

Students

Civil and Legal Rights and Responsibilities

The Board of Education assures district students that they shall have all the rights afforded them by federal and state constitutions and statutes. The district recognizes all federal, state and local laws in connection with these rights, and reminds students that certain responsibilities accompany these rights.

The district's aim is to provide an environment in which a student's rights and freedoms are respected, and to provide opportunities which stimulate and challenge the student's interests and abilities to his or her highest potential. These opportunities will be available as long as the student pursues these interests and studies in an appropriate manner, and does not infringe upon the rights of others.

It shall be the right of each district student:

1. to have a safe, healthy, orderly and courteous school environment;
2. to take part in all district activities on an equal basis without illegal discrimination;
3. to attend school and participate in school programs unless suspended from instruction and participation for legally sufficient cause as determined in accordance with due process of law;
4. to have school rules and conditions available for review and, whenever necessary, explanation by school personnel;
5. to be suspended from instruction only after his or her legal rights have been observed;
6. in all disciplinary matters, to have the opportunity to present his or her version of the facts, have compulsory process and pre-hearing discovery of all facts and circumstances leading to imposition of disciplinary sanctions to the professional staff member imposing such sanction;
7. not to submit to a survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:
 - a. political affiliations;
 - b. mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student or his/her family;
 - c. sex behavior and attitudes;
 - d. illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating and demeaning behavior;
 - e. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
 - f. legally recognized privileged and comparable relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers; or
 - g. income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program);

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Civil and Legal Rights and Responsibilities (continued)

without the prior written consent of the parent/guardian. However, such survey, analysis or evaluation may be conducted on a wholly voluntary basis, provided that the student and his/her parent/guardian have been notified of their rights and of their right to inspect all materials related to the above. All instructional material, including teachers' manuals, films, tapes, or other supplementary instructional material to be used shall be available for inspection by the parents/guardians of the children.

It shall be the responsibility of each district student:

1. to be familiar with and abide by all district policies, rules and regulations pertaining to student conduct;
2. to work to the best of his or her ability in all academic and extracurricular pursuits and strive toward the highest level of achievement possible;
3. to conduct himself or herself, when participating in or attending school-sponsored extracurricular events, as a representative of the district and as such hold himself or herself to the highest standards of conduct, demeanor, and sportsmanship, and accept responsibility for his or her actions;
4. to seek help in solving problems that might lead to discipline procedures;
5. to be in regular attendance at school and in class;
6. to contribute to the maintenance of an environment that is conducive to learning and to show due respect to other persons and to property;
7. to dress in accordance with standards promulgated by the Board and the Superintendent; and
8. to make constructive contributions to the school, and to report fairly the circumstances of school-related issues.

(cf. 5113 - Attendance and Excuses)

(cf. 5114 - Suspension/Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5144 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

(cf. 5145.2 - Student Grievance Procedure)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
Goals 2000 - Educate America Act
10-15c Discrimination in public schools prohibited.

Policy adopted: March 22, 2001

MARLBOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Marlborough, Connecticut

Students

Interviewing Students

Individual students may not be interviewed by any person except an employee of the Board of Education without the approval of the Principal and notification of the Superintendent. The Principal shall be present at any interview approved by him/her, and he/she shall notify the parents/guardians of the child to be interviewed to ask if they wish to be present at the interview.

Students

Student Grievance Procedures

The Superintendent shall develop regulations for hearing student grievances and review such procedures with the student council.

Legal Reference: U.S.O.E. Title IX (Final Title IX Regulation Implementing Education Amendments of 1972 Prohibiting Sex Discrimination in Education, eff. date 7/21/75 20 U.S.C. @ 1681 et seq.)

Students

Student Grievance Procedures

Any student may bring a grievance to the appropriate school personnel using the following procedures:

Purpose of Student Grievance Procedures

1. To define the correct procedure for students to follow in resolving grievances.
2. To secure at the lowest possible level an equitable solution to the problem for those parties involved with the grievance.

General Conditions

1. Procedures described herein do not limit the right of any student having a problem to discuss it with the Principal or any appropriate school personnel.
2. The student and/or parent/guardian must initiate definite action on the grievance within ten (10) school days following the event or occurrence which gives rise to the grievance or it shall be considered waived.
3. This procedure shall be used only when direct negotiation between parties involved would aggravate existing relationships.
4. Failure at any level of a school district administrator or the Board of Education to submit a written decision within the specified time limits shall permit the aggrieved student and/or parent/guardian to take said grievance to the next level.

Failure by the student and/or parent/guardian to take the grievance to the next level within the specified time limit shall be considered acceptance of the decision rendered at the particular level.

5. Days indicated at each level should be considered as maximum, and every effort should be made to expedite the grievance process. Specified time limits may be extended by mutual written agreement of involved parties.
6. Formal grievances and decisions shall be in writing.
7. In the event a grievance is filed after June 1 of any year and this procedure will not allow for settlement prior to completion of the school year, all parties shall attempt to resolve the grievance within ten (10) school days of the event or occurrence.

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Student Grievance Procedures (continued)

Procedures

1. **Level One.** The student takes up the grievance with the person immediately concerned.
 - A. In those cases where the student believes a relationship is already such that further contact with the other party can only make matters worse, he/she may complete a grievance identification form, obtained in the Principal's office, and return it to the appropriate school personnel within five (5) school days.
 - B. One person shall be assigned to contact the student and/or parent/guardian. Within five (5) school days, a grievance meeting will be held to render a validity judgment on the grievance. At this time the student and/or parent/guardian will be advised as to whether he/she must make another effort to resolve the problem at level one or continue to level two.
2. **Level Two.** If the problem is not resolved at level one, the student and/or parent/guardian may submit a formal grievance to the appropriate school personnel. The school personnel shall immediately refer the grievance to the appropriate administrator who will discuss the grievance with all parties involved, including parents of the student if necessary. The student and/or parent/guardian may choose a committee representative to assist him/her in discussion. Following the discussion, the administrator shall render a decision in writing to all parties involved within ten (10) school days after receiving the grievance form.
3. **Level Three.** If the student and/or parent/guardian is not satisfied at level two, an appeal to the Superintendent, or the Superintendent's designee, may be made within five (5) school days of receiving the written decision. The Superintendent or designee will discuss the grievance with the parties including the parents of the student if necessary. The student may choose an appropriate school personnel representative to assist him/her in discussion. Following the discussion the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall render a written decision to the parties within ten (10) school days of receiving the appeal.
4. **Level Four.** If the student and/or parent/guardian is not satisfied with the decision at level three, within five (5) school days of receiving the written decision, an appeal may be made to the Board of Education. Within one (1) month of receiving the appeal, the grievance shall be placed on the agenda of a Board meeting and all involved parties notified of the meeting at which the grievance will be discussed. The student and/or parent/guardian may choose an appropriate school personnel representative to assist him/her in discussion. Following the discussion and consideration, the Board of Education shall render a decision in writing to all parties involved.

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Student Grievance Procedures (continued)

Procedures (continued)

5. **Level Five.** If the student and/or the student's parents/guardians wish to pursue the grievance, he/she must involve due process of the court system. An appropriate school personnel representative may assist the student's legal representative with any information regarding the grievance.

Legal Reference: U.S.O.E. Title IX (Final Title IX Regulation Implementing Education Amendments of 1972 Prohibiting Sex Discrimination in Education, eff. date 7/21/75 20 U.S.C. @ 1681 et seq.)