

STUDENT CONDUCT AND BULLYING

9/2013

Students are expected to conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen at all times and shall adhere to all rules, regulations, and policies formulated by the Administration and the Board as set forth in District Policy and applicable student handbook. Students shall at all times respect the rights of fellow students and of District personnel and shall not provoke any other individual or inflict physical harm upon another, except in self-defense. Courtesy and good manners should be the key to a student's conduct at school. A good attitude towards teachers, staff, and fellow students will make school enjoyable for all. Students shall respect District property and the property of others and may be required to pay for damages intentionally inflicted on District property or the property of others.

Students who engage in conduct or activities which are prohibited by this policy may be subjected to disciplinary action up to and including suspension from school. The disciplinary action taken shall depend upon the nature and severity of the violation and the student's past record of violations, if any. While students are (a) in attendance at school or any function authorized or sponsored by the District; (b) in transit to or from school or any function authorized or sponsored by the District; or (c) on any property subject to the control and authority of the District, students are prohibited from engaging in the following conduct or activities:

1. Smoking, using, and/or possessing tobacco products;
2. Using, consuming, possessing, or being under the influence of, selling, transferring, distributing, or bartering any alcoholic beverage or low-point beer as defined by state law;
3. Using, consuming, possessing, or being under the influence of, selling, transferring, distributing, or bartering any narcotic drug, stimulant, barbiturate, depressant, hallucinogenic, opiate, inhalant, counterfeit drug, or any other controlled dangerous substance as defined by federal or state law or regulation including any substance which is capable of being ingested, inhaled, or absorbed into the body and affecting the central nervous system, vision, hearing, or other sensory or motor function;
4. Using, possessing, selling, transferring, distributing, or bartering any drug paraphernalia;
5. Use of a wireless telecommunication device in a way contrary to Policy BJ;
6. Possessing, using, transferring possession of, or aiding, accompanying, or assisting another student to use any type of weapon, which term includes but is not limited to: guns; rifles; pistols; shotguns; any device which throws, discharges, or fires objects, bullets, or shells; knives; explosive or incendiary devices, including fireworks; hand chains; metal knuckles; or any object that is used as a weapon or dangerous instrument, and any facsimile weapon, including B-B guns;

7. Disobeying, showing disrespect for, defying the authority of, or being insubordinate to a teacher, administrator, or other District employee, including bus drivers, secretaries, custodians, and cafeteria workers;
8. Leaving school grounds or activities at unauthorized times without permission;
9. Refusing to identify or falsely identifying one's self to District personnel;
10. Entering, without authority, into classrooms or other restricted school premises;
11. Engaging in conduct which endangers or jeopardizes the safety of other persons;
12. Engaging in bullying which is defined as any pattern of harassment, intimidation, threatening behavior, physical acts, verbal or electronic communication directed toward a student or group of students that results in or is reasonably perceived as being done with the intent to cause negative educational or physical results and is communicated in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the school's educational mission or the education of any student;
13. Engaging in threatening behavior which is defined as any pattern of behavior or isolated action, whether or not it is directed at another person, that a reasonable person would believe indicates potential for future harm to students, school personnel, or school property;
14. Using profanity, vulgar language or expressions, or obscene gestures;
15. Committing acts of sexual harassment as defined by District Policy or sexual assaults;
16. Assaulting, battering, inflicting bodily injury on, or fighting with another person;
17. Creating or attempting to create a classroom disturbance, acting in a disorderly manner, inappropriate displays of affection, disturbing the peace, or inciting, encouraging, prompting, or participating in attempts to interfere with or disrupt the normal educational process;
18. Showing disrespect, damaging, vandalizing, cutting, defacing, or destroying any real or personal property belonging to the District or any other person;
19. Engaging in extortion, theft, arson, gambling, immoral behavior, forgery, possession of stolen property, and cheating; and
20. Violating the District's policies, Administrative Regulations, Student Handbook provisions, rules, practices, or state law.

Any student conduct or activity which does not a) occur on school property, b) while the student is in transit to or from school or a school function, or c) on any property subject to the control and authority of the District shall be prohibited if such conduct or activity is: a) a continuation of activity which began on school property, b) adversely affects or poses a threat to the physical or emotional safety and well-being of other students, employees, or school property, c) any form of

communication specifically directed at students or school personnel which is considered to be bullying or threatening behavior, or d) disrupts school operations.

In addition to disciplinary actions, the District, acting through the Superintendent or a principal, may refer matters to local law enforcement for investigation and prosecution and may pursue criminal complaints and/or charges when a student's actions are criminal in nature.

The District will provide instruction and guidance to students and employees with respect to prevention and prohibition of improper conduct, including harassment and bullying, during the course of each year. To the extent feasible, District will implement suggestions of the Safe School Committee(s) in providing this instruction.

Additional Procedures Related to Bullying:

If any person is aware of or sees or is a victim of bullying as defined in Policy EI, such person must report the same to the Principal of the building.

The Principal will conduct an investigation and report the results of the investigation to the reporting party, the victim, or the victim's parents if the victim is under the age of 18, the perpetrator, and the Superintendent. The investigation should normally be completed within three (3) school days of the report. During the pendency of the investigation, the Principal should take appropriate action to ensure the safety of all students involved. If warranted, the Principal shall notify law enforcement of the reported incident and cooperate with any law enforcement investigation. If the student's actions are determined to constitute prohibited bullying, the Superintendent may, as a condition and part of any disciplinary action that is taken, recommend that available community mental health care options be provided to the student. The Superintendent may further require the student (if 18 or over) or the parent or guardian of the student to allow the mental health care provider to disclose any information concerning students who have received mental health care pursuant to this policy that indicates an explicit threat to the safety of students or District personnel as a condition of being allowed to return to school.

Bullying Prevention and Education:

In conjunction with its disciplinary and investigatory measures, District shall work to prevent bullying, threatening behavior, harassment and intimidation by providing students and staff with education regarding bullying and threatening behavior, harassment, and intimidation. Such educational programs may include, but are not limited to, discussions with classroom teachers, assemblies, multimedia presentations, and in-service training and exercises. The purpose of the educational programs shall be to assist District students and staff in the identification of bullying behaviors, reporting procedures, and the consequences for violation of school rules and policies.