



Parent/Student Summary  
**STUDENT RIGHTS AND  
RESPONSIBILITIES**

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## **CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT FOR ALL GRADES**

**ALL STUDENTS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO:**

1. **PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS TO STUDY AND LEARN**

Parents send their children to school for an education. No one has the right to interfere with the education of others. Teachers have a right to teach in a safe environment that is conducive to learning.

2. **ATTEND SCHOOL ON A DAILY BASIS**

In South Carolina, a student is required by law to attend school until the age of 17. Schools cannot educate students who do not attend class, and they will not promote or allow students to graduate who do not meet this state's attendance regulations.

3. **BE ON TIME FOR CLASS**

Students who enter a classroom after a lesson has begun are interfering with the rights of others to learn and study. Punctuality is a habit that students must develop if they are to succeed in school and the world of work. Teachers have a right to teach without being interrupted by a tardy student.

4. **OBEY SCHOOL RULES AND PERSONNEL**

Rules are designed to allow a school to meet its obligation to educate students. Students are required to obey and be courteous to all personnel who work with our schools. Teachers have a right to expect obedience and courtesy from their students.

5. **VOLUNTEER INFORMATION AND COOPERATE WITH SCHOOL STAFF IN DISCIPLINARY CASES**

All students have the responsibility to cooperate with staff in disciplinary cases. Teachers have the right to expect honesty from students.

6. **COMPLETE ALL CLASSWORK/HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS AND MEET DEADLINES**

The full responsibility for student learning does not rest solely with the teachers. All students must participate in class and complete assignments for education to be effective. Teachers have the right to expect students to pay attention in class and to complete all assigned work.

7. **RESPECT PUBLIC PROPERTY BY CAREFULLY USING AND RETURNING ALL MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT**

Schools are a community's gift to its young people. It is wrong to abuse a gift. Damaged school property costs money. Money spent on repairs and replacements takes away from improvements that could be made in the schools. Students will be made financially responsible for damage done to school property.

8. **COME TO CLASS WITH NECESSARY BOOKS AND MATERIALS**

A student must come to class prepared to begin work. A teacher should not have to delay instruction because a student has come unprepared to begin work. This is interfering with the rights of others to learn and study. Teachers have a right to teach without any delays.

9. **DELIVER SCHOOL CORRESPONDENCE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS**

Education requires that a partnership exists between the home and the school. For this partnership to work, everybody must know what is happening - good and bad. Sometimes students are asked to be the messengers. More often, students are only asked to meet their responsibility to be honest by not intercepting or destroying progress reports, attendance information, and report cards.

*See Policy JI for a complete listing of student rights in the Board Policy Manual at [www.kcsdschools.net](http://www.kcsdschools.net).*

The following listing of offenses and the required or recommended dispositions are submitted for the information of students, parents, and school personnel. Disciplinary actions will include appropriate hearings and review, and the removal of a student from the learning environment will occur only for just cause and in accordance with due process of law. Violations will be handled at the school level prior to referring the student to the District Hearing officer. There are three levels of offenses: LEVEL I, LEVEL II, and LEVEL III. Depending on the extremity of each individual case, a LEVEL I offense may be upgraded to a LEVEL II offense. Likewise, a LEVEL II offense may be upgraded to a LEVEL III offense.

The following rules apply to any student:

1. who is on District property (including building, grounds, vehicles)
2. who is at any school sponsored activity, function or event, whether on or off school grounds (including any place where an interscholastic athletic or academic contest is taking place)
3. who is at a bus stop, en route to and from school on a school bus or other District vehicle in route, or on a field trip; or
4. whose conduct at any time or in any place has a direct and immediate effect on maintaining order and discipline in Kershaw County School District.

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## **LEVEL I OFFENSES – Disorderly Conduct**

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Disorderly conduct includes any activity engaged in by a student(s) which tends to impede orderly classroom procedures or instructional activities, orderly operation of the school, or the frequency or seriousness of which disturbs classes or the school.

Acts of disorderly conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following.

- classroom tardiness
- cheating on examinations or classroom assignments
- lying
- abusive language or gestures between or among students
- failure to comply with directives from school/district staff or agents (to include volunteer aides or chaperones)
- use of forged notes or excuses
- cutting class
- school tardiness
- truancy (three (3) consecutive unlawful absences from school or a total of five (5) unlawful absences)
- possession of an electronic communications device as defined by and in conflict with district policy
- other acts of behavioral misconduct determined and communicated by the administration

Possible sanctions to be applied in cases of disorderly conduct may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following.

- verbal reprimand
- withdrawal of privileges
- demerits
- detention (silent lunch, after school, weekends, or another time that does not interfere with the instructional day)
- other consequences as approved by the board or administration

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## LEVEL II OFFENSES – Disruptive Conduct

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Disruptive conduct includes those activities engaged in by a student(s) which are directed against persons or property and the consequences of which tend to endanger the health or safety of oneself or others in the school. Some instances of disruptive conduct may overlap certain criminal offenses, justifying both administrative sanctions and court proceedings. Disorderly conduct (Level I) may be reclassified as disruptive conduct (Level II) if it occurs three or more times.

Acts of disruptive conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following.

- Violation of a Level I intervention plan and/or behavioral contract
- Use of an intoxicant
- Fighting
- Harassment, intimidation, or bullying
- vandalism (minor)
- stealing
- threats against other students
- trespassing
- abusive language to staff
- repeated refusal to comply with directives from school personnel or agents (such as volunteer aides or chaperones)
- possession or use of unauthorized substances as defined by law and/or local school board policy
- illegally occupying or blocking school property in any way with the intent to deprive others of its use
- unlawful assembly
- disrupting lawful assembly
- hazing
- inappropriate use of technology (e.g. bullying, harassing, or intimidating other students or district employees; plagiarizing copyrighted materials; or accessing inappropriate websites)
- creating, possessing, or sharing nude, partially nude, or other sexually explicit or suggestive images, videos, or visual representations using non-digital means (e.g. printed materials) or electronic communication, including, but not limited to texting, emailing, or posting on social media platforms; these acts are prohibited whether or not the subject of the images, videos, or visual representations consent to their being created, possessed, or shared
- other acts as determined and communicated by the administration

Possible sanctions to be applied in cases of disruptive conduct may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following:

- temporary removal from class
- alternative education program
- in-school suspension
- out-of-school suspension
- transfer
- referral to outside agency
- expulsion
- restitution of property and damages, where appropriate
- other consequences as approved and communicated by the administration

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## **LEVEL III OFFENSES – Criminal Conduct/Severe Conduct**

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Criminal conduct or severe conduct includes those activities engaged in by a student(s) which result in violence to oneself or another's person or property or which pose a direct and serious threat to the safety of oneself or others in the school. These activities usually require administrative actions which result in the immediate removal of the student from the school, the intervention of law enforcement authorities and/or action by the board. Disruptive conduct (Level II) may be reclassified as criminal or severe conduct if it occurs six or more times and can result in a referral to the hearing officer.

School administrators will contact law enforcement authorities immediately upon notice that a person is engaging, or has engaged, in activities on school property or at a school-sanctioned or sponsored activity which result, or may result, in injury or serious threat of injury to the person or to another person or property.

Criminal or severe conduct may include, but is not limited to, the following.

- assault and battery
- extortion
- threat of the use of a destructive device (bomb, grenade, pipe bomb, or similar device)
- possession, use, or transfer of dangerous weapons
- sexual offenses
- vandalism (major)
- theft, possession or sale of stolen property
- arson
- furnishing or selling unauthorized substances, as defined by law and/or board policy
- furnishing, selling, or possession of controlled substances (drugs, narcotics, or poisons)
- illegal use of technology (e.g. communicating a threat of a destructive device, weapon, or event with the intent of intimidating, threatening, or interfering with school activities)
- knowingly and maliciously distributing, possessing, exchanging, creating, soliciting, or exhibiting images, videos, or visual representations of sexually explicit nudity or sexual activity using nondigital means (e.g. printed photographs or magazines) or via electronic communication, including but not limited to texting, emailing, or posting on social media platforms
- maliciously transmitting sexual images of minors, other than self-images of the student or images transmitted with the uncoerced consent of the individual in the images)
- threatening to take the life of or inflict bodily harm upon a teacher, principal, staff member, or members of their immediate family

Possible sanctions to be applied in cases of criminal conduct may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following:

- out-of-school suspension
- assignment to alternative schools
- expulsion
- restitution of property and damages, where appropriate (should be sought by school authorities)
- other consequences approved and communicated by the administration

Nothing in this administrative rule prohibits the superintendent or other appropriate district-level administrator from directly, or in consultation with appropriate school-level administrators, imposing authorized disciplinary sanctions.

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## **Due Process**

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The School Board and its administrators will treat all students with fairness. The School Board directs school authorities to adhere to federal and state requirements when making decisions directly affecting students' rights. Before school authorities administer disciplinary measures, they will make reasonable inquiry to determine the facts surrounding the offense. The administrator who is inquiring will also give special attention to hearing the student's side of the issue. The nature of the inquiry will vary with the seriousness of the offense and the consequences.

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## Dress Code for Students in the District

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Parents/guardians are responsible for assuring that individual students dress in an appropriate manner at all times while on campus or when involved in school activities. Generally, student dress is considered appropriate as long as it does not, or foreseeably could not, interfere with the educational process, cause disruption, or damage school property. In addition to clothing, hats, and shoes, student dress includes any jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign, comment, or other items worn or displayed by an individual.

1. Attire must comply with requirements for health and safety.
2. Attire must not be immodest, obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, indecent, or offensive. Shorts, skirts and dresses should be of adequate length to assure modesty when the student is seated or engaged in school activities. Appropriate undergarments should be worn and should be covered by outer clothing. Uniforms for extracurricular activities that are worn during classes other than physical education must be modified to conform to the Student Dress guidelines.
3. Attire must not evidence membership or affiliation with a "gang" in any negative sense of the term.
4. Attire must not display any information about, representations of, or advertisements for alcoholic beverage(s), tobacco, controlled drugs, or illegal drugs or paraphernalia associated with the foregoing.

*These are the general guidelines, but for a more detailed student dress guidelines, please see Board Policy JICA-R.*

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## Student Conduct on School Buses and Conveyances

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In the vicinity of school buses and on school buses, students will conduct themselves in a manner that does not endanger, and does not contribute to the endangerment of, themselves or other students. The District's Student Code of Conduct, Policy JIC, and Administrative Rule JIC-R provisions, as well as the expected conduct set forth in this Policy and Administrative Rule, are applicable to all students riding on school buses.

Bus Drivers will report the names of students whose conduct interferes with safe driving or who act disruptively to the appropriate School Administrator and/or Transportation Supervisor. In all cases where the misconduct is reported to the Transportation Supervisor, he/she will ensure that the school administration has been notified of the incident.

The Board supports the use of video cameras on school buses used for transportation to and from school, as well as for field trips, curricular and extracurricular events. Accordingly, the District may use video cameras to monitor student behavior and may use videotapes as evidence in a student disciplinary proceeding. Only those persons with a legitimate educational purpose may view the videotapes subject to applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

The Board authorizes District and school administrators to suspend or expel students from riding a school bus or to impose any other penalties provided for in the Student Code of Conduct for misconduct on the school bus or for violating instructions of the Bus Driver.

ALL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS LISTED IN THIS CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT ARE APPLICABLE TO MISCONDUCT ON THE SCHOOL BUS. IN ADDITION, THE PRIVILEGE OF RIDING A SCHOOL BUS MAY BE WITHHELD DUE TO STUDENT MISBEHAVIOR ON SCHOOL BUSES.

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## Non-Discrimination Policy

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The School District of Kershaw County does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, disability, age, or national origin in its educational programs and employment practices. Questions pertaining to Title IX or Section 504 may be directed to the Title IX Coordinator, Denise Sowell, Chief Human Resources Officer, School District of Kershaw County, 2029 West DeKalb Street, Camden, South Carolina 29020. Telephone (803) 432-8416. Questions, concerns, complaints, requests for additional information or auxiliary aids or services for effective participation in programs and services may also be directed to Denise Sowell at the address and phone listed above.