

STUDENT BEHAVIOR POLICIES

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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. CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

The Superintendent is responsible for developing a Code of Student Conduct for approval by the Board of Education. 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. 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 policies of the Board related to behavior that are not part of the Code of Student 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.

In any policies of the Board related to student behavior, all references to “parent” include a parent, a legal guardian, a legal custodian, or another caregiver adult authorized to enroll a student.

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.

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.

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.

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.

F. Board approval of the Code of Student Conduct

The Superintendent shall obtain approval from the Board of Education for any changes or revisions to the Code of Student Conduct.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -276(r), -288, -307, -390.1, -390.2

Adopted: