

Code of Conduct Summary

DEFINITIONS

"Disruptive student" means an elementary or secondary student under the age of 21 who is substantially disruptive of the educational process or substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom.

"Violent student" means a student under the age of 21 who:

- 1) Commits an act of violence upon a school employee, or attempts to do so.
- 2) Commits, or attempts to commit, an act of violence upon another student, or another person, lawfully on school property or at a school function.
- 3) Possesses, while on school property or at a school function, a weapon.
- 4) Displays, while on school property or at a school function, what appears to be a weapon.
- 5) Threatens, while on school property or at a school function, to use a weapon.
- 6) Knowingly and intentionally damages or destroys the personal property of any school employee or any person lawfully on school property or at a school function.
- 7) Knowingly and intentionally damages or destroys school District property.

"Weapon" means a firearm as defined in 18 USC §921 for purposes of the Gun-Free Schools Act. It also means any other gun, BB gun, pistol, revolver, shotgun, rifle, machine gun, disguised gun, dagger, dirk, razor, stiletto, switchblade knife, gravity knife, brass knuckles, sling shot, metal knuckle knife, box cutter, cane sword, electronic dart gun, Kung Fu star, electronic stun gun, pepper spray or other noxious spray, explosive or incendiary bomb, or other device, instrument, material or substance that can cause physical injury or death when used to cause physical injury or death.

STUDENT RIGHTS

All students have the right to:

- 1) Take part in all District activities on an equal basis regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender or disability.
- 2) Go to a school that is safe, orderly, and free of tobacco, alcohol and drugs.
- 3) Clearly-stated and challenging academic curriculum.
- 4) Courtesy and respect from each other and from staff.
- 5) An explicit and consistently administered discipline code.
- 6) Present their version of the relevant events to school personnel authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty in connection with the imposition of the penalty.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

All students have the responsibility to:

- 1) Contribute to maintaining a safe and orderly school environment that is conducive to learning and to show respect to other persons and to property.
- 2) Obey all school codes and local, state and federal laws, including those pertaining to illegal substances and weapons.
- 3) Attend school every day unless they are legally excused and be in class on time, and prepared to/earn.
- 4) Work to the best of their ability in all academic and extracurricular pursuits and strive toward their highest level of achievement possible.
- 5) Accept consequences for individual actions, whether alone or in a group.
- 6) Dress appropriately for school and school functions.
- 7) Conduct themselves as representatives of the District when participating in or attending school-sponsored extracurricular events and to hold themselves to the highest standards of conduct, demeanor, and sportsmanship.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

A student's dress, grooming and appearance shall:

- 1) Be safe, appropriate and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process.
- 2) Ensure that underwear is completely covered with outer clothing.
- 3) Include footwear at all times. Footwear that presents a safety hazard will not be allowed.
- 4) Not include the wearing of hats, or head coverings in the building except for a medical or religious purpose.
- 5) Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous or denigrating to others.
- 6) Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.
- 7) Include pants that are intact and not see-through.
- 8) Include shorts, skirts, and dresses that are no shorter than mid-thigh.
- 9) Refrain from wearing brief garments such as tube tops, net tops, mesh shirts, halter tops, spaghetti straps, plunging necklines (front and/or back) and see through garments. (Shirts must be long enough to be tucked in.)

PROHIBITED STUDENT CONDUCT

Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school, when they:

A. Engage in conduct that is disruptive or disorderly. Examples of these behavior include but are not limited to the following:

- 1) Using language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar or abusive.
- 2) Obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
- 3) Engaging in any willful act which disrupts the normal operation of the school community.
- 4) Trespassing. Students are not permitted in any school building, other than they regularly attend, without permission from the administrator in charge of the building.
- 5) Computer/electronic communications misuse, including any unauthorized use of computers, software, or Internet/Intranet account; accessing inappropriate websites; or any other violation of the District's Acceptable Use Policy

B. Engage in conduct that is Insubordinate. Examples of insubordinate conduct include but are not limited to the following:

- 1) Failing to comply with the responsible directions of teachers, school administrators, or other school employees in charge of students or otherwise demonstrating disrespect.
- 2) Lateness for, missing or leaving class or school without permission.

C. Engage in conduct that is violent. Examples of violent conduct include but are not limited to the following:

- 1) Committing or attempting to commit an act of violence.
- 2) Possessing a weapon
- 3) Displaying what appears to be a weapon.
- 4) Threatening to use any weapon.
- 5) Intentionally damaging or destroying personal or school property.

D. Engage in any conduct that endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others. Examples of such conduct include but are not limited to:

- 1) Stealing.
- 2) Defamation, which includes making false or derogatory statements or representations about an individual or identifiable group of individuals that harms the reputation of the person or the identifiable group.

- 3) Discrimination, which includes the use of perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sexon as a basis for treating another in a negative manner.
 - 4) Harassment, which includes a pervasive pattern of actions or statements directed at an identifiable individual or group which are intended to be or which a reasonable person would perceive as ridiculing or demeaning.
 - 5) Intimidation or bullying, which includes engaging in actions or statements written or verbal that put an individual in fear.
 - 6) Hazing, which includes any intentional or reckless act directed against another for the purpose of initiation into, affiliating with or maintaining membership in any school-sponsored activity, organization, club or team.
 - 7) Selling, using, producing or possessing obscene material.
 - 8) Using vulgar or abusive language or gestures.
 - 9) Student use of tobacco is prohibited.
 - 10) Violating Board policy on alcohol and drug use by students.
 - 11) Indecent exposure that is exposure to the sight of the private parts of the body.
 - 12) Initiating a report warning of fire or other catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911 or discharging a fire extinguisher.
 - 13) Engaging in misconduct while on a school bus.
- E. **Engage in any form of academic misconduct. Examples of such conduct include but are not limited to:**
- 1) Plagiarism.
 - 2) Cheating.
 - 3) Copying.
 - 4) Altering records.
 - 5) Assisting another student in any of the above actions.

PENALTIES

Students who are found to have violated the District's Code of Conduct may be subject to the following penalties, either alone or in combination:

- 1) Oral warning.
- 2) Written warning.
- 3) Written notification to parent.
- 4) Detention.
- 5) Suspension from transportation
- 6) Suspension from athletic participation
- 7) Suspension from social or extracurricular activities.
- 8) Suspension of other privileges
- 9) In-school suspension
- 10) Removal from classroom by teacher
- 11) Short-term (five days or less) suspension from school.
- 12) Long-term (more than five days) suspension from school.
- 13) Permanent suspension from school

DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The full Code of Conduct contains provisions dealing with the discipline of students with disabilities.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Corporal punishment is any act of physical force upon a student for the purpose of punishing that student. Corporal punishment of any student by any District employee is strictly forbidden.

However, in situations where alternative procedures and methods that do not involve the use of physical force cannot reasonably be used, reasonable physical force may be used to:

- 1) Protect oneself, another student, teacher or any person from physical injury.
- 2) Protect the property of the school or others.
- 3) Restrain or remove a student whose behavior interferes with the orderly exercise and performance of school District functions, powers, duties, if that student has refused to refrain from further disruptive acts.

STUDENT SEARCHES

Student Lockers, Desks and other Storage Places

Students may be assigned lockers in which they are allowed to store their personal belongings and coats. These lockers are school property and can be inspected or searched at anytime. While students are assigned a lock or combination, this lock is for the purpose of protecting the students' belongings and does not create an expectation of privacy. Lockers, like all parts of a school building, including desks and other areas in which students are allowed to store their personal belongings, remain school District property and are subject to inspection and search at any time.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOLS

The following rules apply to visitors to the schools:

- 1) Anyone who is not a regular staff member or student of the school will be considered a visitor.
- 2) All visitors to the school must report to the office of the principal or designated area. There they will be required to sign the visitor's register and will be required to wear a visitor's identification badge which must be worn at all times while in the school or on school grounds.
- 3) Visitors attending school functions that are open to the public, such as parent-teacher organization meetings or public gatherings, are not required to register.
- 4) Parents or citizens who wish to serve a classroom while school is in public session are required to arrange such visits in advance with the classroom teacher(s), so that class disruption is kept to a minimum.
- 5) Any unauthorized person on school property will be reported to the principal or his or her designee. Unauthorized persons will be asked to leave. The police may be called if the situation warrants.
- 6) All visitors are expected to abide by the rules for public conduct on school property contained in this Code of Conduct.

PUBLIC CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

All persons on school property or attending a school function shall conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner. In addition, all persons on school property or attending a school function are expected to be properly attired for the purpose they are on school property.

**The Board of Education will review this Code of Conduct every year and update it as necessary.
For a complete copy of the Code of Conduct, you may call the District Office at 607-589-7100**