

Giles County Board of Education

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| Monitoring: Review: Annually, in March | Descriptor Term: Code of Conduct | Descriptor Code: 6.300 | Issued Date: 04/08/21 |
| | | Rescinds: 6.300 | Issued: 12/05/19 |

1 The GCBOE delegates to the Director of Schools the responsibility of developing specific codes of
 2 conduct which are appropriate for each level of school. Codes of conduct for students in pre-
 3 kindergarten or kindergarten shall utilize alternative disciplinary practices such as positive behavioral
 4 supports. Exclusionary discipline shall only be used as a measure of last resort. The development of
 5 each code shall involve principals and staff members of each level and shall be consistent with the
 6 relevant policies as adopted by the GCBOE.¹

7 The following levels of misbehavior and disciplinary procedures and options are standards designed to
 8 protect all members of the educational community in the exercise of their rights and duties and to
 9 maintain a safe learning environment where orderly learning is possible and encouraged.² These
 10 misbehaviors apply to student conduct on school buses, on school property, and while students are on
 11 school-sponsored outings (GCBOE policy 6.308). Furthermore, the code of conduct shall be applicable
 12 to students participating in virtual learning environments.

13 No part of this policy shall abrogate the rights of those students protected by the Individual with
 14 Disabilities in Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or any other state or federal law in
 15 any way. Nothing in this policy shall allow the use of restraint or seclusion against any student in
 16 violation of GCBOE policy, state law, or federal law. GCSS supports the use of restraint and seclusion
 17 when necessary and appropriate, but only in compliance with state and federal law and not as a means
 18 of discipline (GCBOE policy 6.4081).

19 In accordance with GCBOE policy 6.302, procedural due process will be utilized for disciplinary
 20 matters within the Giles County School System.

21 **MISBEHAVIORS: LEVEL I**

22 This level includes minor misbehavior on the part of the student which impedes orderly classroom
 23 guidelines or interferes with the orderly operation of the school but which can usually be handled by an
 24 individual staff member.

25 *Examples (not an exclusive listing)*

- 26 ● Classroom disturbances (GCBOE policy 6.306, 6.316)
- 27 ● Classroom tardiness
- 28 ● Cheating and lying (GCBOE policy 4.406, 6.316)
- 29 ● Abusive language (GCBOE policy 4.406, 6.316)
- 30 ● Failure to do assignments or carry out directions (GCBOE policy 6.316)

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- 1 ● Wearing, while on the grounds of a public school during the regular school day,
2 clothing that exposes underwear or body parts in an indecent manner that disrupts the
3 learning environment⁴ (GCBOE policy 6.310)
- 4 ● Victimization of any student (harassment (sexual, racial, ethnic, religious), bullying,
5 cyber-bullying, and/or hazing) (GCBOE policy 6.304, 6.3041)
- 6 ● Gang activity or association (GCBOE policy 6.310, 6.3101)
- 7 ● Unauthorized use of personal communication and electronic devices (GCBOE policy
8 6.312)
- 9 ● Unauthorized use of the internet (GCBOE policy 4.406)

10 *Disciplinary Procedures*

- 11 ● The staff member or administrative designee intervenes immediately.
- 12 ● The staff member or administrative designee determines what offense was committed
13 and its severity.
- 14 ● The staff member or administrative designee determines who committed the offense
15 and if he/she understands the nature of the offense.
- 16 ● The staff member or administrative designee employs appropriate disciplinary options.
- 17 ● The record of the offense and disciplinary action shall be maintained by the staff
18 member or administrative designee.

19 *Disciplinary Options (not an exclusive listing)*

- 20 ● Verbal reprimand
- 21 ● Special assignment
- 22 ● Restricting activities
- 23 ● Counseling
- 24 ● Withdrawal of privileges
- 25 ● Issuance of demerits
- 26 ● Strict supervised study
- 27 ● In-school suspension
- 28 ● Restorative practices
- 29 ● Positive behavioral interventions
- 30 ● Multi-tiered system of supports
- 31 ● Behavior intervention plans
- 32 ● Modified learning environment

33 **MISBEHAVIORS: LEVEL II**

34 This level includes misbehavior whose frequency or seriousness tends to disrupt the learning climate of
35 the school. These misbehaviors do not represent a direct threat to the health and safety of others but
36 have educational consequences serious enough to require corrective action on the part of
37 administrative personnel.

1 *Examples (not an exclusive listing)*

- 2 ● Continuation of unmodified Level I misbehaviors
3 ● Using forged notes or excuses
4 ● Disruptive classroom behavior (GCBOE policy 6.306, 6.316)

5 *Disciplinary Procedures*

- 6 ● The student is referred to the principal for appropriate disciplinary action.
7 ● The principal meets with the student and the staff member.
8 ● The principal hears the accusation made by the staff member and allows the student the
9 opportunity to explain his/her conduct.
10 ● The principal takes appropriate disciplinary action and notifies the staff member of the
11 action.
12 ● The record of offense and disciplinary action shall be maintained by the principal.

13 *Disciplinary Options*

- 14 ● Teacher/schedule change at administrative discretion
15 ● Peer counseling
16 ● Corporal punishment
17 ● In-school suspension
18 ● Suspension from school-sponsored activities or from riding school bus
19 ● Out-of-school suspension
20 ● Restorative practices
21 ● Positive behavioral interventions
22 ● Multi-tiered system of supports
23 ● Behavior intervention plans
24 ● Modified learning environment

25 **MISBEHAVIORS: LEVEL III**

26 This level includes acts directly against persons or property but whose consequences do not seriously
27 endanger the health or safety of others in the school.

28 *Examples (not an exclusive listing)*

- 29 ● Continuation of unmodified Level I and II misbehaviors
30 ● Fighting (GCBOE policy 6.306, 6.316)
31 ● Vandalism (GCBOE policy 6.311, 6.316)
32 ● Use, possession, sale, distribution, and/or being under the influence of tobacco or
33 alcohol (GCBOE policy 1.803, 6.307)
34 ● Use, possession, sale, or distribution of drug paraphernalia (GCBOE policy 6.307,
35 6.316)
36 ● Use and/or being under the influence of drugs (GCBOE policy 6.307, 6.316) Theft
37 (GCBOE policy 6.311)
38 ● Threats to others (GCBOE policy 6.304, 6.306, 6.316)

- 1 ● Possession, use, and/or transfer of dangerous weapons (GCBOE policy 6.316)

2 *Disciplinary Procedures*

- 3 ● The student is referred to the principal for appropriate disciplinary action.
 4 ● The principal meets with the student and the staff member.
 5 ● The principal hears the accusation and allows the student the opportunity to explain
 6 his/her conduct.
 7 ● The principal takes appropriate disciplinary action.
 8 ● The principal may refer the incident to the Director of Schools and make
 9 recommendations for consequences.
 10 ● The record of offense and disciplinary action shall be maintained by the principal.

11 *Disciplinary Options*

- 12 ● Corporal punishment
 13 ● In-school suspension
 14 ● Restitution from loss, damage, or stolen property
 15 ● Out-of-school suspension
 16 ● Restorative practices
 17 ● Positive behavioral interventions
 18 ● Multi-tiered system of supports
 19 ● Behavior intervention plans
 20 ● Modified learning environment
 21 ● Interim alternative setting

22 **MISBEHAVIORS: LEVEL IV**

23 This level of misbehavior includes acts which result in violence to another's person or property or
 24 which pose a threat to the safety of others in the school. These acts are so serious that they usually
 25 require administrative actions which result in the immediate removal of the student from the school,
 26 the intervention of law enforcement authorities, and/or action by the GCBOE.

27 If a student's action poses a threat to the safety of others in the school, a teacher, principal, school
 28 employee, or school bus driver may use reasonable force when necessary to prevent bodily harm or
 29 death to another person.⁵

30 *Examples (not an exclusive listing)*

- 31 ● Continuation of unmodified Level I, II, and III misbehaviors
 32 ● Death threat (GCBOE policy 6.306)
 33 ● Extortion
 34 ● Bomb threat (GCBOE policy 6.306, 6.316)
 35 ● Bringing to school or being in unauthorized possession of a firearm on school property*
 36 ((GCBOE policy 6.309)
 37 ● Assault that results in bodily injury upon any teacher, principal, administrator, any other
 38 employee of the school, or a school resource officer* (GCBOE policy 6.309)

- 1 ● Aggravated assault* (GCBOE policy 6.309)
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- 3 ● Theft, possession, and/or sale of stolen property (GCBOE policy 6.311)
- 4 ● Arson (GCBOE policy 6.311)
- 5 ● Possession of unauthorized substances (e.g. any controlled substance, controlled
- 6 substance analogue, or legend drug)* (GCBOE policy 6.309)
- 7 ● Use, sale, distribution, or transfer of unauthorized substances
- 8 ● Electronic threat to cause bodily injury or death to another student or school employee
- 9 (GCBOE policy 6.304, 6.306)

10 *Disciplinary Procedures*

- 11 ● The principal confers with appropriate staff members and with the student.
- 12 ● The principal hears the accusations and allows the student the opportunity to explain
- 13 his/her conduct.
- 14 ● The parent(s)/guardian(s) are notified.
- 15 ● Law enforcement officials are contacted.
- 16 ● The incident is reported, and recommendations are made to the Director of Schools.
- 17 ● If the student's placement is to be changed, adequate notice of the charges shall be
- 18 given to the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) and his/her right to appear at a
- 19 hearing.

20 *Disciplinary Options*

- 21 ● Other hearing authority or GCBOE actions
- 22 ● Interim alternative setting
- 23 ● Long-term out of school suspension
- 24 ● Expulsion

25 * Designates zero tolerance offenses.

Legal References

1. TCA 49-6-4005; TCA 49-6-3024
2. TCA 49-6-4002 to 4005; 20 USCA §§ 7114, 7118
3. TCA 49-6-4109
4. TCA 49-6-4009
5. TCA 49-6-4008

Cross References

Traffic and Parking Controls 3.403
 Procedural Due Process 6.302
 Student Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying,
 Cyber-bullying, and Intimidation 6.304
 Title IX & Sexual Harassment 6.3041
 Bus Safety and Conduct 6.308
 Zero Tolerance Offenses 6.309
 Dress Code 6.310
 Corporal Punishment 6.314
 Detention 6.315
 Suspension 6.316
 Safe Relocation of Students 6.4081