parent is encouraged to use in assisting the student to achieve reading competency; and
- Any additional services the teacher deems available and appropriate to accelerate the student's reading skill development.

3rd Grade Reading Assessment –Beginning in the **2018 – 2019** school year, a student scoring at the lowest **two** achievement levels (**student must score a level three**) in reading on the established state assessment for 3rd grade will not be promoted to 4th grade.

Social Promotion – A student may not be assigned a grade level based solely on age or any other factor that constitutes social promotion.

Public School Requirements

- If a K - 3 student has been identified with a substantial deficit in reading, the teacher will **immediately**, and with each quarterly progress report, **notify parents or legal guardians of the following in writing:**
- Determination of a substantial deficit in reading;
- Description of student services and supports presently provided;
- Description of proposed supplemental instruction and support to remediate the student's deficit areas;
- Strategies for parents to use to help students at home; and,
- Notification that student will not be promoted to 4th grade if reading deficiency cannot be remediated by the end of 3rd grade
- Provide intensive reading instruction and **immediate intervention** to each K - 3 student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading at any time.

A Third-Grade student who does not meet the academic requirements for promotion to Fourth Grade may be promoted by the school district only for good cause.

Good Cause Exemptions for promotion are limited to the following students.

A Third-Grade student who does not meet the academic requirements for promotion to the Fourth Grade may be promoted by the school district only for good cause. Good cause exemptions for promotion are limited to the following students:

- Limited English proficient student who has less than 2 years of instruction in an English Language Learner program
- Student with a disability whose individual education plan (IEP) indicates that participation in the statewide accountability assessment program is not appropriate, as authorized under state law
- Student with a disability who participates in the state annual accountability assessment and who has an IEP or a section 504 plan that reflects that the individual student has received intensive remediation for 2 years but still demonstrates a deficiency in reading **OR** previously was retained in Kindergarten or First, Second, or Third Grade
- Student who demonstrates an acceptable level of reading proficiency on an alternative standardized assessment approved by the State Board of Education
- Student who received intensive intervention in reading for two or more years but still demonstrates a deficiency in reading and who previously was retained in kindergarten or first, second, or third grade for a total of two years and has not met exceptional education criteria

A student who is promoted to Fourth Grade with a good-cause exemption shall be provided intensive reading instruction and intervention informed by specialized diagnostic information and delivered through specific reading strategies to meet the needs of each student so

promoted. The school district shall assist schools and teachers in implementing reading strategies that research has shown to be successful in improving reading among students with persistent reading difficulties.

PLACEMENT TESTING FOR STUDENTS ENTERING THE DISTRICT

In accordance with MS Code §37-15-33, students requesting to enter the Quitman School District from a non-accredited school, an out-of-state school or a home school will be given a placement test(s) to determine their appropriate grade/academic level.

PROMOTION/RETENTION

Kindergarten

In accordance with Section 37-13-91, students who attain the age of five (5) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year may attend kindergarten in Quitman School District. To be eligible for promotion to the next grade level, a kindergarten student must master 80% of the language arts skills, 80% of the math skill, 100% of required skills, and read on or above grade level to be promoted. If the student has not successfully met the criteria to advance to grade one, the student will be placed in kindergarten for an additional year.

Transfer 5-year-old students or 6-year-old students who have not attended an accredited public/private school will be assessed and appropriate educational placement will be assigned on an individual basis. Section 37-15-33, which governs the testing and assignment of transfer students, states each child is to be assigned to the grade and class that is in the best interest of the child.

The Quitman School Board has the authority to retain a student in kindergarten for an additional year if the district deems that placement of the student in the first grade would not be the most appropriate educational placement.

Grades 1- 2

To be eligible for promotion to the next grade level, a student **must master 60%** of the essential skills in English Language Arts, Mathematics, as identified in the curriculum structure of the state of Mississippi and the Quitman School District. Students who are at risk of failure will be notified with their **third** nine weeks' report card. Intervention/Instructional help will be provided through the Student Intervention process.

Grades 3 – 4

To be eligible for promotion to the next grade level, a student **must master 60%** of the essential skills in English Language Arts, Mathematics, as identified in the curriculum structure of the state of Mississippi and the Quitman School District. Students who are at risk of failure will be notified with their **third** nine weeks' report card. Intervention/Instructional help will be provided through the Student Intervention process.

Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, students in 3rd grade must meet the requirements of the Literacy Based Promotion Act, amended 2016, before being promoted to 4th grade unless the students meet the requirements for a good cause exemption.

Grades 5

To be eligible for promotion to the next grade level, a student **must master 60%** of the essential skills in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science as identified in the curriculum structure of the state of Mississippi and the Quitman School District. Students who are at risk of failure will be notified with their **third** nine weeks' report card. Intervention/Instructional help will be provided through the Student Intervention process.

Under certain circumstances, a promotion and retention committee will recommend promotion or retention for those students who fail to meet promotion requirements. Age, previous retentions, emotional/social maturity, learning ability, and Special Education rulings may be considered when making decisions about promotion/retention/transferring.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROMOTION PROCEDURES

For students with disabilities, the Individual Education Plan (IEP) Committee will determine whether or not a special education student shall be promoted or retained based upon the following:

- 1) the student's mastery/progress on IEP objectives; and/or
- 2) the student's meeting requirements through regular education courses as outlined on the student's IEP.

TRANSFER GRADES

Students from other school systems with differing grading scales enrolling in a Quitman School District will have grades transferred into the Quitman School District according to the district scale.

QLE transfer grades on all Kindergarten students will be determined according to the individual skills assessment mastery.

WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

If a student is to be withdrawn from school, please notify the office as soon as possible (preferably several days in advance). Teachers should not be interrupted during teaching time to process paperwork necessary to withdraw a student.

STUDENT CONDUCT

ADMINISTRATIVE DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Students have certain basic rights under the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the state of Mississippi, and the Mississippi State Law. Those rights, however, do not extend to infringement on the rights of teachers to teach and other students to learn. School Administrators have a number of discipline options available. These may range from student/parent conferences to suspensions and, in some cases, expulsions. When school administrators are determining which particular consequence to impose, the seriousness and frequency of the misconduct and the students previous discipline referrals are primary considerations. The school's policies and rules apply to any student who is on school property or school-affiliated transportation, who is at school or at any school-related activity, or whose conduct at any time or place substantially disrupts the operation, discipline, and general welfare of the school.

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR STUDENTS, STAFF, AND VISITORS

Policy IFBGA Revised: 6/13/16

Overview

The Quitman School District is dedicated to the use of technology as a tool to enhance learning, increase academic productivity and achievement, and promote creativity. The Internet and the use of technology communication tools are extremely valuable for collaboration, publishing, and interacting with peers, experts, and other audiences. Specifically, the use of the Internet provides opportunities to access a wide variety of information, reference materials, and educational resources world-wide. However, by its very nature, the free-flowing, uncensored exchange of information and communication that characterizes the Internet has forced the issue of how and by whom the network should be used. In addition, the smooth operation of the network relies on the proper conduct of each user who must adhere to strict guidelines. To this end, Congress has enacted the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), a federal law that address concerns about access to offensive content over the Internet on school and library computers. CIPA imposes certain types of requirements on any school or library that receives funding for Internet access or internal connections from the E-rate program – a program that makes certain communications technology more affordable for eligible schools and libraries.

What CIPA Requires

- Schools and libraries subject to CIPA may not receive the discounts offered by the E-rate program unless they certify that they have an Internet safety policy and technology protection measures in place. An Internet safety policy must include technology protection measures to block or filter Internet access to pictures that are: (a) are obscene, (b) child pornography, or (c) harmful to minors (for computers that are accessed by minors).
- Schools and libraries must also certify that, as part of their Internet safety policy, they are educating minors about appropriate online behavior, including cyber-bullying awareness and response and interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms.
- Schools subject to CIPA are required to adopt and enforce a policy to monitor online activities of minors.
- Schools and libraries subject to CIPA are required to adopt and implement a policy addressing: (a) access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet; (b) the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications; (c) unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful activities by minors online; (d) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; (e) restricting minors' access to materials harmful to them; (f) the education of minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms; and (g) the education of minors about cyber bullying awareness and response.

In order to meet the requirements of CIPA, Quitman School District has put into place a technology protection measure for blocking access to content that is obscene, pornographic, or detrimental in general. Recognizing that no filtering solution can be 100 percent effective, it is understood that all technology protection measures do not and will not work perfectly. In complying with CIPA, schools are expected to engage in a "good faith effort" to abide by the requirements of CIPA. CIPA does not create a private right to action, meaning that the discovery of objectionable material on a computer cannot result in a lawsuit complaining that a school or district violated CIPA.

The availability of any information on the Internet does not imply endorsement by Quitman School District. The school board makes no assurances of any kind, whether expressed or implied, regarding any Internet services provided. Neither the individual school nor school district is responsible for any damages the student/user may suffer. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the students'/users' own risk. This board and school district specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information or software obtained through its services. Quitman School District cannot assume any liability arising out of the illegal or inappropriate use of technology resources. The district also reserves the right to monitor any users' network activities. Therefore, users should have no expectation of privacy concerning the use of the Quitman School District network. This includes, but is not limited to, all electronic communication such as e-mail, blogging, instant messaging, chatting, etc.

Use of the district/school network and the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use may result in cancellation of that privilege. The superintendent or designee(s) shall make all decisions regarding whether or not a user has violated these procedures, and may deny, revoke, or suspend access at any time. All communications and information accessible via the network would not be assumed to be private property.

As a result of meeting the requirements set forth above, Quitman School District has created an acceptable use policy to ensure safe and legitimate uses of the Internet and the District's network and computers. This policy is provided so that the user and/or parent (or guardian) of the user are aware of the responsibilities you are about to assume. In general, this requires efficient, ethical, and legal utilization of the network resources.

AUP Requirements

All students will be required to submit a signed and completed Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) every academic year to their school's administration before using any district computer or network. This policy will be sent home in the opening school packet and must be filled out and signed by students and their parent(s)/ guardian(s). The signed copy will then be forwarded to the Technology Department to keep on file. Staff members and district visitors will also be required to sign an AUP each academic year which will be collected at their specific site, before using any District computers and network. The signed copy will then be forwarded to the Technology Department to be kept on file. All users, with or without a signed AUP must comply with every aspect of this policy. Any violation of this policy may result in disciplinary and/or criminal action. Users are also expected to report any security problems or misuse of district technology.

Acceptable Uses of the Quitman School District (QSD) Network

The QSD network is provided for educational purposes and research consistent with the Quitman School District's educational mission, goals, and business needs. Examples include classroom assignments, career development activities, educational research, extra-curricular activities, communication activities, and access to network resources.

Unacceptable Uses of the Quitman School District (QSD) Network

The user is responsible for all of his/her actions and activities involving the QSD network and the Internet. This list is not all-inclusive, but is intended to provide general guidance. Anything that would be considered inappropriate in "paper form" is also considered inappropriate in electronic form. Information, such as but not limited to personal data, accessed through school system technologies may not be used for any private business activity. The following are examples of inappropriate activities when using any Quitman School District's network, email system, hardware, software, technology service, and/or Internet access:

- Accessing materials or communications that are:
 - Damaging to another's reputation
 - Abusive
 - Obscene
 - Insulting
 - Embarrassing
 - Racist
 - Discriminatory
 - Sexually oriented
 - Threatening
 - Contrary to school/district policy
 - Harassing
 - Illegal
- Sending or posting materials or communications (to include email, chat rooms, instant messaging, pictures, and other forms of direct electronic communications) that are:
 - Damaging to another's reputation
 - Abusive
 - Obscene
 - Insulting
 - Embarrassing
 - Racist
 - Discriminatory
 - Sexually oriented
 - Threatening
 - Contrary to school/district policy
 - Harassing
 - Illegal
- Using the Internet for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright laws or other contracts or transmitting any material in violation of U.S. and State of Mississippi regulations.
- Copying or downloading copyrighted material on any system connected to the school or district system hardware/software without the owner's permission. Students may redistribute copyrighted programs only with the owner's permission. Such permission must be specified in the document or must be obtained directly from the owner in accordance with applicable copyright laws, school board policies, and administrative procedures.
- Failing to comply with resource quotas or disk usage quotas (data storage) as set by the superintendent, principal, or designee/designees or other identified staff. Any student who is not in compliance of disk space quotas after five (5) calendar days of written notification may have his/her files removed by the superintendent, principal, or designee/designees or other identified staff.
- Saving information on any network drive or directory other than your personal home directory or a teacher-specified and approved location.
- Use of any Quitman School District technology resource or the Internet for personal gain, commercial, or political purpose.
- Wastefully using resources.
- Utilizing any software having the purpose of damaging the school/district network, any district computer system, or any other entity's computer/network system.
- Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities.
- Invading the privacy of individuals.
- Trespassing in another user's files, folders, home directory, or work.
- Using or sharing another user's password or attempting to discover another user's password.
- Posting material authorized or created by another person without his/her consent.
- Posting anonymous messages.
- Forging of electronic mail (email) messages.
- Attempting to read, delete, copy, or modify the electronic mail of other system users and deliberately interfering with the ability of other system users to send/receive mail.
- Using the network while access privileges are suspended or revoked.

- Using the network in a manner inconsistent with the directions from teachers and other staff and generally accepted network etiquette.
- Revealing personal addresses, telephone numbers, or other personal information of self, other students, or staff.
- Illegally installing copyrighted software for use on personal computers.
- Not conforming to the "Acceptable Use" policies of other sources accessed beyond the QSD network.
- Downloading, installing, or copying software of any kind onto a workstation, laptop, home directory, or any network drive (except for approved updates). The Technology department is responsible for determining if a product is compatible with the network/computer and installing it after purchase.
- Damaging any technology resources, including, but not limited to, printers, telephones, computers, computer systems, or computer networks (this includes changing workstation configurations such as screen savers, backgrounds, printers, BIOS information, preset passwords, etc.)
- Broadcasting network messages or participating in sending/perpetuating chain letters or engaging in any spamming practices.
- Plagiarism of materials that are found on the Internet.
- Use of technology resources to create illegal materials (i.e., counterfeit money, fake identification, etc.)
- Accessing any website or other resources by falsifying information.
- Using any software or other programming means that attempts to gain unauthorized access to any computer or network system by taking advantage of any vulnerability that may be found or to circumvent any protective measures, device(s), or software that may be installed as a protection device. This includes all forms of hacking. Penetration tests will only be conducted by the Technology department in order to audit the network or computer system for security flaws or weaknesses.
- Intentionally wasting limited resources such as Internet bandwidth, disk space and printing capacity.
- Using any peer-to-peer software to download music, videos, or other software.
- Downloading games or playing games on-line.
- Using a digital camera, camera phone, or any other device capable of storing a still or video image to take inappropriate embarrassing pictures.
- Using streaming video or audio not related to the educational purpose and research consistent with the district's educational mission and business needs. This includes Internet radio.
- Editing or modifying digital pictures with the intent to embarrass, harass, or bully.
- Accessing, sending, or posting inappropriate material or communication to/from web sites or attempting to bypass the Internet filter to access web sites that have been blocked (Examples: information that is violent; destructive; threatening; abusive; harassing; illegal; satanic; sexual; demeaning; racist; inflammatory; and/or categorized as a social networking, blogging, or journaling site, etc.)
- Participating in unsupervised or non-instructional on-line chat rooms without the permission/supervision of an adult staff member.
- Connecting or attempting to connect any computer device, smart phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), or other wired/wireless devices to the district's network. Personal laptops and computers will not be connected without express permission from the technology department due to the security issues they may present (viruses, malware, spyware, key loggers, etc.).
- Posting any false or damaging information about other people, the school system, or other organizations.
- Accessing inappropriate material such as, but not limited to, digital cameras, flash drives, iPods, cell phones, etc.

User Rights and Responsibilities

1. The Internet is considered a limited forum, similar to a school newspaper, and therefore Quitman School District may restrict user's right to free speech for valid educational reasons. Quitman School District will not restrict user's right to free speech on the basis of disagreement with the opinions expressed by the user.
2. User shall have the responsibility to use computer resources for academic purposes only. Therefore, as mandated by CIPA, filtering will be utilized on all computers accessing the Internet. The only exception will be for academic research by a staff member with the approval of school or district administration.
3. User should not expect files stored on school-based computer to remain private. Authorized staff will periodically inspect folders and logs of network usage and will be kept at all times. Routine review and maintenance of the system may indicate that user has violated this policy, school codes, municipal law, state law or federal law. Parents of minor users shall have the right to inspect the contents of user's files.
4. Under no conditions should a user provide his/her password to another person or use another person's password
5. Use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Unacceptable and/or illegal use may result in denial, revocation, suspension, and/or cancellation of the user's privileges, as well as disciplinary action imposed by school officials.
6. Because of the fluid nature of the Internet and the increasing use of certain Web 2.0 technologies for educational purposes, a user may find that a website has been blocked by the content filter. A request for approval can be made to unblock the site in question as long as it provides the educational merit and intent for the parties involved without sacrificing the policies and guidelines set forth and contained within. The request must be made by a staff or faculty member of the district. This request will be reviewed by the appropriate school or district personnel and if found not to cause conflict with this policy, a change will be made to allow access to the site. A request to block a site can also be made if found to be of objectionable or harmful content.
7. Use of the Quitman School District system for management of businesses, websites not directly relating to the education of students in the Quitman School District, or for personal affairs is strictly prohibited.
8. Network security is a high priority. If a user identifies or perceives a security problem or a breach of these responsibilities on the Internet or on the QSD network, the user must immediately notify the appropriate faculty/staff member or designee or other identified staff. The user must not demonstrate the problem to other users or students.
9. Quitman School District will fully cooperate with local, state or federal officials in any investigation related to illegal activities conducted through the user's Internet account.

Guest/Community Usage

1. All users of the Quitman School District's networks and computer systems are bound to the same rights and privileges as listed above.
2. Misuse of the Quitman School District's networks and computer systems will not be tolerated. Privileges will be revoked for any user who is found to be in violation of these said practices.

Individual schools within the district may create additional guidelines and procedures consistent with this policy. Such guidelines and procedures will be appropriate for the electronic information resources being used and the students served at the school.

Social Networking Websites

All employees, faculty and staff of the Quitman School District who participate in social networking websites (i.e., Instagram, Snapchat, or Facebook) shall not post any data, documents, photos or inappropriate information on any website that might result in a disruption of classroom activity. This determination will be made by the Superintendent. Employees, faculty and staff should not give social networking website passwords to students. Fraternization via the internet between employees, faculty or staff and students is prohibited and violation of any of these policies may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination. Nothing in this policy prohibits employees, faculty, staff or students from the use of educational websites, i.e., www.schoolstatus.com and www.quitmanschools.org since these sites are used solely for educational purposes. Access of social networking websites for individual use during school hours is prohibited. **Employees, faculty, and staff shall not post students to their personal social media accounts. All students and school-related photos shall be posted on the district/school websites or social media pages at all times.**

Consequences for Failure to Follow Terms and Conditions of the Acceptable Use Policy

There will be consequences for any user who fails to follow the Quitman School District and school guidelines and policies. The consequences may include paying for damages, denial of access to technology, detention, suspension, expulsion or other remedies applicable under the school disciplinary policy, and state or federal law. At the discretion of the Quitman School District, law enforcement authorities may be involved and any violations of state and/or federal law may result in criminal or civil prosecution.

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

The Quitman School District will offer an alternative school program for elementary and secondary compulsory school age students whose behavior is such that it curtails or disrupts the learning environment. The alternative school program will be implemented after "regular" interventions for behavior modifications prove ineffective.

Students who have been removed from the traditional school placement due to discipline infractions are expected to follow the district's closed campus policy and may not be within 300 feet of any other QSD property or school functions (including games, concerts, pageants, etc.). This includes students who have not completed their expulsion period, including a transition time in Alternative School, and students who are assigned to Alternative School. Students who graduate from school prior to the end of the expulsion period, will be under the closed campus policy until the end of the expulsion period. Students who withdraw from school prior to meeting the post-expulsion Alternative School requirements or completing their Alternative School assignment will be under the closed campus policy until the date of their classmates' graduation.

Students in an alternative school program: will adhere to the requirements of the student's respective school and the Alternative School. Upon placement in the Alternative School, students will receive an Alternative School Handbook.

BULLYING

STUDENT BULLYING Policy JDDA Date Issued: 12/11/2017

The Board of Trustees of the Quitman School District prohibits bullying or harassing behavior of students, school employees, or volunteers. The Quitman School District does not condone and will not tolerate bullying or harassing behavior and will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no person or school employee is subjected to bullying or harassing behavior by other students or other school employees.

Definitions

Bullying or harassing behavior to or by a student is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that

- (a) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, or
- (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits.

A "hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior.

The above conduct constitutes bullying if that conduct interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of a school.

Bullying or harassing behavior will not be condoned or tolerated when it takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus, or when it takes place off school property when such conduct, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders the offending person's presence in the classroom a disruption to the operation of the educational environment of the

school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupil(s) and teacher of such class as a whole.

The Quitman School District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no student or school employee is subjected to bullying or harassing behavior to or by a student upon other school employees or students. Likewise, the District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no person engages in any act of reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness or a person with reliable information about an act of bullying or harassing behavior.

The district encourages anyone who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or school employee has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior to report the incident to the appropriate school official. Retaliation or reprisal against any person, including a victim, a witness, or another person, who in good faith provides information concerning an incident of bullying or harassing behavior, is prohibited.

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

STUDENT COMPLAINTS OF BULLYING OR HARASSING BEHAVIOR - PROCEDURES

Policy JDDA-P

Date Issued: 12/11/2017

Procedures for Processing a Complaint

1. Any student, school employee or volunteer who feels he/she has been a victim of bullying or harassing behavior to or from a student, or has witnessed or who has reliable information that a student, school employee or volunteer has been subject to bullying or harassing behavior shall report such conduct to a teacher, principal, counselor or other school official. The report shall be made promptly but no later than five (5) calendar days after the alleged act or acts occurred. (HB 263-D)
2. The school official shall complete a "Bullying/Harassing Behavior" complaint form which shall include the name of the reporting person, the specific nature and date of the misconduct, the names of the victim of the misconduct, the names of any witnesses and any other information that would assist in the investigation of the complaint. The report shall be given promptly to the principal or superintendent who shall institute an immediate investigation. Complaints against the principal shall be made to the superintendent and complaints against the superintendent shall be made to the Board chairman. The complaint shall be investigated promptly. (HB 263-F)
3. Parents will be notified of the nature of any complaint involving their student. The district official will arrange such meetings as may be necessary with all concerned parties within five (5) working days after initial receipt of the complaint by the district. The parties will have an opportunity to submit evidence and a list of witnesses. All findings related to the complaint will be reduced to writing. The district official conducting the investigation shall notify the victim and parents as appropriate when the investigation is completed and a decision regarding disciplinary action, as warranted, is determined. (HB 263-C)
4. If the victim is not satisfied with the decision of the district official, he/she may submit a written appeal to the superintendent. Such appeal shall be filed within ten (10) working days after receipt of the results of the initial decision. The superintendent will arrange such meetings with the victim and other affected parties as deemed necessary to discuss the appeal. The superintendent shall provide a written decision to the victim's appeal within ten (10) working days.
5. If the victim is not satisfied with the decision of the superintendent, a written appeal may be filed with the Board. Such appeal shall be filed within ten (10) working days after receipt of the decision of the superintendent. The Board shall, within twenty (20) working days, allow the victim and parents as appropriate to appear before the Board to present reasons for dissatisfaction with the decision of the superintendent. The Board shall provide a written decision within ten (10) working days following the victim's appearance before the Board.
6. If, after investigation, a student is found to be a victim of bullying, such student shall not face disciplinary action on the basis of that student's use of "reasonable self-defense was in response to the bullying" (HB 263-G & 2)
7. If the victim of bullying is a student with disabilities, disciplinary action for the offended shall comply with the requirements of federal law including the individuals with Disabilities Act (20 USCS Section 1400 et seq). (HB 263-H)

The Quitman School District shall maintain and make available a list of counseling services to any student who is a victim of or a witness to bullying, or who engages in bullying. The following list of the types of counseling and support services are available to any victim of or a witness to bullying. This list is presented as a guide that by no means limits this district from including other additional support services. (HB 263-E)

- School/District Counseling
- Conflict resolution training
- Problem solving skills training (proactive, constructive, relationship-building)
- Social skills training

Support may be provided by the school district through the assistance of any of the following agencies:

- Mississippi Department of Education
- Mississippi Department of Health

- Mississippi Department of Human Services-Juvenile Services Department
- Community/Family Public or private community-based mental health services
- Faith-based services
- Law enforcement agencies

The procedures for reporting bullying shall also be posted on the district's website. (HB 263-3)

BUS DISCIPLINE POLICY

The Quitman School District operates transportation services as required by state law which directs that all school districts furnish transportation to pupils living one or more miles from their attendance center. Any violation of conduct by students, performed while on the school bus, waiting to board the school bus, or departing from the school bus, shall be addressed by utilizing the discipline steps prescribed for elementary and secondary levels in the respective handbooks. Students may be denied the privilege of riding the bus because of improper behavior, including the suspension of the privilege of riding the bus for the remainder of the school year. (MS State Code 37-7-301, e)

SCHOOL BUS DISCIPLINE POLICY

Policy Code: JCDAD **Revised Date: 06/12/2023**

School bus discipline is important for student safety and bus driver effectiveness. Student transportation is a school function and requires student behavior reflective of courtesy and good manners. To support good school bus behavior, the following discipline rules will apply.

1. RESPONSIBILITIES

While Mississippi law requires the district to furnish transportation to its eligible students, parents have the responsibility of supervising the students until they board the bus in the morning and after they leave the bus at the end of the school day. Furthermore, students have the responsibility to obey all rules of conduct while waiting for, riding and leaving the bus.

The school bus driver is authorized and responsible to the school district to maintain student order and to ensure safety at all times. Therefore, he is authorized to instruct and otherwise control students while they are on the bus.

The principal will be responsible for disciplining students reported to him by the driver. Questions and inquiries regarding discipline should be directed to the school principal. Questions and inquiries regarding stops, routes, and student eligibility must be directed to the Transportation Supervisor.

2. RULES OF CONDUCT

Students who do not conduct themselves properly will not be allowed to ride the bus. Students may be subjected to disciplinary action provided by district policies, including but not limited to suspension and expulsion from school or from the bus, for misconduct on the bus.

While riding a school bus, students must conform to all rules of conduct as established by Policies [JCA, JCBD, JCBF, and JCDAD] and the student code of conduct adopted by their schools. The principal shall provide to each student eligible to ride a bus a list of rules, including but not necessarily limited to the following:

- a. Loading and Unloading
- b. Be at your assigned loading zone on time.
- c. Exercise extreme caution in getting to and from your assigned bus stop.
- d. Look in both directions before stepping from behind parked cars.
- e. Stay well off the roadway until the bus comes to a complete stop and the bus driver indicates that it is safe to board.
- f. Do not play on or near the road while waiting for the bus to arrive.
- g. Look in both directions before crossing any roadway.
- h. Never walk on the road when there is a sidewalk or pathway.
- i. Always walk on the left side of the road facing oncoming traffic and step off the road when a motor vehicle approaches.
- j. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before trying to load and unload.
- k. Use the hand rail while getting on and off the bus.
- l. If possible, wear white or light-colored clothing or carry a flashlight when you walk on the roadway at night in order that the motoring public might be aware of your presence.
- m. When you must cross the road to enter the bus, or after leaving the bus, always cross in front of the bus and walk approximately 10 feet ahead of the bumper.

3. RIDING THE BUS

- a. Do not distract the driver's attention other than when necessary.
- b. Talk to your friends in a normal tone and do not shout. Do not talk or make unnecessary noise when the bus is approaching and crossing a railroad or a highway intersection.
- c. Keep head, hands, and articles inside the bus.
- d. Do not bring unauthorized articles on the bus (i.e., pets, combustibles, large articles, weapons).
- e. Do not use profane language or make obscene gestures.
- f. Do not fight or scuffle.
- g. Be courteous to and follow the instructions of your bus driver and safety patrol.
- h. Do not strike or threaten the bus driver.
- i. Do not make excessive noise.
- j. Do not throw objects inside or outside the bus.

- k. Do not commit any other acts deemed improper by the student code of conduct or by the bus driver.
- l. Student-to-student sexual harassment will not be tolerated. Complaints of student-to-student sexual harassment will be handled in accordance with Policy JB-P, Students Complaints of Sexual Discrimination/Harassment - Title IX Procedures.
- m. Smoking is prohibited on the school bus and on all educational property. Violation of the no-smoking rule will be handled in accordance with the "Mississippi Adult Tobacco Use on Educational Property Act of 2000," '97-32-25 thru 97-32-29. (For details refer to sample policy JCB - Code of Conduct.)

FOR VIOLATION OF GENERAL RULES OF COURTESY AND GOOD MANNERS

Disciplinary action will be taken for improper boarding or departing procedures, failing to remain in assigned seat, being discourteous to another student, and failing to obey the bus driver.

Consequences are determined by the number of referrals – not by infraction.

Consequences for these actions: (minimum)

First Offense – Warning (Parent Contact)

Second Offense – 1 day bus suspension

Third Offense – 3 days bus suspension

Fourth Offense – 5 days bus suspension

Fifth Offense – 10 days bus suspension

Sixth Offense – 20 days bus suspension

Seventh Offense - Suspension from bus for the remainder of the school year

(This discipline ladder will start over for K-2 students who do not have bus referrals) **Students suspended from the bus must be picked-up at the school at dismissal time.**

SERIOUS OR DANGEROUS BEHAVIORS AND ACTIONS

Include, but not limited to:

- Threatening a bus driver or staff member
- Profanity
- Fighting
- Fighting Words
- Use of Fireworks
- Use of Lighters/Matches
- Possession or use of tobacco or alcohol
- Possession or use of vaping products and/or devices
- Possession of any items that are illegal or considered dangerous.

Consequences for these actions will be determined by the discipline policy for each school building. Repeated offences may result in permanent removal from bus.

Serious/Dangerous Behavior and Actions may also require additional consequences based on legal and District policies. Example: Weapons, Drug Violations, Fighting carry additional consequences. Students referred for a more serious violation may escalate more than one step on the bus discipline ladder.

It is illegal for any person to board a Quitman School District bus.

CELL PHONES / USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES
policy JE, revised 06/13/2022

The Board specifically finds in its discretionary judgment that to maintain an appropriate educational and learning environment for the students and teachers that it is necessary and desirable and in the best interest of the students and the learning process and environment of the school district that these rules and policy be hereby adopted and disseminated:

The use of any electronic communication devices including cellular phones, personal digital assistance devices, lasers, and related communication products (or other electronic items) by students are prohibited during the administration of scheduled statewide tests and in any classroom or instructional or other prohibited setting located upon any campus of the Quitman School District School District.

STUDENTS SHOULD NOT HAVE A CELL PHONE VISIBLE OR IN USE. (“In use” includes texting, calling, receiving calls or texts.)

Any student or person (or the parent(s) or legal guardian of a student) violating this policy shall be subject to (by use of such device in an instructional or educational setting, gymnasium or classroom setting or interior building setting where students may be instructed or supervised) having such equipment or communication device or cellular telephone temporarily confiscated by any school official (the principal or his/her designee or authority) and/or temporary or permanent suspension from the possession of such device for the remainder of the school year.

Consequences for the use of a cell phone and/or other prohibited electronic equipment:

1st offense – \$25.00 fine or cell phone and/or other electronic device will be held 5 school days in the office

2nd offense – \$35.00 fine or cell phone and/or other electronic device will be held 10 school days in the office

3rd offense – \$45.00 fine or cell phone and/or other electronic device will be held 20 school days in the office

4th offense – The cell phone and/or other electronic device will remain in the office until the end of the school year.

Any electronic communication device used during any administration of statewide tests will be confiscated for the duration of the school year and may result in suspension or termination of the student from the regular school environment for the remainder of the year and into

the alternative school setting and/or permanently. **Any student who refuses to turn in or fails to accept the cellphone consequences will be referred to the Alternative School for 30 days.**

Provided further that for sufficiently documented safety or medical or health reasons, the principal of each school upon approval of the Superintendent of Education shall have discretion and authority to grant exceptions to this policy.

Consequences for violating this Policy JE: Cell Phone/Electronic Devices, shall be in addition to all other consequences, if any, that may be applicable for violation of any other district policy(s).

Other items deemed by the administration to be inappropriate, and/or interferes with the educational process will be confiscated and held in the same manner as cell phones.

The Quitman School District, its schools and its faculty, are not responsible for any damaged, missing, or stolen cell phones and assumes no liability for any personal electronic devices. If a student has a cell phone and it is damaged or stolen, schools WILL NOT utilize administrative time to investigate the incident nor will the district or schools take any financial responsibility for the cell phone or cell phone charges.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Policy JDB – adopted 06/27/2019

The Quitman School Board has adopted a policy allowing reasonable corporal punishment of a non-disabled student is permitted as a disciplinary measure in order to preserve an effective educational environment which is free from disruption and is conducive to furthering the educational mission of the board. The superintendent shall establish and enforce rules and regulations governing the administration of corporal punishment which are consistent with the following requirements:

1. School personnel is prohibited from using corporal punishment on any student with a disability. A student with a disability is any student who has an IEP or Section 504 plan.
2. Corporal punishment shall be administered only after less stringent measures such as counseling, parental conferences and other forms of discipline have failed to produce the desired results, unless the conduct of a student is of such an extreme nature that corporal punishment is the only reasonable form of discipline under the circumstances.
3. Any corporal punishment shall be reasonable and moderate and may not be administered maliciously or for the purpose of revenge. Such factors as the size, age and condition of the student, the type of instrument to be used, and the amount of force to be used and the part of the body to be struck shall be considered before administering any corporal punishment.
4. Corporal punishment may be administered by the school principal, or assistant principal.
5. When corporal punishment is administered, it shall be done in the presence of another school employee.

Except in the case of excessive force or cruel and unusual punishment, a principal or assistant principal shall not be civilly or criminally liable for any action carried out in conformity with state or federal law or rules or regulations of the State Board of Education or the local school board regarding the control, discipline, suspension and expulsion of students. The local school board shall provide any necessary legal defense to a teacher, principal or assistant principal in any action which may be filed against such school personnel. A public-school teacher, assistant teacher, principal, assistant principal, or other school personnel shall not be granted immunity from liability for the use of corporal punishment on a student with a disability.

Corporal punishment administered in a reasonable manner by a teacher, principal or assistant principal acting within the scope of his employment or function and in accordance with any state or federal laws or rules or regulations of the State Board of Education or the local school board does not constitute assault, simple assault, aggravated assault, battery, negligence or child abuse. No teacher, principal or assistant principal so acting shall be named as an individual defendant or be held liable in a suit for civil damages alleged to have been suffered by a student as a result of the administration of corporal punishment, unless the court determines that the teacher, principal or assistant principal acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose or in a manner exhibiting a wanton and willful disregard of human rights or safety.

Corporal punishment means the reasonable use of physical contact by a teacher, principal or assistant principal as may be necessary to maintain discipline, to enforce a school rule, for self-protection or for the protection of other students from disruptive students. Corporal punishment in the form of paddling shall be witnessed at all times by at least one (1) school employee, and all other acts of corporal punishment, as defined herein, shall be witnessed at all times, if possible, by a school employee. ' 37-11-57 (1997)

DISCIPLINARY MANAGEMENT POLICY

When a student's conduct, dress, speech, behavior, or attitude is unacceptable and disruptive to the educational environment; and prudent, reasonable efforts to bring about improvements in such misconduct or dress have proven ineffective, more drastic action shall be taken

Suspension

The Quitman Board of Education delegates to the principal, or his/her designee, subject to the procedural limitations listed herein, the authority to suspend students for violation of any school rule or any act of misconduct, speech, or insubordination.

Principal's Investigation (or designee)

In dealing with alleged misconduct, the principal shall investigate the incident and hear all available accounts of it. The student shall be encouraged to raise any defense he/she thinks relevant. If the student requests that other witnesses be questioned, the principal should talk to them if reasonably possible. If the student makes a reasonable claim of other defensive material that, if true, would free him from blame, reasonable steps should be taken to obtain the information. However, if other defensive material is not immediately available, the principal should consider postponing disciplinary action for a reasonable time until such evidence may be presented.

Summary Suspension

The principal or his designee may summarily suspend a student without conducting an investigation for not more than three days for a serious student misconduct under circumstances where immediate removal of the student is necessary to restore order or to protect persons

on the school grounds. In such cases, the principal is required to conduct the investigation at least by the end of the school day following the summary suspension. If additional suspension is necessary, the principal may extend the suspension for a period not to exceed a maximum of ten days.

Short-Term Suspension

A short-term suspension is denial to a student of the right to attend school and to take part in school functions for any period of time up to ten school days.

The principal shall investigate and ascertain the facts of the student's misconduct. If the facts indicate the student's guilt, the principal shall review the designated punishment to determine its fairness.

DRESS AND PERSONAL APPEARANCE, policy JCBD, brd. appv'd 06/12/2023

The Quitman School Board, the administration, and faculty expect all students to dress in a manner which reflects favorably upon the efforts of the total educational community to provide the best learning experience possible for each student. Any dress or personal appearance that the administration feels are disruptive or presents a safety hazard to the instructional process will be dealt with on an individual case basis. Certain events, such as homecoming, may allow for special dress. Modifications to the dress code may be allowed by school administrators for these special occasions. **QSD is not responsible for lost or stolen clothing.**

Students enrolled in the district are expected to adhere to the dress code listed below.

1. Hair shall be groomed so as **not** to extend below the eyebrows or cover the eyes.
2. Hair and body shall be free from obnoxious odors, clean, and neat in appearance. **No** grooming in class.
3. **Closed toed** shoes, sandals or boots shall be worn at all times with shoes being laced and tied. **No** cleats or shoes with heels. (**No** shower shoes, beach shoes, or house-shoes of any kind.)
4. **PreK – 5th**: - **No** muscle shirts, tank tops, strapless tops, halter tops, tops with spaghetti straps, tops with low necklines or backless, or tops that expose the midriff, with hands raised above the head, shall be worn (including dresses).
6th – 12th - **No** tank tops, strapless tops, halter tops, tops with spaghetti straps, tops with low necklines or backless, or tops that expose the midriff, with hands raised above the head, shall be worn. This includes dresses. Appropriate underclothing shall be worn. **No** clothing considered and designed as underclothing shall be worn as an outside garment. Underclothing shall **not** be exposed while worn underneath an outside garment. Students shall **not** wear sleeveless shirts.
5. Any style of clothing tending toward immodesty is prohibited. **No** see-through clothing shall be worn. All clothing should be of an appropriate size and fit for the student.
6. Picks, combs, rollers and other styling devices shall **not** be worn in the hair.
7. Unless prescribed for medical reasons, sunglasses are **not** allowed in the building.
8. **No** hats, caps, head scarves, bandanas, wrist bands, hairnets, or shower caps, stocking caps or do rags are allowed on campus. Toboggans and hoods on shirts or sweatshirts may **not** be worn on the head inside the buildings.
9. Length of dresses, skirts and shorts:
PreK–2nd: Must come to the fingertips, when hands are held at one's side, at the shortest point of the hem.
3rd – 5th: Must not be shorter than **2** inches above the kneecap **all around**.
6th– 12th: May not be more than **2** inches above the kneecap **all around**. Shorts must have a hem and not be considered cut-offs.
10. **NO BODY PIERCINGS** allowed, except in the **ears/nose (nose ring no larger than 2 mm)**.
11. Pants/shorts with **no** rips or holes.
12. Overall straps and suspenders shall be fastened and worn over the shoulders.
13. Leggings, jeggings, yoga pants, and skin-tight pants/jeans or biking shorts:
PreK–2nd: May be worn with shorts, skirts, or tops that meet the appropriate length (see #9 above)
3rd–5th: May be worn with shorts, skirts, or tops that meet the appropriate length (see #9 above)
6th– 12th: **Leggings may be worn under skirts of appropriate length. Jeggings/yoga pants are not permitted.**
14. Pants should be worn appropriately at the waist. Sagging pants will **not** be tolerated. Pajama pants are **not** permitted. Pants with writing across the seat are prohibited.
15. Students may be required to wear a belt at the Administrators discretion. Any color belt may be worn and must have a prong/pin buckle and has to be buckled at all times.
16. Students with tattoos may be requested to keep them covered.

17. Clothing with profane, suggestive, vulgar, violent, indecent, or disruptive slogans/pictures is **not** permitted. Clothing advertising alcoholic products or drugs is **not** permitted.
18. A student shall **not** wear any clothing or present himself/herself in a manner (such as cuts in the eyebrows, one pants leg or sleeve rolled up) that would identify him/her with a gang or any other illegal activity. Further, a student shall **not** wear any clothing advertising gang-related signs, colors, or written gestures.
19. Wallet chains, trench coats, duster style coats and dog tags are **not** allowed.
20. Sweatpants, warm-ups and athletic shorts:
PreK-5th: Sweatpants, warm-ups, and athletic shorts may be worn by PreK-5th graders **only**.
6th-12th: No sweatpants, athletic shorts, or warm-ups.

Quitman School District is NOT responsible for lost or stolen sweater/vest/sweatshirts/fleece or pullover coats.

DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS

- A. Determine the extent and character of drug use and establish a means of monitoring that use.
- B. Establish clear and specific rules regarding drug use that include strong corrective actions.
- C. Enforce established policies against drug use fairly and consistently. Implement security measures to eliminate drugs on school premises and at school functions.
- D. Implement a comprehensive drug prevention curriculum from kindergarten through grade 12, teaching that drug use is wrong and harmful, and supporting and strengthening resistance to drugs.
- E. Reach out to the community for support and assistance in making the school's anti-drug policy and program work. Develop collaborative arrangements in which school personnel, parents, school boards, law enforcement officers, treatment organizations, and private groups can work together to provide necessary resources.

Source: *What Works, Schools Without Drugs*, U. S. Department of Education, William J. Bennett, Secretary, 1986.

FEDERAL / STATE LAWS REGARDING DISCIPLINE

Students have certain basic rights under the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the state of Mississippi, and the Mississippi State Law. Those rights, however, do not extend to infringement on the rights of teachers to teach and other students to learn. School principals shall have the authority to suspend students from school attendance for unacceptable behavior. Walking to and from school, being transported by school bus, and all school sponsored activities regardless of time or place are considered as extensions of the school day and shall be governed by the same procedures. In order to establish effective school discipline, principals shall have the authority to place students in the care of their parents for the remainder of a school day. Such placement shall not be construed as suspension.

Special Education students will be subject to suspension and expulsion pursuant to state and federal law.

Section 61-16-05 of the Laws of Mississippi states that if any parents, guardian, or other person willfully disturbs any school or insults any school official that person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine if convicted.

Note: The Sheriff's Department may be called at the discretion of the principal.

Recovery of Damages

Any public school district shall be entitled to recover damages in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00, plus necessary court costs, from the parents of any minor under the age of 18 years and over the age of six years, who maliciously and willfully damages or destroys property belonging to such school district. However, this section shall not apply to parents whose parental control of such child has been removed by court order or decree.

A student who obstructs any teaching, learning, administrative, or extracurricular activity shall be subject to such disciplinary procedures as set forth in this handbook, or as otherwise authorized by law. Every student is strictly accountable for any disorderly conduct in school or on school property.

Student Restrictions

Possession of the following items on school property is prohibited:

radios	stink bombs	gang paraphernalia	illegal drugs
stolen property	any type of weapon	personal defense spray	cameras
walking canes	noise-making devices	water pistols	playing cards
toys (show & tell only)	cigarette lighters	cartridges, bullets	gun caps
gambling paraphernalia	alcoholic beverages	inappropriate Internet sites	finger nail files
drug paraphernalia	tobacco in any form	knives	paint guns
Pokémon cards	incendiary materials	slingshots	laser lights
gun jewelry	fireworks	CDs	eyebrow archers
look-alike drugs	pornographic materials	Firearms	electronic cigarettes
game devices	electronic devices	nerf guns	glass breakers

- Graffiti, symbols, or drawings that are associated with groups not affiliated with Quitman School District are not permitted
- Students are not permitted to sell or trade any items at school without permission from the principal.
- Students are not permitted to sit on the tops of desks or tables in the school building.
- Students are expected to properly dispose of all garbage and litter.
- Pets are not allowed on campus except for instructional purposes approved by the principal.
- Students are not permitted to eat fast food in the lunch area during lunch periods.
- Students are not permitted to bring food into classrooms without permission from the principal.
- Students are not permitted to bring visitors, relatives, or friends to school without prior written approval of the principal.
- Toys are not to be brought to school unless a teacher requests them for instructional purposes.
- Students are not allowed to have a car on an elementary or middle school campus in the district.

School personnel will not be held responsible for prohibited items which have been confiscated.

SCHOOL SEARCHES

Circumstances may arise where searches of students’ persons, possessions, book bags, desks, and vehicles will be necessary. Searches of a student’s person or possessions may be conducted if a district employee has reasonable suspicion that a student has violated or is violating a district policy, school rules, or regulations or the law and that the search will result in discovery of evidence of such violation. Search of desks, book bags and other school property may be conducted at any time, with or without reasonable suspicion of a violation.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Students have certain basic rights under the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the state of Mississippi, and the Mississippi State Law. Those rights, however, do not extend to infringement on the rights of teachers to teach and other students to learn.

To establish an appropriate learning environment for the student, as well as to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of all students and school personnel, the following categories of misconduct have been adopted, along with guidelines for disciplinary consequences for when a student engages in that misconduct. This list is not exhaustive and includes, but is not limited to, the following:

A student who obstructs any teaching, learning, administrative, or extracurricular activity shall be subject to such disciplinary procedures as set forth in this handbook, or as otherwise authorized by law. Every student is strictly accountable for any disorderly conduct in school or on school property and should the situation require it, law enforcement personnel will be called at the discretion of school administrators.

Quitman School District Discipline Codes

If a student violates, or provokes others to violate, any of the following Quitman School District Discipline Codes and/or MSIS (Mississippi Student Information System) Incident Codes, he/she will be sent directly to the office.

ISD = In-School Detention. ISS = In-School Suspension. OSS = Out of School Suspension.

Grades K - 5

NOTE 1: After three (3) Out-of-School Suspensions, student may be referred to the Alternative School.

NOTE 2: The Quitman School District (QSD) Discipline Codes are not all-inclusive. QSD Administrators reserve the right to assign the actions of any disciplinary consequences based on severity of the infraction.

NOTE 3: Corporal Punishment may be an option for minor infractions.

NOTE 4: Riding the bus is a privilege. Students have no due process rights in school transportation.

INFRACTION	CONSEQUENCE
Academic Dishonesty	1 st Offense: Redo Assignment 2 nd Offense: 1 day ISS and Redo Assignment
Bullying / Cyber-Bullying	1 st Offense: 3 days OSS 2 nd Offense: 5 days OSS 3 rd Offense: 10 days OSS with recommendation for expulsion
Bus Infraction	1 st Offense: Warning (Parent Contact) 2 nd Offense: 1 day bus suspension 3 rd Offense: 3 days bus suspension 4 th Offense: 5 days bus suspension 5 th Offense: 10 days bus suspension 6 th Offense: 20 days bus suspension 7 th Offense: suspension for the remainder of school year *Fighting on the bus will result in more severe disciplinary action.
K – 2 nd grade Bus Fight	1 st offense 10 days bus suspension and 3 days OSS 2 nd offense 30 days bus Suspension 5 days OSS

INFRACTION	CONSEQUENCE
3 rd – 5 th grade Bus Fight	1 st Offense: Bus suspension – 30 days and 3 days OSS 2 nd Offense: Bus suspension for the rest of the school year and 5 - 10 days OSS
Destruction of School Property	1 st Offense: 1-3 days OSS 2 nd Offense: 3-5 days OSS 3 rd Offense: 10 days OSS *Parent/Student restitution of property
Dishonesty	1 st Offense: 1 day ISS 2 nd Offense: 2 days ISS 3 rd Offense: 1 day OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses.
Disruption in ISS	1 st Offense: 1 day OSS 2 nd Offense: 2 days OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses
Disruptive Behavior	1 st Offense: ISD 2 nd Offense: 1 day ISS 3 rd Offense: 2 days ISS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses.
Disruptive Behavior requiring removal from classroom (non-compliant)	1 st Offense: 1 day ISS 2 nd Offense: 2 days ISS 3 rd Offense: 1 day OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses.
Dress Code	Call Parent (parent will provide proper clothing) Student will remain in ISD until parent arrives.
Failure to accept disciplinary policy / defiant	1 st Offense: 1 day OSS 2 nd Offense: 3 days OSS 3 rd Offense: 5 days OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses
Fighting**	1 st Offense: 3 days OSS 2 nd Offense: 5 days OSS 3 rd Offense: 10 days OSS with recommendation for expulsion *Each offense will result in an Adm./Student/Parent conference.
Gang behavior – signs, symbols, gestures, handshakes or other actions that are non-threatening to others	1 st Offense: Adm./Student Conference (Contact parent) 2 nd Offense: ISD 3 rd Offense: 1 days ISS 4 th Offense: 1 day OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses
Harassment (General)	1 st Offense: ISD 2 nd Offense: 1 day ISS 3 rd Offense: 2 days ISS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses
Harassment (Sexual)	1 st Offense: 1 days OSS 2 nd Offense: 2 days OSS 3 rd Offense: 3 days OSS with recommendation for expulsion/alternative school *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses
Inappropriate Sexual Contact	1 st Offense: 3 days OSS and may be recommended for expulsion. 2 nd Offense: 5 – 10 days OSS with recommendation for expulsion.
Inappropriate verbal communication to school personnel by 3 rd – 5 th grade students	1 st Offense: 1 day ISS 2 nd Offense: 2 days ISS 3 rd Offense: 1 day OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses
Multiple Classroom Infractions	1 st Offense: ISD 2 nd Offense: 1 day ISS 3 rd Offense: 2 days ISS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses
Physical Altercation	1 st Offense: ISD 2 nd Offense: 1 day ISS 3 rd Offense: 2 days ISS

INFRACTION	CONSEQUENCE	
	*A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses	
Physical Contact toward School Personnel	1 st Offense: 5 – 10 days OSS and may be recommended for expulsion	
Pornography	1 st Offense: 1 day OSS 2 nd Offense: 2 days OSS 3 rd Offense: 3 days OSS *Distribution of pornography: 5-10 days OSS and may be recommendation for expulsion.	
Possession or use of Alcohol/Drugs	1 st Offense: 5-10days OSS with recommendation for expulsion *Distribution of Alcohol/Drugs will carry additional days	
Possession, Distribution or Use of Tobacco-Related Products and/or Electronic Cigarettes, Vaping Products	1 st Offense: 3 days OSS and may be recommendation for expulsion 2 nd Offense: 5 days OSS and may be recommendation for expulsion 3 rd Offense: 10 days OSS and recommendation for expulsion *Distribution of Tobacco-related products will carry additional days and will be recommended for expulsion	
Possession of Weapon	1 st Offense: 5-10 days OSS with recommendation for expulsion	
Possession of a Look-alike Weapon (Includes Toy Weapons)	1 st Offense: 1-3 days OSS 2 nd Offense: 3-5 days OSS and may be recommended for alternative school/expulsion	
Profanity / Obscene Gestures (Towards School Personnel)	1 st Offense: 1 day OSS 2 nd Offense: 2 days OSS 3 rd Offense: 3 days OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses	
Profanity / Obscene Gestures (Towards other students)	1 st Offense: ISD 2 nd Offense: 1 day ISS 3 rd Offense: 2 days ISS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses	
Provoking a fight (starting fight between others or between self and other(s))	1 st Offense: 1 day ISS 2 nd Offense: 2 days ISS 3 rd Offense: 1 day OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses	
Public Display of Affection	1 st Offense: Adm./Student Conference (Contact parent) 2 nd Offense: 1 day ISS 3 rd Offense: 2 days ISS 4 th Offense: 1 day OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses	
Removal from Athletics/ Extracurricular Activities	If a person is removed from an Athletic/ Extracurricular Activity/Event, he/she may be removed from all home events for a calendar year	
Sexual Assault	5-10 days OSS with recommendation for expulsion	
Sexual Comments/Gestures/Drawings	1 st Offense: 1 day ISS 2 nd Offense: 2 days ISS 3 rd Offense: 1 day OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses	
Student in unauthorized area	1 st Offense: ISD 2 nd Offense: 1 day ISS 3 rd Offense: 2 days ISS 4 th Offense: 1 day OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses.	
Technology Violation	1 st Offense: Adm./Student Conference (Contact parent) 2 nd Offense: ISD 3 rd Offense: 1 day ISS 4 th Offense: 1 day OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses	
Theft / Stealing / Robbery (An attempt for restitution will be made by administration) ** <i>The Quitman School District, its schools and its faculty, are not</i>	Theft, Minor (less than \$100 in value)	1 st Offense: 1 day ISS 2 nd Offense: 2 days ISS 3 rd Offense: 1 day OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses /restitution

INFRACTION	CONSEQUENCE	
<i>responsible for any damaged, missing, or stolen cell phones and assumes no liability for any personal electronic devices.</i>	Theft, Major (more than \$100 in value)	1 st Offense: 1 day OSS 2 nd Offense: 2 days OSS 3 rd Offense: 5 days OSS and may be recommended for expulsion
	Robbery	1 st Offense: 3 days OSS 2 nd Offense: 5 days OSS 3 rd Offense: 10 days OSS and may be recommended for expulsion
Threat	1 st Offense:	Threat Assessment 3-5 days OSS and may be recommended for expulsion
Trespassing	2 nd Offense:	5-10 days OSS with recommendation for expulsion
Use of Electronic Devices (cell phones, MP3 players, etc.)	1 st Offense:	\$15.00 fine or phone held 5 school days in the office
	2 nd Offense:	\$25.00 fine or phone held 10 school days in the office
	3 rd Offense:	\$35.00 fine or phone held 20 school days in the office
	4 th offense:	The cell phone and/or another electronic device will remain in the office until the end of the school year.
Verbal Altercation	1 st Offense:	Administrative conference with student
	2 nd Offense:	ISD
	3 rd Offense:	1 day ISS
	4 th Offense:	2 days ISS
	*A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses.	

VAPING/VAPING DEVICES/ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

Electronic cigarettes have recently surpassed conventional cigarettes as the most commonly used tobacco product among youths. The Board of Trustees of the Quitman School District recognizes that the use of electronic cigarettes and other vaping devices, or any tobacco products, is detrimental to the health and safety of students, staff and visitors and is therefore prohibited at all times. Miss. Code § 97-32-29

This applies to all students, school staff, parents, and any visitors while on school grounds, in school buildings and facilities, in any school bus, on school property or at school-related activities or school-sponsored events which includes, but is not limited to, athletic events.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

The Quitman School District has a zero-tolerance policy towards the possession and/or use of firearms on any school property or at any school function throughout the district. Any student found to be in violation of this policy will be expelled immediately. ***NO EXCEPTIONS.***

Financial Hardship Waiver Application ****CONFIDENTIAL****

2025-2026 School Year

To apply for financial hardship waiver, carefully complete this form and return to _____.

If you need help with this form, please call _____.

Student Name _____ School _____

Student ID _____ Dollar amount for this waiver \$ _____

Explain in detail your reason for applying for this waiver:

LIST ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS MONTHLY INCOME

Name of Adults	Social Security Number	Monthly Earnings From All Work Before Deductions	Monthly Welfare Payments, Child Support and/or Alimony	Monthly Payments from Pensions, Retirement, Social Security	All Other Income Received Last Month
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					

Names of Children, Age, School

Name	Age	School
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

Total Monthly Income \$ _____

Do you receive food stamps? _____ Food Stamp Case Number _____

Do you receive AFDC? _____ AFDC Case Number _____

List any and all other aid you receive from any source:

What is your relationship to student? _____

CERTIFICATION

This application is made with full knowledge that the law provides penalties for making false statements or concealing material facts to obtain the benefits of this waiver.

Signature

Home Address

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

Home/Cell Telephone

Work Telephone

=====
OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ By: _____ Date: _____

Information verified by: _____ Date: _____

Please Respond
In English

Quitman School District School – Parent Compact

English
School-Parent Compact

Dear Parent / Guardian:

We value your role in working to help your child achieve high academic standards. The following is an outline of some of the ways you and school staff can build and maintain a partnership to share the responsibility for supporting your child's learning.

School's Responsibility:

- Provide high quality curriculum and learning materials
- Provide you with assistance in understanding academic achievement standards and assessments and how to monitor your child's progress
- Provide opportunities for ongoing communication between you and teachers through, at a minimum:
 - annual parent-teacher conferences,
 - frequent reports regarding your child's progress, and
 - opportunities to talk with staff, volunteer in class, and observe classroom activities.

Parent's Responsibility:

- Encourage your child to attend school regularly
- Encourage your child to show positive school behavior
- Review your child's homework
- Monitor television watching and encourage positive use of your child's extracurricular time
- Volunteer in your child's school and classroom, if time or schedule permits
- Attend parent-teacher conferences and participate, when appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of your child.

Please review this School-Parent Compact with your child. This School-Parent Compact may be discussed with your child's teacher during a parent-teacher conference as it relates to your child's school progress.

Thank you for your support and involvement in your child's education. Please contact the person listed below for more information.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Please sign and date below to acknowledge that you have read and received this information and return the entire form to your child's teacher.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Teacher Signature: _____ Date: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY				
Student ID#	Student Name	Date Distributed	Faculty Name	Faculty ID #

Por Favor,
Responda en ingles

Spanish
School-Parent Compact

Quitman School District Acuerdo entre los padre y la escuela

Estimado padre/madre/tutor:

Valoramos lo que hace para ayudar a que su hijo(a) tenga éxito en la escuela. Este acuerdo entre los padres y la escuela forma parte de la política de participación de los padres y las familias de nuestra escuela. Este acuerdo se desarrolló en colaboración con los padres e identifica maneras en las que usted y el personal de la escuela pueden compartir la responsabilidad de apoyar el aprendizaje de su hijo(a).

Responsabilidades de la escuela:

- Ofreceremos programas e instrucción de alta calidad en un entorno de aprendizaje eficaz y de apoyo.
- Proporcionaremos asistencia para comprender las pruebas y los estándares de rendimiento académico, para saber cómo supervisar el avance de su hijo(a) y para poder establecer un entorno y una rutina de tareas exitosos.
- Proporcionaremos oportunidades periódicas de comunicación entre usted y los maestros a través de:
- reuniones de padres y maestros,
 - informes frecuentes sobre el avance de su hijo(a),
 - oportunidades para hablar con el personal, trabajar como voluntario en la clase y observar las actividades del salón de clases,
 - garantizaremos una comunicación continua entre los miembros de la familia y el personal de la escuela en la medida de lo posible, en un idioma que los miembros de la familia puedan comprender.

Responsabilidades de los padres:

- Alentar a su hijo(a) a asistir a la escuela con regularidad
- Incentivar a su hijo(a) a tener un comportamiento escolar positivo
- Establecer horarios regulares para la tarea y apoyar el esfuerzo, la finalización y la exactitud de las tareas
- Establecer límites para el tiempo que su hijo(a) pasa frente a una pantalla, como la televisión, un teléfono inteligente o una computadora, y alentar el uso positivo del tiempo libre
- Trabajar como voluntario en la escuela y el salón de clases de su hijo(a) si el horario lo permite
- Asistir a las reuniones de padres y maestros y, cuando sea apropiado, participar en decisiones sobre la educación de su hijo(a).

Revise este Acuerdo entre los padre’s y la escuela con su hijo(a). Podemos analizar este Acuerdo con usted durante una reunión de padres y maestros en lo que se refiere al avance escolar de su hijo(a).

Gracias por su interés y participación en la educación de su hijo(a). Para obtener más información, comuníquese con la persona que se indica a continuación:

Nombre: _____ Título: _____

Número de teléfono: _____ Dirección de correo electrónico: _____

Firme e incluya la fecha a continuación para confirmar que ha leído y recibido esta información. Devuelva todo el formulario al maestro de su hijo(a).

Firma del padre/madre/tutor: _____ Fecha: _____

Firma del maestro: _____ Fecha: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY				
Student ID#	Student Name	Date Distributed	Faculty Name	Faculty ID #