

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.

To achieve this goal, Board has developed this District-wide Student Code of Conduct with input from school administrators, staff, students, parents and the community. Based on values identified as essential to ethical and responsible behavior, the Code articulates the Board's expectations for student conduct.

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 Board's expectations are designed to support and encourage students in the development of behaviors that reflect the following values. These values are consistent with statewide standards for ethical and responsible behavior in Maine schools.

Respect	Fairness
Honesty	Responsibility
Compassion	Courage

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 applies to students:

- A. On school property;
- B. While in attendance at school or at any school-sponsored activity; or
- C. At any time or place that such 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 should:

- A. Be courteous to fellow students, staff, and visitors;
- B. Respect the rights and privileges of other students and school staff;
- C. Obey all Board policies and school rules governing student conduct;
- D. Follow directions from school staff;
- E. Cooperate with staff in maintaining school safety, order, and discipline;
- F. Attend school regularly;
- G. Meet school standards for grooming and dress;
- H. Respect the property of others, including school property and facilities;
- I. Refrain from cheating or plagiarizing the work of others; and
- J. Refrain from vulgarity, profanity, obscenity, lewdness, and indecency.

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. Consequences will range from a verbal warning for minor misconduct up to and including expulsion for the most serious offenses. Behavior that also violates the law may be referred to law enforcement authorities.

IV. EXPECTATIONS

The following is a summary of the Board's expectations for student behavior. In many cases, the Board has adopted policies that address these expectations in greater detail. Students, parents, and others should refer to the policies and student handbooks for more information about the expectations and consequences. In case of an inconsistency between the Code of Conduct, Board policies, and/or school handbooks, Board policies will prevail.

- A. **Violence and Threats** - Students shall not engage in violent or threatening behavior. Prohibited behavior includes fighting, assault and/or battery, taking hostages, threats to commit violence against persons or property, or threats, intimidation, or harassment. Violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.
- B. **Weapons** - Students shall not possess or use weapons of any kind (examples include but are not limited to firearms, explosives, and knives). Students also shall not use any object, although not necessarily designed to be a weapon, to inflict bodily harm and/or to threaten, intimidate, coerce or harass another person (examples include but are not limited to bats, lighters, tools, and toy weapons). Firearms violations will result in expulsion in accordance with state and federal statutes; other weapons violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.
- C. **Hazing** - Hazing is prohibited. Maine law defines injurious hazing as “any action or situation, including harassing behavior, that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of any school personnel or a student enrolled in a public school.” No student shall plan, encourage, or engage in such activities in connection with any school program or activity, including extracurricular, co-curricular, and athletic activities. Students who engage in hazing activities will be subject to disciplinary consequences including suspension and expulsion from school and/or other appropriate disciplinary measures.
- D. **Discrimination and Harassment/Sexual Harassment** - Students should not discriminate against other students on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, or disability. Nor should students harass one another on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, ancestry, or national origin, or disability. Sexual harassment is also prohibited. Harassment is grounds for disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

- E. **Drug and Alcohol Abuse** - Students shall not distribute, possess, use or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, drug, or look-alike substance as described in Board policy. Violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from school.
 - F. **Tobacco Use** - Students shall not smoke, use, possess, sell, or distribute any tobacco products. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension from school.
 - G. **Conduct on School Buses** - Students must comply with all Board policies and school rules while on school buses. Students who violate these policies and rules on a school bus may have their riding privileges suspended or revoked, and may also be subject to additional disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, depending upon the particular violation.
 - H. **Computer/Internet Use** - Students may use school computers, networks, and Internet services only for educational purposes. Students shall comply with all policies and rules governing acceptable use. Unacceptable use may result in suspension or cancellation of computer privileges as well as additional disciplinary and/or legal action.
 - I. **Athletic Code/Extracurricular Code of Conduct** - Students must follow all Board policies and school rules while participating in athletics and extracurricular activities. Students may be subject to suspension or removal from the team/activity as well as additional disciplinary action under applicable Board policies and/or school rules.
- V. **REMOVAL OF DISRUPTIVE/VIOLENT/THREATENING STUDENTS**
- A. 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. The staff member who orders the student removed should arrange to have the student escorted to the office or other designated location.
 - B. If a student does not comply with a staff member's order to leave, the staff member will contact an administrator, or, if not available, another suitable person, who shall respond promptly.

- C. Staff members should not use force or restraint, except only to the minimum extent necessary to protect from risk of injury or harm to the student or others.
- D. The responding administrator will take appropriate action. If the student fails to obey verbal directions, force of restraint may be used only to the minimum extent necessary to protect any person from imminent physical harm or to quell a disturbance. Whenever practicable, law enforcement should be called to restrain or physically remove the non-complaint student. The administrator may invoke the Augusta School Departments' emergency management plan, as appropriate.

VI. SPECIAL SERVICES

- A. **Referral** – The Board has adopted policies and procedures for determining when a student shall be referred for special services.
- B. **Review of Individual Educational Plan (IEP)** - The school shall schedule an IEP team meeting to review the IEP of a student who has been removed from class when:
 - 1. School officials and/or the parent believes the student may present a substantial likelihood of injury to himself\herself or others;
 - 2. The class removals are sufficient to constitute a change in the student's special education program; or
 - 3. School officials or the parent believes that the student's behavior may warrant a change in educational programming.

VII. REFERRALS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES

The Superintendent and administrators have the authority to seek the assistance of law enforcement authorities when there is a substantial threat to the safety of the schools, students, or staff. The Superintendent/administration may also inform law enforcement authorities when they have reason to suspect that a student or staff member may have violated a local, state, or federal statute. All serious offenses, as determined by the Superintendent, will be reported to law enforcement authorities.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA §§ 254 (11); 1001 (15)
Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior in Maine Schools
and Communities (Report of the Commission for Ethical and
Responsible Behavior, 2/01)

Cross Reference: AC - Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
ACAA/ACAA-R - Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students
ACAD - Hazing
ADAA - School System Commitment to Standards for Ethical and
Responsible Behavior
ADC - Tobacco Use and Possession
EBCC - Bomb Threats
IHBAA - Referral to Pupil Evaluation Team
IHBAC - Child Find Policy
IJNDB – Student Computer and Internet Use
JICC - Student Conduct on School Buses
JICIA - Weapons, Violence, and School Safety
JICH - Drug and Alcohol Use by Students
JJIC – Eligibility for Participation in Athletics/Extracurricular
Activities
JK - Student Discipline
JKD - Suspension of Students
JKE - Expulsion of Students
JKF - Disciplinary Removals of Students with Disabilities

Adopted: 1975

Revised: 9/11/13