

Hopkins County Schools

2025-2026 Code of Acceptable Behavior and Discipline Updates

Additions to the Code are added in RED and highlighted yellow

Omissions/Deletions to the Code are denoted with a strikethrough

Questionable sections based on updated EO and potential federal guidance are highlighted blue

Page 1:

~~2024-2025~~ 2025-2026

Page 2: Contact information updated to reflect current staffing

Page 4:

PBIS is the behavior component of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) that provides schools with a framework for utilizing high quality, evidence-based instruction, intervention, and assessment practices to provide all students with a level of instruction and support that is matched to their academic and behavioral needs. Social-emotional support is also provided to students through ~~Project Wisdom and other SEL~~ various support systems and programs.

Pages 6: Equality Statement

~~The Hopkins County Board of Education aspires to create an environment of equality and fairness for students, families, staff, and administration. In an effort to demonstrate this goal there are commitments we will uphold in the academic year, in after school programs, in athletics, and in every department.~~

~~We are committed to:~~

- ~~• Supporting racial, ethnic and cultural diversity;~~
- ~~• Promoting cultural harmony among students, staff, and the community;~~
- ~~• Providing multicultural education as well as opportunities for students and staff to acquire positive attitudes towards diversity;~~
- ~~• Establishing and maintaining meaningful communications with families, providing special consideration in regard to programming, reception, assessment placement, and monitoring for minority groups.~~

~~It is our firm belief that discrimination, racism, and prejudice, both overt and covert, and those actions with no ill intent, but having the same effect, have no place in our district.~~

Page 8: Health and Safety Statement

The Hopkins County Schools strives to create a safe and healthy environment for students, families, employees, campus visitors, and the community at large. ~~Any behaviors that create actual or potential COVID-19 or any other health and safety risks will result in immediate disciplinary action.~~ Hopkins County Schools reserves the right to add or change policies and/or procedures as needed in response to matters of public health and in compliance with public health safety standards and/or state and federal guidelines, mandates, and/or laws. New or updated policies and/or procedures will be communicated via the district webpage, social media outlets, and/or via email.

Pages 8-9: Visitors

Visitors are welcome in the Hopkins County Schools unless campuses are closed to outside foot traffic due to health or safety concerns. Upon entering district or school facilities, all visitors and parents shall report to the administrative office, provide photo identification and obtain a visitor's pass. Students are not allowed to bring visitors to school. Any person entering a district or school campus will be required to adhere to local, state, and/or federal health and safety guidelines/mandates and may be subject to health and temperature screening prior to entry. Individuals wishing to volunteer are required to complete the volunteer process outlined on the district website: <https://hopkins.kyschools.us/volunteer>.

Page 11: Disciplinary Responses

Trauma Informed Care Team: Consists of a group of school personnel dedicated to understanding and addressing the impact of trauma on students and staff.

Student Transition Team: Consists of a group of school personnel dedicated to assisting students and families when students enter the school setting from alternative settings.

Page 18: Moment of Silence

SB 19 was signed into legislation during the 2025 session and goes into effect for the 2025-2026 school year. Local boards of education are required to establish a policy to develop procedures for the inclusion of a moment of silence during the first class of each day in all public schools. Students will be required to participate in the Moment of Silence as follows:

- The moment of silence must be at least one minute and may not exceed two minutes.
- During the moment of silence, students shall remain seated and silent.
- During this time, students may be permitted to meditate, pray, or engage in any other silent activity so long as it does not distract from or impede other students' use of the time.

Pages 19-20: Sexual Extortion

A person is guilty of sexual extortion when he or she communicates, through any means, a threat to:

- (a) Injure the property or reputation of another person or commit violence against another person with the intent to coerce that person to:
 - 1. Engage in sexual conduct; or
 - 2. Produce, provide, or distribute any matter depicting that person engaging in sexual conduct or in a state of nudity or seminudity; or
- (b) Distribute any matter depicting another person engaged in sexual conduct or in a state of nudity or seminudity with the intent to coerce that person to:
 - 1. Engage in sexual conduct;
 - 2. Produce, provide, or distribute any matter depicting that person engaging in sexual conduct or in a state of nudity or seminudity;
 - 3. Provide the payment of money, property, services, or any other thing of value to the perpetrator; or
 - 4. Do any act or refrain from doing any act against his or her will.

Sexual extortion is a Class A misdemeanor unless:

- (a) The victim, as a result of the commission of the offense:
 - 1. Engages in sexual conduct;
 - 2. Produces, provides, or distributes any matter depicting himself or herself engaging in sexual conduct or in a state of nudity or seminudity;
 - 3. Provides the payment of money, property, services, or any other thing of value to the offender;
 - 4. Does any act or refrains from doing any act against his or her will; or
 - 5. Suffers serious physical injury; in which case it is a Class D felony; or
- (b)
 - 1. The person:
 - a. Was previously convicted of any sexual offense under KRS Chapter 510 or a sex crime as defined in Section 3 of this Act;
 - b. Occupied a position of special trust or a position of authority as those terms are defined in KRS 532.045 in relation to the victim;
 - c. Used or threatened the use of a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument against the victim during the commission of the offense; or
 - d. Is an adult and the victim is a minor, and there is greater than a four (4) year difference in age between them; or
 - 2. The offense was committed during the course of a kidnapping as described in KRS 509.040; in which case the person shall be charged one (1) level higher than the level otherwise specified in this subsection.

If the victim attempts suicide resulting in serious physical injury or dies by suicide within ninety (90) days of the commission of the offense as a proximate result of the trauma the victim experienced during or following the commission of the offense, the person may be prosecuted for homicide under KRS Chapter 507 or assault under KRS Chapter 508.

This section shall not apply to:

- (a) Images involving voluntary nudity or sexual conduct in public, commercial settings, or in a place where a person does not have a reasonable expectation of privacy;
- (b) Disclosures made in the public interest, including the reporting of unlawful conduct, or lawful and common practices of law enforcement, criminal reporting, corrections, legal proceedings, or medical treatment;

(c) Disclosures of materials that constitute a matter of public concern; or

(d) When acting in its capacity as a provider of those services, a:

1. Broadband internet access service provider;

2. Telecommunications service provider, an interconnected VoIP service provider, or a mobile service provider as defined in 47 U.S.C. sec. 153;

3. Commercial mobile service provider as defined in 47 U.S.C. sec. 332; or

4. Cable operator as defined in 47 U.S.C. sec. 522; or

(e) An interactive computer service, as defined in 47 U.S.C. sec. 230, related to content provided by a user of the interactive computer service.

Students shall not engage in behaviors described above. Students/employees who believe they have been a victim of sexual extortion or who have observed others being involved in sexual extortion shall report it to school personnel and/or law enforcement as soon as possible.

Page 23: Telecommunication Devices

While we recognize that cell phones and other telecommunication devices are in common use, they may present a serious safety concern and/or distraction to learning. During the 2025 legislative session, Governor Beshear signed HB 208 which amends KRS 158.165 and requires local boards of education to establish a policy prohibiting a student's use of a personal telecommunication devices (including the use of cellphones) during instructional time, with exception to:

- use during an emergency,
- for instructional purposes as directed by a teacher,
- when authorized by a teacher, or
- any device a student is authorized to use pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, or the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Telecommunication devices should not be visible and should remain inactive during the school day unless under the direct supervision of school staff for an approved specific purpose. This begins with arrival and ends with departure from the school campus at the end of the school day. The same rule applies for field trips during regular school time. In addition, the Transportation Department requires that telecommunication devices are not to be observed and must remain inactive while on the school bus in the mornings and afternoons.

The school is NOT responsible for LOST or STOLEN telecommunication devices.

Pursuant to board policy 08.2323 Acceptable Use Policy – Access to Electronic Media, students who refuse to sign the required acceptable use documents or who violate district rules governing the use of district technology shall be subject to the consequences outlined within this document. **Board Policy 09.4261** This policy, as well as all other board policies, may be found online at www.hopkins.kyschools.us/ksba.

Page 29: Excused Absences

Documentation, from sources other than a parent, will be accepted for the following absences:

- Court appearances requiring the student's presence. Documentation from the court will be required.
- Medical, mental health, vision and dental appointments. A physician's excuse shall state the date and/or the number of days for which the student will be excused. Physician's excuses may be faxed, emailed, or delivered directly to a designated staff person within five days of the student's absence.
- During the 2025 legislative session, SB 19 was amended to allow students to be dismissed 1 hour, 1 day a week to receive moral instruction at a church or other organization. Moral instruction must take place off school property, the entity providing moral instruction is required to provide transportation, and all entity personnel involved in transporting or providing instruction to students are required to submit to background checks.

Page 35: Appendix

Multiple sections of the appendix have been removed; Parent Square is being utilized to send out parent notifications.

Remove Title IX Section pages 42-45

Remove Attendance Forms page 47-50

Remove Student Participation in School Clubs Form page 53

Page 54: Code of Acceptable Behavior and Discipline Committee

Staffing update

