

Student Code of Conduct

[New Hanover School Board Policy 4300](#) states, "All decisions related to student behavior are guided by the board's educational objective to teach responsibility and respect for cultural and ideological differences and by the board's commitment to creating safe, orderly, and inviting schools. Students must comply with the Code of Student Conduct in the following circumstances:

1. while in any school building or on any school premises before, during, or after school hours;
2. while on any bus or other vehicle as part of any school activity;
3. while waiting at any school bus stop;
4. during any school-sponsored activity or extracurricular activity;
5. when subject to the authority of school employees; and
6. at any place or time when the student's behavior has or is reasonably expected to have a direct and immediate impact on the orderly and efficient operation of the schools or the safety of individuals in the school environment."

All students are responsible for complying with and are expected to be familiar with the New Hanover County Schools Code of Students Conduct and school board policies governing student behavior and conduct.

Disciplinary Actions

The Code of Student Conduct rules are leveled according to the severity of the violation and type of consequence. In any given situation, based on the unique circumstances of a situation, the principal may utilize a different level of intervention than is indicated on the chart. Various interventions may be considered to address a student's behavior, including restorative practices, detention, referrals to the counselor or community resources.

Level 1-3 Violations – Disruption to the Learning Environment

Level 1

Level I rule violations are considered disruptive and can generally be addressed with non-disciplinary intervention or non-exclusionary discipline consequences. Examples of a Level I violations are leaving class without permission, skipping class, cell phone violations, or dress code violations.

Level 2

Level 2 violations are considered more disruptive and may warrant a 1-2 day in-school or out-of-school suspension, though lower-level interventions and non-exclusionary discipline are encouraged for first offenses. Level 2 violations include insubordination, theft, and disrespect to faculty and staff.

Level 3

Level 3 violations are considered the most disruptive. These violations may result in a short-term suspension of up to 5 days. Level 3 violations include disorderly behavior, gambling, possession of tobacco or vaping device, mutual sexual contact, property damage, fighting, gang activity, and communicating threats.

Level 4-6 Violations – Dangerous and Illegal Conduct on School Campus

Level 4

Level 4 violations are considered dangerous behaviors that impact the safety or security of the students and the school environment. Level 4 violations may result in a short-term suspension up to 10 days, referral to a drug or alcohol class, referral to an alternative placement, and may be required to be reported to law enforcement dependent upon mitigating factors. Level 4 violations include hazing, use of tobacco or a vaping device on school property, possession of alcohol, possession of drug paraphernalia, assault, false fire alarms, discrimination, bullying and cyberbullying, and any type of harassment including sexual harassment.

Level 5

Level 5 behaviors are considered more dangerous and greatly impact the safety of the school environment. All level 5 violations are reported to law enforcement and may result in the recommendation for long-term suspension. Level 5 violations include possession of a controlled substance, possession of a weapon excluding a firearm, bomb threat, and threats of physical attacks with a weapon.

Level 6

Level 6 violations are considered the most dangerous and allows for expulsion from New Hanover County Schools. All level 6 violations are reported to law enforcement. Level 6 violations include assault resulting in serious injury, sexual offenses, possession of a firearm or powerful explosive, and use of or sale of alcohol or controlled substance on a school campus.