



Student Code of Conduct

Plain Language Summary:
Elementary/Middle Level (K-8)



Assistance in reviewing this document is available upon request

Board Approved: August 13, 2020

INTRODUCTION

School should be a happy, safe place to learn. The responsibility for this lies with each student. Youngsters who exhibit qualities that foster a happy and safe environment are called "Good Citizens." "Good Citizens" also follow certain rules and procedures. Everyone must know and understand these rules and follow them to and from school, as well as during school. There are procedures for the classroom, bus, playground, hallway, and cafeteria. This booklet states the qualities, rules and procedures that will assist each student in becoming a "Good Citizen" in order to make our schools happy and safe.

In accordance with the **Dignity for All Students Act**, School District policy and practice must ensure that no student is subject to discrimination, harassment, bullying and/or cyberbullying against any student, based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender/gender identity or sex by school employees or students on school property, on a school bus, or at a school function.

School District policy and practice also mandates that any staff member having reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or maltreatment is required to report their concerns to the State Central Register (SCR) and then immediately notify the building administrator. This communication begins a report to Child Protective Services who will investigate the concern.

DEFINITIONS

Bullying: A hostile activity, which harms or induces fear and/or creates terror through the threat of further aggression. Bullying may be premeditated or a sudden activity. Forms of bullying include, but are not limited to, physical and/or verbal assaults, nonverbal or emotional threats, intimidation, social exclusion and/or isolation, extortion, and/or the use of a computer or telecommunications to send embarrassing, slanderous, threatening, or intimidating messages.

Specific examples of bullying may include, but are not limited to:

Verbal bullying: name calling, insulting remarks, verbal teasing, frightening phone calls, texts, or messages on social media, violent threats, extortion, taunting, gossip, spreading rumors, racist slurs, threatening electronic communications, anonymous notes, etc.

Physical bullying: pulling, slapping, hitting, tripping or causing a fall, choking, kicking, punching, biting, pinching, scratching, spitting, twisting arms or legs, damaging clothes and personal property, threatening gestures, etc.

Social bullying: purposely excluding someone from a group, spreading rumors or gossiping, arranging public humiliations, undermining relationships. Teasing about clothing looks, giving dirty looks, aggressive stares, etc.

GENERAL DEFINITIONS

Discrimination: Treating people differently through prejudice or unfair treatment of one person or group usually because of race, ethnicity, social class, age, religion or gender or other personal characteristics.

Gender Expression: How a person shows others through how they look and act whether they are a male or female.

Gender Identity: How a person feels inside about being either a male or female.

Harass: Keep bothering or attacking somebody: to persistently annoy, trouble or upset somebody.

Harassment: Treating other students unkindly with words or actions that prevents them from working on their school work, makes them feel hurt emotionally or unwell physically, or makes them scared to come to school.

Prejudice: Thinking unfairly about someone or a group of people or often treating them unkindly because they may look or act differently. Thoughts and feelings may be inaccurate or wrong because there is not enough information or understanding about why they may look or act differently.

NAME CLASSES IN THE DIGNITY ACT

Race: Grouping people by how they look (this could be skin color, hair texture, face shape, etc.) or people choosing what group they think they belong. For example, when students go to a school for the first time, they are asked to choose from being an Hispanic/Latino; American Indian or Alaskan Native; Asian; Black or African American; Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; White; or two or more races.

Color: The color of a person's skin.

Weight: A person who is heavy or light in weight.

National Origin: Where you or your relatives were born.

Ethnic Group: A way to connect to people because of your race, color, language, religion, way people dress or eat or where you or your relatives were born.

Religion: What people believe. Religion is different for different people and cultures and it can be a way of explaining the mysteries of life, how to live a good life or something that is beyond what we can see, hear or touch...what some people call God, Allah, Huwa, Waheguru, Yaweh/Adonai, etc.

Religious Practice: How you show what you believe in through dress, food, symbols and practices.

Disability: A person who is not able to do things with their body, or think with their mind, as most other people can because of how they were born, or because of an illness or injury they had.

Sexual Orientation: A man or a woman who romantically likes a woman or a man.

Gender: This can be the way a person is physically born, being a boy or a girl; or how a person feels about being a boy or a girl.

Sex: A person being born either a boy or a girl.

CONSEQUENCES

When it is determined that acts of discrimination or harassment, bullying and/or cyberbullying against any student have occurred, the offenders will be given the message that their actions are wrong. Consequences for student who do not follow the Student Code of Conduct shall be varied (ranging from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion.) Remedial measures shall be designed to correct the problem behavior; prevent another occurrence of the problem behavior; protect and provide support for the victim of the act; and take corrective action for documented systemic problems related to discrimination, harassment, bullying and cyber bullying.

The principal and/or the principal's designee in each program are responsible for receiving complaints of discrimination or harassment, bullying and/or cyberbullying. All school employees are required to report alleged violations of the Code of Conduct to the principal or principal's designee. The principal and/or the principal's designee are responsible for determining whether an alleged act constitutes a violation. In so doing, each principal and/or designee's shall conduct a prompt, thorough and complete investigation of each alleged incident.

The BOCES prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports and act of discrimination or harassment, bullying and/or cyberbullying. The consequences and appropriate remedial action for a person who engages in reprisal or retaliation shall be determined by the Principal after consideration

of the nature, severity and circumstances of the act, in accordance with case law, Federal and State statutes and regulations and BOCES policies and procedures.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

All students are expected to give proper attention to personal hygiene and to dress appropriately and professionally for school and school functions. If a uniform is required for the student in their course of study, then students must be prepared with a clean and neat uniform daily. Students are responsible for acquiring and purchasing school uniforms for their course of study. Financial assistance may be available for extreme hardships. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance. All Orange-Ulster BOCES personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting.

A student's dress, grooming and appearance, including jewelry, cosmetic make-up and nails, shall:

1. Be safe, appropriate and not disrupt or interfere with the learning.
2. Recognize that extremely short skirts and shorts and brief garments such as tube tops, net tops, halter tops, midriff/cropped tops, spaghetti straps, plunging necklines (front and/or back) and see-through garments are not appropriate.
3. Ensure that underwear is completely covered with outer clothing.
4. Include appropriate footwear at all times. Approved footwear will be required in certain designated programs. (Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed).
5. **NOT** include the wearing of hats in the classroom except for pre-approved medical or religious purposes.
6. **NOT** include items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous, or that insult or put down others with respect to age, ancestry, color, creed, disability, genetic predisposition or carrier status, marital status, military status, national origin, pregnancy, political affiliation, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any other legally protected status.
7. **NOT** promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.
8. **NOT** include the wearing of skirts, dresses, shorts or "skorts" that are higher than mid-thigh.
9. **NOT** include sharp accessories, hanging straps or chains.
10. **NOT** include the wearing of jackets or outer coats in the classroom.
11. **NOT** include gang-related and/or what can be interpreted as gang-related apparel.

The Principal shall be responsible for informing students and their parents 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. Any student who refuses to do so shall meet with the Principal or his/her designee. Repeat offenders will be considered insubordinate and are subject to disciplinary consequences.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students have a right to:	Students have a responsibility to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ participate in appropriate school or classroom meetings where input can be provided and student will be heard on school issues and concerns. ✓ be safe and learn in an environment free of discrimination or harassment, bullying and cyberbullying based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex. ✓ participate in creating school rules. ✓ be provided with a summary of school rules and an explanation when needed. ✓ participate equally in all school activities regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex. ✓ wear clothes that fit the gender you identify with. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ use words when talking or in writing that are not purposely used to hurt others or make them angry nor are they used in phone messages, texts or on the computer. ✓ use non-sexist, non-racist and other non-biased language. ✓ not treat a person or a group of people unfairly because they look or act different usually because of what is, or what you think is, a person's race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex. ✓ provide input in rule development. ✓ be familiar with the Code of Conduct and follow school rules. ✓ report acts of discrimination or harassment, bullying and cyberbullying and other inappropriate actions that hurt others or make them feel unsafe.

STUDENT CONDUCT

KINDERGARTEN-GRADE 5:

Violation - Examples of what NOT to do:	Prevention, Remediation and Interventions	Disciplinary Actions
<p><u>Minor Violations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Being rude or disrespectful by talking too loud when others are talking, not responding to others who are talking to you, arguing with others, etc.; -Using electronics without a teachers permission. 	<p>EXAMPLES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Adjust hallway "traffic" -Monitor unsupervised areas -Class meetings -Consistent contact with parent/guardian -Role play -Guidance support -Restitution/ restoration -Conflict resolution or mentoring program -Behavioral assessment -Behavior management plan -Outside treatment/therapy 	<p>EXAMPLES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Verbal warning -Written warning -Teacher assigned consequence -Discipline referral (for administrative follow up) -Parent phone notification -Parent conference -Time out -Privileges revoked -Teacher removal- 3214 -Suspension from school
<p><u>Moderate Violations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Saying unkind things such as repeatedly calling someone names, teasing, making fun of someone, etc., especially when someone looks or acts differently; -Touching others in a hurtful way - pushing, shoving, fighting - with no injuries; -Being dishonest: cheating, lying, etc. 		
<p><u>Serious Violations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Hurting another student because of how they look by repeatedly using words that can hurt a person's feelings or physical contact that can hurt a person's body because of what is or appears to be their race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex. (discriminating or harassing behavior). - Engaging in conduct that is violent, including committing or threatening an act of violence; possessing a weapon or what 		

appears to be a weapon; threatening to cause bodily harm, injury or the use of any object as a weapon.

GRADES 6-8:

Violation - Examples of what NOT to do:	Prevention, Remediation and Interventions	Disciplinary Actions
<p><u>Minor Violations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Being rude or disrespectful by being loud, interrupting or ignoring others, talking back, arguing, etc.; -Using electronic devices without permission. 	<p>EXAMPLES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Adjust hallway "traffic" -Monitor unsupervised areas 	<p>EXAMPLES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Verbal warning -Written warning -Teacher assigned consequence
<p><u>Moderate Violations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Purposely using words or gestures that hurt, harm or embarrass others-name calling, teasing, etc. because of what is or appears to be someone's race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex; -Using Facebook to post hurtful comments; -Unwanted physical contact - hitting, pushing, shoving - with no injuries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Class meetings -Regularly monitor bathrooms -Parent/guardian call or conference -Assignment of mentor/coach -Change in class schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Administrative reprimand -Discipline referral -Parent/guardian phone notification or conference -Privileges revoked -Teacher removal-3214
<p><u>Serious Violations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engaging in discrimination or harassment, bullying and/or cyberbullying behavior that hurts another student or makes them afraid because of what is or appears to be their race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex; - Engaging in aggressive behavior that results in serious physical injuries. - Engaging in conduct that is violent, including committing or threatening an act of violence; possessing a weapon or what appears to be a weapon; threatening to cause bodily harm, injury or the use of any object as a weapon. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Programs like PBIS, Olweus -Role play -Guidance support -Peer support group -Restitution/restoration -Conflict resolution or mentoring program -Behavioral assessment -Behavior management plan -Outside treatment/therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Bus suspension -Suspension from school activities -Suspension from school

COVID-19 - As we work with our students during the pandemic, we are required to follow directives from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and New State Education Department (NYSED). Students will be expected to do the following:

- ✓ Wear a face covering where required unless the student has a valid excuse. Student refusal may result in disciplinary action.
- ✓ Submit to a temperature check where required. Student refusal or temperature that exceeds the allowable limits will be required to leave school immediately with a parent or guardian.



Student Code of Conduct

Signature Page

I read and understood this document. I agree to follow the rules of the Orange-Ulster BOCES Code of Conduct.

***Student Name** _____
Print Date

Signature

Parent/Guardian Name _____
Print Date

Signature

*For students unable to independently read and sign Student Code of Conduct signature page, only Parent/Guardian signature necessary.

If Parent/Guardian signing for student, please check here.

The Dignity Coordinator for my school is: _____