

Policy JI Student Rights and Responsibilities

Issued 1/06

Purpose: To establish student rights and responsibilities. Each student has a right to the following.

- a quality education
- qualified school personnel
- civil rights, including the right to equal educational opportunity, **protection against inequitable application of District policies**, and freedom from discrimination from students, visitors, and staff. and inequitable application of policy
- attendance in the public schools
- due process of law with respect to suspension, expulsion and unreasonable searches and seizures
- free inquiry and expression. The exercise of this right does not permit insulting or demeaning students, visitors, or staff by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical, or sensory disability, or by any other distinguishing characteristic.
- advocacy for change of any law, policy or regulation. Students may exercise their right to freedom of expression through speech, approved time for assembly, petition and other lawful means. The exercise of this right may not interfere with the rights of others. Students may not use this freedom of expression to present material that is obscene or slanderous or to defame character. They may not use this freedom to advocate violation of federal, state and local laws or district policies, rules and regulations.
- presentation of complaints to teachers or administration officials. The superintendent shall provide adequate opportunities for students to exercise this right through channels established for considering such complaints and grievances (see policy JII).

Each student has a responsibility to do the following.

- Put forth his/her best efforts during the educational process.
- Respect the rights of other students and all persons involved in the educational process.
- ~~Not to discriminate against others.~~ Treat students, visitors, and staff with respect. This includes refraining from actions or language that discriminate against others based on any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical, or sensory disability, or by any other distinguishing characteristic.
- Attend school as required by law and to observe school rules and regulations essential for permitting themselves and others to learn at school.
- Observe reasonable rules regarding the right of free inquiry and expression.
- Conduct him/herself in an orderly, courteous, dignified and respectful manner toward other students and teachers, through language, dress and manners. The board believes self-discipline is an interpersonal goal of public education.
- Know and respect the policies, rules and regulations of Charleston County School District and the schools they attend. Violations of such policies, rules and regulations shall result in disciplinary actions.

Each student has the privilege of appealing administrative decisions in accordance with board policy.

The superintendent shall inform students of their legal rights and also of the legal authority of the board to make or delegate authority to its administration to make rules and regulations regarding the orderly operation of the schools and shall accord all students privileges and rights without regard to race, religion, sex, gender preference, creed, disability, national origin, or immigrant status or English-speaking status.

The board directs the superintendent to establish a student code of conduct and schoolwide progressive discipline

plans that are necessary to create and preserve conditions essential to orderly operation of the schools. The board authorizes its school authorities to employ probation and suspension and to recommend expulsion, if necessary, to enforce this policy (see policies JKD and JKE).

Adopted 8/21/72; Revised 7/2/74, 8/28/89, 11/28/05, 1/9/06

Legal references:

Federal

statutes:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 - Prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion or sex.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, [20 USC Section 1681](#), *et seq*, - Prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.

Charleston County School

District