

# High School Student/Parent Handbook Grades 9-12

**2022-2023**



## **Board of Education**

Mrs. Mamie M. Sutphin  
Mr. Clark G. Goings  
Mrs. Melissa Key Atkinson  
Mr. D. Dale Badgett  
Dr. Terri E. Mosley

## **Central Office Administrators**

Dr. Travis L. Reeves, Superintendent  
Mr. Kevin T. Via, Assistant Superintendent  
Dr. DeAnne H. Danley, Assistant Superintendent

## **Nondiscrimination Statement**

In compliance with federal law, the Surry County School system administers all educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability, or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law.

# Traditional High Schools

## **East Surry High School**

801 W. Main Street, Pilot Mountain 27041

336/368-2251

336/368-3035 (Fax)

## **North Surry High School**

2440 W. Pine Street, Mount Airy 27030

336/789-5055

336/789-8630 (Fax)

## **Surry Central High School**

716 S. Main Street, Dobson 27017

336/386-8842

336/386-4424 (Fax)

# Online Magnet School

## **Surry Online Magnet School**

209 N. Crutchfield Street, Dobson, NC 27017

336/386-8211

336/386-8762

# Early College High School

## **Surry Early College High School**

101-199 College Cir, Dobson, NC 27017

336/386-3621

336/386-4279

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This handbook serves as an important means of communication between students, parents/guardians, and school staff. Much information is contained here and may be referred to as needed throughout the year. You will find general rules and regulations, as well as local and state policies.

It is our goal that students achieve their maximum potential. This can be accomplished through cooperation, involvement, and utilizing community resources. Close cooperation between home and school is essential to promote the best interests of students. Parents/guardians are encouraged to call and visit schools and to attend scheduled meetings and conferences.

The faculty and staff look forward to seeing each of you and working with you in a cooperative effort to provide a positive environment where all students can learn. Please feel free to call the school if you have questions or concerns throughout the year.

# High School Philosophy

Surry County School System serves a large geographical area and must attempt to meet the needs of all young people from a diversified community and a wide range of socio-economic levels. Because our students face a rapidly changing society, characterized by advances in technology and tremendous growth in methods of gathering and storing information, we must provide trained personnel, adequate facilities, and a motivating environment so that students are challenged to their potential for learning. Providing such a situation requires cooperative efforts of home, school, and elected officials who make policy and funding decisions.

We realize that those we serve are individuals with varying needs, talents, abilities, interests, and hopes. We feel that students should be provided a program that offers an opportunity to reach their full potential in mastering basic skills, in developing critical thinking, and in acquiring positive attitudes as students are prepared for life in our ever-changing world. We must create in students a recognition of the rapidly changing society in which they will live and offer them the opportunity to acquire the skills which will allow them to make a useful contribution to society.

Successful implementation of this philosophy will further the development of students. They will have a feeling of self-worth because they have achieved to their maximum ability and a sense of pride in being active participants in the economic, cultural, and civic life of the community.

## Student Information

### Accountability

Each student has a right to attend public school and must accept responsibility for his/her actions. Each is responsible for knowing all rules, regulations, and policies which affect him/her. Students share with school personnel the responsibility of maintaining order at school through abiding by all lawful directions of the principals, teachers, substitute teachers, teaching assistants, and other personnel authorized to give direction. High school rules prohibit the following:

- disruptive behavior, profanity, open defiance of authority, willful disobedience;
- fighting, stealing, gambling;
- disrespect shown to any school personnel;
- damaging or defacing school property;
- the use or possession of tobacco or tobacco-like products, alcoholic beverages, or illegal use of drugs in any form (Refer to SCSB Policy Codes 4320 and 4325);
- threats or physical harm to students or staff;
- knives, guns or any instrument that reasonably looks like a weapon or could be used as a weapon (Refer to SCSB Policy Code 4333);
- inappropriate behavior on trips or during school activities;
- inappropriate use of technology

### Administering Medications (Refer to SCSB Policy Code 6125)

School personnel may administer medications prescribed by a doctor upon written request of the student's parents or guardians. The medication used at school must be in its original container with the student's name, the dosage information, the name of the drug, and physician's name printed on it.

- **If medication has to be administered by school personnel, a doctor must complete the *SCS Request for Medication to be Given During School Hours* form. This authorization must be provided with the prescribed medicine in its original container.** In addition, the student's parents or guardians must provide written directions with the student's name, the name of the medicine, time and method of administration, dosage, possible side effects, and the termination date for administering the medicine. **Telephoned permission is not acceptable.**
- The parent/guardian is responsible for dropping off and picking up the medication. Students may not

transport medication to or from school.

- A copy of the Surry County School Board of Education policy and the form on which to record the information will be provided to parents/guardians who request administration of medication in the schools.
- The school district retains the right to reject the request for administration of medicine.
- This policy also applies to the administration of over-the-counter medications.
- Medication orders must be updated at the beginning of each school year.

### **Alternative Education Services**

Alternative Education Services are offered in each school and are designed to benefit individual students having academic, social, or behavioral difficulties in the regular classroom setting. The primary intent of this service is to assist identified students with interventions for improvement and for the students to be successful in the regular school program.

### **Asbestos Notification**

In the fall of 1988, in compliance with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Asbestos Hazards Emergency Response Act (AHERA), the Surry County School System conducted inspections in each school building for identifying asbestos-containing building materials. The inspection findings and resulting asbestos management plans have been on file in each school administrative office since that time.

The EPA requires the school system to perform periodic surveillance of the asbestos materials every six months. No significant changes in the asbestos materials were noted in the most recent survey.

Every three years, the EPA requires the school system to have the asbestos materials re-inspected by an accredited Asbestos Inspector or Management Planner. The Management Planner then reviews the results of the re-inspection and recommends actions we should take to safely manage each of the identified asbestos materials in buildings. All asbestos materials were found to be in satisfactory condition and the Surry County School System plans to manage materials in place as recommended by the accredited Management Planner.

The results of *The Periodic Surveillance and Re-inspections* are on file in the Management Plan in each school's administrative office. The public is welcome to view these during normal school hours. The Asbestos Program Manager, Robert K. Draughn, is available to answer any questions about asbestos at 336-386-8381.

### **Assembly/School Programs Conduct**

Assemblies and school programs are an extension of the instructional program.

1. All individuals will enter the assembly in an orderly and responsible manner.
2. All school rules of conduct and activity are in effect during assemblies.
3. Applause is the only acceptable manner of expressing appreciation or recognition during assemblies.
4. Students will not leave the assembly without proper dismissal.

### **Bring Your Own Device**

Surry County Schools is committed to educating all children to be productive workers, responsible citizens, and lifelong learners, enabling them to be globally competitive and prepared for life in our ever-changing world. Our Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiative will provide an equitable opportunity for all students to experience a technology-rich environment and to ensure that our graduates are prepared for the workplace and life.

Students are permitted to bring a personally-owned laptop, chromebook, or tablet to be connected to our guest wireless system and to be used for instructional purposes. These devices may be used in the classroom as permitted by the teacher and elsewhere on campus as permitted by school administration. When in use, students are expected to adhere to all acceptable use policies.

The school system is not responsible for the security, safety, connectivity, maintenance, theft, damage, nor

trouble-shooting of personal electronic devices.

**If requested, students must relinquish their device to proper school personnel for search of its contents upon request in accordance with SCSB Policy Code 10200.**

### **Bullying/Cyberbullying**

Parents, schools, and mental health professionals have become increasingly aware that bullying, including cyberbullying, has negative emotional and social effects on the bully, the victim, and the school atmosphere. According to [www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov), bullying is defined as unwanted, aggressive behavior among school-aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. **The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time.**

Students who are bullied are likely to feel disconnected from school and may experience significant emotional problems both at school and at home. Students who are bullies are more likely to feel disconnected from school, engage in risky behaviors, and are more likely to drop out of school. Bystanders who witness bullying may also be reluctant to attend school as students may feel powerless or guilty for not acting to stop the bullying incident. These emotional impacts contribute to an overall school environment of fear and disrespect.

Parents can assist the school staff in creating a positive atmosphere by talking with their children about bullying. The following tips are taken from [www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov):

#### **Help students understand bullying.**

- Encourage students to speak to a trusted adult if they are bullied or see others being bullied. Encourage students to report bullying.
- Talk about how to stand up to students who bully. Saying “stop” directly and confidently or walking away can be successful strategies for dealing with bullying.
- Talk about strategies for staying safe, such as staying near adults or groups of other students.
- Help students who are bullied by showing kindness or getting help.

#### **Keep the lines of communication open.**

- What was one good thing that happened today? Any bad things?
- What are you good at? What do you like best about yourself?
- What does bullying mean to you?
- Check the school website.
- Read flyers and information sent home from the school.

#### **Encourage students to do what they love.**

- Help students take part in activities, interests, and hobbies they like.

#### **Model how to treat others with kindness and respect.**

- Students learn from adults’ actions.

By working together, parents, community members, and school staff can help to show students that there is no place in life for bullying. Additional information for parents can be found at [www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov). #seesomethingsaysomething.

The Say Something Anonymous Reporting System is accessed by clicking on the icon located on each of the schools’ websites and also the Surry County Schools district website.

Use the SS-ARS to report a secure, anonymous safety concern to help someone who may hurt themselves or others. There are a variety of ways to submit an anonymous tip either by calling the hotline at 1-844-5-SayNow, on the website, or by getting the free Say Something app on your mobile devices. Trained crisis counselors are there to assist

with any tip that is submitted 24/7.

### **Contact and Emergency Information**

The following information is required to be on file in the school office:

- Parent(s) or guardian(s) name
- Complete current address
- Parent or guardian home and work phone numbers
- Emergency phone numbers of friends or relatives
- Parent(s) or guardian(s) email address(es)
- Physician's name and phone number
- Medical alert information
- Individuals who have consent to transport students (identification may be checked)
- Updated custody arrangements/legal documentation.

It is extremely important that this information be accurate and **kept up-to-date if changes occur.**

### **Drink and Snack Machines**

Snacks purchased from drink and/or snack machines should be consumed in approved/designated areas. Empty cans and wrappers should be placed in waste and recycling receptacles.

### **Field Trips**

Students who participate in a school-sponsored field trip are responsible for submitting work missed either prior to or immediately following the scheduled trip. This is to be done at the discretion of the classroom teachers.

**Expectations for behavior on a field trip are the same as the expectations on a regular school day.**

### **Fighting**

Fighting will not be tolerated. If a student has instigated, contributed to, or been a direct party to the reason for a fight, the student is subject to disciplinary action. Every student has the responsibility to prevent fights from occurring and to take reasonable steps to prevent them by notifying a faculty member or administrator of the problem. After a thorough investigation, juvenile or criminal petitions may be filed against those students involved in the incident.

### **Food Safety**

According to SCSB Policy Code 6140, all foods brought from home, to be consumed by students, must be purchased from a commercial foodservice entity (grocery store), which is subject to regulations and inspections.

Exception: A student may bring food prepared at home for his/her personal consumption. Due to food allergies, no student should share any food whether purchased or prepared at home.

### **Gift Delivery to Students**

Flowers and other items delivered to the school will be available to the students at the end of the instructional day. No glass containers or balloons are allowed on the buses.

### **Guide to School Closings**

The Surry County School Board plans to have school on a regular schedule every day that the roads are judged to be safe for bus travel. During hazardous weather conditions, the Superintendent will determine whether school will be delayed, canceled, dismissed early, or if there will be a remote learning day.

The Superintendent determines if school is delayed or closed with assistance from the Inclement Weather Team, the Surry County Department of Transportation (DOT), the Surry County Sheriff's Office, 911 Communications, National Weather Service, and other local agencies. The Inclement Weather Team begins road checks throughout the county by 4:00 a.m. Every effort is made to arrive at a decision by 6:00 a.m. in order to notify the public.



For school delays and closings check:

- Surry County Schools' website
- Automated phone message system
- Surry County Schools' Facebook page, Twitter, and Instagram
- Surry County Schools' mobile app
- Local Radio Stations: WPAQ, WSYD, WIFM, WTQR/WMAG
- Regional Television Stations: WXII, WGHP, WFMY, WXLV, Spectrum Cable News Channel 14

The superintendent may develop more limited bus routes for hazardous weather conditions in order to operate only on roads that are safe. To the extent possible, parents will be notified in advance of the bus routes which will be used in hazardous conditions. Those routes will be on file in the superintendent's office. (Refer to SCSB Policy Code 6321)

**If no announcement of delay or cancellation of school is heard, you should assume school is scheduled as normal.**

**Breakfast may be served when school is on a two-hour delay. Breakfast will not be served on a three-hour delay.**

In some cases, school may have to be canceled after students arrive. An automated phone message will be sent to all contact numbers for each individual student. Early release information will also be communicated through local radio stations/regional television stations and the Surry County Schools' webpage, Facebook page, Twitter, and mobile app.

**Parents need to make arrangements *beforehand* concerning where a child is to go if school is dismissed early.**

**Because telephone lines are crucial at such times, parents and students are urged NOT to call schools, the school system central office or stations to ask about school closings or delays.** As soon as the decision is made, school system officials must get through to the media so it can be announced as quickly as possible. Calling the schools and the central administrative office only causes problems during an already difficult time. Make sure your child knows your "emergency bad weather plan." In case of early dismissals due to inclement weather, schools are unable to make individual parent calls.

### **Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission**

The following immunization requirements must be met:

# Grade Level Entry Vaccine Requirements\*



DTaP	5 doses
Polio	4 doses
Hib (4-YEAR-OLDS ONLY)	3-4 doses
MMR (or 2 measles, 2 mumps, 1 rubella)	2 doses
Hepatitis B	3 doses
Varicella	2 doses
Pneumococcal conjugate (4-YEAR-OLDS ONLY)	4 doses



DTaP	5 doses
Polio	4 doses
MMR (or 2 measles, 2 mumps, 1 rubella)	2 doses
Hepatitis B	3 doses
Varicella	1 dose
Tdap	1 dose
Meningococcal conjugate	1 dose



DTaP	5 doses
Polio	4 doses
MMR (or 2 measles, 2 mumps, 1 rubella)	2 doses
Hepatitis B	3 doses
Varicella	1 dose
Tdap	1 dose
Meningococcal conjugate (EFFECTIVE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR)	2 doses

Information courtesy of North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

**\*At all ages and grades, the number of doses required may vary by a child's age and when they were vaccinated.**

Within 30 calendar days of the first day of school entry, ***all Pre-Kindergarten, kindergarten students, and all students entering NC public schools for the first time, regardless of grade level,*** must furnish the principal a form that meets the requirements of state law indicating the student has received a health assessment pursuant to G.S. 130A-440. A student who fails to meet this requirement will not be permitted to attend school until the required health assessment form has been presented.

## Instructional Materials

Students who attend North Carolina public schools are issued instructional materials free of charge. Therefore, it is the student's responsibility to take care of them. If an instructional material is damaged, the student who is issued the instructional material will pay for the damage. Lost or stolen instructional materials are the responsibility of the student, and the student will be required to pay for the replacement of such instructional materials.

Students who withdraw or are withdrawn from a college class after the 10 day mark must pay ½ of the original textbook cost.

## **Leadership Framework**

The Surry County School District's Leadership Framework is designed to cultivate a culture of leadership equipping all students with the skills necessary to live, learn, and lead as productive citizens.

This Framework is designed to impact the learning environments in our schools in order to develop leadership skills in all students and support high student performance. Schools are working to integrate their Safe Schools Plans and the Leadership Framework in order to make schools caring and safe communities for learning. This is a systematic approach that establishes and reinforces expectations for all students including leading self, leading with others, and changing your world. Leadership Framework is also an instructional approach that focuses on teaching and modeling social behavior using effective instructional strategies grounded in leadership attributes:

- Leading Self: self-aware, accountable, resilient, integrity
- Leading with Others: collaborative, communicative, active listener, considerate, respectful, accepting
- Changing Your World: visionary, motivating, encouraging, confident

## **Lice Administrative Rule** (Administrative Rule #6)

Surry County School students with head lice shall not be allowed to return to class until all lice are removed. Absences beyond 2 days of the detection of head lice with a maximum of 4 days allowed per school year, will be considered unexcused without a doctor's note. With a doctor's note, students will be allowed to return to school.

## **Lost and Found**

If an article is found, it should be taken to the office. Except in unusual circumstances, announcements of lost articles will not be made over the school intercom. A student should ask in the office about a lost article. All such items should be claimed promptly. Unclaimed articles are turned over to charity after a reasonable time has elapsed.

## **Media Center**

Books may be checked out for two weeks, and magazines may be checked out for one week. Fines on overdue materials will be assessed at the rate of ten cents per school day. Lost books should be reported to the media coordinator immediately. If the book is not reported lost, the overdue fines will continue. All fines and charges for lost books must be paid by the end of each semester, or report cards will be held. **Students will not be permitted to participate in graduation ceremonies until accounts and/or fees are settled.**

## **Money and Valuable Articles**

**Please do not bring large amounts of money to school.** All valuable articles should be in possession of the owner at all times. Students who take physical education are responsible for properly following the direction of their Physical Education teacher regarding valuable items. Physical education teachers will not keep students' personal items. The school cannot accept responsibility for stolen money or other articles.

## **Participation in Random Student Drug Testing Program**

Student participation in extracurricular activities and the operation of a motor vehicle on school property are privileges and not vested rights. The use or abuse of alcohol or other prohibited substances by these students is likely to increase student injuries to the user or others with whom he/she is interacting. The Surry County Board of Education believes that the adoption and implementation of this random alcohol and drug testing program will deter the use of alcohol and drugs by students. The Board of Education has adopted a similar random testing policy for school employees.

Per SCSB Policy Code 4800, participation in the random student drug program is mandatory for any student who elects to participate in any school-sponsored extracurricular activity or operate a motor vehicle on school property.

For all participants in this program, the student and his/her parent(s) or other legal guardian(s) must agree in writing for the student to submit to random testing for the presence of alcohol and such other prohibited substances as the superintendent may from time to time designate.

The following actions shall be taken in response to a positive test administered through this program:

#### First Offense

In the event a student fails or refuses to participate in the alcohol/drug test when selected at random or tests positive for alcohol or drugs, the student shall be ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity or to operate a motor vehicle on school property for 365 calendar days. However, if the student agrees

- (a) to be assessed by a licensed provider approved by Surry County Schools and
- (b) to enroll in and successfully complete an alcohol and/or drug abuse education and/or intervention program recommended by the assessor or a similar organization approved by the superintendent, the student shall retain his/her eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities and to operate a motor vehicle on school property. The student's parent(s) or other legal guardian(s) shall be responsible for all costs incurred in the student's participation in an alcohol and/or drug abuse education and/or intervention program.

#### Second Offense

In the event a student refuses to participate in a second alcohol/drug test when selected at random or tests positive for a second time, the student shall be ineligible to participate in any extra-curricular activity or to operate a motor vehicle on school property for 365 calendar days.

The contract provider shall provide to a student's parent(s) or other legal guardian(s) the student's test results in a confidential manner. If a student tests positive for alcohol, drugs, or other prohibited substance, the report shall contain information regarding prevention and intervention programs available in the community. Test results shall not be a part of the student's education or discipline records. Test results shall not be released to any law enforcement officer or agency without a subpoena or other court order and following compliance with applicable legal requirements.

#### **Personal Devices and Personal Property**

Students are not allowed to use personal electronic devices on school campus during the school day unless authorized for educational use. These devices include but are not limited to the following:

iPods/iPads, electronic games, and other electronic tablets/readers, Smart watches, and cell phones. If a student uses a personal device inappropriately or at inappropriate times, the item will be collected by school personnel and turned in to the school office. Students, parents, or guardians must contact an administrator after school to reclaim such items. Repeated offenses will require that parents/guardians reclaim the items.

It is the prerogative of classroom teachers to collect devices at the beginning of the class.

No skateboards, skates, or skating shoes may be brought to school or used on school property **at any time**. Also, large sums of money should not be brought to school. Valuables of any kind should never be left unattended and are always the responsibility of the student. **School time will not be used to investigate the loss of this type of property. Any personal item that disrupts the educational process will be confiscated immediately.**

#### **Pest Management**

The School Children's Health Act (G.S. 115C-12) requires notification when unscheduled or non-exempt pesticides are applied on school property. Only non-toxic, non-regulated treatments are used in the Surry County School System and are administered when students are not at school. In the case of need for an EPA-regulated pesticide treatment, parents would be given a 72-hour notice of the after-school-hours pesticide application.

#### **Say Something Anonymous Reporting System**

The Say Something Anonymous Reporting System is accessed by clicking on the icon located on each of the schools' websites and also the Surry County Schools district website.

Use the SS-ARS to report a secure, anonymous safety concern to help someone who may hurt themselves or others. There are a variety of ways to submit an anonymous tip either by calling the hotline at 1-844-5-SayNow, on the website, or by getting the free Say Something app on your mobile devices. Trained crisis counselors are there to assist with any tip that is submitted 24/7.

### **Sports Interscholastic Athletic Eligibility**

- Students in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 are eligible for athletic teams as long as they meet eligibility requirements set by the NCHSAA.
- Students must pass three of four core subjects (science, social studies, math, and language arts in the previous semester).
- Physicals are required to try out for all interscholastic sports. Students must show proof of insurance. Physicals are good for one year from the date they are given.
- Students will be removed from extracurricular activities if they do not abide by school rules.
- Students must be in attendance at least 85% of the previous semester.
- Students who participate in interscholastic sports must consent to random drug screening. For more information see SCSB Policy Code 4800.
- No student may be eligible to participate at the high school level for a period lasting longer than eight (8) consecutive semesters beginning with the student's entry into ninth grade. The principal shall have evidence of the date of each player's entry into the ninth grade and monitor the eight (8) consecutive semesters.
- Surry Online Magnet School students who meet these requirements are eligible to participate in athletics at the school in their attendance zone. Interested families should contact the school in their attendance zone for more information.

### **Public Display of Affection**

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is appropriate for a public school setting. Holding hands is an acceptable behavior, but kissing and embracing are not appropriate. Students who violate this policy may face disciplinary action which could include a parent conference, after-school detention, or possible school suspension for repeat offenders.

### **School Day**

- The student school day is from 7:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. School staff is on duty from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. when students begin to arrive and are dismissed.
- High schools have late start Wednesdays for staff PLC time. Students may report at 7:45 and are monitored by school staff and are engaged in educational enrichment activities. On late start Wednesdays all students should be on campus for the 8:30 first period start time.
- **A student must be in attendance one-half of the school day to be counted present.** (See SCSB Policy Code 4400.)
- **A student must be in attendance for one-half of a class period to be counted present for the class.**
- **It is extremely important for your child to be on time every day and stay all day.** Children who are tardy or leave school early miss part of the instructional day which has an impact on what they learn. ***Students are tardy at 7:45 a.m. and are encouraged to stay at school all day.*** In accordance with Surry County Board of Education policy, unexcused tardies or early dismissals will be considered in promotion and retention decisions.

### **Sportsmanship**

Students involved in extracurricular activities either as spectators or participants should exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. Students not showing good sportsmanship will not be allowed to be a part of the program. High schools are members of the Foothills 2A Conference. It is the purpose of this organization to promote sportsmanship and fair play while enabling student-athletes to gain experience in their selected sports.

## Student Dress Code

Personal grooming indicates respect for oneself as well as for others and contributes to a positive educational atmosphere. State regulations require students to wear shoes at school. Students who wear apparel that is distracting to the learning process may be asked to leave school to change and will be considered unexcused from any classes they miss. As a Surry County student, you should dress neatly and appropriately for school functions. Students are expected to dress in a manner that is appropriate to the educational environment of the school. The following attire is considered inappropriate for high school students:

- Clothing or adornment that is disruptive to the teaching/learning process or hazardous to the health and safety of students and/or school personnel.
- Clothing that is revealing, indecent, vulgar, racially offensive, or obscene.
- Clothing that promotes alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or the use of controlled substances by words or symbols.
- Clothing that contains profanity, nudity, depicts violence or is sexual in nature by words or symbols.
- Hats, sweatbands, bandannas, or sunglasses inside school buildings.
- Shorts, skirts, and dresses shorter than mid-thigh.
- Shirts and blouses that do not cover the waist, midriff, or are above the waistline.
- Clothing worn in such a manner that an undergarment is exposed to view or which is generally revealing in nature.
- Grooming accessories worn in the hair.
- Skin-tight clothing such as athletic/dance/exercise attire.
- Footwear that may present a hazard to health and safety.
- Sheer or mesh clothing.
- Sleepwear or pajamas.

As part of the Surry County School System's Safe School initiative, there will be a **no hat/head covering rule** in effect. Students will not be allowed to wear hats or caps in the buildings during the school day. Students who fail to observe this rule or dress in a manner that is distracting to the learning process will face disciplinary action. The dress code will follow SCSB Policy Code 4316 and Administration Rule #4. Specific information is available at each school.

## Student Searches

School administrators have the authority to conduct reasonable searches and seize materials in accordance with this policy for the purpose of maintaining a safe, orderly, disciplined environment and for upholding standards of conduct established by the board or school. SCSB Policy Code 4342 does not apply to investigations conducted by law enforcement officials or to investigations conducted exclusively for the purpose of criminal prosecution. Any school official carrying out a search or seizure is expected to be knowledgeable about the constitutional rights of students and the appropriate procedures for conducting the search or seizure.

Reasonable suspicion that a student has unauthorized or illegal materials is generally required before an individual may be singled out for a search. Reasonable suspicion is not required if a student freely, voluntarily, and knowingly consents and agrees to the search of his or her person or personal effects. (Refer to SCSB Policy Code 4342)

## Student Parking

Driving a private vehicle to and from school is a privilege. A parking permit is required. This permit costs \$30.00 per school year and may be obtained after completing an application and having that application approved by the appropriate staff member. A copy of the registration and a valid driver's license must be presented with the application. Permits issued may be used only for a specific vehicle. Students in good academic standing are allowed to drive.

The following violations may result in loss of driving privileges:

1. Driving more than 10 m.p.h. on the campus at any time (as perceived by any faculty member).
2. Returning to the car during the school day without written permission from a school administrator.
3. Leaving the school campus in a loud or reckless manner.

4. Failing to leave the vehicle ASAP after parking on campus.
5. Leaving campus after arriving without having written permission from a school administrator.
6. Not passing at least three out of four classes during the previous semester (for obtaining a permit for the first semester of a new school year).
7. Failure to display the authorized parking permit.
8. Excessive tardies may result in loss of parking permit.

A student will lose his permit to drive a vehicle on campus for the remainder of the school year if found guilty of one of the following:

1. Possessing alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, or dangerous weapons in the vehicle. The driver of the car is responsible for the behavior and actions of those students riding in the car.
2. Refusing to follow the expressed directions of faculty and staff.
3. Driving in a reckless manner that causes a safety concern.
4. Failure to comply with school procedures, students may lose parking privileges and may be subject to disciplinary actions.

Students who have parking permits revoked will have to purchase a new permit for \$15.00 per semester.

A student who does not park in a designated space or does not have a parking permit displayed can expect the vehicle to be towed from the campus at the owner's expense. The student will not be permitted to drive a vehicle on campus for the rest of the semester.

## Student Attendance

(Refer to SCSB Policy Code 4400)

The Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Team will review attendance cases and write PEPs (Personal Education Plans) for students in danger of losing course credit.

### Attendance Records

School officials will keep an accurate record of attendance, including accurate attendance records in each class. Attendance records will be used to enforce the Compulsory Attendance Law of North Carolina.

### College Day Visitation

Any junior or senior may be granted two days per school year to visit a prospective college located in a geographical area outside of Surry County. The student must complete a prior approval form that can be obtained from the school office or counselor's office. This form must be signed and returned for administrative approval at least two (2) days prior to the visitation. This day does not count against the student as an absence unless the student fails to provide signed documentation from the college or university visited.

Special circumstances may exist if a college requests a student come for a scholarship interview, a special test, or for another reason other than a routine campus visitation. In these circumstances, the principal or designee may consider the event/activity a school-related trip which would not count as an absence from school.

### Early Dismissal of a Student from a School

Parents should notify the school office by phone between 7:30 a.m. – 7:55 a.m. or by written note unless the student has a medical appointment card to verify the reason for the early dismissal. The school may call parents to verify an early dismissal if the student presents a parental note. The student must go to the school office to pick up the early dismissal form which will serve as the admit slip for the following day. Each teacher will track a student's attendance by class.

### **Excessive Absences**

Students who miss more than eight (8) days (excused, unexcused, and/or suspended) per course during a semester shall receive a failing grade in that course. **After eight (8) absences in a course, only a doctor's note, court, or administrative hearing documentation, or verification of a death in the immediate family will be accepted as an excused absence.** Any student who wishes to request an exception to this policy may appeal to the Student Services Team. Appeal of the decision shall be made to the principal. Appeal of the principal's decision may be made to the superintendent or his/her designee.

### **Family/Educational Trips**

Students who have good attendance and the permission of the principal may be excused up to five days per school year for a family trip(s). Before a student may be excused from school for a family trip, written arrangements must be made by the parents or guardians with the principal *five days prior* to the trip. Qualified students who leave school for an extended trip will be coded in the following manner: excused the first five days and all additional absences are unexcused. The student is responsible for obtaining and completing all classwork. Absence during End-of-Course testing should be avoided at all costs! Please note that absences approved for Family/Educational Trips are still considered absences for exam exemption and excessive absence considerations.

### **Lawful Absences**

All absences from class will be coded either "Lawful" or "Unlawful" as defined by North Carolina law. Lawful absences are:

1. personal illness or injury that makes the student physically unable to attend school;
2. isolation ordered by the State Board of Health;
3. death in the immediate family;
4. medical or dental appointment;
5. participation under subpoena as a witness in a court proceeding;
6. a minimum of two days each academic year for observance of an event required or suggested by the religion of the student or the student's parent(s);
7. participation in a valid educational opportunity, such as travel or service as a legislative or Governor's page, with prior approval from the principal;
8. pregnancy and related conditions or parenting, when medically necessary; or
9. visitation with the student's parent or legal guardian, at the discretion of the superintendent or designee, if the parent or legal guardian
  - (a) is an active duty member of the uniformed services as defined by SCSB Policy Code 4050, Children of Military Families, and
  - (b) has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting.

Any absence other than those listed above will be deemed "Unlawful," such as car trouble and errands. (Refer to SCSB Policy Code 4400)

### **Shadowing**

An absence due to shadowing as arranged through the Career Development Coordinator and approved by the principal will not count against the student as an absence.

### **Tardiness**

A student who arrives after the beginning of school or class will be considered tardy unless he/she has been on a late bus. If a student arrives after school or class starts, he/she should report to the school office.

Being in class on time is vital to the educational process. Unexcused tardiness will not be tolerated. Students who have unexcused tardies will be subject to the schoolwide discipline plan.

### **Written Excuses Required**



If a student is absent from school, he/she should bring a note from the parent or guardian stating the reason for the absence. This note should be dated and include the student's and the parent/guardian's full names. Notes from parents are subject to verification by the school office.

Students should always bring notes or proper documentation from doctors, clinics, or hospitals when they have a medical excuse. These notes should be taken to the appropriate teacher before the instructional day begins. The appropriate personnel will write an admit slip, code the absence excused or unexcused on the admit slip, sign the slip and send the original note to the school office. If a student does not bring a note, the absence will be recorded as unexcused. If the student brings an approved note **within two (2) days** of the absence, the absence will be recorded as excused, and a new admit slip will be issued. Each subsequent teacher should sign the admit slip and record it in his/her attendance record book. **A student should not be admitted to class without an admit slip.** A student should leave the admit slip with his/her last teacher of the day who will return the slip to the school office.

## Academic Information

### Academic Honors

#### Honor Roll

To be eligible for the Honor Roll, a student must have an overall average of 90 and no grade lower than 70. Students will be recognized for this achievement.

#### National Honor Society

The Surry County Chapter of the National Honor Society recognizes and encourages academic achievement. Selection for membership is by a faculty council and is based upon outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. To be eligible for consideration for membership:

- a student must have a cumulative weighted grade point average of 3.815 to qualify for the scholarship component of the National Honor Society.
- a student must complete and submit an activity information form to qualify for the leadership, character, and service components of the National Honor Society.
- a student and his or her parent/guardian must sign a pledge listing the conditions for admittance into the National Honor Society.
- a student must have completed at least five (5) semesters of high school and he/she must be a member of the junior or senior class.
- a school-based committee will review the student's cumulative weighted grade point average, the activity information form, and the signed pledge to determine the applicant's selection for membership in the National Honor Society.
- members who fall below the standards which were the basis for their selection may be dismissed.

**National Technical Honor Society** The mission of the National Technical Honor Society is to honor student achievement and leadership in career and technical education, promote educational excellence, award scholarships, and enhance career opportunities for the NTHS membership. The Society's vision is to be the international leader in providing recognition for excellence in career and technical education. Eligible members pay a one-time \$30 fee.

NTHS is committed to our global community by:

- offering scholarship opportunities for its members.
- sustaining growth, innovation, and continuous improvement.
- maintaining financial responsibility to meet our membership needs.
- providing the highest recognition for top students in career and technical education.
- supplying excellent services to our diverse, multi-cultural membership and member schools.
- building strong relationships between the educational community and business and industry.

- responding to the ever-changing world and leading edge of technology as a flexible organization.

Eligibility Criteria: Students must attain an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale (unweighted). Students are required to obtain credit in a minimum of 3 career/technical courses with at least one of those courses being a level II course (career/technical courses can be a combination of high school and/or college courses).

School Chapters also consider the following for membership: attendance; disciplinary records; teacher recommendations; active involvement in a Career Tech Student Organization, civic or service organization membership(s), or service.

**Comprehensive Health Education Program (Refer to SCSB Policy Code 3540)**

The Surry County Board of Education is committed to a sound, comprehensive health education program that provides students with accurate information and encourages them to be responsible for their own health and behavior. The board recognizes the primary role of parents in providing for the health and well-being of their children and seeks to involve parents as provided in this policy. The comprehensive health education program provided by the school system will meet the requirements of state law and the objectives established by the State Board of Education. The board may, in its discretion, expand on the subject areas to be included in the program and on the instructional objectives to be met.

**Grading**

**Grading**

The Surry County Board of Education believes that every student should be evaluated by his/her school. Written and oral reporting will be used to communicate to parents and students the school’s evaluation of academic progress.

Report cards are issued at six-week intervals. The report card will include academic achievement, attendance, and other pertinent information. A standardized report card is used for each grade or grade span throughout the county.

**High School Grades for Transfer Students** Students transferring from systems that do not use and cannot provide a numerical scale will have the following criteria placed on their grades:

98 = A+	95 = A	92 = A-	59 = F
88 = B+	85 = B	82 = B-	
78 = C+	75 = C	72 = C-	
68 = D+	65 = D	62 = D-	

**High School Grading System and Scale**

Students in grades 9-12 will receive numerical grades for all subjects completed. The following scale is to be used:

A= 90-100	D= 60-69
B= 80-89	F= 59 and below
C= 70-79	

The numerical system gives high school students and parents a more accurate reading of student progress and is more accurate for computing class rank and for determining honors. In grades 9-12, no grades higher than 100 can be recorded. An **incomplete** may be recorded only with the approval of the principal.

**\*Note – The college grading scale may be different from the Surry County School System grading scale.**

Efforts/Behaviors scores will count no more than 10% of the student’s grade. Efforts/Behaviors include:

- Student participation in-class activities and discussions
- Student assignments completed and turned in on time
- Student works to reach group goal(s)
- Student follows classroom rules and procedures

All **incompletes** shall be removed by the beginning of the following school year. With the exception of designated courses, students will earn only one (1) unit of credit for each course. Students will not receive any credit for courses recorded with an incomplete.

### **Interim Reports**

Communicating with parents or guardians regarding academics by means other than formal report cards is encouraged. This communication may include the following: scheduled parent/teacher conferences, written notes, letters to parents, telephone calls, proficiency/deficiency reports, and samples of students' work sent home. Parents or guardians of students should expect to receive mid-term progress reports from all courses/teachers. To ensure parents are properly informed, teachers maintain records of all significant communications. Parents are encouraged to contact teachers if there are questions about grades on the interim reports. (Refer to SCSB Policy Code 3420)

### **Make-up Work**

Make-up work is the responsibility of the student. Students must make arrangements within three (3) days to make up work with the teacher in the missed class.

### **Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)**

MTSS is a service delivery framework focused on prevention and problem solving for all students. An integrated MTSS connects all of the academic and non-academic interventions, supports, and services available in schools and communities to support instruction and eliminate barriers to learning and teaching. Within an MTSS framework, multiple levels of instruction, assessment, and intervention are designed to meet the academic and non-academic needs of ALL students. The essential components of an MTSS framework include:

- Core Instruction and Tiered Continuum of Evidence-based Interventions and Supports (Tier I, II, III)
- Universal Screening and Progress Monitoring
- Data-based Decision Making
- Family Engagement and Community Partnerships
- Creating and maintaining the infrastructure to support an integrated MTSS Framework.

### **Promotion Requirements**

Promotion in high school is based on units earned. To be classified as a:

10 <sup>th</sup> grader	6 units and at least 2 <sup>nd</sup> year or earn a minimum of 75% of potential credits
11 <sup>th</sup> grader	13 units and at least 3 <sup>rd</sup> year or earn a minimum of 83% of potential credits
12 <sup>th</sup> grader	20 units and at least 4 <sup>th</sup> year or earn a minimum of 83% of potential credits

### **Release for Co-op, Internship, and Dual Credit**

Juniors and seniors may be allowed to leave campus during the regular school day if they are enrolled in a co-op program, an internship, an apprenticeship, a dual enrollment course at Surry Community College, or senior transitional scheduling options.

- Students may be dismissed at the end of third period if they are enrolled in the co-op program. They must be employed a minimum of 20 hours per week and be employed on the first day of the semester. Students should not be working at any job after 11:00 p.m., Sunday through Thursday evenings.
- Students who are enrolled in dual enrollment courses will be dismissed in order to attend classes at the community college. They must also follow the attendance policy at the community college.
- Juniors and seniors participating in these programs must make acceptable academic progress in all areas and complete all transitional paperwork.
- Parents must sign for students to participate.

## **Schedule Changes**

Since resources are allocated and teachers are employed based upon the course selections which students make in the spring, schedule changes are often difficult to make. Given the attention which is devoted to preliminary registration activities and given the fact that every student has ample time to make wise course selections, schedule changes should not be requested unless one of the following conditions exists:

- A student receives a course for which he/she did not register or which was not shown as an alternate.
- A student passed a course which he/she assumed he/she would fail.
- A student failed a course required for graduation.
- On a space-available basis, to balance semesters.
- On a space-available basis, for courses in sequence.
- Other circumstances as approved at the discretion of the principal.

Students who meet one or more of the above criteria should confer with a counselor. Scheduling preferences will be given first to seniors, then juniors, then sophomores, and then to freshmen. All schedule changes must be completed before the school year begins, except as otherwise approved by the principal.

## **Weighted Courses**

The Surry County Board of Education has adopted a weighted curriculum. The calculations for grade point average and class rank are based on a standardization of: 1) academic course levels; 2) grading scales, and 3) the weighting of course grades.

For students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2015-2016 or later, the class rank is based on weighted grade point average in which a 0.5 quality point or weight is added to passing grades earned in Honors courses or one (1) quality point is added to passing grades earned in Advanced Placement courses, approved Pre-Engineering courses, and approved Career and College Promise courses.

### **Academic Courses**

Standard course content, pace, and academic rigor follow standards specified by the *North Carolina Standard Course of Study* (NCSCS) with occasional content enrichment where appropriate. These courses provide credit toward a high school diploma and require the End-of-Course test where applicable.

### **Advanced Placement Course**

Content, pace, and academic rigor is college-level as adopted by the College Board program and are geared to enable students to pass the AP test. The course provides credit toward a high school diploma and, in cases where the AP course is the first course taken by a student in a subject, an End-of-Course test is required if one is offered in the subject. The state weighting system adds quality points as described above to the grade earned in the AP course. Students enrolled in AP courses will be required to take the AP exam in each course to receive high school credit and possible college credit. Although the College Board charges a fee for AP exams, there is no cost to students in the Surry County School System. AP classes offered are listed in the online course planner.

\*All Surry Virtual Academy (SVA) courses will be under the supervision of a Surry County Schools faculty member certified in the course area.

### **Alternative Courses**

Alternative high school course delivery models give students options for receiving college credit and/or credentialing while still in high school. Most college credit options begin in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Therefore, scheduling is important in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades in being prepared to participate. The following are course delivery models available to students in the Surry County School System:

- Surry Virtual Academy (SVA)
- North Carolina Virtual Public Schools (NCVPS)

- Career and College Promise Options

### **Honors Courses**

Honor courses are intended and must be developed and conducted to demand more challenging involvement than standard courses. They must be demonstrably more challenging than standard courses and provide multiple opportunities for students to take greater responsibility for their learning. Honors courses should be distinguished by a difference in the quality of work required/expected rather than merely by the quantity of the work required. Please reference the online course planner for a complete listing of Honors Courses.

## **Graduation**

### **Alternative Pathway to Graduation**

Students seeking to graduate with fewer than 28 course credits may be permitted to do so under the following circumstances:

1. Eligible students must be entering their fourth year of high school and be able to attain a minimum of 21 course credits by the end of the enrolled term.
2. The student has met the state and local requirements for graduation in required courses.
3. The student has completed a required course of study as outlined by the State Department of Public Instruction.
4. If the student attends during the fall or spring semester, the student remains enrolled and successfully completes a minimum of two SCS courses in the final semester of attendance.
5. The student has completed a required preliminary application and signed contract.
6. The superintendent agrees to waive the 28 course credit requirement for demonstrated hardship purposes:
  - a. The student is 18 years of age prior to the requested graduation date and the student has had previous retentions in the educational process (behind their entering kindergarten class in school), **and**
  - b. The student has a valid educational opportunity requiring graduation from high school (military, employment, higher education), **and**
  - c. The student demonstrated hardship needs.
7. Additional hardship cases may be considered on a case-by-case basis through application to the committee.
8. Application for the alternative pathway will be made to a committee at the central office level which will include:
  - a. Assistant Superintendent
  - b. Counselor
  - c. Social Worker
  - d. High School Administrator
  - e. High School Teacher

Representatives on the committee will be selected from districts outside the student applicant's home school.

9. The committee will make a recommendation to the superintendent based on information received at the formal hearing.

### **Diploma Endorsements**

In addition to receiving a high school diploma, students in North Carolina are eligible to receive one or more endorsements on their diploma. These endorsements indicate students have completed specific course concentrations preparing them to be ready for college or careers. The five endorsements include the following:

- **Career Endorsement** indicating completion of a rigorous course of study that includes a Career Technical Education concentration;

- **College Endorsement** indicating readiness for entry into community colleges;
- **College/UNC Endorsement** indicating readiness for entry into a four-year university in the University of North Carolina system;
- **NC Academic Scholars Endorsement** indicating that students have completed a balanced and academically rigorous high school program preparing them for post-secondary education.
- **Global Languages Endorsement** indicating proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English.

Individual students may qualify for and earn more than one endorsement.

### **Directions for Graduation**

1. Seniors are expected to attend all practices for graduation. Failure to practice may eliminate a student from participating. In case of an emergency, permission to miss graduation practice must be granted by the principal.
2. Seniors taking part in graduation exercises should wear the appropriate clothing and only approved Surry County Schools' regalia (stoles, cords, pens, etc.). Students wearing tennis shoes, shorts, cut-off jeans, t-shirts, and any inappropriate clothing will not be allowed to march in the graduation line.
3. Graduation is a formal occasion and should be carried out with dignity. This is expected of all Surry County School System graduates.
4. A cap and gown are required.
5. All student school fees must be paid prior to graduation.

### **Early Graduation**

Students may apply for early graduation in their junior year. Early graduates are able to participate in school activities during the second semester of their senior year at the discretion of the principal. The student is eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony.

### **Marshals**

Marshals will be selected at the end of the first semester of the junior year. The top 5% of juniors as determined by weighted GPA average will be selected as marshals. Marshals will wear Marshal Gowns with stoles. Schools will work with students to ensure they wear proper attire. All schools will list the marshals in the graduation program.

### **North Carolina Academic Scholars Program** Students must:

- begin planning for the program before entering grade 9 to ensure they obtain the most flexibility in their courses.
- complete all the requirements of this North Carolina Academic Scholars Program.
- have an overall four-year un-weighted grade point average of 3.5000 or higher.
- complete all requirements for a North Carolina high school diploma.

The following designated number of credits per subject area listed below must be taken in grades 9-12:

1. The student shall complete the Future-Ready Core mathematics sequence of Math I, II, III; Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II; or Integrated Math I, II, III and a fourth-level mathematics course that meets University of North Carolina system Minimum Course Requirements that include a mathematics course with either Math III, Algebra II, or Integrated Mathematics III as a pre-requisite;
2. The student shall complete three course credits of science including an Earth/Environmental science course, Biology, and at least one physical science course that must include either physics or chemistry;
3. For students entering ninth grade in 2012-13 or later, the student shall complete four course credits of social studies;
4. The student shall complete two course credits of a world language (other than English);
5. The student shall complete four elective course credits in any one subject area, such as Career and Technical Education (CTE), JROTC, Arts Education, World Languages, or in another content area;
6. The student shall have completed at least three higher-level courses during junior and/or senior years which

carry quality points such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or Dual Enrollment courses; Advanced CTE and CTE credentialing courses; honors level courses, or Project Lead the Way courses

### **Recognitions**

The following award recognitions were approved by the SCS Board of Education as more appropriate for the 21st Century student. Students are encouraged to take advantage of new curriculum delivery opportunities. Many students will have the opportunity for graduation.

- Summa Cum Laude-weighted average of 4.3000 or greater
- Magna Cum Laude-weighted average of 4.0000 - 4.2999
- Cum Laude- weighted average of 3.7000 – 3.99999

### **Requirements**

In order to receive a high school diploma, students must earn 28 course credits and meet all state and local course requirements. Students who transfer to Surry County must meet state and local course requirements and earn credits equal to the maximum number of credits that they can earn in four years less 4. Each school will provide a list of graduation requirements for each student based on the year of entry. The elective units may vary according to the North Carolina Course of Study requirements listed in the online course planner. The Future Ready Success local requirement may be met through completion of JROTC I, Computer Science, Introduction to Engineering, Principles of Engineering, or Career Management. Please refer to the online course planner for additional information.

## **Student Services**

### **Canvas Learning Management System**

Parents are encouraged to monitor student progress through Surry County Schools' learning management system. Parents of students in Surry County Schools have a unique username and password that allows parents to monitor progress of each of their children with one single sign-on.

### **EL/Migrant Intake Center**

Surry County Schools operates an intake/resource center that assists families of English learners (EL) with school enrollment. The center is located on the campus of Rockford Elementary School, 719 Rockford Road, Dobson, and hours vary. Please call 336-356-2370 for hours of service and for more information.

The following students must report to the Intake Center for enrollment:

- first-time enrollees in United States' schools
- Limited English Proficient (LEP) or EL students transferring from another LEA
- returning LEP or EL students previously enrolled in Surry County Schools

Note: Transfers within the county may complete the transfer enrollment process at the school site unless translation services are needed. Please notify the Intake Center of transfers completed on-site.

### **Insurance – Health and Dental**

Student accident insurance is available under the Student Protection Plan. It is offered as a service to students and is strictly voluntary. The school receives no compensation from the program. Coverage may be obtained for the school day (which includes coverage during the child care program while on school grounds) or for around-the-clock. Information may be obtained from [www.hsri.com/K12\\_Enrollment/Main/default.asp](http://www.hsri.com/K12_Enrollment/Main/default.asp), but it is the parents' responsibility to complete and mail any forms. These policies have limits and may not pay total bills.

### **Lockers**

Lockers will be assigned to students upon request. Student lockers are the property of the school and can be searched

at any time. A student may lose the opportunity to have a locker if he/she defaces or damages it or visits the locker at inappropriate times. Locker visits are permitted before school, during breaks, and after school.

### **School Bus Routing** (G.S. 115C-240(a))

The superintendent shall plan bus routes in a way designed to conserve fuel and to use buses efficiently. A route may not deviate from a general path of direction for a distance of less than one-half mile and then return to the original path except for groups of 10 or more pupils, unescorted pupils in grades PreK-5, or special education pupils.

### **School Counselors**

Surry County Schools' school counselors assist with academic planning and scheduling, career planning, and personal counseling issues. Students may visit the school counselors by making an appointment. Appointments made during class time must be with the permission of the classroom teacher.

Students with three days or more of consecutive excused absences may call the counselors' office to have assignments collected. Due to the volume of requests, teachers must be given twenty-four hours to compile needed work. If the student is out for fewer than three days, he/she should contact a fellow student in each class for his/her homework assignments.

### **School Nutrition Services**

School Nutrition Services provides nutritious breakfasts and lunches in all SCS High Schools. Surry Online Magnet School students may attend lunch at the school closest to them. Meals comply with USDA Standards and the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Items served are reduced in sodium, sugar, trans-fat and total fat. Weekly offerings include dark green and red/ orange vegetables, legumes, whole grain-rich foods, and 1% or fat-free milk. Students may choose from a variety of menu options however each meal **must include a fruit or vegetable**. Extra items such as bottled water, juice, or entrée options may be purchased but they cannot be charged. The Fruits and Veggies Plus! program encourages students to choose extra fruit and vegetables as part of their lunch – at no extra charge.

Monthly menus are posted on the SCS School Nutrition webpage and in classrooms. Parents and students may also visit [www.surryschoolmeals.com](http://www.surryschoolmeals.com).

School guidelines do not permit restaurant food or soft drinks in the cafeteria.

Students who have special dietary needs (not preferences) and/or allergies should complete a *Medical Statement for Students with Special Nutritional Needs* form and return it to the School Nutrition Manager. This form may be obtained from the front office, cafeteria, or online. Please contact the School Nutrition Central Office at 336/386-8866 for additional information.

Families may apply for free and reduced-price meals online at [www.lunchapplication.com](http://www.lunchapplication.com). The link can also be found on the SCS homepage. Parents and guardians will need their student's 9-11 digit student identification number to complete the application. Paper applications are also available in the school office and the cafeteria. Students may also be eligible for meal benefits through Direct Certification. If your family receives a letter stating that your child is preapproved for meal benefits, you do not need to apply. Free and reduced meal applications must be updated annually. Apply for meal benefits during the first few days of school to avoid meal charges!

The cafeteria uses a computerized payment system. This system makes it easy and convenient to prepay meals. Meals can be prepaid by the week, month, or even the entire year. Each student has an account with their own personal identification number (PIN). Checks should be made payable to Surry County Schools School Nutrition (SCSSN). The cafeteria does not cash checks. **Please do not include field trip money, book fair money, or any other school fee along with breakfast or lunch money.** Checks should include the student's name and PIN or account number to ensure proper credit. Families may also make payments online using a credit or debit card by visiting [www.k12paymentcenter.com](http://www.k12paymentcenter.com). Online meal payment makes it convenient to pay for school meals and a single transaction can be divided among your children. Parents/Guardians can also review student purchases and monitor



account balances using this service. The Surry County School System uses a third-party check recovery service (*CHECKredi*) for checks returned for insufficient funds. In the event your check is returned due to insufficient funds, your bank account will be debited electronically for the face amount of the check plus a \$30.00 insufficient fund fee. Parents should contact *CHECKredi* representatives at 800/742-2925 with questions regarding NSF checks.

**Charges are not permitted.**

**Prices**

Breakfast:	TBA
Adult:	TBA
Lunch:	TBA
Adult:	TBA
A la carte/Snacks	Various Prices

Money in student accounts rolls over from year to year, and from school to school. Account money may not be withdrawn unless the student is leaving the Surry County School District. Parents may request a refund by letter or in person from the School Nutrition Manager if there is a need to withdraw money from the student’s account. Parents of students leaving SCS have up to **30** days to request a refund of money on account or have it transferred to another SCS student. Contact the School Nutrition Services office at 336/386-8211 for assistance.

The SCS School Nutrition Services Program is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

**Surry County Schools Educational Foundation**

The Surry County Schools Educational Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization created in 2011 to improve the educational level in our county, enhancing our ability to further education for competition in the global market. The Foundation supports all nineteen schools in the district by providing funding for enhanced-learning opportunities inside and outside of the classroom, including arts and science field trip transportation, summer academic camps, classroom grants, and school academic club and competitive team needs. Since 2011, the Foundation has provided over \$200,000 to the schools collectively.

For more information, please contact Ashley Mills, 336/386-8211, follow the Foundation on social media, and visit [www.scsfoundation.org](http://www.scsfoundation.org).

# Visitors and Volunteers

Student visitors are not permitted during the school day without the direct permission of a school administrator. Visitors should report directly to the main office to sign in and state the purpose of their visit. Visitors who fail to sign in or violate school policies may be required to leave campus. Students will not be called to the office to meet with visitors unless there is an emergency or extenuating circumstances. High school campuses have closed lunch periods. Only parents/guardians and grandparents may eat lunch with students.

**All visitors should be prepared to show a photo ID and wear a visitor’s badge at all times during the visit.**

The Surry County Board of Education encourages schools to develop and maintain a strong volunteer program that provides varied opportunities for parents and members of the community to be active partners in the support of the instructional program and school climate. All volunteers must complete a Volunteer Request for Criminal Background Check Form. Volunteers may apply at levels 1, 2, 3, or 4 or volunteer coach or driver. Anytime a volunteer changes

levels a new form must be completed and approved before a change in level can occur. Please contact the school's principal to obtain a volunteer form if interested. (See SCSB Policy Code 5015-P)

## Parent Responsibilities

To help schools maintain a safe and orderly learning environment, parents are requested to be responsible partners with the school system.

1. All school visitors during the school day must report immediately to the administrative office at the school. (See SCSB Policy Code 5020)
2. All school visitors are expected to comply with all school rules and school board policies. (See SCSB Policy Code 5020)
3. Persons who are subject to SCSB Policy Code 5022, Registered Sex Offenders, must comply with the provisions of that policy.
4. Adults, not employed by Surry County Schools, may not board a yellow school bus. (See GS 14-132.2)
5. All school visitors must comply with acceptable and prohibited uses of technology. (See SCSB Policy Code 10000)
6. Parents are expected to monitor student progress through the Surry County Schools' learning management system.

All Surry County Board of Education policies may be accessed online at [www.surry.k12.nc.us](http://www.surry.k12.nc.us) or in the school office.

## Extracurricular Activities

### Athletics

All students are invited and encouraged to participate in the athletic program. In order to participate in an athletic event, a student must meet all guidelines of the NCHSAA and all local eligibility requirements. Some activities provided in Surry County Schools include football, basketball, baseball, softball, tennis, golf, track, volleyball, wrestling, cheerleading, cross country, swimming, and soccer. Athletes represent their individual schools.

To be eligible to participate in athletics, students must have a current physical on file, have 85% attendance, pass three (3) courses in the previous semester, and have proof of health insurance. Those students who do not follow the expectations of the regular school discipline program and/or their coach, who do not attend school, or who do not perform at an acceptable academic level, including college and virtual courses, will not be permitted to continue to participate in the athletic program.

Surry Online Magnet School students who meet these requirements are eligible to participate in athletics at the school in their attendance zone. Interested families should contact the school in their attendance zone for more information.

Students who letter in a varsity sport will receive the letter, at no cost, from their head coach. The expectations for lettering will be published before each sports season begins.

Student-athletes are acknowledged as role models. There is a spirit of fair play while playing hard, and student-athletes and their parents must refrain from engaging in disrespectful behavior, including inappropriate language, taunting, trash-talking, and unnecessary physical contact. Student-athletes and their parents are encouraged to accept responsibility for modeling good sportsmanship.

### Clubs

Numerous clubs are organized in our high schools. For the most part, they meet before or after school or during flexible times.

## 2022-2023 Student Code of Conduct

All decisions related to student behavior are guided by the Surry County Board of Education's educational objective to teach responsibility and respect for cultural and ideological differences and by the board's commitment to create safe, orderly, and inviting schools. Student behavior policies are provided in order to establish: (1) expected standards of student behavior; (2) principles to be followed in managing student behavior; (3) consequences for prohibited behavior or drug/alcohol policy violations; and (4) required procedures for addressing misbehavior. (Refer to SCSB Policy 4300 – Student Behavior Policies)

A range of consequences has been developed to assist principals, assistant principals, and school officials in determining appropriate disciplinary consequences for student behavior. Conduct in violation of board policies, rules of the local school, and federal or state law will result in disciplinary consequences. It is important for parents and students to understand that a range of consequences may be available. School administrators may choose from the range of consequences based on mitigating and aggravating factors unless specific consequences are required by law.

The following policies of the Surry County Board of Education govern student behavior include, but are not limited to:

- 1500 – Safe, Orderly, and Inviting Environment
- 1510/4200/7270 – School Safety
- 1710/4021/7230 – Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying
- 4115 – Behavior Standards for Transfer Students
- 4260 – Student Sex Offenders
- 4300 – Student Behavior Policies
- 4301 – Authority of School Personnel
- 4302 – School Plan for Management of Student Behavior
- 4305/3470 – Alternative Learning Programs/Schools
- 4307 – Disciplinary Action for Exceptional Children/Students with Disabilities
- 4310 – Integrity and Civility
- 4315 – Disruptive Behavior
- 4316 – Student Dress Codes
- 4320 – Tobacco Products
- 4325 – Drugs and Alcohol
- 4328 – Gang Activity
- 4330 – Theft, Trespass, and Damage to Property
- 4331 – Assaults, Threats, and Harassment
- 4333 – Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats and Clear Threats to Safety
- 4335 – Criminal Behavior
- 4340 – School Level Investigations
- 4341 – Parental Involvement in Student Behavior Issues
- 4342 – Student Searches
- 4345 – Student Discipline Records
- 4351 – Short-Term Suspension
- 4352 – Removal of Student During the Day
- 4353 – Long-Term Suspension, 365 Day Suspension, Expulsion
- 4400 - Attendance

Students with Disabilities will be disciplined with the guidelines and procedures set forth in the IDEA and Article 9, Chapter 115C of N.C.G.S., and the implementing regulations of each shall be followed.

Additional consequences may apply to students Under the Lose Control/Lose your License Legislation.

If a student is expelled, suspended for more than 10 consecutive days, or assigned to an alternative educational setting for more than 10 consecutive days, his/her driver's license or permit will be suspended for one year for any of the following offenses.

1. The possession or sale of an alcoholic beverage or an illegal controlled substance on school property or at a school activity off-campus.
2. The bringing, possession, or use on school property or at a school activity off-campus of a weapon or firearm that resulted in disciplinary action under N.C.G.S. §115C- 391(d1) or that could have resulted in that disciplinary action if the conduct had occurred in a public school.
3. The physical assault on a teacher or other school personnel on school property or at a school activity off-campus.

Students in ISS or OSS from school are not eligible for extra-curricular activities, including athletics, on the day of the assignment. Under NCHSAA Policy, a high school student who is convicted of, pleads guilty or no contest to a crime classified as a felony or is adjudicated a delinquent for an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult is not eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics through the end of the student's high school career. In a like manner, a middle school student will be declared ineligible through the end of his/her middle school career. If the student is charged with a felony but is convicted of, pleads guilty or no contest to a misdemeanor, the student will be suspended from extra-class activities and athletics for up to 90 school days or the remainder of the athletic season depending on the severity of the crime.

Middle and/or High School students who accumulate more than 10 days of short-term suspension may be referred for alternative educational services to the Alternative Learning Center or Alternative Learning Program at their home school. Students may be assigned by the Principal with review by the Assistant Superintendent for Student Services. Students assigned to the ALC or Alternative Learning Program should be considered for readmission to the regular school program upon satisfactory completion of school work and assignments.

Any weapon, prohibited substance or other property students are not allowed to possess may be confiscated by school officials. Unless the disposition of the property is otherwise provided for by law or board policy, it shall be returned to the student's parent or guardian within a reasonable time no later than the last day of the school year. A student is subject to the same discipline consequences as the violator, if he/she knowingly advises, induces, encourages, aids or assists another student to commit an offense OR shares in the purpose of the act (to commit the offense) and aids or is in a position to aid the other student when the offense is committed.

## **First Level Violations**

Range of Consequences:

In-school Suspension/After School Detention/Saturday School/Bus Suspension/ Reprimand/Community or School Service/OSS for 1 Day

Repeated Violations are subject to OSS up to 2 days

- Academic misconduct, Grades K – 8, cheating/plagiarism, use of cellular telephone, digital camera, or text messaging to cheat; and student shall receive disciplinary consequences and an alternate assignment
- Communication devices, cellular telephones or pagers displayed, in use, or in possession of during regular school hours without prior permission except as noted in SCSB Policy Code 10200
- Disrespectful Conduct to teachers and staff
- Dress code violations (SCSB Policy Code 4316)
- Inappropriate public displays of affection after a warning

- Littering and loitering on school property
- Making false statements to teachers and school officials
- Profane, obscene, lewd, vulgar, or indecent speech, drawings, symbols, or gestures
- Smoking, use, display, or possession of tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, and vapor devices, first and second offense (SCSB Policy Code 4320)
- Skateboarding, roller skating, or in-line skating on school property
- Tardy to class or school, skipping classes, leaving class or school without permission, being in an unauthorized area of the school building
- Failure or refusal to stay after school
- Use or possession of electronic devices such as airpods/earbuds, radios, iPods, smart watches, digital cameras, laser pens, or similar devices without permission (SCSB Policy Code 10200)
- Violation of local school or classroom rules
- Violation of bus rules not involving other violations of policy (i.e. fighting)

## **Second Level Violations**

### Range of Consequences:

Grades K-5: Zero to Three (3) Days Suspension, In School Suspension/Alternative Learning Center Assignment

Grades 6-12: One to Three (3) Days Suspension, In School Suspension/Alternative Learning Center Assignment

- Academic Misconduct (students shall receive disciplinary consequences and an alternate assignment)
  - Grades K – 8, 2nd Offense, cheating/plagiarism, use of a cellular telephone, digital camera, or text messaging to cheat
  - Grades 9 – 12, 1st offense, cheating/plagiarism, use of a cellular telephone, digital camera, or text messaging to cheat
- Cellular telephones & digital cameras used to take photographs or videos of people for an improper purpose
- Counterfeit currency Use or possession
- Disrespectful conduct toward teachers and staff, 2nd and subsequent offense
- Gambling
- Gang Activity, 1st Offense (SCSB Policy Code 4328)
- Failure to follow the lawful directions of school officials
- Forgery
- Inappropriate touching or unwelcome physical contact with another student that is not an assault, an attack, or an attempt to injure; horseplay
- Pornography and Obscenity – Possessing, viewing, or distributing pornographic or obscene materials in whatever form, sexting (SCSB Policy Code 10200)
- Profane, obscene, lewd, vulgar, or indecent speech, drawings, symbols, or gestures to a teacher or other school personnel
- Smoking, use, display, or possession of tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, and vapor devices, third and subsequent offenses (SCSB Policy Code 4320)
- Trespassing

## **Third Level Violations**

### Range of Consequences:

Grades K -5 Up to Five (5) Days Out-of-School Suspension

Grades 6 -12, Two (2) to Five (5) Days Out-of-school Suspension

Alternative Learning Center (ALC) Assignment

- Abuse of OTC medications (excluding those containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine) (SCSB Policy 4325)
- Academic Misconduct, Grades 9 – 12, 2nd offense
- Assault – students: hitting, kicking, or pushing another student (or similar misbehavior) which does not cause a serious injury.
- Bullying/Cyber Bullying
- Disorderly conduct
- Downloading to or otherwise /placing upon a school computer any software of computer program enabling the student and/or others to load content or programs to school computers which would otherwise be prohibited by policy or which otherwise violate (SCSB Policy Code 10200)
- Fighting, 1st offense, that does not cause serious bodily injury
- Gang Activity, 2nd Offense (SCSB Policy Code 4328)
- Inciting or instigating a fight, 1st offense
- Inappropriate touching or unwelcome physical contact that is not an assault, an attack, or an attempt to injure the staff member
- Making or publishing false statements on the internet, by fax, or any other means that defame the character or reputation of a school employee or student by accusing school personnel or students of criminal or immoral acts and which statements are intended to injure, harass and/or harm an individual
- Making or publishing statements on the internet or through any social media that disrupt the educational environment.
- Possession/Use of a Prescription or Over-the-Counter Drug, not a Controlled Substance, without a prescription
- Possession of Fireworks, bullets, or any similar explosive
- Possession of any instrument that reasonably looks like a weapon or could be used as a weapon
- Possession of Pocket knife, pen knife, or Swiss army knife (with a blade of 2.5” or less) so long as the blade has not been opened and exposed
- Selling stolen items at school
- Sexual misconduct – Consensual
- The claim or threat of having a possession of any instrument that reasonably looks like a weapon or could be used as a weapon.
- Theft of money or property (\$250 or less) (SCSB Policy Code 4330)
- Using profane, obscene, lewd, vulgar, or indecent speech, drawings, symbols, gestures, fighting or abusive words to threaten, harass, or annoy a student
- Vandalism
- Verbal Harassment - Harassment of another student on the basis of race, religion, ethnic origin, sex, gender, or disability
- Verbal or written threat to teacher, staff, or volunteer, NOT a threat to kill or seriously injure, including threats made over the internet

#### **Fourth Level Violations**

Range of Consequences:

Alternative Educational Services

Grades K-5 minimum: Two (2) to Ten (10) Days Suspension

Grades 6-12 minimum: Two (2) to Ten (10) Days Suspension

Report to Law Enforcement

- Affray involving more than two people
- Aggravated Assault
- Alcohol Possession or use – 1st offense (SCSB Policy Code 4325)

- Assault with serious injury
- Assault on non-student without serious injury
- A student under 13 who physically assaults a teacher or other school personnel, no serious injury
- Breaking or entering into school buildings, buses, or secured areas within a school building
- Burning of personal property/starting a fire excluding arson or burning a building
- Extortion
- Fighting, 2nd offense
- Gang Activity, 3rd offense (SCSB Policy Code 4328)
- Inciting or instigating a fight, 2nd offense; inciting or instigating an affray
- Indecent exposure
- Over-the-counter medication (excluding those with ephedrine or pseudoephedrine) abuse, 2nd Offense (SCSB Policy Code 4325)
- Possession of the following weapons (SCSB Policy Code 4333):
- Slingshot, blackjack, leaded cane or metallic knuckles or similar weapon;
- Pocket knife, pen knife, Swiss army knife (with a blade less than 2.5 inches), provided the blade has been opened and exposed.
- Possession/Use of a Prescription or Over-the-Counter Drug, not a Controlled Substance, without a prescription, 2nd Offense (SCSB Policy Code 4325)
- Distribution of a Prescription or Over-the-Counter Drug or Medication that is not a Controlled Substance (SCSB Policy Code 4325)
- Possession, use, or under the influences of any substance listed in SCSB Policy Code 4325 – 1st offense
- Sexual harassment – physical
- Theft of money or property between \$250 and \$1,000 (SCSB Policy Code 4330)
- Use or explosion of fireworks
- Use (or intended use) of mace, pepper spray, or similar weapon to harm a student or a staff member
- Use or intent to use any weapon that is not capable of causing a serious injury to threaten or to harm another student or a staff member
- Verbal or written threats to kill or seriously injure a student, teacher, school employee, or volunteer

## **Fifth Level Violations**

### Range of Consequences:

Grades K-5 minimum: Two (2) to Ten (10) Days Suspension

Grades 6-12 minimum: Ten (10) Days Suspension

Alternative Educational Program Placement

Long Term Suspension

Report to Law Enforcement

- Assault involving use of a weapon
- Any student under age 13 who physically assaults and seriously injures a teacher or school personnel
- Any student 13 years of age but not 14 who physically assaults and seriously injures a teacher or other school personnel;
- Any student 13 years of age or older who physically assaults a teacher or other adult; an intentional physical attack that does not cause a serious injury
- Any student 13 years of age or older who physically assaults another student if the assault is witnessed by school personnel.

- Any student 13 years of age or older who physically assaults and seriously injures another student
- Bomb threat (SCSB Policy Code 4333)
- Communicating threats (see NC General Statute 14-277.1)
- False fire alarm
- Gang Activity, 4th & Subsequent Offenses (SCSB Policy Code 4328)
- Making False 911 Call
- Possession and use of any instrument that reasonably looks like a weapon or could be used as a weapon (SCSB Policy Code 4333)
- Possession of any air rifle, air pistol, BB gun, pellet gun, stun-gun, starter pistol, zip gun, paintball gun, or any similar weapon (SCSB Policy Code 4333)
- Possession of any type of knife, except pocket knives, pen knives, or Swiss army knives with a blade less than 2.5 inches; instructional supplies, and tools (SCSB Policy Code 4333)
- Possession of any powerful explosive (SCSB Policy Code 4333)
- Possession, use, or under the influences of any substance listed in SCSB Policy Code 4325 –2nd offense
- Selling, distributing, or transmitting any substances listed in SCSB Policy Code 4325
- Terrorist threats (SCSB Policy 4333)
- Theft of money or property over \$1000 (SCSB Policy 4330)

### **Sixth Level Violations**

Range of Consequences:

Alternative Educational Services

Long Term Suspension

Expulsion – Unlimited Exclusion From School

Report to Law Enforcement

- Any student 14 years of age or older whose behavior indicates that the student's continued presence in school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or employees.
- Any student 14 years of age or older who commits or is charged with a felony and whose continued presence in school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or employees.
- Armed Robbery
- Arson
- Assault with a deadly weapon
- Assault and serious injury to teacher or other school personnel
- Hazing
- Homicide or manslaughter
- Kidnapping
- Rape and Other sex offenses
- Sexual Assaults
- Taking Indecent Liberties with a minor
- Robbery

Misconduct off-campus - If any of the above acts occur off-campus, a student is subject to the same disciplinary actions if the victim is a student or school employee and there is a reasonable basis to believe that the continued presence of the student demonstrates a clear threat to the safety of the victims or others in the school environment.

### **Seventh Level Violations**

- Possession of a firearm (Refer to SCSB Policy Code 4333)



As required by law, a student who brings or possesses a firearm or destructive device on school property or at a school-sponsored event must be suspended for 365 days, unless the superintendent modifies, in writing, the required 365-day suspension for an individual student on a case-by-case basis. The superintendent shall not impose a 365-day suspension if the superintendent determines that the student (1) took or received the firearm or destructive device from another person at school or found the firearm or destructive device at school, (2) delivered or reported the firearm or destructive device as soon as practicable to a law enforcement officer or school personnel and (3) had no intent to use the firearm or destructive device in a harmful or threatening way.

- Student Sex Offenders (Refer to SCSB Policy Code 4260)

Updated 8-9-18

# Every Student Succeeds Act

Dear Parent:

Our school system works under the Every Student Succeeds Act and the provisions for the “parents right-to-know.” This law applies to all schools that receive federal Title I funds. Title I states that “all teachers and paraprofessionals working in a program supported with funds under this part [Title I] meet applicable State certification and licensure requirements, including any requirements for certification obtained through alternative routes to certification.” Beginning teachers are initially licensed and as such, meet applicable State licensure requirements. Section 1112(e)(B) requires Title I schools to notify parents when the student has been assigned or has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet applicable State certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned.

Section 1112(e)(1)(A): In adherence to the legislation, parents may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child’s classroom teachers. If a teaching assistant or tutor works routinely with the child, the parent may also request information regarding his/her qualifications. To obtain such information at any time throughout the year regarding the professionals that teach your child, please send a written request to the principal at your child’s school. Within a reasonable time, school officials will provide the requested information.

It is the intent of educators in the Surry County Schools to continue to provide quality instruction. Thank you for your daily involvement in your child’s education. We look forward to a new year of partnership with you as we work together to further your child’s education.

Sincerely,



Travis L. Reeves, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

# Leadership Framework Attributes

## Leading Self

Self-Aware	Can describe what makes them who they are.
Accountable	Takes responsibility for their actions.
Resilient	Keeps trying if they fail at an important goal.
Integrity	Stands up for what they believe in.

## Leading With Others

Collaborative	Cooperates with others effectively.
Communicative	Expresses ideas clearly and effectively (including giving and receiving feedback).
Active Listener	Listens carefully to what others have to say.
Considerate	Thinks about how their actions make other people feel.
Respectful	Treats other people the way they want to be treated.
Accepting	Respects the view of others.

## Changing Your World

Visionary	Inspires others to follow their vision.
Motivating	Unites a group of people to work together towards a common goal.
Encouraging	Encourages others to take on leadership roles.
Confident	Steps up and takes charge when it is needed.

## **Safe Surrender of Newborns** **(What everyone needs to know about North Carolina's Law)**

**What is the new Safe Surrender Law?** An infant up to 7 days old may be left with a responsible adult, legally and anonymously. This is North Carolina state law, properly called the "Infant Homicide Prevention Act."

**Why is there such a law?** The risk of homicide on the first day of life is 10 times greater than the rate during any other time of life. Every year, several babies are either killed or left to die in North Carolina by a parent in crisis, who may feel they have no other choice. The law hopes to provide such parents a way to surrender their unwanted newborn safely and anonymously.

**Who can receive an infant through safe surrender?** The law states that a baby may be surrendered to "any responsible adult." Some people are especially cited: on-duty health care provider, law enforcement officer, social services worker, or emergency medical services worker. However, "any responsible adult" could mean just about anyone.

**What happens to these babies?** An adult who receives the baby is required to keep it safe and warm and to call 911 or the local department of social services right away. They should know that the surrendering parent is not required to give any identifying information. The goal is to have the baby adopted into a safe and loving home as quickly as possible.

**How big a problem is infanticide and child homicide?** In our state, an average of two infants are killed or left unprotected to die every year. Every two weeks, a North Carolina child is killed by a parent or caregiver in some form of child abuse.

**Has the law worked?** No official numbers exist, but since the law was enacted in 2001, at least two newborns have been highlighted in the media as having been safely surrendered. However, at the same time, a number of newborns have also been abandoned unsafely or killed (six have died). Public awareness is crucial to help parents know this option exists, and also to alert the public that receiving a surrendered newborn is legal. Help us spread the word by copying and distributing this fact sheet.

**What about fathers? Don't they have rights too?** There is a natural concern that a woman may have a baby and surrender it without the father knowing it exists. Any man who hears of a surrendered infant and believes it may be his should come forward.

**Is Safe Surrender the same as Safe Haven?** Many states have what are called Safe Haven laws. These designate places where a baby may be surrendered. North Carolina's law is unique in that it designates people, not places.

For more information, visit [www.safesurrender.net](http://www.safesurrender.net) or call 1-800-FOR-BABY. In an emergency, call 911

