

## ***CHAPTER 3***

### ***STUDENT CONDUCT***

#### **I. STUDENT CONDUCT**

The Board of Education expects all students to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, district personnel and other members of the school community, and for the care of school facilities and equipment.

The best discipline is self-imposed, and students must learn to assume and accept responsibility for their own behavior, as well as the consequences of their misbehavior.

District personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to place emphasis on the students' ability to grow in self-discipline.

The Board recognizes the need to make its expectations for student conduct while on school property or engaged in a school function specific and clear. The rules of conduct listed below are intended to do that and focus on safety and respect for the rights and property of others.

Students who will not accept responsibility for their own behavior and who violate these school rules will be required to accept the penalties for their conduct.

Students will be bound by the Code of Conduct whenever they are on any school district property, or are engaged in or attending any school function, regardless of the time or reason(s) for their presence. Any direct or personal act or behavior which is prohibited under the Code of Conduct is also prohibited when performed by use of computers, the internet, cell phones, telephones, or other communications media when the communication originates from or ends on District property or at any school or school related function, or may in the judgment of District officials disrupt or interfere with the educational process; or pose a threat to the safety of any person lawfully on District property or at a school or school related function. Disciplinary consequences will be progressive in nature.

With regards to weapons, in particular, it is the intention of the Board through this Code to impress upon students that the mere possession of weapons is inherently dangerous to everyone in the school environment and therefore must not be brought onto school property or, if discovered, must be reported or turned into the school office immediately.

A weapon is defined as: 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 cutters, 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.

## II. PROHIBITED STUDENT CONDUCT

The following list of prohibited behaviors **is not exhaustive**. It merely provides examples of the kinds of conduct which will result in disciplinary measures being taken against the individual(s) responsible. The district may also discipline students for misconduct not listed herein.

Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school for violations of the District's Code of Conduct.

### A. Engage in Conduct That is Disorderly

Examples of disorderly conduct include but are not limited to:

1. Running in hallways;
2. Making unreasonable noise;
3. Using language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar or abusive;
4. 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.
5. Engaging in any willful act which disrupts the normal operation of the school community;
6. Trespassing. Students are not permitted in any school building, other than the one they regularly attend, without permission from the administrator in charge of the building; and
7. Obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic, or loitering on school premises.

### B. Engage in Conduct That is Insubordinate

Examples of conduct deemed insubordinate include but are not limited to:

1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school employees in charge of students or otherwise demonstrating disrespect;

2. Lateness for, missing or leaving school without permission;
3. Skipping detention;
4. Interference in the performance of duties of school personnel.

C. Engage in Conduct That is Disruptive

Examples of disruptive conduct include but are not limited to:

1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school personnel in charge of students; and
2. Failure to comply with dress code;
3. Unprepared for class;
4. Persistent disobedience;
5. Insubordination;
6. Tardiness;
7. Horseplay;
8. Disrespectful toward an administrator, faculty or other staff member.

D. Engage in Conduct That is Violent

Examples of violent conduct include but are not limited to:

1. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching and/or scratching) upon another student, faculty member, or any other person lawfully on school property or attempting to do so;
2. Possessing a weapon on school premises and/or school function or event;
3. Displaying what appears to be a weapon;
4. Threatening to use a weapon or such other device or item that is brandished as a weapon;
5. Threatening to cause bodily harm;

6. Intentionally damaging or destroying personal property, to include that of a student, teacher, administrator, other district employee or any person lawfully on school property;
7. Intentionally or with reckless indifference or disregard damaging or destroying School District property;
8. Fighting and/or using any form of physical force against another person;
9. Instigating a fight or the use of any form of physical force against another person.

E. Engage in Conduct That Endangers the Safety, Morals, Health or Welfare of Self or Others

Examples of such conduct include but are not limited to:

1. Miscellaneous
  - a. Lying to school personnel;
  - b. Stealing the property of other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function;
  - c. Selling, sharing, forwarding, using or possessing obscene material;
  - d. Using vulgar or abusive language, cursing or swearing;
  - e. Gambling;
  - f. Indecent exposure: the exposure to sight of the private parts of the body;
  - g. Initiating a report warning of fire and/or bomb threat, or other catastrophe, without valid cause;
  - h. Misuse of the “911” emergency response system;
  - i. Discharging a fire extinguisher or alarm; and
  - j. Inappropriate displays of affection;
  - k. Inappropriate use of computers.

## 2. Emotional Abuse

- a. Defamation: which includes making false or unprivileged statements or representations or misrepresentations about an individual or identifiable group of individuals that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group by demeaning them;
- b. Discrimination: which includes the use of race, color, weight, ethnic group, national origin, religion, religious practice, gender, sexual orientation, sex or disability as a basis for treating another in a negative manner;
- c. Racist comments or any type of hate speech (spoken, written or otherwise displayed);
- d. Harassment: which includes a sufficiently severe action or a persistent, pervasive pattern of actions or statements, either verbal or physical, directed at an identifiable individual or group which are intended to be or which a reasonable person would perceive as ridiculing or demeaning as defined in Appendix B of the Code of Conduct, labeled “Definitions.”
- e. Intimidation: which includes engaging in actions or statements that put an individual in fear of bodily harm;
- f. Bullying: to include inappropriate, persistent behavior, which involves:
  - (1) threats to, or intimidation of, others;
  - (2) treating others cruelly, terrorizing, and/or coercing another individual or group of individuals; and/ or
  - (3) habitual put-downs and badgering of others.

Characteristics of bullying behavior may include:

- (1) physical acts such as hitting or kicking;
  - (2) verbal acts such as using words to berate, hurt or humiliate; and
  - (3) relational behaviors such as maliciously spreading rumors and/or actively excluding a person from the peer group to cause emotional harm.
- g. Hazing: committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a risk of emotional, physical or psychological harm to a person, in order for the student to be

initiated into or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other purpose. For the purposes of this hazing prohibition, a “student organization” means a group, club, or organization having students as its primary members or participants. It includes grade levels, classes, teams, activities or particular school events. A student organization does not have to be an official school organization to come within the terms of this definition.

Examples of the term hazing may include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Any humiliating, degrading or dangerous activity demanded of a student to join a group, regardless of the student’s willingness to participate (conduct has the potential to endanger the mental or physical health or safety of a student).
  - (2) Any hurtful, aggressive, destructive or disruptive behavior such as striking, whipping, sleep deprivation, restrain or confinement, calisthenics or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
  - (3) Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects a student to emotional, physical or psychological stress, embarrassment, shame or humiliation, that adversely affects the health or dignity of the students or discourages the student from remaining in school.
  - (4) Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task or act that involves violation of state or federal law or of school district policies or regulations.
- h. Inappropriate physical contact of a sexual nature.
3. Illegal Substances and Substance Abuse
- a. Possession or use of tobacco or tobacco products (to include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing or smokeless tobacco, electronic cigarettes);
  - b. Possessing, consuming, selling, distributing or exchanging alcoholic beverages, or being under the influence of alcohol;
  - c. Possessing, consuming, selling, distributing, or exchanging illegal substances, or being under the influence of illegal substances.

“Illegal substances” include, but are not limited to, inhalants, marijuana, synthetic marijuana or cannabinoids, including but not limited to items labeled as incense, herbal mixtures or potpourri, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs, bath salts, and any substances commonly referred to as “designer drugs”;

- d. Inappropriately using or sharing prescription medications, over-the-counter drugs, inhalants, herbal/“natural” or any intoxicants of any kind, when possession is unauthorized or such are inappropriately used or shared with others. Nothing herein shall be construed to apply to the lawful admission of a prescription on school property to the person for whom the prescription was written, provided usage of the medication is consistent with District policy;
- e. Representing to any person, for the purposes of sale or distribution, that any substance, irrespective of actual composition, is an alcoholic beverage or an illegal substance, shall be deemed actionable within the meaning of this section as an attempted possession, possession sale or distribution of a prohibited product.

F. Misconduct on a School Bus /Transportation

It is crucial for students to behave appropriately while riding on district buses, public transportation, or public transportation facility, while in transit to and from school, to ensure their safety and that of other passengers and to avoid distracting the bus driver. Students are required to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. Acts such as excessive noise, standing, pushing, shoving and fighting will not be tolerated.

G. Academic Misconduct

Examples of academic misconduct include but are not limited to:

1. Plagiarism;
2. Cheating;
3. Copying;
4. Altering records; and
5. Assisting another student in any of the above actions.

## H. Other

Instigating or encouraging another person(s) to violate the Code of Conduct.

In addition to the preceding standards of conduct, the District prohibits discrimination and harassment against any student by employees or students that creates a hostile environment by conduct (with or without physical conduct) or verbal statements, intimidation, or abuse. We consider a hostile environment to be created when actions or statements directed at a student either (1) has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, or with the student's mental, emotional, or physical well-being, including conduct that reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause emotional harm, or (2) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause physical injury to a student or to cause a student to fear for their physical safety.

This prohibition applies to all acts of harassment or bullying that occur on school property or at a school function, as well as, to acts occurring off school property when (i) those acts create or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, and (ii) it is foreseeable that he conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse might reach school property.

The prohibition of discrimination includes, but is not limited to, threats, intimidation, or abuse based on the student's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practices, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex.