

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

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

- 15
16 1. Student behavior management strategies will complement other efforts to create a
17 safe, orderly and inviting environment.
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19 2. Positive behavioral interventions will be employed as appropriate to improve
20 student behavior.
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22 3. Responsibility, integrity, civility, and other standards of behavior will be
23 integrated into the curriculum.
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25 4. Disruptive behavior in the classroom will not be tolerated.
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27 5. Consequences for unacceptable behavior will be designed to help a student learn
28 to comply with rules, to act respectfully, to accept responsibility for his or her
29 behavior, and to develop self-control.
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31 6. Strategies and consequences will be age and developmentally appropriate.

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33 **B. COMMUNICATION OF POLICIES**
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35 Board policies related to student behavior are codified herein and in other policies
36 contained in Section J, "Students." The Superintendent shall incorporate information
37 from such policies into a Code of Student Conduct that notifies students of the behavior
38 expected of them, conduct that may subject them to discipline, and the range of
39 disciplinary measures that may be used by school officials. At the discretion of the
40 Superintendent, the Code of Student Conduct may include additional rules needed to
41 implement the Board's student behavior policies. Each school shall create a student
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43 behavior management plan that will elaborate further on processes for addressing student
44 misbehavior and the use of intervention strategies and consequences (see Policy JFDA,
45 “School Plan for Management of Student Behavior”). The Code of Student Conduct
46 must not impose mandatory long-term suspension or expulsion for specific violations
47 unless otherwise provided in state or federal law.
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49 At the beginning of each school year, principals shall make available to each student and
50 parent all of the following: (1) the Code of Student Conduct; (2) any Board policies
51 related to behavior that are not part of the Code of Conduct; (3) any related
52 administrative procedures; (4) any additional discipline-related information from the
53 school’s student behavior management plan, including behavior standards, prohibited
54 conduct or disciplinary measures; and, (5) any other school rules. This information must
55 be available at other times upon request and must be made available to students enrolling
56 during the school year and their parents.
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58 **C. APPLICABILITY**

59 Students must comply with the Code of Student Conduct in the following circumstances:
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- 61 1. While in any school building or on any school premises before, during, or after
62 school hours;
- 63 2. While on any bus or other vehicle as part of any school activity;
- 64 3. While waiting at any school bus stop;
- 65 4. During any school-sponsored activity or extracurricular activity;
- 66 5. When subject to the authority of school employees; and,
- 67 6. At any place or time when the student’s behavior has or is reasonably expected to
68 have a direct and immediate impact on the orderly and efficient operation of the
69 schools or the safety of individuals in the school environment.
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77 **D. CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS**

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79 Violations of the Code of Student Conduct must be dealt with in accordance with the
80 guidelines established in the school’s behavior management plan (see Policy JFDA,
81 “School Plan for Management of Student Behavior”).
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85 1. **Minor Violations**
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87 Minor violations of the Code of Student Conduct are those less severe infractions
88 involving a lower degree of dangerousness and harm. Examples of minor
89 violations include the use of inappropriate or disrespectful language,
90 noncompliance with a staff directive, dress code violations, and minor physical
91 altercations like pushing, shoving, rough-housing, and horseplay that do not
92 involve a weapon or an injury. Aggravating circumstances, however, may justify
93 treating an otherwise minor violation as a serious violation.
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95 Minor violations of the Code of Student Conduct may result in disciplinary
96 measures or responses up to and including short-term suspension. Further
97 information regarding the procedures for short-term suspensions is provided in
98 Policy JGD, "Short-Term Suspension." Other disciplinary measures or responses
99 may include, but are not limited to, the following:
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- 101 a. Parental involvement, such as conferences;
102 b. Isolation or time-out for short periods of time;
103 c. Behavior improvement agreements;
104 d. Instruction in conflict resolution and anger management;
105 e. Peer mediation;
106 f. Individual or small group sessions with the school counselor;
107 g. Academic intervention;
108 h. In-school suspension;
109 i. Detention before and/or after school or on Saturday;
110 j. Community service;
111 k. Exclusion from graduation ceremonies;
112 l. Exclusion from extracurricular activities;
113 m. Suspension from bus privileges; and,
114 n. Placement in an alternative school.
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116 The parent or guardian is responsible for transportation that may be required to
117 carry out a consequence. With the exception of suspension from bus privileges, if
118 a parent or guardian is unable to provide transportation, another consequence will
119 be substituted.
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121 2. **Serious Violations**
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123 Serious violations of the Code of Student Conduct may result in any of the
124 consequences that may be imposed for minor violations. In addition, serious
125 violations that threaten to substantially disrupt the educational environment may
126 result in long-term suspension, and serious violations that threaten the safety of

127 students, school employees, or school visitors may result in long-term suspension
128 or expulsion. Certain violations involving firearms or explosive devices may
129 result in a 365-day suspension. Further information regarding the standards and
130 procedures for long-term suspensions, 365-day suspensions and expulsions is
131 provided in Policy JGD, "Short-Term Suspension," and Policy JGDA, "Long-
132 Term Suspension, 365-Day Suspension, and Expulsion."
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134 **E. ENFORCEMENT**

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136 The Superintendent is responsible for supervising the enforcement of the Code of Student
137 Conduct to ensure that school disciplinary policies are uniformly and fairly applied
138 throughout the school system.
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140 **PROHIBITED BEHAVIOR**

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142 While the Board recognizes that it is impossible to create and publish an exhaustive list of
143 prohibited behaviors, the following behaviors are expressly prohibited as a particular point of
144 emphasis.
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146 **I. TOBACCO PRODUCTS – STUDENTS**

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148 **A. Prohibited Behavior**

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150 Students are prohibited from using or possessing any tobacco product: (1) in any
151 school building, on any school campus, and in or on any other school property
152 owned or operated by the Board, including school vehicles; (2) at any school-
153 related activity, including athletic events; or, (3) at any time when the student is
154 subject to the supervision of school personnel, including during school trips. For
155 purposes of this provision, "tobacco product" means any product that contains or
156 that is made or derived from tobacco and is intended for human consumption,
157 including electronic cigarettes and all lighted and smokeless tobacco products.
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159 Nothing herein prohibits the use or possession of tobacco products for an
160 instructional or research activity conducted in a school building, provided that the
161 activity is conducted or supervised by a faculty member and that the activity does
162 not include smoking, chewing, or otherwise ingesting tobacco.
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164 **B. Consequences**

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

169 provision, school officials are encouraged to identify programs or opportunities
170 that will provide students with a greater understanding of the health hazards of
171 tobacco use, the hazards of secondhand smoke, and the impact of tobacco use on
172 efforts to provide a safe, orderly, clean, and inviting school environment.
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174 **C. Notice**
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176 Students will be provided with notice of the information in this provision through
177 the Code of Student Conduct, student handbooks, or other means identified by the
178 principal. In addition, the principal shall post signs in a manner and at locations
179 that adequately notify students, school personnel, and visitors about prohibitions
180 against the use of tobacco products in all school facilities, on all school grounds,
181 and at all school-sponsored events.
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183 **II. THEFT, TRESPASS AND DAMAGE TO PROPERTY**
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185 **A. Prohibited Behavior**
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187 **1. Theft**

188 Students are prohibited from stealing or attempting to steal school or
189 private property and/or from knowingly being in possession of stolen
190 property.
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192 **2. Damage to Property**

193 Students are prohibited from damaging or attempting to damage school or
194 private property.
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196 **3. Trespass**

197 Students are prohibited from trespassing on school property. A student
198 will be considered a trespasser and may be criminally prosecuted in any of
199 the following circumstances:
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- 201 a. The student is on the campus of a school to which he or she is
202 not assigned during the school day without the knowledge and
203 consent of the officials of that school;
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- 205 b. The student is loitering at any school after the close of the
206 school day without any specific need or supervision; or
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- 208 c. The student has been suspended from school but is on the
209 property of any school during the suspension period without
210 the express permission of the principal.

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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.

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 and cyberbullying of students, employees or other individuals on school grounds, or at school-related functions, and at any time or place when the behavior has a direct and immediate effect on maintaining order and discipline in the schools. 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~~ Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying.” Complaints of harassment

253 will be investigated pursuant to Policy ACB-R, “Discrimination,
254 Harassment and Bullying Complaint Procedure.”
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256 **B. Consequences**

257
258 The Superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the
259 specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violations of
260 this provision.
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262 A student who is long-term suspended or reassigned to alternative education
263 services as a result of assaulting or injuring a teacher shall not return to that
264 teacher’s classroom without the teacher’s consent.
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266 **IV. DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR**

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268 **A. Prohibited Behavior**

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270 Students are prohibited from disrupting teaching, the orderly conduct of school
271 activities, or any other lawful function of the school or school system. The
272 following conduct is illustrative of disruptive behavior and is prohibited:
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- 274 1. Intentional verbal or physical acts that result or have the potential to result
275 in blocking access to school functions or facilities or preventing the
276 convening or continuation of school-related functions;
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- 278 2. Appearance or clothing that (1) violates a reasonable dress code adopted
279 and publicized by the school; (2) is substantially disruptive; (3) is
280 provocative or obscene; or, (4) endangers the health or safety of the
281 student or others (see Policy JFCE, “Student Dress Code”);
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- 283 3. Possessing or distributing literature or illustrations that significantly
284 disrupt the educational process or that are obscene or unlawful;
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- 286 4. Engaging in behavior that is immoral, indecent, lewd, disreputable, or of
287 an overly sexual nature in the school setting;
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- 289 5. Failing to observe established safety rules, standards, and regulations,
290 including on buses and in hallways; and,
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- 292 6. Interfering with the operation of school buses, including delaying the bus
293 schedule, getting off at an unauthorized stop, and willfully trespassing
294 upon a school bus.

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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”~~

“Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying”

Policy JFCE, “Student Dress Code”

Policy JFDA, “School Plan for Management of Student Behavior”

Policy JGD, “Short-Term Suspension”

Policy JGDA, “Long-Term Suspension, 365-Day Suspension, and Expulsion”

Policy JGDC, “Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats, and Clear Threats to Safety”

APPROVED BY BOARD

AND EFFECTIVE 8/1/11

REVISED _____