

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 283

SECTION/FILE 506 DATE OF ADOPTION June 11, 1984

AFFIRMED/REVISED 6/24/02; 6/14/04; 9/25/06; 5/9/11; 08/13/18

TITLE Student Discipline

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students are aware of and comply with the school district's expectations for student conduct. Such compliance will enhance the school district's ability to maintain discipline and ensure that there is no interference with the educational process. The school district will take appropriate disciplinary action when students fail to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct established by this policy. We urge each parent or guardian and each student to review the material carefully and refer any questions to school staff members.

GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The School Board recognizes that individual responsibility and mutual respect are essential components of the educational process. The school board further recognizes that nurturing the maturity of each student is of primary importance and is closely linked with the balance that must be maintained between authority and self-discipline as the individual progresses from a child's dependence on authority to the more mature behavior of self-control.

All students are entitled to learn and develop in a setting which promotes respect of self, others and property. Proper positive discipline can only result from an environment that provides options and stresses student self-direction, decision-making and responsibility. Schools can function effectively only with internal discipline based on mutual understanding of rights and responsibilities.

Students must conduct themselves in an appropriate manner that maintains a climate in which learning can take place. Overall decorum affects student attitudes and influences student behavior. Proper student conduct is necessary to facilitate the education process and to create an atmosphere conducive to high student achievement.

Although this policy emphasizes the development of self-discipline, it is recognized that there are instances when it will be necessary to administer disciplinary measures. It is the position of the school district that a fair and equitable district-wide student discipline policy will contribute to the quality of the student's educational experience. This discipline policy is adopted in accordance with and subject to the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minn. Stat. 121A.40-121A.56.

In view of the foregoing and in accordance with Minn. Stat. 121A.55, the school board, with the participation of school district administrators, teachers, employees, students, parents, community members, and such other individuals and organizations as appropriate, has developed this policy, which governs student conduct and applies to all students of the school district.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

The School Board

The school board holds all school personnel responsible for the maintenance of order within the school district and supports all personnel acting within the framework of this discipline policy.

Superintendent

The superintendent shall establish guidelines and directives to carry out this policy, hold all school personnel, students and parents responsible for conforming to this policy, and support all school personnel performing their duties within the framework of this policy. The superintendent shall also establish guidelines and directives for using the services of appropriate agencies for assisting students and parents. Any guidelines or directives established to implement this policy shall be submitted to the school board for approval and shall be attached as an addendum to this policy.

Principal

The school principal is given the responsibility and authority to formulate building rules and regulations necessary to enforce this policy, subject to final school board approval. The principal shall give direction and support to all school personnel performing their duties within the framework of this policy. The principal shall consult with parents of students conducting themselves in a manner contrary to the policy. The principal shall also involve other professional employees in the disposition of behavior referrals and shall make use of those agencies appropriate for assisting students and parents. A principal, in exercising his or her lawful authority, may use reasonable force when it is necessary under the circumstances to correct or restrain a student or prevent bodily harm or death to another.

Teachers

All teachers shall be responsible for providing a well-planned teaching/learning environment and shall have primary responsibility for student conduct, with appropriate assistance from the administration. All teachers shall enforce the Code of Student Conduct. In exercising the teacher's lawful authority, a teacher may use reasonable force when it is necessary under the circumstances to correct or restrain a student or prevent bodily harm or death to another.

Other School District Personnel

All school district personnel shall be responsible for contributing to the atmosphere of mutual respect within the school. Their responsibilities relating to student behavior shall be as authorized and directed by the superintendent. A school employee, school bus driver, or other agent of a school district, in exercising his or her lawful authority, may use reasonable force when it is necessary under the circumstances to restrain a student or prevent bodily harm or death to another.

Parents or Legal Guardians

Parents and guardians shall be held responsible for the behavior of their children as determined by law and community practice. They are expected to cooperate with school authorities and to participate regarding the behavior of their children.

Students

All students shall be held individually responsible for their behavior and for knowing and obeying the Code of Student conduct and this policy.

Community Members

Members of the community are expected to contribute to the establishment of an atmosphere in which rights and duties are effectively acknowledged and fulfilled.

STUDENT RIGHTS

All students have the right to:

- Receive an education and the right to learn.
- Receive the help they need from staff.
- Feel comfortable in the school environment.
- Get involved in school activities.
- Choose to follow expectations while understand the resulting consequence.
- Respect others, respect themselves, and stand up for the concept of respect.
- Develop both academically and socially, at the appropriate times and situations.
- Have a voice in the school through the Student Council and to the school administration.
- Express themselves within reasonable limitation while ensuring the comfort of all students and staff in the school.
- Hold own belief system without fear of discrimination.
- Be treated as an equal peer among all students.
- Speak freely and respectfully to all.
- Understand school policy.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

All students have the responsibility:

- For their behavior and for knowing and obeying all school rules, regulations, policies and procedures.
- To attend school daily, except when excused, and to be on time to all classes and school functions.
- To pursue and attempt to complete the courses of study prescribed by the state and local school authorities.
- To make necessary arrangements for making up work when absent from school.
- To assist the school staff in maintaining a safe school for all students.
- To be aware of all school rules, regulations, policies and procedures, including those in this policy, and to conduct themselves in accord with them.
- To assume that until a rule or policy is waived, altered or repealed, it is in full force and effect.
- To be aware of and comply with federal, state and local laws.
- To volunteer information in disciplinary cases should they have any knowledge relating to such cases and to cooperate with school staff a appropriate.
- To respect and maintain the school's property and the property of others.
- To dress and groom in a manner which meets standards of safety and health and common standards of decency and which is consistent with applicable school district policy.
- To avoid inaccuracies in student newspapers or publications and refrain from indecent or obscene language.
- To conduct themselves in an appropriate physical or verbal manner.
- To recognize and respect the rights of others.

CONSEQUENCES

For each inappropriate behavior described, there are specific consequences for first, second and third violations. Those consequences are shown as suspension for a specified number of days, exclusion or expulsion.

In the chart on the following pages, terms are defined in accordance with the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act of 1974.

(*) is defined as: Consequence for a violation may include but is not limited to, student conference, parent notification, restitution, confiscation, detention, and suspension.

Administrators may involve the police and other law enforcement authorities as necessary. If a student violates a district rule, which is also a violation of a law, the student may be referred to the police in addition to being dealt with as described in this regulation.

Principals may use discretion in individual cases. Consequences for a specific offense may be more or less severe than indicated if staff believe it is appropriate. This document is intended to be a guideline.

Except for serious offenses (such as fighting, assault or chemical violations), the accumulation of consequences shall count for one school year only. All students begin each year with no carry-over with the exception with the above mentioned offenses.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Students who are currently identified as disabled under IDEA or Section 504 will be subject to provisions of this policy, unless the student's IEP or 504 plan specifies a necessary modification.