Conduct on School Property

The Bethany Board of Education (Board) expects mutual respect, civility, and orderly conduct among all individuals on school property or at school events. Bethany Public School District (District) staff will treat parents/guardians and other members of the public with respect and expect the same in return. The Board is committed to maintaining orderly educational and administrative processes in keeping schools and administrative offices free from disruptions and preventing unauthorized persons from entering District grounds.

This policy promotes mutual respect, civility, and orderly conduct among Board members, District employees, parents/guardians, and the public. It is not intended to deprive any individual of the right to freedom of expression, but only to maintain to the extent possible and reasonable, a safe, harassment-free environment for students and staff.

In the interest of presenting Board members and District employees as positive role models to the students as well as to the community, the Board encourages positive communication and discourages volatile, hostile, or aggressive actions. The Board seeks public cooperation with this endeavor.

A. Expected behaviors include but are not limited to:
   1. Respect and courtesy in language, demeanor, and actions.
   2. Moderate tone and volume of voice.
   3. Active and respectful listening.
   4. Respectful acknowledgment of cultural differences.
   5. Respect for the personal, civil, and property rights of others.
   6. Appropriate and courteous use of telephone, public address systems, electronic devices, and any other verbal communication device.
   7. Appropriate and courteous written communication, including notes, letters, email, and text messages.

B. Unacceptable behaviors include but are not limited to:
   1. Rude, insulting, or demeaning language and/or actions.
   2. Persistently unreasonable demands.
   3. Intrusive and/or interruptive behavior.
   4. Displays of temper.
   5. Harassment and intimidation.
   6. Threatening and/or abusive gestures and behavior.

Incidents of uncivil behavior should be resolved cooperatively with the individual(s) most directly involved.

Any individual who disrupts or threatens to disrupt normal school or office operations; threatens the health and safety of students or staff; willfully causes property damage; uses loud or offensive language which could provoke a violent reaction; or who has otherwise established a continued pattern of unauthorized entry on District property, will be directed to leave the premises by a member of the administrative staff or designee.

If any member of the public uses obscenities or speaks in a demanding, loud, insulting, and/or demeaning manner, the staff member to whom the remarks are directed will calmly and politely admonish the speaker to communicate civilly. If the abusing party does not take corrective action, the District employee will terminate the meeting or conversation.

The Administration or designees shall have complete authority to exclude from the school premises any persons whom he/she has reason to believe are disrupting the educational programs in the classroom or in the school, are disturbing the teachers or students on the premises, or whom the Administration believes are on the premises for the purposes of committing an illegal act.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes § 1-225

Connecticut General Statutes § 1-232

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-238

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-239

Connecticut General Statutes § 53a-185

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"Guidelines Regarding Independent Educational Evaluations at Public Expense and In-School Observations." Connecticut State Department of Education (March 28, 2018).

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