

I. Introduction

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe and orderly school environment where students may receive, and School District personnel may deliver quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, teachers, other School District personnel, person(s) in parental relation to student(s) and other visitors is essential to achieving this goal.

The School District has a long-standing set of expectations for conduct on school property and at school functions. These expectations are based on the principles of civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, tolerance, honesty and integrity.

The Board of Education recognizes the need to clearly define these expectations for acceptable conduct on school property, to identify the possible consequences of unacceptable conduct, and to ensure that discipline, when necessary, is administered promptly and fairly. To this end, the Board of Education adopts this Code of Character, Conduct and Support ("Code").

Unless otherwise indicated, the Code applies to all students, school personnel, person(s) in parental relation to student(s), and other visitors when on school property or attending a school function.

II. Definitions

For purposes of the Code, the following definitions apply:

"Academic misconduct" means an action or attempted action that may result in creating an unfair academic advantage for oneself or an unfair academic advantage or disadvantage for any other member or members of the academic community.

"Alcohol" means possessing, consuming, or being under the influence of alcohol on School District properties, at School District functions, athletic activities, and while on trips.

"Bullying" means repeated, unwanted, mean or aggressive behavior toward another person to show you have power over them or to make them feel bad about themselves.

"Bus misconduct" means behavior by a student which is detrimental to the safe operation of the school bus.

"Cyberbullying" means harassment through any form of electronic communication including, but not limited to, instant messaging, e-mail, websites, chat rooms, social media and text messaging.

"Dangerous instrument/weapon" means possession, and/or threat, and/or use of knives, guns (real or look alike), or other objects readily capable of causing bodily harm.

“Defamation” means making false or unprivileged statements or representations about an individual or identifiable group of individuals that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group by demeaning them.

“Discrimination” means the act of denying rights, benefits, justice, equitable treatment or access to facilities available to all others, to an individual or group of people because of the group, class or category to which that person belongs.

“Defiance/disrespect” means refusal to follow directions, talking back, and/or socially rude interactions.

“Detention: Failure to attend” means failure to report to or be present in a designated classroom/area during the time a student is assigned detention.

“Disruptive behavior” means behavior that hampers or interferes with instruction, learning, or disrupts the daily activities of the school environment.

"Disruptive student" means an elementary student under the age of twenty-one (21) who is substantially disruptive of the educational process or substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom.

“Drug paraphernalia” means possession of any equipment, product, accessory, or material that is intended or modified for making, using, concealing, or distributing drugs for recreational purposes.

“Drugs” means possessing, consuming, or being under the influence of an illegal substance which causes a physiological change in the body on School District properties, at School District functions, athletic activities, and while on trips.

“Electronic device misuse” means technology use that is unauthorized, that threatens, humiliates, harasses, or intimidates school-related individuals, disrupts the educational process, and/or violates local, state, or federal law.

“Endangering health, safety/welfare of others” means conduct that compromises the safety, physical, mental health or welfare of self and/or others.

“Failure to follow prescribed schedule” means failure of student to be in designated area without express authorization.

“Fighting” means committing an act of aggressive physical contact towards another person.

“Gambling” means accepting, recording, or registering of bets, or carrying on a game, or any other lottery, or playing any game of chance, for money, or other thing of value.

"Gender" means actual or perceived sex and shall include a person's gender identity or expression.

"Gender expression" is the manner in which a person represents or expresses gender to others, often through behavior, clothing, hairstyle, activities, voice or mannerisms.

"Gender identity" is one's self-conception as being male or female, as distinguished from actual biological sex or sex assigned at birth.

"Harassment" means the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by threats, intimidation or abuse, including cyberbullying, that (a) has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, or mental emotional or physical well-being; (b) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for the student's physical safety; (c) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause physical injury or emotional harm to a student; or (d) occurs off school property and creates or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, where it is foreseeable that the conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse might reach school property. The harassing behavior may be based on any characteristic, including, but not limited to, a person's actual or perceived:

- Race;
- Color;
- Weight;
- National origin;
- Ethnic group;
- Religion;
- Religious practice;
- Disability;
- Sex;
- Reproductive health decisions;
- Sexual orientation; or
- Gender (including gender identity and expression).

"Hazing" means - an induction, initiation or membership process involving harassment which produces public humiliation, physical or emotional discomfort, bodily injury or public ridicule or creates a situation where public humiliation, physical or emotional discomfort, bodily injury or public ridicule exists.

"Inappropriate language/gestures" means words or gestures that are profane, vulgar, discriminatory or otherwise construed as socially offensive or harassing.

"Inappropriate physical contact" means behavior which infringes on the personal space and movement of others, is offensive, suggestive, or results in bodily injury.

“Intimidation” means conduct that makes others uncomfortable or fearful; compelling or deterring others by threat(s).

“Lateness to school/class” means failure to arrive at school/class at the designated time, without legal or proper excuse.

“Leaving school grounds” means failing to remain on school grounds, at any point after arrival, without authorization.

“Menacing” means actions that would be construed as threatening, harmful, or injurious to others.

“Person(s) in parental relation” shall mean a person(s) in parental relation to another individual including the individual’s father or mother, by birth or adoption, step-father or step-mother, legally appointed guardian, or custodian.

“Property loss/theft” means possession of, transfer of, or being responsible for removing someone else’s property, without that person’s permission.

“Restorative interventions” means restorative circles for teaching and conflict resolution, including conferences that bring those impacted by a conflict together to address wrongdoing.

“Restorative practices” means actions that promote inclusiveness, relationship-building and problem-solving through restorative methods. An alternative to consequences, restorative practices encourage students to reflect on and take responsibility for their actions and develop plans to repair harm.

“School” means a public school district, board of cooperative educational services, charter school, State-operated and State-supported school, in-state and out-of-state private residential or nonresidential school for the education of students with disabilities, State-administered Prekindergarten (Pre-K) program directly operated by a school district, board of cooperative educational services, or an eligible agency.

“School Bus” means every motor vehicle owned by a public or governmental agency or private school and operated for the transportation of pupils, children of pupils, teachers and other persons acting in a supervisory capacity, to or from school or school activities, or privately owned and operated for compensation for the transportation of pupils, children of pupils, teachers and other persons acting in a supervisory capacity to or from school or school activities.

"School District property" means property in or within any School District building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, parking lot or land contained within the real property boundary line of the School District.

"School District function" means any school-sponsored extra-curricular event or activity.

“Smoking/vaping” means possessing, using, selling, distributing, or exchanging tobacco products, e-cigarettes, vaporizers, liquid nicotine, and/or smoking paraphernalia on School District properties, at School District functions, athletic activities, and while on trips.

“Social media misuse” means social media use that is unauthorized, that threatens, humiliates, harasses, or intimidates school-related individuals, disrupts the educational process, and/or violates local, state, or federal law.

“Trespassing” means entering or remaining on School District grounds, School District transportation, or at a School District sponsored event on/off School District grounds, without authorization.

“Vandalism/property damage” means destruction of, or damage to, school or personal property of a student, teacher, administrator, or other School District employee, or any person lawfully on school property or attending a school function.

"Violent student" means a student under the age of twenty-one (21) who:

1. Commits an act of violence upon a school employee, or attempts to do so;
2. Commits, while on school property or at a school function, an act of violence upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property or at School District functions, or attempts to do so;
3. Possesses, while on School District property or at a School District function, a weapon;
4. Displays, while on School District property or at a School District function, what appears to be a weapon;
5. Threatens, while on School District property or at a School District function, to use a weapon;
6. Knowingly and intentionally damages or destroys the personal property of any School District employee or any person lawfully on School District property or at a School District function; and
7. Knowingly and intentionally damages or destroys School District property.

"Weapon" means a rifle, shotgun, pistol, revolver, firearm, knife, device, instrument, material or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for or is readily capable of causing death or serious bodily injury.

Core Principles That Guide Character, Conduct and Support

The goal of the Code is to ensure all students’ right to an education in a safe, civil, caring, and supportive learning environment. It is based upon the laws, regulations, and policies that create access to education for all while protecting the due process rights of the individual. The Code recognizes that schools are public places that must balance individual rights with civic obligations and the responsibilities that make it possible to live in a free, open and democratic society. The

Code serves as a guide to good citizenship and provides the tools for helping students to understand and appreciate the norms of behavior within the school culture.

Effective and engaging instruction and positive behavioral supports are the foundations of a positive school climate. School teachers, administrators, and other staff are encouraged to set high expectations for student success, build positive relationships with students, as well as teach and model appropriate behaviors for success. Modeling respectful, positive behavior is especially critical during disciplinary interventions. All adults, teachers, building principals, administrators, school staff, person(s) in parental relation to student(s), and the larger community have an obligation to help students become citizens who lead productive lives by modeling positive behaviors and cultivating those behaviors in students.

Student discipline and support policies and practices will be implemented in a manner which is caring and equitable, respectful, and based on trust among administration, staff, students, and families. In addition, student discipline and support policies and practices will hold all individuals accountable and, wherever possible, be restorative and solutions based. This will help students:

- learn from their mistakes;
- understand why their behavior was unacceptable;
- acknowledge the harm their behavior caused or the negative impact of their actions;
- understand what they could have done differently;
- take responsibility for their actions;
- learn strategies that promote positive interactions; and
- understand that further consequences and/or interventions will be implemented if their unacceptable behavior persists.

The following principles form the foundation for creating safe, civil, caring, supportive and accomplished learning environments.

- The School District's social and emotional learning vision aims to create collaborative school environments built on positive and supportive relationships and a growth mindset, where students and staff feel safe, valued, respected, and encouraged to be curious, take risks, and learn from their mistakes. The School District will foster a community of self-aware, compassionate, critical thinkers who are motivated to pursue their passions. Social and emotional competencies contribute to improved academic and personal outcomes and enable students to learn and practice how to:
 - manage their emotions;
 - set goals;
 - feel and show empathy for others;
 - create positive relationships; and
 - make good choices.

- All students are capable of achieving their personal best, and when necessary, improving their behavior with guidance, instruction, support, and coaching.
- Students need different kinds and amounts of time, attention, instruction, and support to behave responsibly and succeed academically.
- Clear, fair, and timely consequences signal that a student's actions are deemed to be inappropriate or unacceptable. Restorative interventions require students to take responsibility for what they have said and done, reflect on the impact of their behavior, modify their behavior, problem solve, make amends to repair the harm they have caused, and learn new skills.
- Effective discipline helps students become more self-managed and teaches students to become more socially and academically skillful.
- Teachers, building principals, administrators, school staff, person(s) in parental relation to student(s), and the larger community have an obligation to help students learn to be good citizens and lead productive lives by:
 - enabling the student to discern right from wrong;
 - fostering the student's desire to do what is right; and
 - requiring students to take responsibility for their words and actions.
- Student discipline and support policies and practices must be implemented in support of this Code. Interactions between and among the School District and School District staff, students, and person(s) in parental relation to student(s) must protect the dignity of each individual and ensure a tone of decency.
- Every reasonable effort should be made to correct student behavior through interventions that are accountable and restorative. Interventions are essential when inappropriate behavior or infractions of the Code may be symptomatic of more serious problems that students are experiencing. Appropriate disciplinary responses should emphasize prevention and effective intervention, prevent disruption to students' education, and promote the development of a positive School District culture.

The School District has a long-standing set of expectations for conduct on school property and at school functions. These expectations are based on the principles of civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, tolerance, honesty and integrity.

The Board of Education deems it a priority to clearly define these expectations for acceptable conduct on school property, identify the possible consequences of unacceptable conduct, and to ensure that discipline, when necessary, is administered promptly and fairly. To this end, the Board of Education adopts this Code.

Unless otherwise indicated, this Code applies to all students, school personnel, person(s) in parental relation to student(s) and other visitors when on school property or attending a School District function.

The Code has incorporated the Dignity for All Students Act which was created to give students an educational environment free of discrimination, bullying and harassment.

III. Student Rights and Responsibilities

A. Student Rights

The School District is committed to safeguarding the rights given to all students under federal and state law and School District policy. In addition, to promote a safe, healthy, orderly and supportive school environment, all School District students have the right to:

1. take part in all School District activities on an equal basis regardless of race, weight, color, creed, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, gender (including gender identity) or sexual orientation or disability;
2. present their version of the relevant events to school personnel authorized to impose a consequence in connection with the imposition of the consequence; and
3. have access to school policies, regulations and rules and, when necessary, receive an explanation of those rules from school personnel.

B. Student Responsibilities

All School District students have the responsibility to:

1. contribute to maintaining a safe, supportive and orderly school environment that is conducive to learning and to show respect to other persons and to property;
2. show respect to other persons and to property;
3. help make the school environment a community free of violence, intimidation, bullying, harassment, and discrimination;
4. use a polite tone of voice and appropriate body language, listening when others are speaking;
5. be truthful when speaking with school officials regarding Code violations;
6. respect personal space;
7. respect others, respect the property of others, and respect school property;
8. maintain behavior free from all forms of harassment, bullying and/or discrimination;
9. be familiar with and abide by School District policies, rules and regulations dealing with student conduct;
10. attend school every day unless they are legally excused, and be in class, on time, and prepared to learn;
11. work to the best of their ability in all academic and extracurricular pursuits, and strive toward their highest level of achievement possible;

12. react to direction given by teachers, administrators and other school personnel in a respectful, positive manner;
13. work to develop mechanisms to manage their anger;
14. ask questions when they do not understand;
15. seek help in solving problems;
16. dress appropriately for school and School District functions;
17. accept responsibility for their actions; and
18. conduct themselves as representatives of the School District when participating in or attending school-sponsored extracurricular events, and to hold themselves to the highest standards of conduct, demeanor, and sportsmanship.

IV. Essential Partners (Board of Education, Superintendent of Schools, School District Administrators/Building Principals, Teachers, Guidance Counselors, Dignity Act Coordinator(s), Non-Certified School District Personnel, and Person(s) in Parental Relation to Student(s))

A. All Essential Partners

All essential partners are expected to:

1. maintain a climate of mutual respect and dignity for all students regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex (including gender identity), which will strengthen students' self-concept and promote confidence to learn;
2. promote a safe, orderly and stimulating school environment that supports active teaching and learning;
3. know school policies and rules;
4. address personal biases that may prevent equal treatment of all individuals;
5. encourage students to benefit from the curriculum and extracurricular programs;
6. be familiar with the Code;
7. help children understand the School District's expectations for maintaining a safe, orderly environment;
8. support student participation in appropriate extracurricular activities;
9. report rumors of threats of physical injury or damage to property to school officials;
10. refrain from engaging in activities or displaying behaviors that set a poor example while in the supervision of students, including smoking, or the use of other tobacco products, using any controlled substance, consuming alcohol or using inappropriate language. Teachers should always be mindful of the language contained in the New York State Code of Ethics for Educators;
11. maintain confidentiality in accordance with federal and state law;
12. participate in school-wide efforts to provide adequate supervision in all school spaces;
13. address issues of harassment or any situation that threatens the emotional or physical health or safety of any student, school employee, or any person who is lawfully on school property or at a School District function;

14. address personal biases that may prevent equal treatment of all students and staff; and
15. be open to active participation in resolving conflicts through a restorative process.

B. Person(s) in Parental Relation to Student(s)

In addition to the responsibilities set forth in paragraph A above, all person(s) in parental relation to student(s) are expected to:

1. recognize that the education of their child(ren) is a joint responsibility of the person(s) in parental relation to student(s) and the school community, and collaborate with the School District to optimize their child's educational opportunities;
2. send their children to school ready to participate and learn;
3. ensure their children attend school regularly and on time;
4. ensure absences are legally excused;
5. ensure their children are dressed and groomed in a manner appropriate for school;
6. help their children understand that in a democratic society appropriate rules are required to maintain a safe, orderly environment;
7. know school rules and help their children understand them so that their children can help create a safe, supportive school environment;
8. convey to their children a supportive attitude toward education and the School District;
9. build positive, constructive relationships with teachers, or other person(s) in parental relation to student(s) and their children's friends;
10. help their children deal effectively with peer pressure;
11. inform school officials of changes in the home situation that may affect student conduct or performance;
12. provide a place for study and ensure homework assignments are completed;
13. tell school officials about any concerns or complaints in a respectful and timely manner;
14. be respectful and considerate to staff, other person(s) in parental relation to student(s) and students in all interpersonal communications; and
15. be open to active participation in resolving conflicts through a restorative process.

C. All School District Officers and Employees

In addition to the responsibilities set forth in paragraph A above, all School District officers and employees are expected to:

1. demonstrate concern for student achievement;
2. know school policies and rules, and enforce them in a fair and consistent manner;
3. maintain confidentiality in conformity with federal and state law;
4. communicate regularly with students, person(s) in parental relation to student(s) and other teachers concerning growth and achievement;
5. participate in school-wide efforts to provide adequate supervision in all school spaces;

6. address issues of harassment or any situation that threatens the emotional or physical health or safety of any student, school employee or any person who is lawfully on school property or at a School District function;
7. address personal biases that may prevent equal treatment of all students in the school or classroom setting;
8. assist students in coping with peer pressure and emerging personal, social and emotional problems;
9. support the development of, and student participation in, appropriate extracurricular activities;
10. address issues of bullying, discrimination and harassment or any situation that threatens the emotional or physical health or safety of any student, school employee, or any person who is lawfully on school property or at a School District function or which creates a hostile environment;
11. promptly make an oral report of incidents of bullying, discrimination and harassment that are witnessed, or otherwise brought to their attention, to the Building Principal, or DASA Coordinator no later than one (1) school day after witnessing the incident, or the incident being brought to their attention and file a written report with the Building Principal, or DASA Coordinator no later than two (2) days after making the oral report;
12. be open to active participation in resolving conflicts through a restorative process; and
13. receive annual training on the School District's policies and procedures related to the use of timeout and physical restraint, crisis intervention and prevention procedures, and de-escalation techniques.

In addition to the training requirements for all staff in paragraph 13, any staff who may be called upon to implement timeout or physical restraint, shall receive annual evidence-based training in safe and effective developmentally appropriate timeout and physical restraint procedures.

The school administrator or designee shall regularly review documentation on the use of timeout and physical restraint to ensure compliance with the School District's policies and procedures. When there are multiple incidents within the same classroom or involving the same staff, the school administrator or designee shall take appropriate steps to address the frequency and pattern of use.

D. Teachers

In addition to the responsibilities set forth in paragraphs A and C above, all School District teachers are expected to:

1. be prepared to teach;
2. demonstrate interest in teaching and concern for student achievement;
3. communicate to students and person(s) in parental relation to student(s):

- a. course objectives and requirements;
 - b. marking/grading procedures;
 - c. assignment deadlines;
 - d. expectations for students; and
 - e. classroom discipline plan.
4. communicate regularly with students, person(s) in parental relation to student(s) and other teachers concerning growth and achievement; and
 5. participate in school-wide efforts to provide adequate supervision in all school spaces.

E. School Counselors, School Psychologists and School Social Workers

In addition to the responsibilities set forth in paragraphs A and C above, all School Counselors, School Psychologists, and School Social Workers are expected to:

1. initiate teacher/student counselor conferences and person(s) in parental relation to student(s) teacher/student counselor conferences, as necessary, as a way to resolve problems;
2. regularly review with students their educational progress and career plans;
3. provide information to assist students with career planning;
4. encourage students to benefit from the curriculum and extracurricular programs;
5. inform students and families of the available community resources to meet their needs; and
6. assist students in coping with peer pressure and emerging personal, social and emotional problems.

F. Other School Personnel

School personnel, including clerical, teacher aides and assistants, bus drivers, security guards, hall monitors, custodians, and all support staff play an important role in the education of students.

In view of this responsibility, and in addition to the responsibilities set forth in paragraphs A and C above, other school personnel shall:

1. be familiar with the Code; and
2. help children understand the School District's expectations for maintaining a safe, orderly and supportive environment.

G. Building Principals/Administrators

In addition to the responsibilities set forth in paragraphs A and C above, all Building Principals/administrators are expected to:

1. ensure that students and staff have the opportunity to communicate regularly with the Building Principal/administrators and have access to the Building Principal/administrators for redress of grievances;
2. evaluate on a regular basis all instructional programs to ensure infusion of civility education in the curriculum;
3. support the development of, and student participation in, appropriate extracurricular activities;
4. provide support in the development of the Code, when called upon, and disseminate the Code and anti-harassment policies; and
5. be responsible for enforcing the Code and ensuring that all cases are resolved promptly and fairly.

H. The Dignity Act Coordinator(s)

In addition to the responsibilities set forth in paragraphs A and C above, the Dignity Act Coordinator(s) is/are expected to:

1. oversee and coordinate the work of School District-wide and building-level bullying prevention committees;
2. identify curricular resources that support infusing civility in classroom instruction and classroom management; and provide guidance to staff as to how to access and implement those resources;
3. coordinate training with the Wellness Committee and Professional Development Committee in support of bullying prevention; and
4. be responsible for monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of the School District's bullying prevention policy.

I. Superintendent of Schools

In addition to the responsibilities set forth in paragraphs A and C above, the Superintendent of Schools is expected to:

1. inform the Board of Education about educational trends relating to student discipline;
2. review with School District administrators the policies of the Board of Education and state and federal laws relating to school operations and management;
3. work to create instructional programs that minimize incidence of misconduct, and are sensitive to students' and teachers' needs; and
4. work with School District administrators in enforcing the Code and ensuring that all cases are resolved promptly and fairly.

J. Board of Education

In addition to the responsibilities set forth in paragraphs A and C above, the Board of Education is expected to:

1. develop and recommend a budget that provides programs and activities that support achievement of the goals of the Code;
2. collaborate with students, teachers, administrators, parent organizations, school safety personnel and other school personnel to develop a code of character, support and conduct that clearly defines expectations for the conduct of students, school personnel and visitors on school property and at School District functions;
3. adopt and review at least annually the School District's Code to evaluate the Code's effectiveness and the fairness and consistency of its implementation;
4. lead by example by conducting Board of Education meetings in a professional, respectful, courteous manner; and
5. adopt a written policy that establishes administrative practices and procedures regarding the use of timeout and physical restraint consistent with this policy. Such policies and procedures shall at a minimum include:
 - a. factors which may precipitate the use of the timeout or physical restraint;
 - b. developmentally appropriate time limitations for the use of timeout and physical restraint;
 - c. prohibiting placing a student in a locked room or space or in a room where the student cannot be continuously observed and supervised;
 - d. prohibiting the use of prone restraint
 - e. requirements relating to students with disabilities whose behavioral intervention plan includes the use of timeout as a behavioral consequence;
 - f. staff training provided in accordance with law;
 - g. information to be provided to the parent or person in parental relation, including a copy of the timeout and physical restraint policy;
 - h. notifying the parent or person in parental relation on the same day when a student is placed in a timeout or a physical restraint is used in accordance with law; and
 - i. data collection to monitor patterns of use of timeout and physical restraint.

K. Annual Reporting

Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, each public school district must submit an annual report on the use of physical restraint and timeout and substantiated and unsubstantiated allegations of use of corporal punishment, mechanical restraint, and other aversive interventions, prone physical restraint, and seclusion to the state Department of Education on a form and at a time prescribed by the Commissioner. In addition, the District shall report such data for students for whom it is the district of residence, and who are otherwise not reported.

V. Student Dress Code

Students shall give proper attention to personal cleanliness and dress in a manner consistent with the dress code expectations of the School District. These expectations are designed to aid students

in character development. Students and person(s) in parental relation to student(s) have the primary responsibility for meeting the dress code expectations of the School District. All School District personnel are expected to assist students in understanding and achieving the set standards. All School District personnel shall dress appropriately and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting.

A student's clothes, grooming and appearance shall be safe, appropriate and not disrupt or interfere with the normal functioning of school. All items should be chosen with attention to the appropriate fit, length, and coverage to avoid exposing undergarments during students' daily activities. In addition:

- Students should be sure to wear secure footwear. Flip-flops, for example, may pose a danger if students need to move quickly in an emergency situation; and
- Shorts and skirts should be an appropriate length for school – children should be able to sit (both on the floor and on a chair), play, and participate in all school activities with ease.

A student's dress, grooming, and appearance shall not include:

- the wearing of hats and/or hoods in the school building, except for a medical or religious purpose;
- items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous, or denigrating on account of race, color, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability; symbols of hate are not permitted;
- the promotion and/or endorsement and/or encouragement of the use of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, weapons, e-cigarettes, vape paraphernalia, smoking, and/ or any other illegal or violent activities; and
- gang affiliations – items such as, but not limited to: bandanas, gang symbols and/or colors are not permitted.

The dress expectations are posted on the School District's website and the responsibility to be familiar with these expectations lies with the student and person(s) in parental relation to student(s).

Building Principals or designee shall be responsible for informing all students and person(s) in parental relation to student(s) of the student dress code at the beginning of the school year and any revisions to the dress code made during the school year. Students who violate the student dress code shall be required to modify their appearance by covering or removing the offending item and, if necessary or practical, replacing it with an acceptable item.

VI. Prohibited Student Conduct

The Board of Education expects all students to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, School District personnel and other members of the school community, and for the care of school facilities and equipment.

In addition to its right to impose discipline, the Board of Education reserves the right to pursue the cost of repair to damages caused by a student's misconduct in accordance with its rights under the law.

The best discipline is self-imposed, and students must learn to assume and accept responsibility for their own behavior, as well as the consequences of their misbehavior. School District personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary, and to place emphasis on educating students so that they may grow in self-discipline.

The Board of Education recognizes the need to make its expectations for student conduct specific and clear while on school property or engaged in a school function. The rules of conduct listed below are intended to do that and focus on safety and respect for the rights and property of others. Students who will not accept responsibility for their own behavior and who violate these school rules will be required to accept the consequences for their conduct. All violations apply to student behavior in school, on school property, on school buses and at school-sponsored functions, and student behavior off school property where such acts create or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, or where it is foreseeable that the acts might reach school property.

Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school, when they:

- A. Engage in conduct that is disorderly, disruptive, disrespectful, and/or defiant, including, but not limited to:
 - 1. Using language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar or abusive;
 - 2. Any sexual behavior and/or contact;
 - 3. Obstructing pedestrian traffic in hallways, stairwells, and doorways;
 - 4. Intentionally obstructing vehicular traffic;
 - 5. Engaging in any willful act which disrupts the normal operation of the school community;
 - 6. Intentionally damaging or destroying, including graffiti or arson, the personal property of a student, teacher, administrator, other School District employee, or any person lawfully on school property or attending a school function;
 - 7. Intentionally damaging or destroying school property;
 - 8. Stealing or attempting to steal the property of other students, school personnel, or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function;
 - 9. Dishonesty (lying, lying by omission, knowingly sharing false information);
 - 10. Failing to comply with reasonable directives of teachers, school administrators, or other school employees/contractors in charge of students;
 - 11. Failing to comply with assigned consequences;
 - 12. Leaving school or classroom without permission;
 - 13. Unexcused tardiness or absenteeism;

14. Trespassing on school grounds or entering a school building without administrative permission and authorized supervision;
 15. Failing to vacate school grounds at the conclusion of school authorized activities;
 16. Being in an unauthorized area without supervision; and
 17. Using drones on or above school property, except as authorized by school personnel with the permission of the Superintendent of Schools or designee.
- B. Engage in conduct that is violent. Examples of violent conduct include, but are not limited to:
1. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon a teacher, administrator or other school employee or attempting to do so;
 2. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property or attempting to do so;
 3. Possessing a weapon. Authorized law enforcement officials are the only persons permitted to have a weapon in their possession while on school property or at a school function;
 4. Displaying what appears to be a weapon; and
 5. Threatening to use any weapon.
- C. Engage in any conduct that endangers the safety, physical or mental health or welfare of others. Examples of such conduct include, but are not limited to:
1. Fighting or engaging in violent behavior;
 2. Subjecting other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function to danger by recklessly engaging in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury;
 3. Intimidation, which includes engaging in actions or statements that put an individual in fear of bodily harm;
 4. Threatening another with bodily harm;
 5. Obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic;
 6. Creating a hazardous or physically offensive condition by any act which serves no legitimate purpose;
 7. Hiding evidence of an illegal act or school violation;
 8. Hazing;
 9. Discriminating against another individual;
 10. Defaming another individual;
 11. Bullying (including cyberbullying) another individual;
 12. Harassing another individual;
 13. Selling, using, distributing or possessing obscene material;
 14. Using vulgar or abusive language, cursing or swearing;
 15. Smoking a cigarette, e-cigarette, personal vaporizing device, cigar, pipe or using chewing or smokeless tobacco;

16. Possessing, consuming, selling, distributing or exchanging alcoholic beverages or illegal substances, or being under the influence of either. "Illegal substances" include, but are not limited to, inhalants, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs, and any substances commonly referred to as "designer drugs";
 17. Inappropriately using or sharing prescription and over-the-counter drugs;
 18. Gambling;
 19. Indecent exposure, that is, exposure to sight of the private parts of the body in a lewd or indecent manner; and
 20. Initiating a report warning of fire or other catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911, or discharging a fire extinguisher.
- D. Engage in misconduct while on a school bus. It is crucial for students to behave appropriately while riding on School District buses, to ensure their safety and that of other passengers, and to avoid distracting the bus driver. Students are required to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. Excessive noise, pushing, shoving and fighting will not be tolerated.
- E. Engage in any form of academic misconduct. Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to:
1. Plagiarism;
 2. Cheating;
 3. Copying;
 4. Altering records;
 5. Altering the work of others without permission; and
 6. Assisting another student in any of the above actions.
- F. Engage in misconduct while off School District property that interferes with, or can reasonably be expected to substantially disrupt the educational process in the School District or at a School District function. Examples of such misconduct include, but are not limited to:
1. Cyberbullying (i.e., inflicting willful and repeated harm through the use of electronic text); and
 2. Threatening or harassing students or school personnel over the phone or other electronic medium.
- G. Engage in misconduct while using technology. Examples of such misconduct include, but are not limited to:
1. Violating any law;

2. Displaying, performing, sending, receiving, or storing any content that is obscene, inappropriate, offensive, or otherwise objectionable, even if the material or its dissemination is lawful;
3. Harassing any person or advocating or encouraging violence of any kind against any person, entity or government;
4. Infringing, violating or misappropriating another's rights;
5. Obtaining unauthorized access to, or interfering by any means with, any user, system, network, service or account, including the evasion of filters or violation of the security or integrity of any network or system;
6. Distributing computer viruses or malware of any kind;
7. Sending, receiving or supporting email messages that are unsolicited, deceptive, anonymous, excessively voluminous or that contain falsified identifying information, including spamming and phishing; and
8. Violating the School District's Computer, Network and Internet Acceptable Use Policy.

VII. Reporting Violations

All students are expected to promptly report violations of the Code to a teacher, support staff, the Building Principal or designee. Any student observing a student possessing a weapon, alcohol or illegal substance on School District property or at a School District function shall report this information immediately to any school employee.

The Building Principal or designee is expected to impose disciplinary sanctions in a prompt, fair and lawful manner. School District staff who are not authorized to impose disciplinary sanctions are expected to promptly report violations of the Code to the Building Principal or designee. The Building Principal or designee shall investigate the alleged violation and take appropriate action in accordance with this Code.

Any weapon, alcohol or illegal substance found shall be confiscated immediately, if possible, followed by notification to the person(s) in a parental relation to student(s) of the student involved, and the appropriate disciplinary sanction, which may include permanent suspension and referral for prosecution.

The Building Principal or designee must notify the appropriate local law enforcement agency of Code violations, which may constitute a crime and substantially affect the order or security of a school as soon as practical, but in no event later than the close of business the day the Building Principal or designee learns of the violation. The notification may be made by telephone, followed by a letter mailed on the same day as the telephone call is made. The notification must identify the student and explain the conduct that violated the Code and constituted a crime.

Reporting Incidents of Bullying, Harassment and/or Discrimination

Students who have been bullied, harassed and/or discriminated against, person(s) in parental relation to student(s) whose children have been bullied, harassed and/or discriminated against, or other students or staff who observe bullying, harassing and/or discriminating behavior are encouraged and expected to make a verbal and/or written complaint to any school personnel in accordance with the training and guidelines provided, as well as any applicable School District policies. (Refer to Policy 0115, Dignity for All Students Act, Policy 0100, Equal Opportunity, and Policy 0110, Sexual Harassment)

Staff members must promptly make an oral report of all complaints of bullying, harassment, and discrimination that they receive from students or others, whether oral or written, as well as any instances of bullying, harassment or discrimination that they are aware of, to the Building Principal, or DASA Coordinator no later than one (1) school day after receipt of a report or witnessing an incident, and shall file a written report with the Building Principal, or DASA Coordinator no later than two (2) school days after making the oral report.

Reports of bullying, harassment and discrimination will be promptly investigated in accordance with School District policies and procedures.

Retaliation by any school employee or student against any individual who, in good faith, reports or assists in the investigation of harassment, bullying, and/or discrimination is prohibited under law.

VIII. Disciplinary Consequences, Procedures and Referrals

Discipline is most effective when it deals directly with the problem at the time and place it occurs, and in a way that students view as fair and impartial. School personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary, and to place emphasis on the students' ability to grow in self-discipline.

Disciplinary action, when necessary, will be firm, fair and consistent so as to be the most effective in changing student behavior. In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, school personnel authorized to impose consequences will consider the following:

1. The student's age;
2. The nature of the offense and the circumstances which led to the offense;
3. The student's prior disciplinary record;
4. The effectiveness of other forms of discipline;
5. Information from person(s) in parental relation to student(s) , teachers and/or others, as appropriate; and
6. Other extenuating circumstances.

As a general rule, discipline will be progressive. This means that a student's first violation will usually merit a lighter consequence than subsequent violations. If the conduct of a student is related to a disability or suspected disability, the student shall be referred to the Committee on Special Education and discipline, if warranted, shall be administered consistent with the separate requirements of the Code for disciplining students with a disability or presumed to have a disability.

A. Consequences

Students who are found to have violated the School District's Code may be subject to the following consequences, either alone or in combination. The consequences noted are not listed in progressive order. The following are authorized to be imposed, consistent with the student's right to due process, and include but are not limited to:

1. Oral warning;
2. Oral notification to person(s) in parental relation to student(s) ;
3. Written warning;
4. Written notification to person(s) in parental relation to student(s) ;
5. Suspension from transportation;
6. Suspension from school related activities;
7. Suspension of other privileges;
8. In-school suspension;
9. Teacher removal of disruptive students;
10. Short-term (five (5) days or less) suspension from school;
11. Long-term (more than five (5) days) suspension from school; and
12. Permanent suspension from school.

In addition to the above consequences, the Building Principal or designee may implement restorative practices on a case-by-case basis to mediate a conflict. The Superintendent of Schools or designee will implement procedures outlining the restorative practices that may be made available to students on a case-by-case basis.

B. Procedures

The amount of due process a student is entitled to receive before a consequence is imposed depends on the consequence being imposed. In all cases, regardless of the consequence imposed, the school personnel authorized to impose the consequence must inform the student of the alleged misconduct and must investigate, to the extent necessary, the facts surrounding the alleged misconduct. All students will have an opportunity to present their version of the facts to the school personnel imposing the disciplinary consequence in connection with the imposition of the consequence.

Students who are to be given consequences other than an oral warning, written warning or written notification to the person(s) in parental relation to student(s) are entitled to additional rights before the consequence is imposed.

These additional rights are explained below.

1. Detention

Teachers, Building Principals and the Superintendent of Schools may use after-school detention as a consequence for student misconduct in situations where removal from the classroom or suspension would be inappropriate. The Board of Education believes that detention is an effective method of discipline for students. A student who violates the Code may be assigned detention by a school administrator or teacher. A teacher or staff member is responsible for making arrangements for assigned detentions. When a student is assigned detention, the School District should attempt to notify the person(s) in parental relation to student of the student.

2. Suspension from transportation

If students do not conduct themselves properly on a school bus, the bus driver is expected to bring such misconduct to the Building Principal's attention. Students who become a serious disciplinary problem may have their riding privileges suspended by the Building Principal or the Superintendent of Schools or designee. In such cases, the person(s) in parental relation to student will become responsible for seeing that the child gets to and from school safely. Should the family not be able to provide alternate transportation, the School District will provide alternate education for the period of suspension.

A student subjected to a suspension from transportation is not entitled to a full hearing pursuant to Education Law §3214. However, the student and the student's person(s) in parental relation to student will be provided with a reasonable opportunity for an informal conference with the Building Principal or designee to discuss the conduct and the consequence involved.

3. Suspension from athletic participation, extra-curricular activities and other privileges

A student subjected to a suspension from athletic participation, extra-curricular activities or other privileges is not entitled to a full hearing pursuant to Education Law §3214. However, the student and the student's person(s) in parental relation to student will be provided with a reasonable opportunity for an informal conference with the School District official imposing the suspension to discuss the conduct and the consequence involved.

4. In-school suspension

The Board of Education recognizes the school must balance the need of students to attend school and the need for order in the classroom to establish an environment conducive to learning. As such, the Board of Education authorizes Building Principals and the Superintendent of Schools to place students who would otherwise be suspended from school as the result of a Code violation to an "in-school suspension." The in-school suspension teacher will be a certified teacher.

A student subjected to an in-school suspension is not entitled to a full hearing pursuant to Education Law §3214. However, the student and the student's person(s) in parental relation to student will be provided with a reasonable opportunity for an informal conference with the School District official imposing the in-school suspension to discuss the conduct and the consequence involved.

5. Teacher removal of disruptive students

A student's behavior can affect a teacher's ability to teach and can make it difficult for other students in the classroom to learn. In most cases, the classroom teacher can control a student's behavior and maintain or restore control over the classroom by using good classroom management techniques. These techniques may include practices that involve the teacher directing a student to briefly leave the classroom to give the student an opportunity to regain composure and self-control in an alternative setting. Such practices may include, but are not limited to: (1) short-term removal in an elementary classroom or in an administrator's office; (2) sending a student to the Building Principal's office for the remainder of the class time only; or (3) sending a student to a support staff member or other School District staff member for counseling. The teacher is expected to implement progressive steps of discipline before removing a student from class. This should include referrals to pupil support services. The steps must also include a conference with the student and the person(s) in parental relation to the student.

On occasion, a student's behavior may become disruptive. For purposes of this Code, a disruptive student is a student who is disruptive in the educational process or interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom. A disruption in the educational process or interference with a teacher's authority occurs when a student demonstrates a persistent unwillingness to comply with the teacher's instructions or repeatedly violates the teacher's classroom behavior rules.

If a teacher finds that a student's continued presence in the classroom does not pose a continuing danger to person(s) or property and does not present an ongoing threat of disruption to the academic process, the teacher shall, prior to removing the student from the classroom, provide the student with an explanation of the basis for the removal, and allow the student to informally present the student's version of relevant events. In all other cases, the teacher shall provide the student with an explanation of

the basis for the removal and an informal opportunity to be heard within twenty-four (24) hours of the pupil's removal, provided that if such twenty-four (24) hour period does not end on a school day, it shall be extended to the corresponding time on the next school day.

The Building Principal shall inform the person(s) in parental relation to such student of the removal and the reasons therefor within twenty-four (24) hours of the student's removal, provided that if such twenty-four (24) hour period does not end on a school day, it shall be extended to the corresponding time on the next school day. The student and the person(s) in parental relation to the student shall, upon request, be given an opportunity for an informal conference with the Building Principal to discuss the reasons for the removal. If the student denies the charges, the Building Principal shall provide an explanation of the basis for the removal and allow the student and/or person(s) in parental relation to student an opportunity to present the pupil's version of relevant events. Such informal hearing shall be held within forty-eight (48) hours of the student's removal, provided that if such forty-eight (48) hour period does not end on a school day, it shall be extended to the corresponding time on the second school day next following the student's removal.

The teacher must complete a School District-established disciplinary referral form as soon as possible prior to the end of that class period, if at all possible. The teacher must meet with the Building Principal or designee as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the school day, to explain the circumstances of the removal. If the Building Principal or designee is not available, the teacher must leave the form with the secretary and meet with the Building Principal or designee prior to the beginning of classes on the next school day.

Any disruptive student removed from the classroom by the classroom teacher shall be offered alternative continued educational programming and activities until the student is permitted to return to the classroom. A removed student may not be temporarily placed in a regular teacher's classroom. Appropriate classwork must be provided for the removed student by the removing teacher.

Each teacher should keep a complete log for all cases of removal of students from class. The Building Principal or designee should keep a log of all removals of students from class.

Removal of a student with a disability, under certain circumstances, may constitute a change in the student's placement. Accordingly, after five (5) days of removal a manifestation hearing will be conducted. If the removal is not the result of a student's handicapping condition, said removal is not considered a change of placement.

6. Suspension from school

Suspension from school is a severe consequence, which may be imposed only upon students who are insubordinate, disorderly, violent or disruptive, or whose conduct otherwise endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others. The Board of Education retains its authority to suspend students, but places primary responsibility for the suspension of students with the Superintendent of Schools and the Building Principals. Any staff member may recommend to the Superintendent of Schools or the Building Principal that a student be suspended. All staff members must immediately report and refer a violent student to the Building Principal or the Superintendent of Schools for a violation of the Code. All recommendations and referrals shall be made in writing unless the conditions underlying the recommendation or referral warrant immediate attention. In such cases, a written report is to be prepared as soon as possible by the staff member recommending the suspension. The Superintendent of Schools or Building Principal, upon receiving a recommendation or referral for suspension or when processing a case for suspension, shall gather the facts relevant to the matter and record them for subsequent presentation, if necessary.

a. Short-term (five (5) days or less) suspension from school

When the Superintendent of Schools or Building Principal (referred to as the "suspending authority") proposes to suspend a student charged with misconduct for five (5) days or less pursuant to Education Law §3214(3), the suspending authority must immediately notify the student orally. If the student denies the misconduct, the suspending authority must provide an explanation of the basis for the proposed suspension. The suspending authority must also notify the student's person(s) in parental relation to student in writing that the student may be suspended from school. The written notice must be provided by personal delivery, express mail delivery, or some other means that is reasonably calculated to assure receipt of the notice within twenty-four (24) hours of the decision to propose suspension at the last known address for the person(s) in parental relation to student. Where possible, notice should also be provided by telephone if the school has been provided with a telephone number(s) for the purpose of contacting the person(s) in parental relation to student.

The notice shall provide a description of the charges against the student and the incident for which suspension is proposed and shall inform the person(s) in parental relation to student of the right to request an immediate informal conference with the Building Principal. Both the notice and informal conference shall be in the dominant language or mode of communication used by the person(s) in parental relation to student. At the conference, the person(s) in parental relation to the student shall be permitted to ask questions of complaining witnesses under such procedures as the Building Principal may

establish. The notice and opportunity for an informal conference shall take place before the student is suspended unless the student's presence in school poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disruption to the academic process. If the student's presence does pose such a danger or threat of disruption, the notice and opportunity for an informal conference shall take place as soon after the suspension as is reasonably practicable.

After the conference, the Building Principal shall promptly advise the person(s) in parental relation to student in writing of the Building Principal's decision. The Building Principal shall advise the person(s) in parental relation to student that if they are not satisfied with the decision and wish to pursue the matter, they may file a written appeal to the Commissioner of Education within thirty (30) days of the decision.

b. Long-term (more than five (5) days) suspension from school

When the Superintendent of Schools determines that a suspension for more than five (5) days may be warranted, the Superintendent shall give reasonable notice to the student and the person(s) in parental relation to student of the student's right to a fair hearing. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to be represented by counsel, the right to question witnesses against the student, and the right to present witnesses and other evidence on the student's behalf. The Superintendent of Schools shall personally hear and determine the proceeding or may, in the Superintendent of School's discretion, designate a hearing officer to conduct the hearing. The hearing officer shall be authorized to administer oaths and to issue subpoenas in conjunction with the proceeding before the hearing officer. A record of the hearing shall be maintained, but no stenographic transcript shall be required. A tape recording shall be deemed a satisfactory record. The hearing officer shall make findings of fact and recommendations as to the appropriate measure of discipline to the Superintendent of Schools. The report of the hearing officer shall be advisory only, and the Superintendent of Schools may accept all or any part thereof.

An appeal of the decision of the Superintendent of Schools may be made to the Board of Education that will make its decision based solely upon the record before it. All appeals to the Board of Education must be in writing and submitted to the School District clerk within five (5) business days of the date of the Superintendent of School's decision, unless the person(s) in parental relation to student can show that extraordinary circumstances precluded them from doing so. The Board of Education may adopt in whole or in part the decision of the Superintendent of Schools. Final decisions of the Board of Education may be appealed to the Commissioner of Education within thirty (30) days of the decision.

c. Permanent suspension from school

Permanent suspension is reserved for extraordinary circumstances, such as where a student's conduct poses a life-threatening danger to the safety and well-being of other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function.

- C. Student offenders of Policy 0115 (Dignity for All Students Act) will receive in-school guidance in making positive choices in their relationships with others. If appropriate, disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the Code. Consequences for a student who commits an act of bullying shall be unique to the individual incident and will vary in method and severity according to the nature of the behavior, the developmental age of the student, and the student's history of problem behaviors.

D. Minimum Periods of Suspension

1. Students who bring a weapon to school

Any student, other than a student with a disability, found guilty of bringing a weapon onto school property will be subject to suspension from school for at least one (1) calendar year. Before being suspended, the student will have an opportunity for a hearing pursuant to Education Law §3214. The Superintendent of Schools has the authority to modify the one-year suspension on a case-by-case basis. In deciding whether to modify the consequence, the Superintendent of Schools may consider the following:

- a. The student's age;
- b. The student's grade in school;
- c. The student's prior disciplinary record;
- d. The Superintendent of School's belief that other forms of discipline may be more effective;
- e. Input from person(s) in parental relation to student(s), teachers and/or others; and
- f. Other extenuating circumstances.

A student with a disability may be suspended only in accordance with the requirements of state and federal law.

2. Students who commit violent acts, other than bringing a weapon to school

Any student who is found to have committed a violent act, other than bringing a weapon onto school property, shall be subject to suspension from school for at least five (5) days. If the proposed consequence is the minimum five (5) day

suspension, the student and the person(s) in parental relation to student will be given the same notice and opportunity for an informal conference given to all students subject to a short-term suspension. If the proposed consequence exceeds the minimum five (5) day suspension, the student and the person(s) in parental relation to student will be given the same notice and opportunity for a hearing given to all students subject to a long-term suspension. The Superintendent of Schools and/or the Building Principal has the authority to modify the minimum five (5) day suspension on a case-by-case basis. In deciding whether to modify the consequence, the Superintendent of Schools may consider the same factors considered in modifying a one-year suspension for possessing a weapon.

3. Students who are repeatedly substantially disruptive of the educational process or repeatedly substantially interfere with the teacher's authority over the classroom.

Any student who repeatedly is substantially disruptive of the educational process or substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom will be suspended from school for at least two (2) days. For purposes of the Code, "repeatedly is substantially disruptive" means engaging in conduct that results in the student being removed from the classroom by teacher(s) pursuant to Education Law §3214(3-a) and the Code on four (4) or more occasions during a semester. If the proposed consequence is the minimum five (5) day suspension (short-term suspension from school), the student and the person(s) in parental relation to student will be given the same notice and opportunity for an informal conference given to all students subject to a short-term suspension. If the proposed consequence exceeds a five (5) day suspension, the student and the person(s) in parental relation to student will be given the same notice and opportunity for a hearing given to all students subject to a long-term suspension. The Superintendent of Schools has the authority to modify the suspension on a case-by-case basis. In deciding whether to modify the consequence, the Superintendent of Schools may consider the same factors considered in modifying a one-year suspension for possessing a weapon.

E. Disciplinary and Remedial Consequences for Bullying, Harassment and/or Discrimination

The School District supports the development of measured, balanced and age-appropriate responses to the bullying, harassment and/or discrimination of students by students on school property, including school functions, with remedies and procedures focusing on prevention, intervention, education and discipline. Remedies will be measured, balanced, progressive and age-appropriate and will take into consideration the nature and severity of the offending student's behavior, the developmental age of the student, the previous disciplinary record of the student and other extenuating circumstances, and the impact the offending student's behaviors had on the individual who was physically injured or emotionally harmed. Responses will be reasonably calculated to end the harassment,

bullying and/or discrimination, prevent recurrence, and eliminate the hostile environment.

Successful intervention may involve remediation.

Remedial responses to bullying, harassment and/or discrimination include measures designed to correct the problem behavior, prevent another occurrence of the behavior, and protect the target of the act. Appropriate remedial measures may include, but are not limited to:

- Restitution and restoration;
- Peer support groups;
- Corrective instruction or other relevant learning or service experience;
- Supportive intervention;
- Behavioral assessment or evaluation;
- Behavioral management plans that are closely monitored;
- Student counseling; and
- Parent conferences.

Beyond these individual-focused remedial responses, school-wide or environmental remediation can be an important tool to prevent bullying, harassment and/or discrimination. Environmental remediation strategies may include, but are not limited to:

- Supervisory systems which empower school staff with prevention and intervention tools to address incidents of bullying, harassment and/or discrimination;
- School and community surveys or other strategies for determining the conditions contributing to the relevant behavior;
- Modification of schedules;
- Adjustment in hallway traffic and other student routes of travel;
- Targeted use of monitors;
- Staff professional development;
- Parent conferences;
- Involvement of parent-teacher organizations; and
- Peer support groups.

If appropriate, disciplinary action will be taken by the administration in accordance with the Code, as applicable. If the behavior rises to the level of criminal activity, law enforcement will be contacted.

Staff is expected, when aware of bullying, to either refer the student to designated resources for assistance, or to intervene in accordance with the Code.

F. Referrals

1. Counseling

The Superintendent of School will designate an individual who will handle all referrals of students for counseling.

2. PINS Petitions

The School District may file a PINS (person in need of supervision) petition in Family Court on any student under the age of eighteen (18) who demonstrates that the student requires supervision and treatment by:

- a. Being habitually truant and not attending school as required by part one of Article 65 of the Education Law;
- b. Engaging in an ongoing or continual course of conduct which makes the student ungovernable, or habitually disobedient and beyond the lawful control of the school;
- c. Knowingly and unlawfully possesses marijuana in violation of Penal Law §221.05. A single violation of §221.05 will be a sufficient basis for filing a PINS petition; and
- d. Knowingly and unlawfully possessing a controlled substance in violation of Penal Law §220.03 *et seq.* A single violation of Penal Law §220.03 *et seq* will be a sufficient basis for filing a PINS petition.

3. Juvenile Delinquents and Juvenile Offenders

The Superintendent of Schools is required to refer the following students to the County Attorney for a juvenile delinquency proceeding before the Family Court:

- a. Any student under the age of sixteen (16) who is found to have brought a weapon to school; or
- b. Any student fourteen (14) or fifteen (15) years old who qualifies for juvenile offender status under the Criminal Procedure Law §1.20 (42).

The Superintendent of Schools is required to refer students age sixteen (16) and older or any student fourteen (14) or fifteen (15) years old who qualifies for juvenile offender status to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

IX. Alternative Instruction

When a student of any age is removed from class by a teacher, or a student of compulsory attendance age is suspended from school pursuant to Education Law §3214, the School District will take immediate steps to provide alternative means of instruction for the student.

X. Discipline of Students with Disabilities

The Board of Education recognizes that it may be necessary to suspend, remove or otherwise discipline students with disabilities to address disruptive or problem behavior. The Board of Education also recognizes that students with disabilities enjoy certain procedural protections whenever school authorities intend to impose discipline upon them. The Board of Education is committed to ensuring that the procedures followed for suspending, removing or otherwise disciplining students with disabilities are consistent with the procedural safeguards required by applicable laws and regulations. The Code affords students with disabilities subject to disciplinary action no greater or lesser rights than those expressly afforded by applicable federal and state law and regulations.

A. Authorized Suspensions or Removals of Students with Disabilities

1. For purposes of this section of the Code, the following definitions apply:

A "suspension" means a suspension pursuant to Education Law § 3214.

A "removal" means a removal for disciplinary reasons from the student's current educational placement, other than a suspension and change in placement to an interim alternative educational setting (IAES) ordered by an impartial hearing officer because the student poses a risk of harm to oneself or others.

An "IAES" means a temporary educational placement for a period of up to forty-five (45) days, other than the student's current placement at the time the behavior precipitating the IAES placement occurred. The IAES will enable the student (a) to continue to progress in the general curriculum, although in another setting, (b) to continue to receive those services and modifications, including those described on the student's current individualized education program (IEP), so that the student may meet the goals set forth in the IEP. The IAES will include services and modifications to address the behavior which precipitated the IAES that are designed to prevent the behavior from recurring.

2. School personnel may order the suspension or removal of a student with a disability from the student's current educational placement as follows:
 - a. The Board of Education, the District (BOCES) Superintendent of Schools or the Building Principal may order the placement of a student with a disability into an IAES, another setting, or suspension for a period not to exceed five (5) consecutive school days and not to exceed the amount of time a non-disabled student would be subject to suspension for the same behavior.

- b. The Superintendent of Schools may order the placement of a student with a disability into an IAES, another setting or suspension for up to ten (10) consecutive school days, inclusive of any period in which the student has been suspended or removed under subparagraph (a) above for the same behavior, if the Superintendent of Schools determines that the student has engaged in behavior that warrants a suspension and the suspension or removal does not exceed the amount of time a non-disabled student would be subject to suspension for the same behavior.
 - c. The Superintendent of Schools may order additional suspensions of not more than ten (10) consecutive school days in the same school year for separate incidents of misconduct, as long as those removals do not constitute a change of placement.
 - d. The Superintendent of Schools may order the placement of a student with a disability in an IAES to be determined by the Committee on Special Education (CSE), for the same amount of time that a student without a disability would be subject to discipline, but not more than forty-five (45) days, if the student carries or possesses a weapon to school or to a school function, or the student knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at school or a school function.
 - 1) "Weapon" means the same as "dangerous weapon" under 18 U.S.C. §930(g)(w) which includes "a weapon, device, instrument, material or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of causing death or serious bodily injury, except...[for] a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2 1/2 inches in length."
 - 2) "Controlled substance" means a drug or other substance identified in certain provisions of the federal Controlled Substances Act specified in both federal and state law and regulations applicable to the Code.
 - 3) "Illegal drugs" means a controlled substance except for those legally possessed or used under the supervision of a licensed health-care professional, or that is legally possessed or used under any other authority under the Controlled Substances Act or any other federal law.
3. Subject to specified conditions required by both federal and state law and regulations, an impartial hearing officer may order the placement of a student with a disability in an IAES setting for up to forty-five (45) days at a time, if maintaining

the student in the student's current educational placement poses a risk of harm to the student or others.

B. Change of Placement Rule

1. A disciplinary change in placement means a suspension or removal from a student's current educational placement that is either:
 - a. for more than ten (10) consecutive school days; or
 - b. for a period of ten (10) consecutive school days or less if the student is subjected to a series of suspensions or removals that constitute a pattern because they cumulate to more than ten (10) school days in a school year, and because of such factors as the length of each suspension or removal, the total amount of time the student is removed and the proximity of the suspensions or removals to one another.
2. School personnel may not suspend or remove a student with disabilities if imposition of the suspension or removal would result in a disciplinary change in placement based on a pattern of suspension or removal. However, the School District may impose a suspension or removal, which would otherwise result in a disciplinary change in placement, based on a pattern of suspensions or removals if the CSE has determined that the behavior was not a manifestation of the student's disability, or the student is placed in an IAES for behavior involving weapons, illegal drugs or controlled substances.

Special Rules Regarding the Suspension or Removal of Students with Disabilities

1. The School District's Committee on Special Education (CSE) shall:
 - a. Conduct functional behavioral assessments to determine why a student engages in a particular behavior, and develop or review behavioral intervention plans whenever the School District is first suspending or removing a student with a disability for more than ten (10) school days in a school year or imposing a suspension or removal that constitutes a disciplinary change in placement, including a change in placement to an IAES for misconduct involving weapons, illegal drugs or controlled substances.

If subsequently, a student with a disability who has a behavioral intervention plan and who has been suspended or removed from the student's current educational placement for more than ten (10) school days in a school year is subjected to a suspension or removal that does not constitute a disciplinary change in placement, the members of the CSE shall

review the behavioral intervention plan and its implementation to determine if modifications are necessary.

If one or more members of the CSE believe that modifications are needed, the School District shall convene a meeting of the CSE to modify such plan and its implementation, to the extent the committee determines necessary.

- b. Conduct a manifestation determination review of the relationship between the student's disability and the behavior subject to disciplinary action whenever a decision is made to place a student in an IAES either for misconduct involving weapons, illegal drugs or controlled substances or because maintaining the student in the student's current educational setting poses a risk of harm to the student or others; or a decision is made to impose a suspension that constitutes a disciplinary change in placement.
2. The person(s) in parental relation to student who is facing disciplinary action, but who has not been determined to be eligible for services under IDEA and Article 89 at the time of the student's misconduct, shall have the right to invoke applicable procedural safeguards set forth in federal and state law and regulations if, in accordance with federal and state statutory and regulatory criteria, the School District is deemed to have had knowledge that the child was a student with a disability before the behavior precipitating disciplinary action occurred. If the School District is deemed to have had such knowledge, the student will be considered a student presumed to have a disability for discipline purposes.
 - a. The Superintendent of Schools, Building Principal or other school official imposing a suspension or removal shall be responsible for determining whether the student is a student presumed to have a disability.
 - b. A student will not be considered a student presumed to have a disability for discipline purposes if, upon receipt of information supporting a claim that the School District had knowledge the student was a student with a disability, the School District either:
 - 1) conducted an individual evaluation and determined that the student is not a student with a disability; or
 - 2) determined that an evaluation was not necessary and provided notice to the person(s) in parental relation to student of such determination, in the manner required by applicable law and regulations.

If there is no basis for knowledge that the student is a student with a disability prior to taking disciplinary measures against the student, the student may be subjected to the same disciplinary measures as any other

non-disabled student who engaged in comparable behaviors. However, if a request for an individual evaluation is made while such non-disabled student is subjected to disciplinary removal, an expedited evaluation within fifteen (15) days shall be conducted and completed in the manner prescribed by applicable federal and state law and regulations. Until the expedited evaluation is completed, the non-disabled student who is not a student presumed to have a disability for discipline purposes shall remain in the educational placement determined by the School District, which can include suspension.

3. The School District shall provide person(s) in parental relation to student with notice of disciplinary removal no later than the date on which a decision is made to change the placement of a student with a disability to an IAES for either misconduct involving weapons, illegal drugs or controlled substances, or because maintaining the student in the student's current educational setting poses a risk of harm to the student or others; or a decision is made to impose a suspension or removal that constitutes a disciplinary change in placement. The procedural safeguards notice prescribed by the Commissioner shall accompany the notice of disciplinary removal.
4. The person(s) in parental relation to student(s) with disabilities subject to a suspension of five (5) consecutive school days or less shall be provided with the same opportunity for an informal conference available to person(s) in parental relation to non-disabled students under the Education Law.
5. Superintendent of Schools hearings on disciplinary charges against students with disabilities subject to a suspension of more than five (5) school days shall be bifurcated into a guilt phase and a penalty phase in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Commissioner's regulations incorporated into the Code.
6. The removal of a student with disabilities other than a suspension or placement in an IAES shall be conducted in accordance with the due process procedures applicable to such removals of non-disabled students, except that school personnel may not impose such removal for more than ten (10) consecutive days or for a period that would result in a disciplinary change in placement, unless the CSE has determined that the behavior is not a manifestation of the student's disability.
7. During any period of suspension or removal, including placement in an IAES, students with disabilities shall be provided services as required by the Commissioner's regulations incorporated into the Code.

D. Expedited Due Process Hearings

1. An expedited due process hearing shall be conducted in the manner specified by the Commissioner's regulations incorporated into the Code, if:
 - a. The School District requests such a hearing to obtain an order of an impartial hearing officer placing a student with a disability in an IAES where school personnel maintain that it is dangerous for the student to be in the student's current educational placement, or during the pendency of due process hearings where school personnel maintain that it is dangerous for the student to be in the student's current educational placement during such proceedings.
 - b. The person(s) in parental relation to student requests such a hearing from a determination that the student's behavior was not a manifestation of the student's disability, or relating to any decision regarding placement, including but not limited to any decision to place the student in an IAES.
 - 1) During the pendency of an expedited due process hearing or appeal regarding the placement of a student in an IAES for behavior involving weapons, illegal drugs or controlled substances, or on grounds of dangerousness, or regarding a determination that the behavior is not a manifestation of the student's disability for a student who has been placed in an IAES, the student shall remain in the IAES pending the decision of the impartial hearing officer or until expiration of the IAES placement, whichever occurs first, unless the person(s) in parental relation to student and the School District agree otherwise.
 - 2) If school personnel propose to change the student's placement after expiration of an IAES placement, during the pendency of any proceeding to challenge the proposed change in placement, the student shall remain in the placement prior to removal to the IAES, except where the student is again placed in an IAES.
2. An expedited due process hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

E. Referral to Law Enforcement and Judicial Authorities

In accordance with the provisions of IDEA and its implementing regulations:

1. The School District may report a crime committed by a child with a disability to appropriate authorities, and such action will not constitute a change of the student's placement.

The Superintendent of Schools shall ensure that copies of the special education and disciplinary records of a student with disabilities are transmitted for consideration to the appropriate authorities to whom a crime is reported.

XI. Corporal Punishment, Aversion, Seclusion & The Use of Physical Force

Corporal Punishment

The Board of Education asserts that corporal punishment is not an acceptable method of enforcing decorum, order or discipline, and that corporal punishment is contrary to the purposes of education. The Board of Education prohibits the use of corporal punishment by School District employees.

1. No teacher, administrator, officer, employee or agent in the School District shall use corporal punishment, aversive interventions, or seclusion against a student. For the purposes of this subdivision, "agent" shall include, but not be limited to, school resource officers, except when a student is under arrest and handcuffs are necessary for the safety of the student and others.
2. As used in this section, corporal punishment is defined as any act of physical force upon a student for the purpose of punishing that student, except as otherwise provided in subdivision 3.
3. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to prohibit the use of reasonable physical for the following purposes:
 - a. to protect oneself, another student, teacher or any person from physical injury;
 - b. to protect the property of the School District or of others; or
 - c. to restrain or remove a student whose behavior is interfering with the orderly exercise and performance of School District functions, powers or duties, if that student has refused to comply with a request to refrain from further disruptive acts.

The above exceptions are permissible, provided that alternative procedures and methods not involving the use of physical force cannot reasonably be employed to achieve the same purposes. Alternative procedures and methods not involving the use of physical force include:

- a. the use of language which reduces hostility;
- b. issuing clear directions to the offending student;
- c. explaining the consequences of the student's actions to the student; and

- d. enlisting the aid of another School District employee.
4. With respect to any and all incidents involving the use of physical force by a School District employee, the School District employee shall ensure that:
 - a. the dignity and integrity of the employee and the employee's profession are maintained; and
 - b. the rights of the student have not been violated.

Aversive Intervention

Aversive intervention is defined as an intervention that is intended to induce pain or discomfort for the purpose of eliminating or reducing student behavior, including such interventions as:

1. Contingent application of noxious, painful, intrusive stimuli or activities; strangling, shoving strangling, shoving, deep muscle squeezes or other similar stimuli;
2. any form of noxious, painful or intrusive spray, inhalant or tastes;
3. contingent food programs that include the denial or delay of the provision of meals or intentionally altering staple food or drink in order to make it distasteful;
4. movement limitation used as a punishment, including but not limited to helmets and mechanical restraints as defined in this policy; or
5. other stimuli or actions similar to the interventions described above.

Mechanical restraint is defined as the use of any device or equipment to restrict a student's freedom of movement. Mechanical restraint does not include devices implemented by trained school personnel, or utilized by a student, that have been prescribed by an appropriate medical or related services professional and are used for the specific and approved purposes for which such devices were designed, such as:

- a. adaptive devices or mechanical supports used to achieve proper body position, balance, or alignment to allow greater freedom of mobility than would be possible without the use of such devices or mechanical supports;
- b. vehicle safety restraints when used as intended during the transport of a student in a moving vehicle;
- c. restraints for medical immobilization; or
- d. orthopedically prescribed devices that permit a student to participate in activities without risk of harm.

Aversive intervention shall not include interventions such as voice control, limited to loud, firm commands; time-limited ignoring of a specific behavior; token fines as part of a token economy system; brief physical prompts to interrupt or prevent a specific behavior; interventions medically necessary for the treatment or protection of the student; or other similar interventions.

Seclusion

Seclusion is defined as the involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or space that they are physically prevented from leaving or they may perceive that they cannot leave at will. Seclusion does not include timeout as defined in this policy.

De-escalation

Positive, proactive, evidence- and research-based de-escalation strategies through a multi-tiered system of supports shall be used to reduce the occurrence of challenging behaviors, eliminate the need for the use of timeout and physical restraint, and improve school climate and the safety of all students. Multi-tiered system of supports means a proactive and preventative framework that utilizes data to inform instruction and the allocation of services to maximize achievement for all students and support students' social, emotional and behavioral needs from a culturally responsive and strength-based perspective. For the purposes of this policy, de-escalation means the use of a behavior management technique that helps a student increase control over their emotions and behavior and results in a reduction of a present or potential level of danger to the student or others.

1. Physical Restraint

Physical restraint means a personal restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to move their arms, legs, body, or head freely. Physical restraint does not include a physical escort or brief physical contact and/or redirection to promote student safety, calm or comfort a student, prompt or guide a student when teaching a skill or assisting a student in completing a task, or for other similar purposes. Physical escort means a temporary touching or holding of the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder or back for the purpose of inducing a student who is acting out to walk to a safe location.

Physical restraint shall only be used in a situation in which immediate intervention involving the use of reasonable physical force is necessary to prevent imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others. The type of physical restraint used shall be the least restrictive technique necessary and be discontinued as soon as the imminent danger of serious physical harm has resolved.

Physical restraint shall never be used in a manner that restricts the student's ability to breathe or communicate or harms the student. **The use of prone restraint is prohibited.** Prone restraint is defined as physical or mechanical restraint while the student is in a face-down position.

Physical restraint shall not be used as a planned intervention on a student's individualized education program, Section 504 accommodation plan, behavioral intervention plan, or other plan developed for a student by the school. Physical restraint shall not be used to prevent property damage except in situations where there is

imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others and the student has not responded to positive, proactive intervention strategies. Physical restraints shall be administered only by staff who have received training in accordance with law.

Following a physical restraint, if an injury has been sustained or believed to have been sustained, the school nurse, or other medical personnel (i.e., physician, physician assistant, or a nurse practitioner) shall evaluate the student to determine and document if any injuries were sustained during the incident.

2. Timeout

Timeout is defined as a behavior management technique that involves the monitored separation of a student in a non-locked setting and is implemented for the purpose of de-escalating, regaining control, and preparing the student to meet expectations to return to their education program. Timeout does not include:

- a. a student-initiated or student-requested break to utilize coping skills, sensory input, or self-regulation strategies;
- b. use of a room or space containing coping tools or activities to assist a student to calm and self-regulate, or the use of such intervention strategies consistent with a student with a disability's behavioral intervention plan; or
- c. a teacher removal, in-school suspension; or any other appropriate disciplinary action.

Timeout and physical restraint may be used only when:

- a. Other less restrictive and intrusive interventions and de-escalation techniques would not prevent imminent danger of serious harm to the student or others;
- b. There is no known medical contraindication to its use on the student; and
- c. The school staff using such interventions have been trained in their safe and appropriate application in accordance with the requirements under the law.

Timeout and physical restraint shall not be used as discipline or punishment, retaliation, or as a substitute for positive, proactive intervention strategies that are designed to change, replace, modify, or eliminate a targeted behavior. Timeout shall only be used in a situation that poses an immediate concern for the physical safety of the student or others. Staff shall return the student to their educational program as soon as the student has safely de-escalated, regained control and is prepared to meet expectations.

A room or physical space used for purposes of timeout may be located within a classroom or outside of the classroom and shall comply with the following requirements:

- a. The room or physical space shall:
 - i. be unlocked, and any door must be able to be opened from the inside. The use of locked rooms or physical spaces is prohibited.

- ii. provide a means for continuous visual and auditory monitoring of the student;
 - iii. be of adequate width, length and height to allow the student to move about and recline comfortably;
 - iv. be clean and free of objects and fixtures that could be potentially dangerous to a student; and
 - v. meet all local fire and safety codes.
- b. Wall and floor coverings shall, to the extent practicable, be designed to prevent injury to the student and there shall be adequate lighting and ventilation.
- c. The temperature of the room or physical space shall be within the normal comfort range and consistent with the rest of the building.

Staff shall continuously monitor the student in a timeout room or space. Staff functioning as timeout monitors shall be trained in accordance with law.

Parental Notification

The following procedures shall apply following the use of timeout:

1. The parent or person in parental relation to the student shall receive same-day notification following the use of timeout, including timeout used in conjunction with the student's behavioral intervention plan or use of a physical restraint.
2. When the student's parent or person in parental relation cannot be contacted, after reasonable attempts are made, the Building Principal or building administrator will record such attempts.
3. For students with disabilities, the Building Principal or building administrator shall report such attempts to the student's committee on special education.
4. The District shall provide the parent or person in parental relation to the student a copy of the documentation of the incident within three school days of the use of timeout or a physical restraint.

Whenever an incident has occurred during which a School District employee has had physical contact in any way that could be construed as physical force or corporal punishment, the School District employee must give a full, clear, factual and objective report of the incident to the Building Principal.

A student who has been subjected to physical force by a School District employee or the person(s) in parental relation to such a student may file a grievance in accordance with the procedures outlined in the School District's student grievance regulation.

Documentation

1. The school shall maintain documentation of each incident involving the use of timeout, including timeout used in conjunction with a student's behavioral intervention plan consistent law, and/or physical restraint on each student, which shall include:
 - a. the name and date of birth of the student;
 - b. the setting and location of the incident;
 - c. the name of the staff who participated in the implementation, monitoring and supervision of the use of timeout and/or physical restraint and any other persons involved;
 - d. a description of the incident including duration, and for physical restraint, the type of restraint used;
 - e. whether the student has an individualized education program, Section 504 accommodation plan, behavioral intervention plan, or other plan developed for the student by the school;
 - f. a list of all positive, proactive intervention strategies utilized prior to the use of timeout and/or physical restraint; and for students with disabilities, whether those strategies were consistent with a student's behavioral intervention plan, if applicable;
 - g. the details of any injuries sustained by the student or staff during the incident and whether the student was evaluated by the school nurse or other medical personnel;
 - h. the date and method of notification to the parent or person in parental relation pursuant to this policy and whether a meeting was held; and
 - i. the date of the debriefing held consistent with this policy.
2. Documentation of the incident shall be reviewed by supervisory personnel and, as necessary, the school nurse or other medical personnel.
3. Documentation of each incident shall be maintained by the school and made available for review by the department upon request.

Debriefing

As soon as practicable, and after every incident in which timeout and/or a physical restraint is used on a student, a school administrator or designee shall:

1. meet with the school staff who participated in the use of timeout and/or physical restraint to discuss:
 - a. the circumstances leading to the use of timeout and/or physical restraint;
 - b. the positive, proactive intervention strategies that were utilized prior to the use of timeout and/or physical restraint; and
 - c. planning for the prevention and reduction of the future need for timeout and/or physical restraint with the student including, if applicable, whether a referral should be made for special education programs and/or other support services

or, for a student with a disability, whether a referral for review of the student's individualized education program and/or behavioral intervention plan is needed; and

2. Direct a school staff member to debrief the incident with the student in a manner appropriate to the student's age and developmental ability and to discuss the behavior(s), if any, that precipitated the use of timeout and/or physical restraint.

Investigation of Complaints

Any claim about the use of corporal punishment shall be submitted in writing by the complainant to the Superintendent of Schools. This written complaint will be forwarded to the School Attorney within seven (7) school days. The Superintendent of Schools or designee shall investigate the complaint to determine whether an incident actually took place, and if so, to determine the identity of the person or persons who administered the corporal punishment, the identity of the student or students involved, reasons for the action and any other relevant facts or circumstances. Results of this investigation will be forwarded to the School Attorney upon completion of the investigation.

Reports to Commissioner of Education

Reports shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Education on or before January 15 and July 15 of each year concerning complaints about the use of corporal punishment during the six (6) month reporting period. Such reports shall set forth the substance of each complaint, the results of the investigation and the action, if any, by the School District.

XII. Student Searches and Interrogations

The Board of Education is committed to ensuring an atmosphere on school property and at school functions that is safe and orderly. To achieve this kind of environment, any school official authorized to impose a disciplinary consequence on a student may question a student about an alleged violation of law or the Code. Students are not entitled to any sort of "Miranda" type warning before being questioned by school officials, nor are school officials required to contact person(s) in parental relation to student(s) before questioning the student. However, school officials will tell all students why they are being questioned. In addition, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools, building administrators and School District security officials to conduct searches of students and their belongings if the authorized school official has reasonable suspicion to believe that the search will result in evidence that the student violated the law or the Code.

Students are protected by the Constitution from unreasonable searches and seizures. A student may be searched and contraband seized on school grounds or in a school building by a School District employee only when the School District employee has reasonable suspicion to believe the student is engaging in proscribed activity which is in violation of school rules and/or illegal.

Factors to be considered in determining whether reasonable suspicion exists to search a student include, but are not limited to:

- a) The age of the student;
- b) The student's record and past history;
- c) The predominance and seriousness of the problem in the school where the search is directed; and
- d) The urgency to conduct the search without delay.

If reasonable suspicion exists to believe that a student possesses a weapon, it is permissible for a School District employee to search that student.

An authorized school official may conduct a search of a student's belongings that is minimally intrusive, such as touching the outside of a book bag, without reasonable suspicion, so long as the school official has a legitimate reason for the very limited search. An authorized school official may search a student or the student's belongings based upon information received from a reliable informant. Individuals, other than the School District employees, will be considered reliable informants if they have previously supplied information that was accurate and verified, or they make an admission against their own interest, or they provide the same information that is received independently from other sources, or they appear to be credible and the information they are communicating relates to an immediate threat to safety. School District employees will be considered reliable informants unless they are known to have previously supplied information that they knew was not accurate.

Lockers

Lockers are provided by the school for student use and the administration has the right to search lockers. A student may have exclusive use of a locker as far as other students are concerned, but the student does not have such exclusivity over the locker as it relates to the school authorities.

Questioning of Students by School Officials

School officials have the right to question students regarding any violations of school rules and/or illegal activity. In general, administration may conduct investigations concerning reports of misconduct. These may include, but are not limited to, questioning students, staff, person(s) in parental relation to student(s), or other individuals as may be appropriate and, when necessary, determining disciplinary action in accordance with applicable due process rights.

Should the questioning of students by school officials focus on the actions of one particular student, the student will be questioned, if possible, in private by the appropriate school administrator. The person(s) in parental relation to student(s) may be contacted. The degree, if any, of person(s) in parental relation to student(s) involvement will vary depending upon the nature and the reason for questioning, and the necessity for further action which may occur as a result.

The questioning of students by school officials does not preclude subsequent questioning/interrogations by police authorities, as otherwise permitted by law. Similarly, the questioning of students by school officials does not negate the right/responsibility of school officials to contact appropriate law enforcement agencies, as may be necessary, with regard to such statements given by students to school officials.

School officials acting alone and on their own authority, without the involvement of or on behalf of law enforcement officials are not required to give the so-called "Miranda warnings" (i.e., advising a person, prior to any custodial interrogations as defined in law, of the right to remain silent; that any statement made by the individual may be used as evidence against him/her; and that the individual has the right to the presence of an attorney, either retained or appointed) prior to the questioning of students.

If deemed appropriate and/or necessary, the Superintendent of Schools or designee may also review the circumstances with School District legal counsel so as to address concerns and the course of action, if any, which may pertain to and/or result from the questioning of students by school officials.

Documentation of Searches

The authorized school official conducting the search shall be responsible for promptly recording the following information about each search:

1. Name, age and grade of student searched;
2. Reasons for the search;
3. Name of any informant(s);
4. Purpose of search (that is, what item(s) were being sought);
5. Type and scope of search;
6. Individual conducting search and the individual's title and position;
7. Witnesses, if any, to the search;
8. Time and location of search;
9. Results of search (that is, what items(s) were found);
10. Disposition of items found; and
11. Time, manner and results of notification to the person(s) in parental relation to student(s).

The Building Principal or designee shall be responsible for the custody, control and disposition of any illegal or dangerous item taken from a student. The Building Principal or designee shall clearly label each item taken from the student and retain control of the item(s), until the item(s) is turned over to the police. The Building Principal or designee shall be responsible for personally delivering dangerous or illegal items to police authorities.

Police Involvement in Searches and Interrogations of Students

School District officials are committed to cooperating with police officials and other law enforcement authorities to maintain a safe school environment. Police officials, however, have limited authority to interview or search students in schools or at school functions, or to use school facilities in connection with police work. Police officials may enter school property or a school function to question or search a student, or to conduct a formal investigation involving students only if they have:

1. a search or an arrest warrant;
2. probable cause to believe a crime has been committed on school property or at a school function; or
3. been invited by school officials.

Before police officials are permitted to question or search any student, the Building Principal or designee shall first try to notify the person(s) in parental relation to student to give the person(s) in parental relation to student the opportunity to be present during the police questioning or search. If the person(s) in parental relation to student cannot be contacted prior to the police questioning or search, the questioning or search shall not be conducted. The Building Principal or designee will also be present during any police questioning or search of a student on school property or at a school function. Students who are questioned by police officials on school property or at a school function will be afforded the same rights they have outside the school. This means:

1. They must be informed of their legal rights.
2. They may remain silent if they so desire.
3. They may request the presence of an attorney.

Child Protective Services Investigations

Consistent with the School District's commitment to keep students safe from harm and the obligation of school officials to report to Child Protective Services when they have reasonable cause to suspect that a student has been abused or maltreated, the School District will cooperate with local Child Protective Services workers who wish to conduct interviews of students on school property relating to allegations of suspected child abuse, and/or neglect, or custody investigations.

All requests by Child Protective Services to interview a student on school property shall be made directly to the Building Principal or designee. The Building Principal or designee shall set the time and place of the interview. The Building Principal or designee shall decide if it is necessary and appropriate for a school official to be present during the interview, depending on the age of the student being interviewed and the nature of the allegations. If the nature of the allegations is such that it may be necessary for the student to remove any of the student's clothing in order for the Child Protective Services worker to verify the allegations, the school nurse or other School

District medical personnel must be present during that portion of the interview. No student may be required to remove the student's clothing in front of a Child Protective Services worker or School District official of the opposite gender.

A Child Protective Services worker may not remove a student from school property without a court order, unless the worker reasonably believes that the student would be subject to danger of abuse if the student were not removed from school before a court order can reasonably be obtained. If the worker believes the student would be subject to danger of abuse, the worker may remove the student without a court order and without the consent of the person(s) in parental relation to student.

XIII. Visitors to the Schools

The Building Principal or designee is responsible for all persons in the building and on the grounds. For these reasons, the following rules apply to visitors to the schools:

1. Anyone who is not a regular staff member or student of the school will be considered a visitor;
2. All visitors to the school must report to the security aide at the point of entry upon arrival at the school. Visitors will be required to produce a form of identification (e.g. driver's license) and explain the reason(s) for the visit. There they will be required to sign the visitor's register and will be issued a visitor's identification badge, which must be worn at all times while in the school or on school grounds. The visitor must return the identification badge to the security aide before leaving the building;
3. Visitors attending school functions that are open to the public, such as parent-teacher organization meetings or public gatherings are not required to register;
4. Teachers are expected not to take class time to discuss individual matters with visitors;
5. Any unauthorized person on school property will be reported to the Building Principal or designee. Unauthorized persons will be asked to leave. The School District security or the police may be called if the situation warrants; and
6. All visitors are expected to abide by the rules for public conduct on school property contained in the Code.

XIV. Public Conduct on School Property

The Board of Education and the School District are committed to providing an orderly, respectful environment that is conducive to learning. To create and maintain this kind of environment, it is necessary to regulate public conduct on school property and at school functions. For purposes of this section of the Code, "public" shall mean all persons when on school property or attending a school function including students, teachers and School District personnel.

The restrictions on public conduct on school property and at school functions contained in the Code are not intended to limit freedom of speech or peaceful assembly.

The School District recognizes that free inquiry and free expression are indispensable to the objectives of the School District. The purpose of the Code is to maintain public order and prevent abuse of the rights of others.

All persons on school property or attending a school function shall conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner. In addition, all persons on school property or attending a school function are expected to be properly attired for the purpose they are on school property.

A. Prohibited Conduct

No person, either alone or with others, shall:

1. Intentionally injure any person or threaten to do so;
2. Intentionally damage or destroy School District property or the personal property of a teacher, administrator, other School District employee or any person lawfully on school property, including graffiti or arson;
3. Use language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar or abusive;
4. Engage in any sexual behavior and/or contact;
5. Obstruct pedestrian traffic in hallways, stairwells, and doorways
6. Intentionally obstruct vehicular traffic;
7. Engage in any willful act which disrupts the normal operation of the school community;
8. Intentionally damage or destroy, including graffiti or arson, the personal property of a student, teacher, administrator, other School District employee, or any person lawfully on school property or attending a school function;
9. Steal or attempt to steal the property of students, school personnel, or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function;
10. Be dishonest (lying, lying by omission, knowingly sharing false information);
11. Fail to comply with reasonable directives of teachers, school administrators, or other school employees/contractors in charge of students;
12. Trespass on school grounds or entering a school building without administrative permission and authorized supervision;
13. Fail to vacate school grounds at the conclusion of school authorized activities;
14. Be in an unauthorized area without supervision;
15. Use drones on or above school property;
16. Disrupt the orderly conduct of classes, school programs or other school activities;
17. Distribute or wear materials on school grounds or at school functions that are obscene, advocate illegal action, appear libelous, obstruct the rights of others, or are disruptive to the school program;
18. Intimidate, harass or discriminate against any person on the basis of actual or perceived race, creed, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender (including gender identity and expression);

19. Enter any portion of the school premises without authorization or remain in any building or facility after it is normally closed;
20. Obstruct the free movement of any person in any place to which the Code applies;
21. Violate the traffic laws, parking regulations or other restrictions on vehicles;
22. Possess, consume, sell, distribute or exchange alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, or be under the influence of either on school property or at a school function;
23. Possess or use weapons in or on school property or at a school function, except in the case of law enforcement officers or except as specifically authorized by the School District;
24. Loiter on or about School District property;
25. Gamble on School District property or at School District functions;
26. Refuse to comply with any reasonable order of identifiable School District officials performing their duties;
27. Willfully incite others to commit any of the acts prohibited by the Code;
28. Violate any federal or state statute, local ordinance or Board of Education policy while on School District property or while at a School District function;
29. Commit an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon a teacher, administrator or other School District employee or attempting to do so;
30. Commit an act of violence (including but not limited to choking, hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon a student or any other person lawfully on School District property or attempt to do so;
31. Possess a weapon;
32. Display what appears to be a weapon;
33. Threaten to use any weapon;
34. Fight or engage in violent behavior;
35. Subject students, School District personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function to danger by recklessly engaging in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury;
36. Intimidate any student, School District personnel or any other person lawfully on School District property or attending a School District function;
37. Threaten another with bodily harm;
38. Create a hazardous or physically offensive condition by any act which serves no legitimate purpose;
39. Hide evidence of an illegal act or school violation;
40. Haze;
41. Discriminate against another individual;
42. Defame another individual;
43. Bully (including cyberbullying) another individual;
44. Harass another individual;
45. Sell, use, distribute or possess obscene material;
46. Smoke cigarettes, cigars, pipes or use chewing or smokeless tobacco while on School District grounds or at a School District function;

47. Possess, consume, sell, distribute or exchange alcoholic beverages or illegal substances, or be under the influence of either. "Illegal substances" include, but are not limited to, inhalants, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs, and any substances commonly referred to as "designer drugs";
48. Inappropriately use or share prescription and over-the-counter drugs;
49. Engage in an act of indecent exposure, that is, exposure to sight of the private parts of the body in a lewd or indecent manner;
50. Initiate a report warning of fire or other catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911, or discharging a fire extinguisher;
51. Engage in misconduct while using technology; and
52. Litter or walk animals on School District property.

B. Consequences

Persons who violate the Code shall be subject to the following consequences:

1. Visitors. The visitors' authorization, if any, to remain on School District grounds or at any School District function shall be withdrawn and they shall be directed to leave the premises. If they refuse to leave, they shall be subject to ejection;
2. Students. They shall be subject to disciplinary action as the facts may warrant, in accordance with the due process requirements;
3. Tenured faculty members. They shall be subject to disciplinary action as the facts may warrant in accordance with Education Law § 3020-a, or any other legal rights that they may have;
4. Staff members in the classified service of the civil service entitled to the protection of Civil Service Law § 75. They shall be subject to immediate ejection and to disciplinary action as the facts may warrant in accordance with Civil Service Law § 75, or any other legal rights that they may have;
5. Staff members other than those described in subdivisions 3 and 4. They shall be subject to warning, reprimand, suspension or dismissal as the facts may warrant in accordance with any legal rights they may have; and
6. Board of Education member shall be subject to warning or removal.

C. Enforcement

All School District employees shall be responsible for enforcing the conduct required by the Code.

The School District shall initiate disciplinary action against any student or staff member, as appropriate, with the "Consequences" section above. In addition, the School District reserves its right to pursue a civil or criminal legal action against any person violating the Code.

XV. Notices

All notices required to be provided pursuant to the Code shall be provided in the native language of the person(s) in parental relation to student(s).

XVI. Dissemination and Review

Dissemination of the Code

The Board of Education will work to ensure that the community is aware of the Code by:

1. Providing copies in an age-appropriate, written in plain language, summary of the Code to all students at an assembly to be held at the beginning of each school year;
2. Providing a plain language summary to all person(s) in parental relation to student(s) at the beginning of the school year, and thereafter on request;
3. Posting the complete Code on the School District's website;
4. Providing all current teachers and other staff members with a copy of the Code, and a copy of any amendments to the Code, as soon as practicable after adoption;
5. Providing all new employees with a copy of the current Code when they are first hired; and
6. Making copies of the complete Code available for review by students, persons in parental relation to student(s) and other community members.

The Board of Education will provide training for all School District staff members to ensure the effective implementation of the Code. The Superintendent of Schools may solicit the recommendations of the School District staff, particularly teachers and administrators, regarding in-service programs pertaining to the management and discipline of students. On-going professional development will be included in the School District's professional development plan, as needed.

Review of the Code

The Board of Education will review the Code every year and update it as necessary. In conducting the review, the Board of Education will consider how effective the Code's provisions have been and whether the Code has been applied fairly and consistently. Before adopting any revisions to the Code, the Board of Education will hold at least one (1) public hearing at which School District personnel, person(s) in parental relation to student(s), students and any other interested party may participate.

The Code and any amendments to it will be filed with the Commissioner of Education, in a manner prescribed by the Commissioner, no later than thirty (30) days after adoption.

Ref: 8 NYCRR 100.2(l)(2)

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