

**CIVIL AND LEGAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Schools are for students. Schools reflect the educational philosophy of the communities served. Parents, school staff, and students are in pursuit of a common goal, a program preparing the participants for full, active, responsible participation in the community throughout their lives.

Such a program implies an appreciation for what has preceded us, an understanding of who and where we are, and the opportunity to exercise our rights and assume our responsibilities in participating in the determination of the community's direction.

Such a program protects an individual through limitations upon the rights of others by living up to the guarantees of the U.S. Constitution and the laws of the state.

Personal or public irresponsibility, anarchy, or violence have no place in American Democracy; neither do the extremes of regimentation and authoritarianism.

School boards are legally responsible for the establishment of school policy, and every effort should be extended to include in the formulation of school consideration for the developing maturity of the student. Concomitant responsibilities flow from the exercise of rights and privileges. Among these are:

- a. Respect for one-self
- b. Respect for others and their rights
- c. Respect for individual dignity
- d. Respect for legally constituted authority and the legal responsibility of those in authority.

All rules and regulations to maintain the process of education must be common knowledge. Orientation programs and free student handbooks should provide this information in clear and understandable language. Any changes should be widely publicized in print in both school and parent media, and no regulations should be summarily drafted and enforced.

The board, certificated staff, and student governments should work cooperatively within the limitations prescribed by law in the establishment of these regulations.

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The amending, appeal, and student referenda and recall processes for the establishment of these regulations. The amending, appeal, and student referenda and recall processes for the establishment and enforcement of these rules should be clearly defined and made available to all interested and affected parties.