

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

It is essential for schools to maintain a safe and orderly environment which supports student learning and achievement. Good discipline allows the schools to discharge their primary responsibilities to educate students and promote good citizenship. All students are expected to conduct themselves with respect for others and in accordance with Board policies, school rules, and applicable state and federal laws. Disciplinary action will be taken against students who violate policies, rules, or laws, and/or whose conduct directly interferes with the operations, discipline, or general welfare of the school.

The Board expects the following principles to guide the development and implementation of school rules and disciplinary procedures:

- A. Discipline should emphasize positive reinforcement for appropriate behavior, as well as appropriate consequences for misbehavior. The focus should be on providing a school environment where students are engaged in constructive learning and interactions with others.
- B. Expectations for student behavior should be clear and communicated to school staff, students, and parents.
- C. Consequences for misbehavior should be in proportion to the offense, fair and consistently enforced. Administrators shall have the discretion to tailor discipline to the facts and circumstances of the particular case.
- D. Parents shall be invited to be actively involved in the process of preventing and resolving disciplinary problems at school.

Physical force and corporal punishment shall not be used as disciplinary methods. State law provides that a teacher or other person entrusted with the care or supervision of a student for special or limited purposes may not be held civilly liable for the use of a reasonable degree of force against the student who creates a disturbance if the teacher or other person reasonably believes it is necessary to a) control the disturbing behavior; or b) remove the student from the scene of the disturbance. Any restraint or seclusion of students shall comply with applicable regulations and Board policy.

Teachers are authorized to make and enforce rules for effective classroom management and to foster appropriate student behavior, subject to the direction and approval by the building administrator/designee.

School-wide rules shall be developed by the administrators, with appropriate input from staff, students, parents, and community members and approved by the Board. Building administrators and the Board shall provide for the suspension or other serious disciplinary action against students in accordance with Board policies, administrative procedures and Maine law.

Students with disabilities shall be disciplined in accordance with applicable federal and state law/regulations.

Legal Reference: 17-A MRSA § 106
20-A MRSA §§ 1001(15A); 4009

Cross Reference: JIC – Student Code of Conduct
JKAA – Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion
JKD - Suspension of-Student
JKE - Expulsion of Students
JKF - Suspension/Expulsion of Students with Disabilities

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