



CODE OF CONDUCT SOLON CITY SCHOOLS

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I. INTRODUCTION

The primary goals of the Solon City Schools are to develop each child's potential for learning and to foster positive interpersonal relationships. Essential to the achievement of these goals is reasonable and necessary order in the educational institution itself. No institution or organization can endure or operate effectively without some form of control over the people it serves, be it home, school, or government. All parties participating in the school community must share the responsibility for maintaining this control.

Parents or guardians have the primary responsibility for establishing and maintaining positive discipline with their children. While students are in school, however, members of the school staff must act in the place of parents in maintaining discipline. Members of the school staff are expected to make every effort to correct and effectively resolve disciplinary problems that occur within their range of responsibilities. Therefore, they shall have the authority necessary to maintain a proper learning climate using reasonable enforcement to prevent and stop any act of interference with the scholarly, disciplined atmosphere of the school. They may call upon other school personnel to help in discharging their responsibilities. Teachers may refer students to the building administrator who is then responsible for determining the necessity for, and the nature of, further disciplinary action.

II. STUDENT'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students share with members of the professional staff the responsibility for maintaining a proper environment for learning within each school. This environment can best be achieved by all parties working together. Students are entitled to know the framework of procedures within which they are expected to assume personal responsibility for their actions and to know the disciplinary measures to be taken when they fail to show this personal responsibility.

III. SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

The maintenance of school discipline and proper behavior is essential to the establishment of a proper learning environment. Students have a responsibility to cooperate with and to assist the school staff in the orderly and efficient conduct of the schools. Students are also responsible for abiding by the rules and regulations established by the Solon Board of Education and implemented by school administrators.

A breach of discipline is any conduct of pupils which interferes with the maintenance of a proper learning environment. Acts of behavior which tend to conflict with the educational program or which are antagonistic to the welfare of other students, the staff, and/or Solon City Schools cannot be tolerated. Student lockers and desks are school property and, as such, may be subject to periodic inspections. In addition, parking on school property is a privilege not a right and cars parked on school property are subject to routine patrols by school officials, and cars may be searched when

reasonable suspicion is determined.

The procedures and other elements of the following discipline policy set forth general guidelines for all schools. However, there is a recognized distinction between students of differing ages and maturity, and it is reasonable to expect that, at times, resorting to the more formal steps of denying educational participation will be tempered by reference to such distinction.

Disciplinary action is determined based primarily on the type of offense committed. Other factors such as the frequency of an offense as well as the child's age are considered. Although the disciplinary options listed below allow for a progressive disciplinary process, all defined below may not be considered or appropriate in a given case. **Offenses of a repetitive or more serious nature may result in discipline commensurate with the seriousness of the offense and may justify suspension and/or expulsion without reference to previous reprimands.**

A. DEFINITIONS

The following provides a definition for the types of the disciplinary actions that may take place.

1. Verbal warning - A warning to a student that his/her conduct is in violation of school rules. It may be issued by any authorized school official including teaching or non-teaching personnel.
2. Parent notification - Direct contact by telephone or letter with a parent or legal guardian of a student to inform them that their child's conduct was in direct violation of school rules.
3. Detention / Extended Detention - The assignment of a student to spend time in addition to regular school time for violation of school rules.
4. Parent conference - A meeting with a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to discuss specific violations of school rules and the impending action school officials may take.
5. Saturday School - A discipline procedure by which a student is required to attend a Saturday detention from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. or 8 a.m. to noon.
6. Community Service - When a student is assigned to Community Service, the student shall be given notice of the intention to impose Community Service and the reasons for the intended Community Service. Parents will be notified when a student is assigned to Community Service. Assignment of Community Service will be at the discretion of a building administrator.
7. Disciplinary removal - The removal of a student from a class, special privilege, or from participation in an extra-curricular activity. During the disciplinary removal period a student will not be permitted to take part in any school function or activity.
8. Emergency removal - The removal of a student whose presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the curricular or extra-curricular school activities according to Policy 5610.03.
9. In-School Suspension - An alternative to the normal classroom environment that allows a student to remain in school and work on and receive credit for class assignments under close supervision. The student will be allowed to ride the bus to and from school. The student will not attend any school functions during the school day or participate in any extra-curricular activities.

10. Out-of-School Suspension - The removal of a student from school for not more than ten (10) days. During the period of suspension a student will not be permitted to attend any school function or activity. Students suspended out of school will be permitted to receive credit for tests and major projects. However, students will not receive credit for class work during a period of suspension.
11. Referral to Outside Authorities - Referral by a school administrator to juvenile authorities for conduct which is not only in violation of school rules but also the law.
12. Expulsion - The removal of a student from school for a period not to exceed 80 school days. The length of an expulsion may be up to one full year for violating district policy regarding firearms, knives, bomb threats and offenses that are criminal when committed by an adult and cause serious physical harm to persons or property, all in accordance with Board Policies 5610 and 5772. Expulsions may extend beyond semesters and school years. During the period of expulsion a student will not be permitted to take part in any school function or activity. In addition a student will not receive credit for class work during the period of expulsion.
13. Permanent Exclusion - State law provides for the permanent exclusion of a student, sixteen (16) years of age or older who engages in certain criminal activity.

Permanently excluded students may never be permitted to return to school anywhere in the State of Ohio. A permanent exclusion may be considered if the student is convicted or adjudicated delinquent for committing one (1) or more of the following crimes while on the property of any Ohio school or at any school activity:

- a. carrying a concealed weapon or conveying or possessing deadly weapons;
- b. possessing, selling or offering to sell controlled substance;
- c. rape, gross sexual imposition or felonious sexual penetration;
- d. murder, aggravated murder on school property or at a school function.

Complicity to commit any of the offenses described above may also result in permanent exclusion, regardless of the location where that complicity occurs.

B. PROCEDURE

Disciplinary action such as verbal warning, parent notification, detention, removal of privileges, parent conference, disciplinary removal, and referral to juvenile court do not require special procedures before being implemented.

In the case of Saturday School, community service, emergency removal, suspension, expulsion, and reassignment, the following procedures will be used:

1. **Saturday School** - Before a student is assigned to Saturday School, the student shall be given written notice of the intention to impose a Saturday School assignment and the reasons for the intended Saturday School assignment. Parents will be notified when a student is assigned to Saturday School.
2. **Community Service** - Before a student is assigned to Community Service, the student shall

be given written notice of the intention to impose Community Service and the reasons for the intended Community Service. Parents will be notified when a student is assigned to Community Service. When Community Service is offered, it is offered as an alternative to Out-of-School Suspension.

3. **Emergency Removals** - When circumstances are such that a student's continuing presence is reasonably certain to pose a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting curricular activities or from the school premises, the superintendent, principal, or assistant principal may remove a student from curricular activities, or from the school premises without complying with the notice and hearing requirements required prior to suspension or expulsion.

If a student is removed under emergency removal, written notice of the reason(s) for the removal and written notice of the hearing to be held regarding the removal shall be given to the student as soon as practicable prior to the hearing. Parents will be notified when a student is removed under this section.

The hearing shall be held in accordance with the procedure set forth under the suspension procedure, unless it is probable that the student may be subject to expulsion. In that event, the hearings shall be held in accordance with the procedure set forth under the expulsion procedure except that the hearing shall be held within three (3) school days of the initial removal. The individual who ordered, caused, or requested the student's removal under this Article shall be present at the hearing.

4. **In/Out-of-School Suspension** - When the alleged misconduct becomes known, the student shall be given written notice of the intention of suspension and the reasons for such action by the superintendent, principal, assistant principal or other administrator. The student will be given an opportunity to appear at an informal hearing before the principal, assistant principal, superintendent or superintendent's designee and challenge the reasons for the suspension or otherwise explain his/her actions.

Within one (1) school day after the time of a student's suspension, the superintendent or principal shall send written notice of the suspension to the student's parent, guardian, or custodian and the Treasurer of the Board of Education. The notice shall include the duration of the suspension and the reasons therefore. It also shall include notification of the right of the student or his/her parent, guardian, or custodian to appeal the suspension to the Board of Education or its designee by notifying the Board's Treasurer within fourteen (14) calendar days of the suspension, to be represented in the appeal proceeding, to be granted a hearing before the Board or its designee in order to be heard against the suspension, and to request such hearing be held in executive session. The Board or its designee, however, shall act upon a suspension only at a public meeting.

The Board, by majority vote of its full membership, or by the action of its designee, may affirm the suspension or may reinstate the affected student or may otherwise reverse, vacate or modify the order of suspension.

5. **Expulsion** - Prior to any expulsion, the superintendent shall give the student and his/her parent, guardian, custodian, or representative written notice of the intention of expulsion.

The notice shall include the reasons for the intended expulsion, notification of the opportunity of the student, and his/her parent, guardian, custodian, or representative to appear before the superintendent or his/her designee to challenge the reasons for the intended expulsion or otherwise to explain the student's actions, and notification of the time and place to appear. The time to appear shall not be earlier than three (3) nor later than five (5) school days after the notice is given, unless the superintendent grants an extension of time at the request of the student or his/her parent, guardian, custodian, or representative. If an extension of time is granted, the superintendent shall notify the student and his/her parent, guardian, custodian or representative of the new time and place to appear.

Within one school day after the time of any expulsion, the superintendent shall send written notice to the student and his/her parent guardian, or custodian and the Treasurer of the Board of Education. The notice shall include the duration of the expulsion and the reasons therefore. It also shall include notification of the right of the student or his/her parent, guardian, or custodian to appeal the expulsion to the Board of Education or to its designee by notifying the Board's Treasurer within fourteen (14) calendar days of the expulsion, to be represented in the appeal proceeding, to be granted a hearing before the Board or its designee, and to request that such hearing be held in executive session. The Board or its designee, however, shall act upon an expulsion only at a public meeting.

6. **Permanent Exclusion** - State law provides for the permanent exclusion of a student, sixteen (16) years of age or older who engages in certain criminal activity.

Permanently excluded students may never be permitted to return to school anywhere in the State of Ohio. A permanent exclusion may be considered if the student is convicted or adjudicated delinquent for committing one (1) or more of the following crimes while on the property of any Ohio school or at any school activity:

- a. carrying a concealed weapon or conveying or possessing deadly weapons;
- b. possessing, selling or offering to sell controlled substance;
- c. rape, gross sexual imposition or felonious sexual penetration;
- d. murder, aggravated murder on school property or at a school function.

Complicity to commit any of the offenses described above may also result in permanent exclusion, regardless of the location where that complicity occurs.

IV. TIMES/PLACES

Unless otherwise noted in the individual section, this code shall be applicable to any conduct: on

school grounds, during and immediately before or after school hours; on school grounds at any other time when the school is being used by a group; off school grounds at a school-sponsored activity, function, or event; on a school bus or conveyance; or at any other time when the student is subject to the authority of the school. Students may be subject to discipline for violation of the discipline code regardless of where the misconduct takes place if the misconduct is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on property owned or controlled by the Board.

V. MISCONDUCT FOR WHICH ANY DISCIPLINE INCLUDING SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION MAY OCCUR

Each of the following describe misconduct that may result in a disciplinary consequence, including a suspension, expulsion, or both. When minimum consequences are described, the administrators and school officials have complete discretion, based on their judgment of the particular circumstances, whether to impose minimum consequences or greater consequences.

Parents/guardians and students should refer to the school handbook and Board Policy for potential consequences beyond what is specified within this section. Any more specific provision contained in a building-level code of conduct controls over the general provisions contained herein.

A. Disruption of School

Students shall not use violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, harassment, intimidation, fear, passive resistance or any other conduct; cause, attempt, or threaten to cause the disruption or obstruction of any lawful mission, process, activity, or function of the school.

Students shall not urge other students to engage in such conduct for the purpose of causing, attempting or threatening to cause the disruption or obstruction of any lawful mission, process, activity or function of the school.

While this list is not intended to be all-inclusive, the following acts illustrate the kinds of misconduct prohibited by this rule:

1. Unauthorized presence in any school building, school grounds or part thereof
2. Blocking the entrance or exit of any school building
3. Setting fire or attempting to set fire to or damaging or attempting to damage or defacing or attempting to deface any school building or property
4. Making, by telephone call, letter electronically or other means, a threat to damage or destroy any school property or to disrupt any school-sponsored or related activity, function or event on or off school grounds

5. Activating or attempting to activate the alarm system or AED units in the absence of a fire or emergency
6. Preventing or attempting to prevent by physical act or verbal utterance, the convening or continuing functioning of any school, class, or activity or any lawful meeting or assembly on or off the school property
7. Preventing or attempting to prevent students from attending a class or any school-sponsored or related activity or event
8. Except under the direct instruction of the principal or other authorized school personnel, blocking pedestrian or vehicular traffic on school property or at the site of any school-sponsored or related activity or event

A1. Classroom Disruption

Behavior which interferes with instruction will not be tolerated. The teacher has the right and responsibility to maintain order in the classroom. The severity of the consequence will depend on the extent of the disruption.

B. Damage, Destruction, Vandalism

Students shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to school property. If school property is damaged, the school will require restitution. If personal property is damaged, the school will help facilitate exchanged information between all parties involved.

C. Theft, Possession of, or Unauthorized Removal or Use of School and/or Private Property

Students shall not misappropriate, steal, or attempt to steal school or private property or attempt to engage in or participate in the unauthorized removal or use of, including the possession of misappropriated or stolen materials, of school or private property.

D. Fighting/Physical Assault

A student shall not cause or attempt to cause physical injury to a school employee, authorized school visitor, or another student.

D1. Threats

Students shall not make verbal or written threats directed towards school property, any school employee, authorized school visitor, or any other student. A threat assessment may be

administered based on the nature and severity of the threat.

D2. Aggressive Conduct/Disrespect/Intimidation

Students shall not engage in behavior that causes or may cause harm to themselves or others or puts themselves or others at risk of harm. Students shall not intimidate, insult, annoy or attack using physical, verbal, written or electronic action (including text messaging, instant messaging, social networking, photos, videos, etc.) any member of the school community. Any action that creates fear or harm, an intimidating or hostile education or work environment, without displaying a weapon and without subjecting the victim to actual physical attack (i.e., bullying, hazing, threat of harm) is prohibited. Harassment and intimidation may be reported to local police.

D3. Bullying

Any intentional written, verbal, graphic or physical act(s) that a student or group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental or physical harm to the other student(s) and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student(s). Bullying also means electronically transmitted acts (i.e., internet, e-mail, cellular telephone, personal digital assistants (PDA), or wireless hand-held device) that a student(s) or a group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental and physical harm to the other student(s) and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s).

D4. Harassment

Harassment means any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of technology, or written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a student or school employee that: a) places a student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property; b) has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, or an employee's work performance; or c) has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

D5. Horseplay

Engaging in rough or boisterous play that is not rooted in anger or malicious intent by either party. Intended horseplay by one individual which results in an unsafe condition, physical injury, and/or destruction of property will be treated more severely than the beginning consequence for horseplay (at the discretion of the administrator). If damage occurs, the school will require restitution.

E. Smoking

Students shall not possess, use, transmit, conceal or roll cigarettes or tobacco products including smokeless tobacco products.

E1. Vaping

Students shall not possess, use, transmit, conceal or sell any electronic smoking products or devices including, but not limited to: vaporizers, chargers, Juuls, vape pens, vape mods, e-cigarettes, dab pens, e-liquids, e-juice, etc.

Please Note: E-cigarettes, vaping, juuling, or the use of other similar devices that are used to inhale or ingest foreign substances, will initially be treated as a drug offense. Within twenty-four (24) hours of the violation, the student may complete an approved drug screen with an approved testing facility. Test results must be sent directly to the school administrator from the testing facility. Upon receipt/ review of the results, if the administration is able to clearly establish that no illegal substance (other than nicotine) has been discovered, the administrator may reduce the violation to a vaping offense.

F. Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages, Stimulant Drugs, Anabolic Steroids

During school and immediately before or after school hours, summer school, travel on any school-provided transportation or any school-sponsored activity held on or off school property, students shall not possess, buy, offer to sell, sell, use, supply, transmit, or apply any anabolic steroids or mood-altering chemical of any kind including alcohol. "Possession" includes, without limitation, retention on the student person or in purses, wallets, lockers, desks, or automobiles parked on the school property. "Mood-altering chemical" includes, without limitation, narcotics, depressants, stimulants, hallucinogens, counterfeit drugs, marijuana, alcohol, intoxicating inhalants, and prescription drugs, unless authorized by a medical prescription from a licensed physician and kept in the original container, which container shall state the student's name and directions for proper use. Also included are over-the-counter medications taken without parental permission.

A student may be allowed an over-the-counter medication upon the written authorization of the parent or physician. The parent or physician must complete Form 5330 F1, Prescriber and Parent Request for the Administration of Medication at School and submit it to the nurse for filing in the student's records.

E-cigarettes, vaping, juuling, or the use of other similar devices that are used to inhale or ingest foreign substances, will initially be treated as a drug offense. Within twenty-four (24) hours of the violation, the student may complete an approved drug screen with an approved testing facility. Test results must be sent directly to the school administrator from the testing facility. Upon receipt/review of the results, if the administration is able to clearly establish that no illegal substance (other than nicotine) has been discovered, the administrator may reduce the violation to a vaping offense. (See letter E1).

Notwithstanding the progressive discipline policy outlined above, administrators will observe the following procedures in regard to violations of this rule. When students are found to be under the influence, to possess or sell illegal substances, the administrator will promptly report such cases to the local police authorities.

G. Failure to Comply with Directives (Insubordination)

Students shall comply with directives and requests of teachers, student teachers, substitute teachers, educational aides, bus drivers, principals, and other school personnel.

H. Failure to Accept Discipline or Punishment

Students shall not refuse to accept discipline or punishment from teachers, student teachers, substitute teachers, educational aides, bus drivers, principals, or other appropriate school personnel.

I. Cheating / Plagiarism

Cheating or Plagiarism is defined as the act of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, images, or writings of another. (TEXT refers to ideas, words, images, writings, etc.)

Acts of plagiarism/cheating include, but are not limited to the following (without acknowledgment or proper citation):

1. Copying and pasting text from online media or website
2. Copying text from any printed material (books, magazines, newspapers, etc.)
3. Rewording or altering text and claiming as your own
4. Using photo, video, or audio
5. Using the work of or collaborating with another student, a family member, or any outside party without teacher permission [Do not share any of your work with another student unless you have explicit permission from the teacher]
6. Purchasing or obtaining pre-written work from any individual or commercial source
7. Obtaining a translation from any individual or commercial source, including online translation services
8. Using an essay that was written for another class/purpose without both teachers' permission
9. Enabling another student to commit any of the above acts
10. Stealing a school assignment
11. Possessing and/or distributing a stolen school assignment. Any visible electronic device during an assessment (this includes cell phones, smart watches, AirPods, headphones).
13. Talking during an assessment without teacher permission
14. Looking at another student's work during an assessment

The above applies to all kinds of academic work including, but not limited to: essays, exams [quizzes, tests], homework, other assignments, computer programs, music scores, web pages, choreography, graphical depictions, visual representations.

J. Weapons, Dangerous Instruments, Fireworks and Explosives

Students shall not use, possess, handle, transmit, sell or conceal any object that can be classified as a weapon or dangerous instrument. Weapons and dangerous instruments shall include any object which is intended to be used or is used to inflict physical harm or property damage or to threaten to inflict such harm or damage.

Students shall not possess, handle, transmit, sell, conceal or bring onto school grounds any fireworks, explosives, or munitions, nor shall students ignite, explode or detonate or attempt to ignite, explode or detonate fireworks, explosives, or munitions.

Ten (10) days Out-of-School Suspension and a recommendation for expulsion will be the recommended penalty for violation in this area. All offenders will be referred to the proper legal authority.

K. Profane, Vulgar or Improper Language or Gestures

Students shall not display, speak, write, or use profane, vulgar, derogatory, demeaning or other improper or inappropriate language, signs or actions or pornographic materials in the school setting. Students shall not use threatening, vulgar, profane or abusive language or make a threatening, vulgar, profane, or abusive gesture toward any school employee, authorized school visitor, or any other student. Inappropriate language directed at or towards another individual may be subject to a more significant disciplinary consequence at the discretion of administration.

L. Extortion

Students shall not use or attempt to use an expressed or implied threat, violence, harassment, coercion or intimidation to obtain money or any other type of property belonging to another student, a school employee or other person.

M. Gambling

Students shall not engage in or promote games of chance, placing of bets, or risk anything of value.

N. Truancy, Tardiness or Class Cutting

Students shall not be absent from all or any portion of the regularly scheduled classes or other mandatory activities without school authorization and parental consent.

O. Trespass

Students shall not enter upon school grounds or premises of a school building to which the students are not assigned during or after school hours except with the express permission of the school principal of that building or to attend or participate in a school-sponsored event in which their regularly assigned school is involved or where students from their regularly assigned school have

been invited to attend or participate.

Students already under suspension, expulsion, or removal (emergency or disciplinary) shall not enter upon the grounds or premises of the students' regularly assigned or other school building without the express permission of the principal.

O1. Loitering

Students must vacate the building by 15 minutes after the completion of the school day unless they are attending an authorized school activity.

P. Lying

Students shall not lie about, fabricate, distort, or change information given to school staff or administration.

Q. Forgery

Students shall not forge the writing of another or falsely use the name of another person or falsify times, dates, grades, address- es, or other data on school forms or school-related correspondence.

R. Violation of School Bus Conduct Requirement

Students shall not act or participate in any act or acts or attempt to act or participate in any act which poses or tends to pose a danger to the safe operation of a school bus or conveyance as set forth in OAC 3301-83-08(C), including, but not limited to, failing to remain seated, throwing objects at passengers, the driver, or out of the windows, extending arms or objects out of the windows, eating, and shouting and other disorderly conduct which could cause physical harm, emotional stress, or diversion of the driver's attention. All other provisions of the code of conduct also apply during transportation.

S. Dress and Appearance

The Solon Board of Education believes that pride in one's self and school is often reflected in the way students dress. In order for a student to look his/her best, he/she should be knowledgeable about health, grooming, and choice of clothing. Poise and confidence are derived from individuals looking his/her best and feeling his/her best.

Students are to appear in school dressed for an academic setting. Parents and students should make appropriate selections reflecting the important nature of the academic atmosphere and the health and safety of the students. If there are any questions as to the appropriateness of any type of clothing, the school should be contacted in advance.

The following items are prohibited:

See through clothing

Hoods or any head covering that obstructs the view of the face

Clothing that is detrimental to health and safety

Clothing that exposes your chest, stomach, or undergarments

Clothing that creates a hostile, intimidating, or harassing learning environment.

Clothing that is disruptive to the academic atmosphere of the school

Clothing that advertises or encourages activities prohibited in the code of conduct (drugs, alcohol, profanity, etc.)

Wearing of buttons, badges, arm bands, etc. bearing slogans or sayings shall be permitted as a form of expression, unless the message is obscene, harassing, libelous, or inflames or incites students so as to create a clear and present danger or a material and substantial disruption of the school environment .

S1. Face Coverings - During times of elevated community spread of communicable diseases (pandemic or epidemic), when instituted by the Superintendent, students shall wear a face mask unless they are unable to do so for a health or developmental reason. Any person may be required to temporarily remove a face mask or covering when instructed to do so for identification or security reasons. Students may be subject to disciplinary action if they fail to comply.

T. Public Display of Affection

Students shall not engage in kissing, embracing or displays not appropriate to the educational environment.

T1. Sexual Acts

Students shall not engage in sexual acts at any time on school property or at school sponsored events. Consequences for violating this rule may result in a 10 day out of school suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

U. Hazing

Students shall not threaten, act, or participate in or attempt to threaten, act or participate in any act or acts that injures, degrades, disgraces, or tends to injure, degrade, or disgrace any student.

Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any class, team, or organization or any act to continue or reinstate membership in or affiliation with any class, team, or organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing

mental or physical harm to any person, including coercing another to consume alcohol or a drug of abuse. No person shall recklessly participate in the hazing of another. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.

Hazing by any individual, school group, club, or team is not permitted. This includes any form of initiation that causes or creates a risk of causing mental or physical harm, no matter how willing the participant may be. Hazing activities are prohibited at any time in school facilities, on school property, and /or off school property but connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on school property. All incidents of hazing must be reported immediately to any of the following individuals: the building principal or other administrator: teacher; coach; student club advisor/supervisor, and/or Superintendent. Students who engage in hazing may also be liable for civil and criminal penalties.

Any violation of the hazing policy, including athletic violations, may result in multiple days of out-of-school suspension and recommendation for expulsion. This policy applies to all school sponsored activities.

V. Social Media

The use of email messages, text messages, blogs, websites or other electronic communications to make inflammatory or derogatory comments, and/or inappropriate descriptions or pictures regarding another team member, another student, a coach, another school or team, or other staff member is strictly prohibited. For the purposes of this policy, inappropriate comments may include, but are not limited to, inappropriate comments/pictures/descriptions regarding another person's race, ethnic background, culture, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

Any violations of our social media policy may result in multiple days of out-of-school suspension and recommendation for expulsion. This policy applies to all school sponsored activities.

W. Sexting

"Sexting" is prohibited at any time on school property or at school functions. Sexting is the electronic transmission of sexual messages or pictures, usually through cell phone text messaging. Such conduct not only is potentially dangerous for the involved students but can lead to unwanted exposure of the messages and images to others, and could result in criminal violations related to the transmission or possession of child pornography. Such conduct will be subject to discipline and possible confiscation of the wireless communication device.

Consequences for violating this rule may result in multiple days of out-of- school suspension, recommendation for expulsion and local police may be notified. This policy applies to all school sponsored activities.

X. Sexual Harassment

Ohio and Federal laws define sexual harassment as unwanted sexual advances, or unwanted visual, verbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Such offensive behavior is fully defined in Policy 2266, and includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Making or threatening reprisals after a negative response to sexual advances.
2. Non-verbal conduct: leering; making sexual gestures; displaying sexually suggestive objects, pictures, cartoons, or posters.
3. Verbal conduct: making or using derogatory comments, epithets, slurs, or jokes; making sexually-based remarks about another person's or one's own body.
4. Verbal abuse of sexual nature, graphic verbal commentaries about an individual's body, sexually degrading words used to describe an individual, suggestive or obscene letters, notes or invitations.
5. Physical conduct: touching, assaulting, impeding, or blocking movement.

Any violation of the sexual harassment policy may result in multiple days of out-of-school suspension and recommendation for expulsion. This provision and Policy 2266 apply to all school sponsored activities.

Y. Use of Electronic Devices

The use of all electronic devices will be governed by the district technology acceptable use policy. Please refer to your building level handbooks for specific policies regarding electronic device usage.