

5500 - STUDENT CONDUCT

Respect for law and for those persons in authority shall be expected of all students. This includes conformity to school rules as well as general provisions of law affecting students. Respect for the rights of others, consideration of their privileges, and cooperative citizenship shall also be expected of all members of the school community. The Board of Education has zero-tolerance of violent, disruptive, or inappropriate behavior by its students.

Respect for real and personal property; pride in one's work; achievement within the range of one's ability; and exemplary personal standards of courtesy, decency, and honesty shall be maintained in the schools of this District. It is the responsibility of students, teachers, and administrators to maintain a classroom environment that:

- A. allows teachers to communicate effectively with all students in the class;
- B. allows all students in the class the opportunity to learn;
- C. has consequences that are fair, and developmentally appropriate;
- D. considers the student and the circumstances of the situation; and
- E. enforces the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code accordingly.

Students may be subject to discipline for violation of the Codes of Conduct/Student Discipline Codes, for Students in Grades K-4 or for Students in Grades 5-12, even if that conduct occurs on property not owned or controlled by the Board but that is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on property owned or controlled by the Board, or conduct that, regardless of where it occurs, is directed at a Board official or employee, or the property of such official or employee.

Student conduct shall be governed by the rules and provisions of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Codes. These Codes of Conduct/Student Discipline Codes shall be reviewed annually.

The items in these Codes are applicable to all students when properly under the authority of school personnel during a school activity, function, or event whether on property owned, rented, or maintained by the Board or property owned, rented, or maintained by another party. Additionally, the provisions of these Codes shall apply to students if the prohibited act(s) takes place while on properties immediately adjacent to school property, within the line of sight of school property, on school transportation, or if the act affects the operation of the schools. The code also applies to any student misconduct, regardless of where it occurs, directed at a District official or employee or on the private property of that official or employee.

Students and parents will annually receive at the opening of the school year, or upon entering during the year, written information on the rules and regulations to which students are subject while in school or participating in any school-sponsored activity or event. The information will include the types of conduct that will make students liable to suspension or expulsion from school or other forms of disciplinary action. Parents will receive a copy of the applicable student code with the written mandate that compliance is required for all students. Parents will also be informed of the conduct expected of students.

Violation by a student of any one (1) or more of the following rules of conduct may result in disciplinary action(s), which may include detention, deprivation of privileges, parental contact, referral to legal authorities, suspension of driving privileges (for students age 16 or older), emergency removal, disciplinary removal, suspension, expulsion and/or permanent exclusion. A student may be suspended pending the outcome of expulsion proceedings.

GRADES K-4 CODE OF CONDUCT

A. Academic Dishonesty

A student shall not engage in any act of cheating, plagiarism, or academic dishonesty, including but not limited to the removal and/or changing of any school records.

B. Arson

A student shall not attempt to act or act in the burning or attempted burning of any item on school property.

C. Assault

A student shall not engage in any act or threatened act of physical violence or force causing, attempting to cause, or threatening to cause physical harm to another. A student shall not engage in any fight or other act of violence or force that causes harm or threatens to cause harm to another person. Fighting may lead to police involvement. Acts of harassment and hazing are considered assault as well. Any assault situation may lead to police involvement.

D. Complicity

A student shall not actively or passively aid, abet, and/or otherwise encourage others to violate the rules contained in the Code of Conduct.

E. Computer/Technology Tampering or Inappropriate use of School Property

A student shall not alter or attempt to alter an individual computer or computer network system software, place unauthorized information, computer viruses or harmful programs on the system, and disrupt the operation of the individual computer/network in any way (i.e. chat-rooms, hate mail, harassment, profanity, vulgar statement, discriminatory remarks, proxy servers, inappropriate sites). Students found in violation of this article will lose the privilege to use school computers and face school discipline including suspension.

F. Cyberbullying, Hazing and Degrading Behavior

A student shall not harass, haze, bully, intimidate, degrade, disgrace, disparage, incite, urge, provoke, threaten, discriminate or cause mental or physical harm by any communication by telephone, mail, broadcast, computer network or by any other electronic device against any other student or school employee or otherwise disrupt the school environment. For this purpose, harassment, bullying or intimidation includes, but is not limited to: slurs, displaying or sending inappropriate images or text on electronic devices; profanity; written information; stalking; relational aggression; cyberbullying; denigrating remarks or actions; obscene gestures. Cyberbullying is a form of telecommunication harassment and is a chargeable offense.

G. Damage to Property

A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to either school property or private property, through improper use or otherwise, on school premises or during school activities conducted on or off school grounds. Restitution will be made by the students.

H. Disrespect/Disobedience

A student shall not be disrespectful toward or disobedient to any authorized staff person at any time.

I. Disruption of School/Disorderly Conduct

A student shall not cause any disruption of any classroom activity, or the operation of the school or the educational process and shall not engage in any act that is potentially harmful to the health, welfare, and safety of the student himself/herself, other students or staff.

J. Distribution or Sale of Unauthorized Materials

A student shall not distribute or sell unauthorized materials on school property.

K. Dress or Appearance

A student shall not dress in an obscene manner or in any fashion that, in the judgment of the administration, disrupts the educational process. See-through or mesh garments, midriff blouses or shirts, exposure of any type, spiked jewelry, chains, clothing that exposes undergarments, hats, and clothing with obscene or suggestive statements or symbols are prohibited as any apparel that advertises or promotes sex, drugs, or alcohol. Shoes must be worn at all times. Coats and hats should be placed in lockers and not worn/carried during the school day.

L. Excessive Displays of Affection

Students shall not engage in excessive displays of affection on school property.

M. Failure to Serve School Discipline

Refusing to serve an in-school suspension, misbehavior while serving school discipline, failure to report for an assigned detention, and walking out of the principal's or assistant principal's office while discussing or receiving discipline will not be tolerated. The student may be required to serve the original consequence in addition to further disciplinary action.

N. False Alarms

A student shall not give false alarm of fire, bomb, or other hazard.

O. Gambling

A student shall not engage in any gambling activities, such as playing or gambling for money or other stakes.

P. Insubordination/Defiance

A student shall not refuse to comply with reasonable requests, orders and directions of teachers, substitute teachers, teacher aides, administrators or any other authorized personnel during any period of time when the student is properly under the authority of school personnel. Insubordination includes but is not limited to:

1. disobedience or disrespect toward any staff member
2. not serving assigned detentions
3. not following school rules or proper procedures
4. not following assigned schedule/being in unauthorized area
5. chronically tardy to school or class
6. repeated misbehavior after warning

Q. Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying/Discrimination

Harassment, intimidation, discrimination or bullying behavior by any student/school personnel in the School District is strictly prohibited, and such conduct may result in disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion from school. "Harassment, intimidation, bullying or discrimination" means any intentional written, verbal, graphic or physical act including electronically transmitted acts i.e., cyberbullying via Internet, cell phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), or wireless hand-held device, either overt or covert, by a student or group of students toward other students/school personnel with the intent to harass, intimidate, injure, threaten, ridicule, or humiliate. Such behaviors are prohibited on or immediately adjacent to school grounds, at any school-sponsored activity, on school-provided transportation, or at any official school bus stop that a reasonable person under the circumstances should know will have the effect of: (A) Causing mental or physical harm to the other student/school personnel including placing an individual in reasonable fear of physical harm and/or damaging of students' personal property; and, (B) is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student/school personnel.

R. Loitering

A student shall not loiter or delay in any way that may cause disruption of some activity or function.

S. Misuse of Vehicles on School Property

A student shall not violate the prescribed rules and regulations for use of vehicles on school property.

T. Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages, Drugs, and Paraphernalia

A student shall not use, sell or distribute, possess, buy, be under the influence of, or smell of, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, or narcotics on school property or at any school-sponsored event at any time. A student shall not use, possess, offer to **sell** or distribute, or buy counterfeit or look-alike drugs. Possession of any type of drug paraphernalia is similarly prohibited.

U. Participation in Extra-Curricular Activities

A student participating in extra-curricular activities shall not violate the rules and regulations contained in the Student Code of Conduct or in the Athletic Code of Conduct.

V. Prescription or Non-prescription Drugs

A student shall not use, sell or distribute, buy, or possess prescription or non-prescription drugs without following the procedures for use of such drugs at school.

W. Profane, Obscene or Vulgar Language/Gestures

A student shall not use profane, obscene or vulgar language or gestures at school, on school buses or while engaged in or present at any school-sponsored event or activity.

X. Prohibited Articles

Any object that in the judgement of the administration disrupts or interferes with the educational process or endangers the health, welfare or safety of students or staff is prohibited. Students are not permitted to use cell phones or other personal electronic devices during school hours. This includes but is not limited to wrist watch cell phones, smart watches or any other device capable of texting or any other device capable of texting or voice communication or of capturing/transmitting video and/or audio. These electronic devices may be confiscated if seen by a staff member.

Y. Punctuality and Tardiness

All students are expected to be on time for school and for each class, unless illness or a delayed school bus prevents timely attendance at school.

Z. Repeat Offenses

A student shall not repeatedly fail to comply with school rules and regulations or directions of teachers, student teachers, teacher assistants, principals, or other authorized school personnel. Repeated violations may result in increased severity of the consequence per occurrence.

AA. School Buses

A student shall not violate the prescribed rules and regulations for student conduct on school buses.

AB. Sexual Harassment

A student shall not sexually harass another student. Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

1. sexual flirtation, touching, advances, or propositions
2. verbal or physical abuse of a sexual nature
3. graphic or suggestive comments about an individual's dress or body
4. the use of sexually degrading words to describe an individual

5. displaying sexually aggressive objects or photographs
6. sexually explicit or obscene jokes

AC. Shakedown/Strong Arm/Extortion

A student shall not force another person to give money or articles of value.

AD. Theft

A student shall not attempt to act or act in taking or acquiring of the property of others without their consent.

AE. Tobacco

A student shall not possess, smoke, smell of, or otherwise make use of tobacco and/or tobacco-related paraphernalia of any kind in the school building, on school buses, at school-sponsored activities, or on school property, or within the sight of school property, at any time.

AF. Truancy

A student shall not be absent from school without parental and school approval. Students found in violation will face truancy charges as per Ohio Revised Code and Summit County juvenile Court, both student and parent will be charged if found in violation.

AG. Vandalism

A student shall not attempt to act or act in a way that results in the destruction or defacement of school or private property.

AH. Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

A student shall not bring to school, or threaten to bring, to any interscholastic competition or extra-curricular event/activity on or off school property, or possess, handle, transmit, or conceal any object capable of injuring himself/herself or others. This includes but is not limited to, explosives, pyrotechnic devices of any kind, and other dangerous weapons or ordinances, including objects made, constructed, or altered so that to a reasonable person the object appears to be a firearm.

For students in grades pre-K through 3, an out-of-school suspension and/or expulsion for violation(s) of the Code of Conduct will be applied only when necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student, the student's fellow classmates, the classroom staff and teachers, or other school employees. These violations include but are not limited to possession of a firearm and/or possession of a knife capable of causing serious bodily injury, at a school or school-sponsored activity, making a bomb threat and any act that is a criminal offense when committed by an adult and that results in serious physical harm to persons or serious physical harm to property. A student in grades pre-K through 3 may be assigned to an in-school suspension in a supervised learning environment for violations of the Code of Conduct.

For students in grade 4, the following offenses, as defined above, shall result in automatic suspension with a possible recommendation for expulsion unless mitigating factors significantly outweigh the necessity for punitive measures.

- A. Arson;
- B. Weapons and Dangerous Instruments;
- C. Tobacco;
- D. Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages, Drugs, and Paraphernalia;
- E. Prescription or Non-prescription Drugs.

The following offenses may result in a recommendation for expulsion for one (1) calendar year.

- A. Bomb Threats;

- B. Bringing a firearm to onto property owned, used or controlled by the Board or to a school activity or program off school property;
- C. Bringing a knife capable of causing serious bodily injury into property owned, used or controlled by the Board or to a school activity or program off school property;
- D. Possessing a firearm or knife capable of causing serious bodily injury on school property or at a school activity even if the firearm or knife was initially brought to school or a school activity by another person;
- E. Any criminal offense that results in serious physical harm a person or serious physical harm to property while the student is at school, at a school activity, or on any other property owned or controlled by the Board.

These offenses may result in police charges.