

PROHIBITED STUDENT CONDUCT

P5300.30

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

- 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. Obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
 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.
 7. 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:
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.
- C. Engage in conduct that is disruptive. Examples of disruptive conduct include:
1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school personnel in charge of students.
- D. Engage in conduct that is violent. Examples of violent conduct include:
1. Committing or threatening an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon a teacher, administrator or other school employee or attempting to do so.
 2. Committing or threatening an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property or attempting to do so.
 3. Possessing a weapon. Authorized law enforcement officials are the only persons permitted to have a weapon in their possession while on school property or at a school function.

4. Displaying what appears to be a weapon.
 5. Threatening to use any weapon.
 6. Intentionally damaging or destroying the personal property of a student, teacher, administrator, other district employee or any person lawfully on school property, including graffiti or arson.
 7. Intentionally damaging or destroying school district property.
- E. Engage in any conduct that endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others. Examples of such conduct include:
1. Lying to school personnel.
 2. Stealing the property of other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function.
 3. Defamation, which includes making false or unprivileged statements or representations about an individual or identifiable group of individuals that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group by demeaning them.
 4. Discrimination, which includes the use of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability as a basis for treating another in a negative manner.
 5. Harassment, including computer/electronic harassment, which includes a sufficiently severe action or persistent 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.
 6. Intimidation, which includes engaging in actions or statements that put an individual in fear of bodily harm.
 7. 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.
 8. Selling, using or possessing obscene material.
 9. Using vulgar or abusive language, cursing or swearing.
 10. Smoking a cigarette, cigar, pipe or using chewing or smokeless tobacco.
 11. Possessing, consuming, selling, distributing or exchanging alcoholic beverages or illegal substances, or being under the influence of either. "Illegal substances" include, but are not limited to, inhalants, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs, and any substances commonly referred to as "designer drugs."
 12. Inappropriately using or sharing prescription and over-the-counter drugs.
 13. Gambling.
 14. Violation of building dress code including indecent exposure, that is, exposure to sight of the private parts of the body in a lewd or indecent manner.
 15. Initiating a report warning of fire or other catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911, or discharging a fire extinguisher.
- F. Engage in misconduct while on a school bus. It is crucial for students to behave appropriately while riding on district buses, 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. Excessive noise, pushing, shoving and fighting will not be tolerated.
- G. Engage in any form of academic misconduct. Examples of academic misconduct include:
1. Plagiarism
 2. Cheating
 3. Copying

4. Altering records
5. Assisting another student in any of the above actions
6. Unauthorized collaboration

ALCOHOL AND DRUG POSSESSION OR USE

Students may not use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, or improper use of a legal substance; nor use or possess drug paraphernalia at any time on school property or at any school related function. Violation of this policy will result in immediate suspension from school. If circumstances warrant readmission to school, parents or guardians must be involved in the readmission conference and the Superintendent of Schools, or his/her designee, will participate. If circumstances in an individual case suggest readmission may not be appropriate, a formal hearing on the matter will be conducted by the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee, in compliance with Section 3214 of the Education Law, to determine guilt or innocence and an appropriate penalty if guilt is established.

WEAPONS IN SCHOOL / GUN-FREE SCHOOLS ACT / STUDENT DISCIPLINE

In accordance with the Gun Free Schools Law (20 U.S.C.A. Section 3351), the Gun Free Schools Act of 1994 (20 U.S.C.A. Section 8921), New York State Education Law Section 3214 (3) and this Board policy, no student shall bring, possess or use a weapon which constitutes a firearm or destructive device on school premises. School premises shall include school grounds, school buildings or a school bus. Punishment for violation of this policy shall be a suspension from attendance upon instruction for a period of not less than one calendar year. The Superintendent of Schools will review the penalty and may modify such suspension on a case by case basis.

The term "firearm" is defined in 18 U.S.C.A. Section 921 (3) and shall include any weapon, including a starter gun, which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or any destructive device. The term "destructive device" means any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than 4 ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than 1/4 ounce, mine or any device similar to any of those devices already described in this paragraph.

The Superintendent of Schools shall refer a pupil who has been determined to have violated this policy as follows:

- A) If the pupil is under 16 years of age, to the Family Court in accordance with the Family Court Act, Article 3.
- B) If the pupil is 16 years of age or older, to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

WEAPONS IN SCHOOL - SAFETY OF SCHOOL PREMISES AND SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITIES - DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS

The Board of Education believes that all school premises, including buildings, grounds and school buses, should be maintained in a condition free of all weapons and other dangerous instruments. The Gun-Free Schools Act policy (P5535.1) defines student conduct and discipline with respect to weapons and destructive devices. This policy shall serve as a supplement to the Gun-Free Schools Act

Policy, and shall address issues related to dangerous instruments that are brought, possessed or used on school premises or any school-sponsored activity.

No student, staff member or visitor shall bring, possess or use upon school premises a dangerous instrument as defined by this policy. "Dangerous instrument" shall be defined as any weapon or destructive device as described in the Gun-Free Schools Act Policy. In addition, a dangerous instrument is any object composed of a blade or cutting device that can cause serious physical injury to another person. An object that would be defined as a dangerous instrument by this policy, but is used under the supervision of school district personnel, or has been otherwise approved by the Superintendent of Schools through administrative regulation, shall not constitute a violation of this policy.

Facsimiles of weapons, destructive devices or dangerous instruments may also be prohibited on school premises under administrative regulations implemented by the Superintendent of Schools.

Violations of this policy may result in loss of possession of the weapon, destructive device, dangerous instrument or facsimile. In addition, persons not in compliance with the policy may be removed from school premises or arrested by local police authorities. Students in violation of this policy may be disciplined under Section 3214 of the Education Law.

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