

All decisions related to student behavior are guided by the Board's educational objective to teach responsibility and respect for cultural and ideological differences and by the Board's commitment to creating 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.

A. PRINCIPLES

The reasons for managing student behavior are to (1) create an orderly environment in which students can learn; (2) teach expected standards of behavior; (3) help students learn to accept the consequences of their behavior; and, (4) provide students with the opportunity to develop self-control. The following principles apply in managing student behavior.

1. Student behavior management strategies will complement other efforts to create a safe, orderly and inviting environment.
2. Positive behavioral interventions will be employed as appropriate to improve student behavior.
3. Responsibility, integrity, civility, and other standards of behavior will be integrated into the curriculum.
4. Disruptive behavior in the classroom will not be tolerated.
5. Consequences for unacceptable behavior will be designed to help a student learn to comply with rules, to be respectful, to accept responsibility for his or her behavior, and to develop self-control.
6. Strategies and consequences will be age and developmentally appropriate.

B. COMMUNICATION OF POLICIES

Board policies related to student behavior are codified herein and in other policies contained in Section J, "Students." The Superintendent shall incorporate information from such policies into a Code of Student Conduct that notifies students of the behavior expected of them, conduct that may subject them to discipline, and the range of disciplinary measures that may be used by school officials. At the discretion of the Superintendent, the Code of Student Conduct may include additional rules needed to implement the Board's student behavior policies. Each school shall create a student behavior management plan that will elaborate further on processes for addressing student misbehavior and the use of intervention strategies and consequences (see Policy JFDA,

“School Plan for Management of Student Behavior”). The Code of Student Conduct must not impose mandatory long-term suspension or expulsion for specific violations unless otherwise provided in state or federal law.

At the beginning of each school year, principals shall make available to each student and parent all of the following: (1) the Code of Student Conduct; (2) any Board policies related to behavior that are not part of the Code of Conduct; (3) any related administrative procedures; (4) any additional discipline-related information from the school’s student behavior management plan, including behavior standards, prohibited conduct or disciplinary measures; and, (5) any other school rules. This information must be available at other times upon request and must be made available to students enrolling during the school year and their parents.

C. APPLICABILITY

Students must comply with the Code of Student Conduct in the following circumstances:

1. While in any school building or on any school premises before, during, or after school hours;
2. While on any bus or other vehicle as part of any school activity;
3. While waiting at any school bus stop;
4. During any school-sponsored activity or extracurricular activity;
5. When subject to the authority of school employees; and,
6. At any place or time when the student’s behavior has or is reasonably expected to have a direct and immediate impact on the orderly and efficient operation of the schools or the safety of individuals in the school environment.

D. CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS

Violations of the Code of Student Conduct must be dealt with in accordance with the guidelines established in the school’s behavior management plan (see Policy JFDA, “School Plan for Management of Student Behavior”).

1. Minor Violations

Minor violations of the Code of Student Conduct are those less severe infractions involving a lower degree of dangerousness and harm. Examples of minor violations include the use of inappropriate or disrespectful language,

noncompliance with a staff directive, dress code violations, and minor physical altercations that do not involve a weapon or an injury. Aggravating circumstances, however, may justify treating an otherwise minor violation as a serious violation.

Minor violations of the Code of Student Conduct may result in disciplinary measures or responses up to and including short-term suspension. Further information regarding the procedures for short-term suspensions is provided in Policy JGD, "Short-Term Suspension." Other disciplinary measures or responses may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Parental involvement, such as conferences;
- b. Isolation or time-out for short periods of time;
- c. Behavior improvement agreements;
- d. Instruction in conflict resolution and anger management;
- e. Peer mediation;
- f. Individual or small group sessions with the school counselor;
- g. Academic intervention;
- h. In-school suspension;
- i. Detention before and/or after school or on Saturday;
- j. Community service;
- k. Exclusion from graduation ceremonies;
- l. Exclusion from extracurricular activities;
- m. Suspension from bus privileges; and,
- n. Placement in an alternative school.

The parent or guardian is responsible for transportation that may be required to carry out a consequence. With the exception of suspension from bus privileges, if a parent or guardian is unable to provide transportation, another consequence will be substituted.

2. **Serious Violations**

Serious violations of the Code of Student Conduct may result in any of the consequences that may be imposed for minor violations. In addition, serious violations that threaten to substantially disrupt the educational environment may result in long-term suspension, and serious violations that threaten the safety of students, school employees, or school visitors may result in long-term suspension or expulsion. Certain violations involving firearms or explosive devices may result in a 365-day suspension. Further information regarding the standards and procedures for long-term suspensions, 365-day suspensions and expulsions is provided in Policy JGD, "Short-Term Suspension," and Policy JGDA, "Long-Term Suspension, 365-Day Suspension, Expulsion."

E. ENFORCEMENT

The Superintendent is responsible for supervising the enforcement of the Code of Student Conduct to ensure that school disciplinary policies are uniformly and fairly applied throughout the school system.

PROHIBITED BEHAVIOR

While the Board recognizes that it is impossible to create and publish an exhaustive list of prohibited behaviors, the following behaviors are expressly prohibited as a particular point of emphasis.

I. TOBACCO PRODUCTS – STUDENTS**A. ~~Prohibition~~ Prohibited Behavior**

Students are prohibited from using or possessing any tobacco product: (1) in any school building, on any school campus, and in or on any other school property owned or operated by the Board, including school vehicles; (2) at any school-related activity, including athletic events; or, (3) at any time when the student is subject to the supervision of school personnel, including during school trips. For purposes of this provision, "tobacco product" means any product that contains or that is made or derived from tobacco and is intended for human consumption, including electronic cigarettes and all lighted and smokeless tobacco products.

Nothing herein prohibits the use or possession of tobacco products for an instructional or research activity conducted in a school building, provided that the activity is conducted or supervised by a faculty member and that the activity does not include smoking, chewing, or otherwise ingesting tobacco.

B. Consequences

The Superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violations of this provision. In determining appropriate consequences for violations of this provision, school officials are encouraged to identify programs or opportunities that will provide students with a greater understanding of the health hazards of tobacco use, the hazards of secondhand smoke, and the impact of tobacco use on efforts to provide a safe, orderly, clean, and inviting school environment.

C. Notice

Students will be provided with notice of the information in this provision through the Code of Student Conduct, student handbooks, or other means identified by the principal. In addition, the principal shall post signs in a manner and at locations that adequately notify students, school personnel, and visitors about prohibitions against the use of tobacco products in all school facilities, on all school grounds, and at all school-sponsored events.

II. THEFT, TRESPASS AND DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

A. Prohibited Behavior

1. Theft

Students are prohibited from stealing or attempting to steal school or private property and/or from knowingly being in possession of stolen property.

2. Damage to Property

Students are prohibited from damaging or attempting to damage school or private property.

3. Trespass

Students are prohibited from trespassing on school property. A student will be considered a trespasser and may be criminally prosecuted in any of the following circumstances:

- a. The student is on the campus of a school to which he or she is not assigned during the school day without the knowledge and consent of the officials of that school;
- b. The student is loitering at any school after the close of the school day without any specific need or supervision; or
- c. The student has been suspended from school but is on the property of any school during the suspension period without the express permission of the principal.

B. Consequences

The Superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violations of this provision.

III. ASSAULTS, FIGHTING, THREATS, BULLYING, AND HARASSMENT

A. Prohibited Behavior**1. Assault**

Students are prohibited from assaulting, physically injuring, attempting to injure, or intentionally behaving in such a way as could reasonably cause injury to any other person. ~~Assault includes engaging in a fight.~~

2. Fighting

Students are prohibited from fighting and/or engaging in physical altercations.

3. Threatening Acts

Students are prohibited from directing toward any other person any language that threatens force, violence, or disruption or any sign or act that constitutes a threat of force, violence, or disruption.

Bomb and terrorist threats are also addressed in Policy JGDC, “Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats, and Clear Threats to Safety.”

4. Bullying and Harassment

Students are prohibited from engaging in or encouraging any form of harassment, including bullying of students, employees or other individuals on school grounds or at school-related functions. Harassment is unwanted, unwelcome, and uninvited behavior that demeans, threatens, or offends the victim and results in a hostile environment for the victim. The hostile environment may be created through pervasive or persistent misbehavior or a single incident if sufficiently severe.

Harassment and bullying are further defined in Policy ACB, “Interpersonal Human Relations and Student Grievance Procedures.”

B. Consequences

The Superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violations of this provision.

A student who is long-term suspended or reassigned to alternative education services as a result of assaulting or injuring a teacher shall not return to that teacher’s classroom without the teacher’s consent.

IV. DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

A. Prohibited Behavior

Students are prohibited from disrupting teaching, the orderly conduct of school activities, or any other lawful function of the school or school system. The following conduct is illustrative of disruptive behavior and is prohibited:

1. Intentional verbal or physical acts that result or have the potential to result in blocking access to school functions or facilities or preventing the convening or continuation of school-related functions;
2. Appearance or clothing that (1) violates a reasonable dress code adopted and publicized by the school; (2) is substantially disruptive; (3) is provocative or obscene; or, (4) endangers the health or safety of the student or others (see Policy JFCE, "Student Dress Code");
3. Possessing or distributing literature or illustrations that significantly disrupt the educational process or that are obscene or unlawful;
4. Engaging in behavior that is immoral, indecent, lewd, disreputable, or of an overly sexual nature in the school setting;
5. Failing to observe established safety rules, standards, and regulations, including on buses and in hallways; and,
6. Interfering with the operation of school buses, including delaying the bus schedule, getting off at an unauthorized stop, and willfully trespassing upon a school bus.

B. Consequences

The Superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violations of this provision.

Legal References: U.S. Const. amend. I; N.C. Const. art. I, § 14; Pro-Children Act of 1994, 20 U.S.C. 6081 et seq.; N. C. Gen. Stat. § 14-32, -32.2, -33, -34 through -34.2, -60; -87, 87.1, -132, 132.2, -288.2, -288.4, -313; 115C-47, -276(r), -288, -307, -390.1, -390.2, -390.7, -407

Cross References:

Policy ACB, "Interpersonal Human Relations and Student Grievance Procedures"

- 302 Policy JFCE, "Student Dress Code"
- 303 Policy JFDA, "School Plan for Management of Student Behavior"
- 304 Policy JGD, "Short-Term Suspension"
- 305 Policy JGDA, "Long-Term Suspension, 365-Day Suspension, Expulsion"
- 306 Policy JGDC, "Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats, and Clear Threats to Safety"

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310 APPROVED BY BOARD

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