

Conduct in Halls, Study Hall and Classrooms - Student Discipline

In order to provide an appropriate learning climate, it is proper to have rules governing the behavior of students in halls, classrooms, and study halls. The administration is authorized to consult with the faculty and students and is directed to devise such rules and consequences as are necessary to maximize the learning atmosphere of the school. As much as possible the rules should be printed in the Student Handbook which is approved annually by the Board and therefore shall be considered policy of the district.

Staff and students share responsibility for maintaining a climate in which education can be pursued. What is best for the individual must be balanced with what is most desirable for the entire school population.

The following principles will be observed by the school staff in maintaining student control and discipline in the schools:

1. It is believed that most individuals modify behavior faster under praise than under blame. Therefore, the general approach to discipline will be a positive one. This will include attempting to identify the social, emotional, and academic problems that underlie a student's poor attitude or misconduct, and striving to meet his or her social, emotional, and academic needs.
2. Every individual needs to feel worthy and accepted as a person. In criticizing a student for his or her conduct or attitude and in taking disciplinary action, teachers and other staff members will endeavor to show the student that it is his or her behavior that is objectionable, not the student.
3. The best discipline is self-discipline. Modes of student control over classroom management will offer students the freedom to acquire self-control and self-discipline. This freedom will be extended in keeping with the student's maturity.

Within the above guidelines and specific policies regulating conduct and disciplinary action, the Superintendent will set up procedures for dealing with disciplinary problems.

The Board extends to all of its school employees, professional and nonprofessional, the authority to enforce policy and regulations governing student behavior. Students will comply with the directions given them by staff members.

Legal References: SDCL 13-32-5 through 13-32-7

Adopted: September 11, 1989

Revised: May 12, 1997; July 12, 2010