



VII. Instructional Program

7.1 *Curriculum*

The Head of Schools will coordinate the design and development of a comprehensive curriculum plan in accordance with state law and any requirements of the State Department of Education for approval by the Board.

7.2 *Textbooks*

Textbooks will be purchased and distributed in accordance with State Department of Education regulations. Students are loaned textbooks for the duration of the course that requires the textbook and are responsible for the care of the textbook. The parent, guardian, or student must reimburse the Board for the cost of any textbook(s) that are lost or damaged beyond reasonable wear and tear.

[Reference: ALA. CODE §16-36-62 (1975)]

7.3 *Academic Standards*

Teachers will assign grades and confer academic credit for work and activities performed by students in accordance with objective and generally accepted instructional and grading standards, applicable laws and regulations, and criteria hereinafter specified.

7.3.1 **Special Education Grading Standards** – Students who are receiving special educational services may be graded according to an individualized educational plan, and nothing in Board policy or procedure prohibits the extension of appropriate academic modifications or accommodations to students who may be eligible for such modifications or accommodations under provisions of state and federal law.

7.3.2 **Report Cards** – Report cards reflecting student progress will be provided to the parents or legal guardians of students on a regularly scheduled basis.

7.3.3 **Promotion** – Students are promoted from grade to grade based on academic credit earned during the school year, in summer school programs, or in such other academic programs as may be approved or recognized by the Board.

7.3.4 **Credit Recovery** – The Head of Schools is authorized to develop procedures for a program through which a student may recover credits in one or more failed courses, in compliance with regulations promulgated by the State Department of Education. The curriculum will align with the State Board of Education course of study and study content standards in which the student seeking credit recovery is deficient.

[Reference: Ala. Admin. Code 290-3-1-.02(12)]

7.4 Testing

The Head of Schools is authorized to develop and implement a standardized testing program that will include, at a minimum, all testing required under state and federal law. All standardized tests are to be conducted in accordance with the appropriate test administration manual guidelines and any rules or regulations that are intended to ensure their security and validity. Teachers are authorized to conduct tests for their courses in order to determine their students' abilities, knowledge and skills, and to use in calculating a student's grade. Confidentiality of test results will be assured, and information will be released only in compliance with the law.

7.5 Summer School Operations

The summer session shall be provided as an extension of the schedule for the I3 Academy. The schedule for summer session shall provide for enrichment and remedial services as determined by the interests and needs of the students. The Head of Schools is authorized to develop and maintain rules and regulations for the operation of summer school.

[Reference: Ala. Admin. Code 290-3-1-.02(6)]

[Reference: Ala. Admin. Code 290-3-1-.02(12, 13)]

7.6 School Wellness

- 7.6.1 **Nutrition Education** – Nutrition education that teaches the knowledge, skills, and values needed to develop healthy eating behaviors will be integrated into the curriculum and offered throughout school campuses, including school dining areas and classrooms, by appropriately trained personnel.
- 7.6.2 **Nutrition Standards** – The Board will ensure that reimbursable school meals meet the program requirements and nutritional standards established by applicable state and federal regulations. The Board will encourage students to make nutritious food choices and will monitor all food and beverages sold or served to students, including those available outside federally regulated child nutrition programs. The Board will consider nutrient density and portion size before permitting food and beverages to be sold or served to students.
- 7.6.3 **Physical Education and Physical Activity Opportunities** – The Board will offer physical education opportunities that include the components of a sound physical education program. Physical education will equip students with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to maintain healthful lifelong physical activity. Physical education instruction will be aligned with the curriculum. All students will be provided the opportunity to participate regularly in supervised physical activities that are intended to maintain physical fitness and to impart the benefits of maintaining a physically active and healthy lifestyle.
- 7.6.4 **Other School-Based Activities Designed to Promote Student Wellness** – The Board may implement other programs that help create a school environment that conveys consistent wellness messages and that is conducive to healthy eating and physical activity.
- 7.6.5 **Administrative Implementation** – The Head of Schools is authorized to develop and implement administrative rules and directives that are consistent with this policy and that are based on input from teachers (including specialists in health and physical education), school nurses, parents and guardians, students, representatives of the school food service program, school board members, school administrators, and the public. The Head of Schools will report to the Board, as requested, on programs and efforts that are designed to meet the purpose and intent of this policy.

7.7 *Selection of Instructional Materials and Materials for the School Libraries*

The Board recognizes the right of parents to request that their children not read a given book or use a given audio-visual material or participate in special instructional programs provided a written request is made to the child's school principal. (Special instructional programs represent defined units of

instruction which either supplement or replace previously approved programs of study.)

The Head of Schools shall develop or cause to be developed adequate due process procedures whereby any parent or group of parents may request reconsideration of the use of any reading matter, audio-visual material or participation in a special instructional program. The appeal process shall include a review and final decision by the Board.

Reference: Code of Alabama 16-1-30

7.8 Parent and Family Engagement

In order to comply with the requirements of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) §11116, the Board will comply with the following requirements:

7.8.1 Joint development of required plans –The school system will involve parents and family members in jointly developing the Board’s Title I, Part A plan, and the development of school support and improvement plans as required by the ESSA.

7.8.2 Coordination of activities within the school system –The school system will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the school system in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities designed to improve student academic achievement and school performance. Such coordination may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education.

7.8.3 Coordination with other laws and programs – The school system will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs.

7.8.4 Annual evaluation – The school system will conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools served under this part, including identifying—

a. Barriers to greater participation by parents/families in activities authorized by this section (with attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background);

b. The needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and

c. Strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school system will use the findings of the annual evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental and family engagement, and to revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policies described in this section.

7.8.5 Involvement of parents/family members – The school system will involve parents in the activities of the schools, which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the school system to adequately represent the needs of the population. This advisory board will help develop, revise, and review the parent and family engagement policy.

[Reference: 20 U.S.C.A. § 6318(a)(2)]

7.9 Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention

13 Academy will meet the policy, the instructional, the professional development and resource obligations of the Jason Flatt Act (ACT #2016-310) in order to equip our educational institutions and personnel to recognize and act on signs of suicide risk in order to provide prevention, intervention and postvention with students at risk, their families and the communities who may be affected.

The Head of Schools or their designee shall develop and implement a program to prevent suicide among our students which includes programmatic elements stated in The Jason Flatt Act (Act #2016-310). The instructional program developed and approved to meet the policy requirements will be made available to students, parents, and legal guardians and employees by such means and methods as are customarily used for such purposes. Any person involved in a cause of action or omission resulting from the implementation of this suicide prevention policy or resulting from any training, or lack thereof, required by this act shall be subject to state immunity law.