

**HICKORY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL-JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Hickory Public Schools 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 Department or Office and/or the local Police Department) is to 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 Hickory Public Schools 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 Hickory Public Schools 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, instruction in conflict resolution and anger management, detention, academic interventions, community service, and other similar tools that do not remove a student from the classroom or school building; and

WHEREAS, some minor, non-emergency disruptive behavior of students at school and school-related events may be adequately and effectively addressed through classroom,

