

## **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

Promoting ethical and responsible student behavior is an essential component of the Board's educational mission.

The Board is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful and orderly school environment in which students may receive and staff may deliver quality education without disruption or interference and in which students may develop as ethical, responsible and involved citizens.

The Board believes that each member of the school community should take responsibility for his/her own behavior. To that end, the Board recognizes the need to define unacceptable student conduct, identify the possible consequences for unacceptable conduct, and ensure that discipline is administered fairly, promptly, and appropriately.

The Code applies to students who are on school property, who are in attendance at school or at any school-sponsored activity, or whose conduct at any time or place directly interferes with the operations, discipline, or general welfare of the school.

The Student Code of Conduct shall be distributed to students, parents and staff through handbooks and/or other methods deemed appropriate by the Superintendent and building administrators.

### **I. STANDARDS FOR ETHICAL AND RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR**

The Code of Conduct is intended to support and encourage students to meet the following core values. These expectations are based upon the values identified by the community as essential to ethical and responsible behavior:

- Fairness
- Compassion
- Honesty
- Responsibility
- Respect
- Courtesy

### **II. CODE OF CONDUCT**

All students are expected to comply with the Code of Conduct and all related Board policies and school rules. The Code of Conduct applies to students:

- On school property;
- Attending school or at any school-sponsored activity; or
- At any time or place that such school conduct directly interferes with the operations, discipline, or general welfare of the school.

**III. GENERAL BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS AND DISCIPLINE POLICIES**

The following expectations for student behavior are fundamental to a safe, orderly and respectful environment in our schools. Each student will:

- Treat every person with kindness and courtesy and respond politely when addressed
- Promptly follow the directions of school personnel
- Move safely within the building and remain in assigned areas
- Maintain school property such as books, technology and lockers
- Respect the rights and privileges as well as the property of other students and staff
- Obey all Board policies and school rules governing student conduct
- Meet school standards for grooming and dress
- Attend school regularly
- Demonstrate academic honesty
- Do not use vulgarity, profanity, obscenity, lewdness, and indecency
- Follow school safety procedures

Violations of the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action. Disciplinary consequences depend upon the seriousness of the violation and the student's prior disciplinary record. A first offense could lead to expulsion, depending upon the nature and seriousness of the offense. Consequences will reflect progressive discipline.

1. Students who are disruptive, violent, or threatening death or bodily harm to others may be removed from classrooms, school buses, or other school property when necessary to maintain order and safety.
2. If a student does not comply with a staff member's request to report to the office or other location, the staff member will contact the main office/an administrator for assistance.
3. Staff members should use force or restraint to the minimum extent necessary. Staff members are not required to take action that puts them at risk of serious injury.
4. The responding administrator will take appropriate action. If the student fails to obey verbal directions, force or restraint may be used only to the minimum extent necessary to escort a student to a different location, to protect any person from physical harm or to quell a disturbance.

Behavior that also violates the law may be referred to law-enforcement authorities.

**IV. DISSEMINATION OF SYSTEM-WIDE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

The District-wide Student Code of Conduct shall be distributed to staff, students, and parents through handbooks and/or other means selected by the Superintendent and building administrators.

Legal References: 20-A MRSA §§ 254 (11); 1001 (15)

Cross Reference: ADAA – School System Commitment to Standards for  
Ethical and Responsible Student Behavior  
JICK - Bullying/Cyberbullying  
IGBA - Special Education Policy & Purpose  
JFCC - Student Conduct on Busses  
Affirmative Action Manual

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