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# EAST ISLIP SCHOOLS CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENTS 2023-2024

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The Board of Education of the East Islip School District believes that all students are entitled to a successful educational experience. In order for this to occur, the school environment must be a positive, supportive, safe and healthy one, in which each member is treated with respect.

The school staff and community believe that the best learning takes place in a climate in which students experience success, caring, enjoyment, and the freedom to develop their potential. To accomplish this, all members must recognize that for a school community to be healthy, interactions between all members must be thoughtful, respectful and humane. Since discipline is a learned behavior, it should be taught cooperatively in the home, school and community. Expectations should be developmentally appropriate. Increased responsibility and the ability to self-discipline become the goals as the student matures.

The Board recognizes the need to clearly define these expectations for acceptable conduct on school property, and at school functions, to identify the possible consequences of unacceptable conduct, and to ensure that discipline, when necessary, be administered promptly, and fairly. To this end, the Board adopts this Code of Conduct. The Board of Education believes that this philosophy will foster the development of happy, self-disciplined, self-reliant citizens with social consciences.

Unless otherwise indicated, this Code applies to all students, school personnel, parents/persons in parental relation and other visitors when on school property or attending a school function. At no time, is anyone permitted to jeopardize the safety and welfare of others. The Code of Conduct has incorporated the Dignity for All Students Act which was created to give students an educational environment free of discrimination, bullying and harassment.

## **I. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### Students' Rights

All students are entitled to the following rights on an equal basis regardless of actual or perceived race, color, gender, national origin, religion, religious practices, ethnic group, sexual orientation, sex, weight or disability.

- To a quality education in a safe and supportive environment conducive to learning.
- To guidance, understanding, and respect as a unique individual from all people.
- To express themselves without infringing on the rights of others.
- To learn in an environment free from interruption, harassment, bullying, discrimination, intimidation and fear.
- To present their version of the relevant events to school personnel authorized to impose a disciplinary consequence. This allows for fair treatment and due process in accordance with the regulations of the school district and the education laws of New York State.
- To participate in extracurricular activities as long as they remain in “good standing” as defined by the school administration.
- To guidance and constructive discipline to help them learn to develop responsibility, a concern for others, and good character.
- To be consulted in the planning and implementation of their education.
- To have positive adult role models.
- To be informed of and have the freedom to exercise their rights as stated herein. This includes the ability to access school rules and, when necessary, receive an explanation of those rules from school personnel.

### Student Responsibilities

- All district students have the responsibility:

## **III. CONSEQUENCES**

Students who are found to have violated the district’s Code of Conduct may be subject to the following consequences, either alone or in combination. The school personnel identified after each consequence are authorized to impose that consequence, consistent with the student’s right to due process.

1. Verbal warning/student conference (any member of staff and bus driver)
2. Written warning (any member of district staff)
3. Written/telephone notification to parent or guardian (appropriate staff)
4. Removal from classroom (teachers, principal)
5. Lunch detention (appropriate certified staff)
6. Detention (appropriate staff)
7. In school suspension (principal)
8. Parent Conference (appropriate staff)
9. Suspension from field trips/suspension or loss of other privileges (principals, superintendent)
10. Suspension from transportation (principals, superintendent)
11. Suspension from athletic participation (coaches, principals, superintendent)
12. Suspension from social or extracurricular activities (activity advisor, principals, superintendent)
13. Short term (five days or less) suspension from school (principal, superintendent, board)
14. Exclusion from class (principals, superintendent)
15. Long term (more than five days) suspension from school (superintendent, board)
16. Permanent suspension from school (superintendent, board)
17. Restitution (principal, superintendent, after appropriate legal action is taken)

A listing of the minimal consequence assigned for each infraction can be found on our website under Board Policy 5300. It may be assigned alone or in combination with any others on the list by the personnel authorized to impose the consequence. The consequences are not listed in any specific order. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit the District in its administering of appropriate consequences for violations of the Code of Conduct.

In addition, the Building Principal may implement restorative justice practices on a case-by-case basis. The Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee will implement procedures outlining the restorative justice practices that may be made available to students on a case by case basis.

***For a complete and comprehensive copy of the East Islip School District Code of Conduct, please visit the East Islip School District website at [www.eischools.org](http://www.eischools.org).***

### ***Superintendent of Schools***

***Paul E. Manzo***

### **Board of Education**

***Michael Dorgan                      President***

***Stephen Ruland                      Vice President***

***Jessica Ciampi                      Trustee***

***Timothy Sassone                      Trustee***

***Christopher Zachry                      Trustee***

- Gambling.
- Indecent exposure, that is, exposure to sight of the private parts of the body in a lewd or indecent manner.
- Initiating a report warning of fire, bomb threat, or other catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911, or discharging a fire extinguisher.
- Intimidating another person for the purpose of extorting money or property.
- Violation of an individual’s civil rights.
- Sexual harassment.

F. Engage in misconduct while on a school bus. It is crucial for students to behave appropriately while riding on school buses, to ensure their safety and that of other passengers and to avoid distracting the bus driver. Students are required to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. Excessive noise, pushing, shoving, defacing the bus, and fighting will not be tolerated.

G. Engage in any form of academic misconduct. Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to:

- Plagiarism
- Cheating
- Copying
- Altering Records
- Assisting another student in any of the above actions

H. Engage in off-campus misconduct that creates or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, where it is foreseeable that the misconduct might reach school property; or endangers or threatens the health and safety or morals of students or staff within the school. Examples of such misconduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Cyberbullying, as defined in the “Definitions” section of this Code of Conduct;
2. Threatening, hazing or harassing students or school personnel over the phone or other electronic medium;
3. Using electronic communication to convey threats, derogatory comments or post pornographic pictures of students or school personnel, unauthorized access to the district’s computer network, threats made via the telephone, inappropriate behavior at school bus stops; and/or
4. Consumption of alcohol, marijuana and/or illegal controlled substances and thereafter entering upon the premises of the school district or participating in a school sponsored event under the influence of alcohol, marijuana and/or illegal controlled substances.

I. Engage in misconduct while using technology. Examples of such misconduct include, but are not limited to:

- Violating any law.
- Displaying, performing, sending, receiving, or storing any content that is obscene, inappropriate, offensive, or otherwise objectionable, even if the material or its dissemination is lawful.
- Harassing any person or advocating or encouraging violence of any kind against any person, entity or government.
- Infringing, violating or misappropriating another’s rights.
- Obtaining unauthorized access to, or interfering by any means with, any user, system, network, service or account, including evasion of filters or violation of the security or integrity of any network or system.
- Distributing computer viruses or malware of any kind.
- Sending, receiving or supporting email messages that are unsolicited, deceptive, anonymous, excessively, voluminous or that contain falsified identifying information, including spamming and phishing.
- Inappropriate use of 3-D printers.
- Violating the School District’s Acceptable Use Policy (Policy 4526).
- Violating the School District’s Remote Learning Acceptable Use Policy (Policy 4527).

- To make the best use of the educational system to become a useful member of society.
- To attend school every scheduled day unless they are legally excused.
- To be in class on time and prepared to learn.
- To be familiar with and abide by all district policies, rules and regulations.
- To ask questions when they do not understand.
- To contribute to maintaining a safe, supportive and orderly school environment that is conducive to learning and to show respect and dignity to other persons and to property.
- To react to direction given by teachers, administrators, and other school personnel in a respectful, positive manner.
- To maintain behavior free from all forms of bullying, harassment or discrimination.
- To learn to make socially acceptable choices to meet their individual needs.
- To work to develop mechanisms to control their anger.
- To exercise their rights in an age appropriate manner.
- To seek help in solving problems that might lead to disciplinary consequences.
- To accept responsibility for their actions.
- To dress appropriately for school and school functions.
- To conduct themselves as representatives of the district before, after, or during school hours while on school grounds, riding on school buses, or when participating in or attending school sponsored extracurricular events and to hold themselves to the highest standards of conduct, demeanor, and sportsmanship.

## II. STUDENT DISCIPLINE CODE

### Student Dress Code

All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance. Teachers and all other district personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting.

A student's dress and physical appearance shall be appropriate, safe and not serve to disrupt and/or interfere with the educational process. Students shall:

- Recognize that extremely brief garments and/or see-through garments are not allowed.
- Ensure that underwear is covered with outer clothing.
- Wear footwear at all times. Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed.
- Not wear hats/headgear except for a medical, religious purpose, or at a special, predetermined, school approved event.
- Not wear items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous, denigrate or discriminate against others on account of actual or perceived race, color, weight, religion, religious practice, national origin, ethnic group, gender, sexual orientation, sex, disability, or deemed hazardous to the safety and well-being of students.
- Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal, inappropriate, or violent activities/ associations including but not limited to gang colors, symbols and affiliations.
- Wear appropriate protective gear in classes or in activities (i.e. science, family and consumer science, technology, and physical education) where safety is a concern.

Each building principal or his/her designee shall be responsible for informing all students and their parents of the student dress code at the beginning of the school year, and any revisions to the dress code made during the school year.

Any student who fails to comply with the dress code shall be subject to discipline up to and including out of school suspension.

### Prohibited Student Conduct

The Board of Education expects all students to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, district personnel and other members of the school community, and for the care of school

facilities and equipment.

It is expected that all students conduct themselves in a manner that supports the intent of the Dignity for All Students Act; creating a safe and supportive school environment free of discrimination, bullying/cyberbullying and harassment.

The best discipline is self-imposed and students must learn to assume and accept responsibility for their own behavior, as well as consequences of the misbehavior. District personnel have the responsibility and authority to use the necessary measures to maintain control within the classroom the school building and at school functions on and off school property. Each teacher has the responsibility and authority to use the necessary measures to maintain control within the classroom, the school building, and on the school property.

The Board recognizes the need to make its expectations for student conduct while on school property or engaged in a school function specific and clear. The rules of conduct listed below are intended to do that and focus on safety and respect for the rights and property of others. Students who will not accept responsibility for their own behavior and who violate these school rules will be required to accept the consequences for their conduct. All violations apply to student behavior in school, on school property, on school buses and at school-sponsored functions and student behavior off school property where such acts create or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment or where it is foreseeable the acts might reach school property.

Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school, when they:

A. Engage in conduct that is disorderly. Examples of disorderly conduct include, but are not limited to:

- Running in hallways.
- Making unreasonable noise.
- Using language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar or abusive.
- Obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
- Engaging in any willful act that disrupts the normal operation of the school community.
- Trespassing. Students are not permitted in any school building, other than the one they regularly attend, without permission from the administrator in charge of the building, or his/her designee.
- Computer/electronic communications misuse, including any unauthorized use of computers, cell phones, personal electronic devices, software, or internet/intranet account; accessing inappropriate websites; or any other violation of the district's acceptable use policy.
- Inappropriate use of materials that create a disruptive atmosphere. i.e. throwing of food, misuse of chemical or equipment, disorderly conduct in common areas, such as gymnasium, cafeteria, where large numbers of students congregate.

B. Engage in conduct that is insubordinate. Examples of insubordinate conduct include, but are not limited to:

- Failing to comply with reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators, or other school employees.
- Demonstrating disrespect.
- Directing vulgarity, abusive language or gestures to District Personnel.
- Cutting or leaving school without permission.
- Unexcused latenesses.
- Skipping detention.

C. Engage in conduct that is disruptive. Examples of disruptive conduct include, but are not limited to:

- Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators, or other school personnel in charge of students.
- Inappropriate public sexual contact.

D. Engage in conduct that is violent. Examples of violent conduct include, but are not limited to:

- Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon a teacher, administrator or other school employee, or attempting, or threatening to do so.
- Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, scratching and throwing objects) upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property or attempting to do so, or threatening to do so.
- Possessing a weapon while on school property or at a school function or school sponsored activity. Authorized law enforcement officials are the only persons permitted to have a weapon in their possession while on school property or at a school property or at a school function.
- Displaying what appears to be a weapon while on school property or at a school function or school sponsored activity.
- Threatening to use any weapon while on school property or at a school function or school sponsored activity.
- Intentionally damaging or destroying the personal property of a student, teacher, administrator or any other person lawfully on school property or at a school function or school sponsored activity on school property at school functions, including graffiti or arson.
- Intentionally damaging or destroying school district property.
- Committing an act of graffiti, arson, and/or criminal mischief while on school property or at a school function or school sponsored activity.

E. Engage in any conduct on school grounds or at school functions or at school sponsored activities that endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of themselves and/or others. Examples of such conduct include, but are not limited to:

- Lying to school personnel.
- Stealing the property of other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function.
- Subjecting other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function, to danger, by recklessly engaging in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury.
- Defamation, which includes making false or unprivileged statements or representations about an individual or identifiable group of individuals that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group by demeaning them.
- Discrimination, as defined in the "Definitions" section of this Code of Conduct.
- Harassment, as defined in the "Definitions" section of this Code of Conduct.
- Bullying, as defined in the "Definitions" section of this Code of Conduct.
- Cyberbullying, as defined in the "Definitions" section of this Code of Conduct.
- Intimidation, which includes engaging in actions or statements that put an individual in fear of bodily harm, or cause emotional distress.
- Hazing, which includes any intentional or reckless act directed against another for the purpose of initiation into, affiliation with or maintaining membership in an organization, gang, club or team on school grounds or at a school sponsored function.
- Selling, using, distributing or possessing obscene material.
- Using vulgar or abusive language, cursing or swearing.
- Smoking, vaping, or publicly displaying, a cigarette, electronic cigarettes, vaping devices, cigar, pipe, or using chewing or smokeless tobacco.
- Possessing, consuming, selling, distributing or exchanging alcoholic beverages, illegal substances, or items disguised as illegal substances or being under the influence of either. Possessing drug paraphernalia. "Illegal substances" include, but are not limited to, inhalants, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs, synthetic cannabinoids (Marijuana) and any substances commonly referred to as "designer" drugs.
- Inappropriately possessing, using, distributing, attempting to distribute or sharing prescription and/or over-the-counter drugs.