

Students

Student Discipline

Philosophy

The Board believes that a school's climate should promote open expression of beliefs, mutual respect, and trust, as well as personal, caring relationships. However, when that climate is violated by inappropriate or illegal student conduct, the Board recognizes its responsibility to establish disciplinary policies and procedures that deal with such conduct in a fair and responsible manner.

In all matters related to student conduct and discipline, the certified staff (teachers and administrators) assumes the supervisory role of parent/guardian to the students. This relationship extends to all activities connected with the school program and may be exercised at any time for the safety and supervision of the students. The Board will give full support and assistance to its certified staff with respect to the maintenance of control and discipline in the schools within the parameters of this policy.

Prohibited Student Conduct

Disciplinary action may be taken against any student guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling tobacco materials.
2. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling alcoholic beverages. Students who are under the influence are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had alcohol in their possession.
3. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling illegal drugs or controlled substances, look-alike drugs and drug paraphernalia. Students who are under the influence are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had drugs in their possession.
4. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling any inhalant, regardless of whether it contains an illegal drug or controlled substance: (a) that a student believes is, or represents to be capable of, causing intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system; or (b) about which the student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student intended the inhalant to cause intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system. The prohibition in this section does not apply to a student's use of asthma or other legally prescribed inhalant medications.
5. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling any anabolic steroid unless being administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.
6. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling any prescription drug when not prescribed for the student by a physician or licensed practitioner, or when used in a manner inconsistent with the prescription or prescribing physician's or licensed practitioner's instructions.
7. Using, possessing, distributing, displaying, purchasing, or selling explosives, firearms, knives, or any other object that can reasonably be considered a weapon, or used as a weapon, or that looks like a weapon.

8. Using or possessing an electronic paging device. Using a cellular telephone, video recording device, personal digital assistant (PDA), or other electronic device in any manner that disrupts the educational environment or violates the rights of others, including using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms, cheat, or otherwise violate student conduct rules. Prohibited conduct specifically includes, without limitation, creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing an indecent visual depiction of oneself or another person through the use of a computer, electronic communication device or cellular phone. Unless otherwise banned under this policy or by the Building Principal, all electronic devices must be kept off and out of sight during the regular school day unless: (a) the supervising teacher grants permission; (b) use of the device is provided in a student's IEP; or (c) it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.
9. Using or possessing cellular radio telecommunication devices in a manner which violates Board policy.
10. Disobeying directives from staff members or school officials and/or rules and regulations governing student conduct.
11. Using any form or type of aggressive behavior that does, or is reasonably likely to do physical or psychological harm to someone else and/or urging other students to engage in such conduct. Prohibited aggressive behavior includes fighting, assault, or any other use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threats, intimidation, fear, bullying or other comparable conduct. Bullying and/or intimidation of others includes, but is not limited to, any aggressive or negative gesture, or written, verbal, electronic or physical act that places another student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or property, or that has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the school's educational mission, the education, or well-being of any student. Bullying or intimidation most often will occur when a student asserts physical or psychological power over, or is cruel to, another student perceived to be weaker. Such behavior may include, but is not limited to: pushing, hitting, threatening, name-calling, or other physical or verbal conduct of a belittling or browbeating nature.
12. Causing or attempting to cause damage to, or stealing or attempting to steal, school property or another person's personal property at school.
13. Unexcused absenteeism; (subject to the truancy statutes and Board policy concerning chronic and habitual truancy).
14. Being a member of, joining, promising or pledging to join, or soliciting any other person to become a member of any public school fraternity, sorority or secret society.
15. Involvement in gangs or gang-related activities, including but not limited to the display or possession of gang symbols, identifiers or paraphernalia, soliciting others for membership, requesting payment of dues, insurance or other forms of protection from any individual, intimidating or threatening any individual, and/or inciting others to participate in any form of physical violence involving persons or property.
16. Engaging in any activity that constitutes an interference with or disruption of school purposes or an educational function.
17. Harassment of any type, including sexual harassment and racial/ethnic harassment.
18. Misuse of electronic technology at school.

19. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
20. Engaging in hazing or any kind of bullying or aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to another or any urging of other students to engage in such conduct. Prohibited conduct includes any use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threats, intimidation, fear, harassment, hazing, or other comparable conduct.
21. Violating any criminal law, including but not limited to, assault, battery, arson, theft, gambling, eavesdropping, and hazing.

These grounds for disciplinary action apply whenever the student's conduct is reasonably related to school or school activities, including, but not limited to:

1. In school buildings; on, or within sight of school grounds before, during or after school hours or at any time;
2. Off school grounds at a school activity, function, or event;
3. On a school bus or other vehicle traveling to or from school or a school activity, function or event; or
4. Anywhere, if the conduct may reasonably be considered to be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member, or an interference with school purposes or an education function.

Disciplinary Measures

Disciplinary measures include, but may not be limited to, the following:

1. Personal counseling.
2. Withholding of privileges.
3. Seizure of contraband.
4. Suspension from school and all school-sponsored events for up to 10 days provided that appropriate procedures are followed.
5. Suspension of bus riding privileges, provided that appropriate procedures are followed.
6. Expulsion from school and all school-sponsored events for a definite time period not to exceed 2 calendar years, provided that appropriate procedures are followed.
7. Notification of juvenile authorities whenever the conduct involves illegal drugs (controlled substances), look-alikes, alcohol, or weapons.
8. Notification of parent(s)/guardian(s).
9. Removal from classroom.
10. In-school suspension for a period not to exceed 5 school days. The Building Principal or a designee shall ensure that the student is properly supervised.
11. Detention or Saturday school provided the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) have been notified, transportation arrangements are agreed upon, and proper supervision is ensured.
12. Community service with local public and nonprofit agencies that enhances community efforts to meet human, educational, environmental, or public safety needs. The District will not provide transportation. School administration shall use this option only as an alternative to another disciplinary measure giving the student and/or parent/guardian the choice.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment will not be used. Corporal punishment is defined as slapping, paddling, or prolonged maintenance of students in physically painful positions, or intentional infliction of bodily harm. Corporal punishment does not include, and certificated personnel are permitted to use, reasonable force as needed to maintain safety for other students, school personnel, or persons, or for the purpose of self-defense or the

defense of property.

Aggressive Behavior

When teachers see aggressive behavior, including bullying, as described in #9 of Prohibited Conduct above, they are to immediately address that behavior. This can include interventions such as redirecting toward appropriate behavior, modeling positive behavior, or pursuing other consequences consistent with school policy. All instances of bullying will be reported to the student's parents by the administration.

Weapons

In accordance with federal and state law, any student who possesses a weapon at any school in the District, at any school-sponsored activity or event, or at any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to District 20, will be expelled from school for a period of not less than one year. However, this expulsion period may be modified by the Superintendent, and the Superintendent's determination may be modified by the Board, on a case-by-case basis.

For the purposes of this policy, the term « weapon » means :

1. A firearm, meaning any gun, rifle, shotgun, or weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code (18 U.S.C. § 921), firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act (430 ILCS 65/), or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961 (720 ILCS 5/24-1).
2. A knife, brass knuckles, or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including "look alikes" of any firearm as defined above.

Psychotropic or Psychostimulant Medication

No disciplinary action shall be taken that is based, in whole or in part, on the refusal of a student's parent or guardian to administer or consent to the administration of psychotropic or psycho stimulant medication to the student. This policy does not prohibit disciplinary action or the use of behavioral interventions, to the extent otherwise permitted by law, when a student violates a Board of Education policy, school or class rule, and/or federal, State or local law, while at school, on school property, or at a school-related activity or event.

At least once every two years, the inservice training of certified school personnel and administrators must include training on current best practices regarding the identification and treatment of attention deficit disorder ("ADD") and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder ("ADHD"), the application of non-averse behavioral interventions in the school environment, and the use of psychotropic or psycho stimulant medication for school-age children. The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent or his/her designee to develop an inservice training program or programs and/or to identify outside training programs which meet these requirements.

Due Process

Before receiving disciplinary action under this policy, the student shall be notified of the wrongful nature of the alleged conduct, and given the opportunity to deny or explain his or her conduct.

In taking any disciplinary action under this policy, including the expulsion of students, the District shall follow

procedures required by state and federal law, and Board policy.

Authority to Impose Discipline

Each teacher, and any other school personnel when students are under his/her charge, is authorized to impose any disciplinary measure, (other than suspension, expulsion, corporal punishment, grade reduction, or in-school suspension) that is appropriate and in accordance with District/school policies and rules on student discipline. Teachers, other certificated employees, and other persons (whether or not certificated) providing a related service for or with respect to a student, will maintain discipline in the school and on school grounds.

Reasonable force may be used as needed to maintain safety for other students, school personnel or persons, or for the purpose of self-defense or the defense of property. Teachers may remove students from a classroom in cases of disruptive behavior.

The Superintendent, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal or Dean of Students is authorized to impose the same disciplinary measures as teachers. Also, they may suspend students guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct from school (including all school functions) and from riding the school bus for a period not to exceed 10 school days, provided the appropriate procedures are followed.

The Board may suspend a student from riding the bus in excess of 10 days for safety reasons. Further, students guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct may be expelled from riding the bus for the remainder of the school term or for a shorter period, as determined by the Board.

Parent-Student Handbook

The Superintendent or his/her designee, with input from the parent-teacher advisory committee, will prepare disciplinary rules implementing the District's disciplinary policies.

A parent-student handbook, including the District disciplinary policies and rules, will be published and distributed to each student's parent(s)/guardian(s) within 15 days of the beginning of the school year or the student's enrollment.

Required Notices

A school staff member shall immediately notify the office of the Building Principal in the event that he or she: (1) observes any person in possession of a firearm on or around school grounds; however, such action may be delayed if immediate notice would endanger students under his or her supervision, (2) observes or has reason to suspect that any person on school grounds is or was involved in a drug-related incident, or (3) observes a battery committed against any staff member. Upon receiving such a report, the Building Principal or designee shall immediately notify the local law enforcement agency, State Police, and any involved student's parent/guardian. "School grounds" includes modes of transportation to school activities and any public way within 1000 feet of the school, as well as school property itself.

CROSS REF.: 5.230, 7.70, 7.130, 7.140, 7.150, 7.160, 7.170, 7.185, 7.187, 7.193, 7.195, 7.200, 7.210, 7.220, 7.230, 7.240 and 8.30.

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