

**CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL-  
JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP RESOLUTION**

**THIS SCHOOL-JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP** (herein referred to as the “Partnership”) is a partnership by and between the following Parties: The Catawba county Board of Education, the Catawba County Sheriff’s Office, the Maiden Police Department (herein collectively referred to as “law enforcement”), the District Court of the Twenty-fifth Judicial District (herein referred to as the “Court”), the District Attorney’s Office for the Thirty-Sixth Prosecutorial District (herein referred to as the “prosecutor”); and the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, specifically the Juvenile Court Counselors working in the Twenty-fifth Judicial District (herein referred to as the “counselors” and the Court, prosecutor and counselors are collectively referred to herein as “judicial agencies”).

**WHEREAS**, the Catawba County Board of Education has a duty to create and maintain a safe and orderly school environment conducive to learning and to continually teach students to respect themselves, others, and property, and to conduct themselves in a manner that fosters their own learning and the learning of those around them; and

**WHEREAS**, removal of students from school, while sometimes necessary, can exacerbate behavioral problems, diminish academic achievement, and hasten school dropout; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Assembly has declared as policy of this State that school discipline must balance these competing interests; and

**WHEREAS**, school officials have the primary responsibility for maintaining order in the school environment and for investigating and responding to school disciplinary matters; and

**WHEREAS**, the duty of local law enforcement agencies (defined as the local Sheriff’s Office and/or the local Police Department) is to respond to and investigate imminent safety threats, uphold the law and serve the population they are charged with protecting; and

**WHEREAS**, efficient use of judicial resources in the management of cases that may reach the juvenile court system is desirable; and

**WHEREAS**, the Catawba County Board of Education and local law enforcement agencies regularly partner together to meet their shared responsibility to create a safe school environment for all students; and

**WHEREAS**, the Catawba County Board of Education and local law enforcement agencies aim to respond to student behavior consistently and within the bounds of their respective legal duties and responsibilities; and

**WHEREAS**, school officials are encouraged to use a full range of responses to violations of disciplinary rules, such as conferences, counseling, peer mediation, behavior contracts,

