

Board of Education Policy

CIVILITY AND DECORUM

Standards of Civility

All schools should be places where mutual respect is practiced and reinforced. It is the policy of Miller Place School District to promote an environment in which all members of the school community treat each other civilly, that is, with courtesy and respect in all contacts, whether direct or indirect.

The District does not intend this policy to deprive any person of his or her First Amendment right to freedom of speech or expression. Rather, it seeks to maintain an environment in which people can feel safe, secure and mutually respected.

Expected Behavior

The Board of Education expects a standard of civility in words and actions, whereby all administrative, professional and classified staff, all students, parents, board members, visitors and other members of the school community interact in a courteous, respectful manner. The Board recognizes that disagreements may occur, and members of the school community remain free to express their views. Rather, this expectation relates to the manner in which people communicate and interact with each other. Disrespectful, rude, abusive, or intolerant behavior or language erodes education, is unacceptable, and such behavior shall be addressed when it occurs.

Unacceptable Behavior

Unacceptable behavior includes, but is not limited to, disruptive, demeaning, or antagonistic behavior at school, at school-related meetings, or at school-sponsored events that interferes with school events or the participation at such events by others, including administrative, professional and classified staff, students, parents, Board members, visitors and other members of the school community. Such behavior includes but is not limited to:

- Using loud, and/or offensive language, displays of temper, or speaking in an insulting or demeaning manner, through personal actions, spoken words, graphic representations, or in writing.
- Threatening or intimidating administrative, professional and classified staff, students, parents, Board members, visitors and other members of the school community.
- Behaving in a physically or verbally intimidating manner.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Sending abusive, threatening, or obscene letters, emails or voice messages.

Adopted: 02/27/2008

Reviewed: 11/18/2015 03/17/2020

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