

Student Code of Conduct



The School District of Palm Beach County, FL

Secondary (6-12) | 2025-2026

The School Board of Palm Beach County is committed to excellence in education and preparation of all our students with the knowledge, skills and ethics required for responsible citizenship and productive employment.

Table of Contents

Guiding Principles	3
Attendance	7
Student Dress Codes and Uniforms	10
Student Conduct and Behavior	12
Scope of the Student Code of Conduct	16
Social Media Guide	20
Deepfakes and AI Generated Material	21
Discipline Guide	22
District Imposed Consequences	31
Authorization for Suspension	32
Appeal Process for Suspension	33
Discipline for Students Eligible for Services under the Individuals with Disabilities Act	34
Discipline for Students Eligible for Services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973	39
Glossary	44
Acronyms	56
Appendix	57

Guiding Principles

The School District of Palm Beach County firmly believes a positive school culture promotes equal educational opportunity and establishes the framework for a safe learning environment. The Student Code of Conduct is comprised of a set of policies, rules, and laws by which order is established and maintained for the benefit of all. Discipline within a school must have the qualities of objectivity, consistency, and equity. It is the responsibility of all school personnel, students, parents, external stakeholders, and the greater community to ensure the school environment encourages a climate conducive to learning.

The Student Code of Conduct is intended to be an instructive policy based on interventions and support for students. However, when consequences are warranted, they shall be implemented based on a system of progressive discipline. Minor infractions and first offenses have less serious consequences than major infractions and repeat offenses. Factors such as age, grade level, social, emotional, and intellectual development, and overall student rights and responsibilities shall also be considered. Disciplinary issues will be resolved by every means possible prior to exclusion from school. Equitable and reasonable procedures will be followed to assure students of their rights.

The School District of Palm Beach County expects all stakeholders to demonstrate mutual respect for the rights of others. It is expected that all involved in teaching and learning fully accept their responsibilities to model and practice the Universal Guidelines and Behavioral Expectations: Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible. Each school center shall create its own Universal Guidelines and Behavioral Expectations.

Stakeholders' responsibilities are outlined below.

Responsibility of Students

- Attend school daily, be prepared for class, and complete assignments to the best of their ability
- Follow the Student Code of Conduct and school-based rules
- Model and practice the expected behaviors and universal guidelines
- Notify school staff about any dangerous behavior, bullying, or activity that occurs on school grounds or off school grounds when it may result in disruption of the educational setting
- Accept and respect individual differences and people
- Bring only those materials to school that are allowed
- Keep parents informed of school- related issues
- Ask school personnel or other trusted adults for help in solving problems

Responsibility of Parents/Guardians

- Read the Student Code of Conduct with your child(ren)
- Make certain your child(ren) attends school regularly and on time
- Notify the school of absences or tardies in a timely manner Report absences to school in advance or within 24 hours of the student's return to school

- Monitor your child(ren)'s academic and behavioral progress
- Talk to your child(ren) about school and behavioral expectations
- Visit your child(ren)'s school as necessary
- Play an active role and support your child(ren)'s educational experience
- Teach and model for your child to respect the rights and property of others

Responsibility of Teachers

- Teach and review the Student Code of Conduct
- Use well- planned, creative, and engaging instructional plans daily
- Set expectations, teach, model, and reinforce positive behavior
- Use appropriate classroom management strategies to maintain a learning environment that supports academic success
- Provide students with meaningful and relevant feedback on their behavioral and academic progress
- Maintain a safe and orderly classroom by using prevention and intervention strategies
- Provide corrective feedback and re-teach appropriate behaviors when a student demonstrates misconduct
- Use professional judgment to prevent minor incidents from escalating
- Keep parents informed of students' academic progress and behavior through regular communication
- Refer students in need of additional support to Problem Solving/School Based Team
- Request additional training and/or staff development as needed

Responsibility of Administrators

- Distribute the Student Code of Conduct to school stakeholders
- Implement the Student Code of Conduct in a fair and consistent manner
- Implement all Palm Beach County School Board policies in a fair and consistent manner
- Maintain a safe and orderly school by using prevention and intervention strategies
- Provide students will with meaningful and relevant positive feedback on their behavioral and academic progress
- Communicate policies, expectations, and concerns and respond to complaints or concerns from students and parents in a timely manner
- Use professional judgment to prevent minor behavioral incidents from escalating
- Monitor, support, and sustain the effective implementation and maintenance of Positive Behavior Support (PBS)
- Define, teach, model, reinforce, and support appropriate student behaviors to create positive school environments
- Provide meaningful opportunities for parent participation and involvement
- Identify appropriate training and resources as needed to implement positive behavior interventions and supports

- Establish a Threat Assessment Management Team comprised of persons with expertise in counseling, instruction, school administration, and law enforcement. Their duties include coordination of resources, assessments, and intervention for students whose behavior poses a threat to the safety of school and /or staff
- Schools shall ensure ELL students and their parents are also provided the opportunity to fully understand behavior expectations and consequences in a language that they understand. Furthermore, in working within the Student Code of Conduct, school administration and staff must be sensitive to cultural differences a student may exhibit.
- Each school center shall be required to submit any site-level policies (i.e., dress code) to district staff for review

Responsibility of Additional School-based Staff

- Maintain a safe and orderly school environment by modeling and supporting appropriate student behaviors
- Provide students with meaningful and relevant positive feedback on their behavioral progress
- Provide appropriate corrective feedback and re-teach appropriate behaviors when a student demonstrates misconduct
- Monitor, support, and sustain the effective implementation and maintenance of a positive school culture and learning environment
- Use professional judgment to prevent minor incidents from escalating

Responsibility of District Staff

- Create and implement policies and procedures that encourage safe and orderly schools for all students, school staff, and principals
- Protect the legal rights of school staff, principals, students, and parents
- Provide appropriate training and resources to implement positive behavior interventions and supports at each school
- Assist parents who are unable to resolve issues at the school level
- Utilize individual school discipline data to identify and allocate professional development services for school administrators and staff
- Review and revise the Student Code of Conduct annually

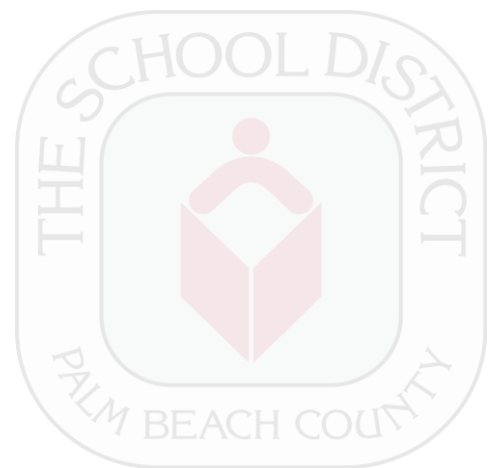
Stakeholders are collaborative partners in education, and each plays an important role in the commitment to educating all students to reach their highest potential.

In Loco Parentis Authority

- *In loco parentis* is a Latin term meaning "in [the] place of a parent" or "instead of a parent." The term refers to a common law doctrine which denotes the legal responsibility of a person to perform some of the functions or responsibilities of a parent when a child is under their

supervision. Although this authority is not equal to a parent/guardian's authority over a child, it permits school personnel to exercise supervision and control over students while they are on school property, school transportation or attending a school related activity. See, Fla. Stat. §1003.31 (1).

- If school administrators have a reasonable suspicion that a student has violated the Student Code of Conduct, or has otherwise engaged in activity that disrupts or adversely impacts the school environment, they may question and/or search the student without obtaining a warrant or contacting the student's parents.
- Because school officials have a vested interest in protecting all students and maintaining the orderly operations of the school, the student does not have the right to be accompanied by their parents, or represented by an attorney, when the student is questioned by school officials.
- However, to the extent that disciplinary action is taken as a result of a Student Code of Conduct violation, the student will be afforded the right to due process, as set forth in School Board Policy and the Student Code of Conduct.



Attendance

This policy is to encourage regular school attendance and punctuality by establishing requirements for student attendance, outlining guidelines or procedures for attendance monitoring and reporting, and establishing procedures supporting chronically absent and habitually truant students as required by Florida laws, rules, and regulations.

Research indicates that students miss school for many reasons, which can be divided into three broad categories (The Importance of Being in School: A Report on Absenteeism in the Nation's Public Schools. Robert Balfanz & Vaughn Byrnes, John Hopkins University Center for Social Organization of Schools, May 2012):

- a. Students who *cannot attend* school due to illness, family responsibilities, housing instability, the need to work, or involvement with the juvenile justice system.
- b. Students who *will not attend* school due to bullying, unsafe conditions, harassment, and embarrassment.
- c. Students who *do not attend* school because they or their parents do not see the value in being there, they have something else they would rather do, or nothing stops them from skipping school.

This policy applies to District students enrolled in grades Pre-K to 12th grades.

The Board believes that regular and punctual school attendance plays important roles in a student's achievement, as there is a strong correlation among regular school attendance, academic achievement, and the completion of school. Although school attendance is the responsibility of the parents or guardians and students, the District is dedicated to increasing the meaningful involvement of parents and guardians in all aspects of their students' lives, including the reduction of chronic absences and truancy.

To combat unexcused absences and truancy, all District schools are dedicated to providing culturally, linguistically, fair, and age-appropriate interventions. District students shall not be treated differently with regard to attendance, absence, or truancy on the basis of their race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, or sexual orientation, marital status, age, religion, disability, genetic information, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic prohibited by law..

In accordance with Fla. Stat. § 1003.26, the Superintendent is responsible for enforcing school attendance of all children and youth subject to the compulsory school age in the District's schools.

Attendance, Absence, and Excuse Requirements

- i. *In General.* Except as provided in Fla. Stat. § 1003.24 and State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.09513, all students are expected to attend school regularly and to be on time for classes in order to benefit from the instructional program and to develop habits of punctuality, self-discipline, and responsibility. Each student is required to attend school regularly during the entire school term. Students who exhibit a pattern of nonattendance may be referred to the School Based Team and interventions implemented pursuant to School Board Policy 5.09 and F.S. §1003.26 to enforce the requirement of school attendance.
- ii. *Parental Notification of Absence to School.* Parents and guardians are responsible for notifying the school and providing documentation, if required, when a child will be absent and for informing the school of the reason for the absence within twenty-four (24) hours of the student's absence. If notification was not provided prior to the absence, the parent or guardian shall be required to notify and provide written documentation, if requested by the school, to justify the reason for the student's absence.
- iii. *Tracking of Absences.* The school centers shall track students' excused and unexcused absences and attendance in the District's computer student information system.
- iv. *Makeup of Assignments.* For excused and unexcused absences, including suspensions, the student will be afforded the opportunity to make up work without academic penalty. For in-school suspensions, students will receive assignments daily. For out-of-school suspensions, students will receive assignments in a timely manner.
 - a. *Excused or Unexcused Absences and Suspensions.* The number of days allowed to make up the work shall be the same as the number of days the student was not present. Upon return to school, it is the student's responsibility to contact his or her teacher(s) about the makeup assignments and to complete all makeup work within the allowed time frame.
- v. *Reporting on Student Report Cards.* Attendance, including absences and tardiness, shall be reported on student report cards, as required by Fla. Stat. § 1003.33(1)(c) and (2).

Late Arrival and Early Dismissal

The Board recognizes that from time to time compelling circumstances require that a student be late to school or dismissed before the end of the school day. Parents or guardians must follow the same process to obtain an excuse for tardiness or early dismissal as they do to obtain an excuse for an absence. A pattern of non-attendance for instructional activities is also established by repeated tardiness, early dismissals, or absences for all or any part of the day.

- i. *Late Arrivals or Tardiness, and Early Dismissals.* Students reporting late to school/class when the day/class period begins are considered tardy. Excessive tardiness or early dismissals shall be addressed on a case-by-case basis to determine if there is a pattern of non-attendance. Unless excused under the provisions of this Policy 5.09, accumulated tardiness or early dismissals will be recorded as unexcused absences consistent with Fla. Stat. § 1003.02(1) (b) and this Policy 5.09. When a secondary student misses fifty (50) percent or more of the identified instructional class period due to unexcused late arrival or tardiness early dismissals, the student shall be considered absent.
- ii. *Academic Time.* Students are not to be sent home or refused admission to school due to tardiness. Students who arrive late for any class period must be allowed to proceed to their classes after obtaining proper documentation of their tardiness.
- iii. *School Procedure.* Any school creating a late arrival and/or early dismissal rule or policy shall submit the proposed school rule or policy to the Regional Superintendent for review and approval prior to the implementation of the procedure rule/policy.

Driving Privileges and Attendance: Report to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

Pursuant to Fla. Stat. §§ 322.091 and 1003.27, the District is required to report to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) the names, dates of birth, sex, and social security numbers of students ages 14 - 18 who accumulates fifteen (15) unexcused absences in any consecutive 90-calendar-day period. Whenever any student has a total of fifteen (15) days of unexcused absence from school during any semester, the student will be considered habitually absent. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to inform the student and parents/guardians of the record of excessive absences as well as the District's intent to notify the DHSMV of the student's excessive absences.

In accordance with law, the District shall hold a hardship hearing upon the request of any student whose license has been suspended pursuant to this section. The Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent to develop procedures for administrative implementation for such hearing, consistent with state laws and technical assistance from the Florida Department of Education. The principal or designee will conduct the hardship hearing within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving the request in accordance with the procedures established by the Superintendent.

Student Dress Codes and Uniforms

It is a fundamental function of the District to create and maintain a positive educational environment by devoting attention to learning, increasing school safety, encouraging good behavior and discipline, and minimizing disruptions and distractions. The Board believes that appropriate attire and grooming contribute to a productive and effective learning environment. Thus, all students are expected to be groomed and dressed appropriately for age, grade level, school, and school activities.

Student attire or grooming that substantially or potentially disrupts the educational environment or school program creates a distraction that interferes with the educational process or classroom activity, or presents a health or safety hazard to the students or school community is not permitted. The determination of what constitutes a safety or health hazard, or what constitutes a distraction of students from a classroom activity, or what constitutes a disruption of a school program or excessive maintenance of school property shall be made by the principal or designee. The principal or designee shall have final authority to decide if a student's attire complies with a dress code or uniform dress code, and shall use reasonable discretion in interpreting and implementing the provisions of this policy. The dress and uniform codes as described below shall be applicable for the District-wide.

All documents, forms, and communications that are provided to parents, must be translated for parents who speak a language identified as a Major Language in the District. Furthermore, for parents who speak languages other than the identified Major Languages, written translations or oral interpretation will be provided upon parents' request, or if the need for translation or interpretation becomes apparent.

Section 1001.43(1) (b), Fla. Stat., authorizes the Board to require uniforms to be worn by the student body or impose other dress-related requirements if the Board finds that these requirements are necessary for the safety or welfare of the student body or school personnel.

The Board recognizes that individual students have a right to free expression and that right must be balanced with the Board's responsibility to provide classrooms and campuses that are safe, secure, and orderly, and an educational environment which is supportive of the school system's academic goals and educational responsibilities. In support of these goals and expectations, the Board establishes the following dress codes for District students.

Definitions

- a. *Attire* means clothing, headwear, jewelry, book bags, accessories, or other articles of personal appearance.
- b. *Dress Code* means a set of parameters that describes acceptable and unacceptable student apparel to ensure the health and safety of all students and creates a positive learning environment, and refers to the District-wide and/or School Specific Dress Codes.

- c. *District-wide Student Dress Code* means a set of parameters as determined by the School Board, that describes acceptable and unacceptable apparel to ensure the health and safety of all students and creates a positive learning environment.
- d. *School Specific (Standard) Dress Code* means a set of parameters determined by the immediate school site that describes acceptable and unacceptable student apparel and appearance, including but not limited to, clothing, makeup, tattoos, and jewelry.
- e. *Higher Standard (Uniform) Dress Code* means distinctive clothing styles and/or specific colors worn by students as a means of identifying them as members of a school community and determined by the local school site. Included in the definition of a Higher Standard (Uniform) Dress Code is the selective dress or standards of a District academy, magnet, or choice program.

Clothing Assistance

It is a policy of the Board that no student will be denied attendance at school or otherwise denied an education for failing to wear clothing that complies with the District-wide, a School Specific (Standard), or a Higher Standard (Uniform) Dress Code, whichever is applicable, if such failure is due to financial hardship. Each principal and SAC shall develop procedures and criteria to offer assistance to students who would have or are having difficulty complying with their school's Higher Standard (Uniform) Dress Code due to financial hardships. Parents may request such assistance from the principal or designee. The identity of the family or child shall not be disclosed.

New and Transfer Students

Students entering the Palm Beach County Public School System for the first time during the school year shall be granted a grace period of up to five (5) days before being required to comply with a Higher Standard (Uniform) Dress Code, unless the school provides the student(s) with clothing to comply with the Higher Standard (Uniform Dress Code).

Student Conduct and Behavior

- Every student, preschool through adult, has the right to be educated in a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment. Every educator has the right to teach in an atmosphere free from disruption and obstacles that impede learning. This will be achieved through the adoption and implementation of a consistent *Student Code of Conduct* and through the implementation of a Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) Plan in all schools.
- The PBIS Plan emphasizes teaching students to behave in ways that contribute to academic achievement, school success, and support a school environment where students and school staff are responsible and respectful.
- The PBIS Plan will include: teaching school rules, reinforcing appropriate student behavior, and using effective classroom management and positive behavior support strategies by providing early intervention for misconduct and appropriate use of consequences.
- Palm Beach County (PBC) schools are established for the benefit of all students. The educational purposes of the schools are accomplished best in a positive school climate that teaches, models, and reinforces student behavior that is socially acceptable and conducive to the learning and teaching process. There must also be a consistent continuum of consequences for ongoing student misconduct across PBC schools.
- The School Board supports the administrative staff and teachers in taking all necessary and reasonable steps to implement the *Student Code of Conduct* and administrative policies to maintain appropriate student behavior. Important among these policies and directives are those in the areas of conduct, involving behavioral interventions and supports, enhancing the climate for learning, and policies governing suspensions and expulsions.
- The policies herein serve as the code governing student conduct and discipline and are applicable to all students. These policies shall constitute the *Student Code of Conduct*, which is incorporated as Board policy pursuant to Florida Statute. Copies of these documents are available in Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Portuguese on the District website, on file in the Board Minutes Office, the Public Affairs Department, and shall be available at each school and each Area Superintendent's office.
- The School Board recognizes that the *Code of Student Conduct* must be consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504). Therefore, students eligible for services under IDEA or Section 504 will be disciplined in accordance with these acts and are governed by those *Student Code of Conduct* provisions, which specify that they apply to students covered under IDEA and 504 students.
- The School Board establishes guidelines for the conduct and discipline of students. The Superintendent shall recommend, based on these policies, a *Student Code of Conduct* for adoption by the School Board annually, in accordance with Florida Statute. The *Student Code of Conduct* will be available in Spanish, Haitian Creole, Portuguese and to all elementary or

secondary teachers, school personnel, students, and parents or guardians and discussed at the beginning of every school year.

- The School Board adopts the *Student Code of Conduct* in accordance with Florida Statute and will include:
 - a. Establishing policies and specific grounds for disciplinary action, including in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, and any other disciplinary action that may be imposed for the possession or use of alcohol on school property or while attending a school function or for the illegal use, sale, or possession of controlled substances, as defined in Chapter 893, F.S.
 - b. Establishing procedures to be followed for acts requiring discipline and establishing procedures for the assignment of violent or disruptive students to an alternative educational program.
 - c. Defining and explaining the responsibilities and rights of students with regard to attendance, respect for persons and property, knowledge and observation of rules of conduct, the right to learn, free speech, student publications, assembly, privacy, and participation in school programs and activities.
- These policies recognize that pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 922(q)(1)(I)(2)(A) (The Gun-Free School Zones Act), “It shall be unlawful for any individual, knowingly, to possess a firearm...at a place that the individual knows, or has reasonable cause to believe, is a school zone” and 18 U.S.C. § 922(q)(3)(A) “...[I]t shall be unlawful for any person, knowingly or with reckless disregard for the safety of another, to discharge or attempt to discharge a firearm...at a place that the person knows is a school zone.”
- These policies recognize that pursuant to § 893.13(1)(c), F.S. (The Drug- Free School Zone), it shall be unlawful for any person to sell, manufacture, or deliver, or possess with intent to sell, manufacture, or deliver a controlled substance in, on, or within one thousand (1,000) feet of the real property comprising a childcare facility as defined in § 402.302, F.S., or public or private elementary, middle, or secondary school, between the hours of 6 a.m. and midnight.
- In addition, pursuant to Florida Statute 1006.07, notice is provided that:
 - a. “[P]ossession of a firearm, a knife, or a weapon, by any student while the student is on school property or in attendance at a school function is grounds for disciplinary action and may also result in criminal prosecution Bringing a firearm or weapon, as defined by Fla. Stat. § 790, to school, to any school function, or onto any school-sponsored transportation or possessing a firearm at school is grounds for disciplinary action and may result in criminal prosecution.”
 - b. “[A]ny student who is determined to have brought a firearm...to school, to any school function, or on to any school-sponsored transportation will be expelled, with or without continuing educational services, from the student's regular school.”

- c. "...[I]llegal use, possession, or sale of controlled substances, as defined in Chapter 893, will result in disciplinary action, including in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, and any disciplinary action per School Board policies.
- d. "... [V]iolence against any school District personnel by a student is grounds for out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or imposition of other disciplinary action by the school and may also result in criminal penalties being imposed."
- e. "... [V]iolation of District school board transportation policies, including disruptive behavior on a school bus or at a school bus stop, by a student, is grounds for suspension of the student's privilege of riding on a school bus and may be grounds for disciplinary action by the school, and may also result in criminal penalties being imposed."
- f. "... [V]iolation of the District school board's sexual harassment policy by a student is grounds for in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or imposition of other disciplinary action by the school, and may also result in criminal penalties being imposed."
- g. Making a threat or false report as defined by Fla. Stat. § 790.162 and 790.163, respectively; or sending, posting, or transmitting written or electronic threats to kill, do bodily injury, or conduct a mass shooting as defined in Fla. Stat. §836.10 involving school or school personnel's property, school transportation or a school-sponsored activity is grounds for disciplinary action, including expulsion and may result in criminal prosecution. This includes:
 - i. Threatening to throw, project, place, or discharge any destructive device; with intent to do bodily harm to any person or with intent to do damage to the property of any person.
 - ii. Making a false report, with the intent to deceive, mislead, or otherwise misinform any person, concerning the placing or planting of any bomb, dynamite, other deadly explosive, or weapon of mass destruction; as defined by Fla. Stat. §790.163; or concerning the use of firearms in a violent manner against a person or persons.
 - iii. Sending, posting, or transmitting a threat of mass shooting/violence or terrorism as defined by Fla. Stat. §863.10(1), or procuring the sending, posting, or transmission of a writing or other record, including an electronic record, in any manner in which it may be viewed by another person when such a writing or record threatens to a) kill or do bodily harm to another person; or b) to conduct a mass shooting or an act of terrorism at a school, school transportation or a school-sponsored activity.
- h. Threats made on or off a school campus that impact the school community are required to be investigated by the school's Threat Management Team per Fl. Statute 1006.07 and School Board Policy 5.1815. Outcomes of the Threat Management Process may result in a Student Support Management Plan. Parents and/or guardians will be notified if their child is a subject to a threat assessment or if their child is a potential target of a threat. The School District is obligated to release the name of the student(s) making a threat to the parents/guardians of the child who is a potential target of a threat.
- i. Students, faculty, and staff have an obligation to report concerning behaviors and threats to self or others to either school administration, law enforcement, or the FortifyFL tip line.

Students, faculty, and staff will be provided guidance regarding behaviors of concern and threats that should be reported.

- To the extent that any definition, recommended disciplinary action, or any provision in the policies serving as the basis for code governing student conduct is contrary to state law or state board of education rule, the law or state board rule shall control.
- Grievance Against Schools
 - a. Students, parents, or guardians are required to follow the District's established procedure for addressing disciplinary grievances against the school.
 - b. The Superintendent shall establish procedures by which students and parents may present discipline grievances to appropriate school authorities.

Scope of the Student Code of Conduct

The *Student Code of Conduct* is intended to outline a range of appropriate responses for inappropriate behaviors:

- Poor academic achievement is not an act of misconduct. Therefore, the *Student Code of Conduct* must not be used to discipline students for poor academic achievement or failure.
- A parent's failure to appropriately support his/her child's education cannot be considered misconduct on the part of the child.
- The *Student Code of Conduct* applies to all students. However, discipline for students with disabilities shall be administered in accordance with federal and state law.
- In working within the Student Code of Conduct, school administration and staff must be sensitive to cultural differences a student may exhibit.

The *Student Code of Conduct* applies to the actions of students during the time:

- Students are waiting for school transportation, being transported to and from school at public expense.
- Students are attending school.
- Students are participating in school-sponsored activities, whether in- county, out- of- county, out of state or out of country
 - Prom
 - College campus trips
 - Grad bash
 - Field trip
 - Safety Patrol
- Commission of off-campus conduct which substantially disrupts the school learning environment. Students may face disciplinary consequences for off-campus conduct that has an adverse impact on the educational program, discipline, or welfare of the school where they are enrolled.

In an effort to fully implement Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) and reduce the loss of instructional time, the School District of Palm Beach County expects that each school will utilize a wide variety of corrective strategies. Teachers must utilize and document a minimum of two research-based interventions prior to writing and submitting a discipline referral on a minor offense. Some examples are provided below.

Sample Classroom/ Teacher Interventions and Corrective Strategies Prior to Discipline Referral

<i>Corrective Strategy</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>
Apology Restitution	Students make amends for negative actions by taking responsibility to correct the problem created by the behavior through verbal or written declaration of remorse.
Check in/Check Out	Daily contact with an assigned adult on campus. Student should see the adult as agreed upon (i.e. before and after school, during lunch) based on the student's schedule and corrective strategic goal,
Conference with Parent(s)	Teacher communicates with the student's parent(s) by phone, email, written notes, or in-person about the problem.
Conference with Student	Private time with a student to discuss behavior interventions/ solutions. This can include direct instruction in expected or desirable behaviors.
Corrective Assignment Restitution	Student completes a task that compensates for the negative action and triggers a desire not to revisit the negative behavior. (I.e., clean-up, helping another person).
Detention	Required attendance for a monitored period of time, generally an hour after school, during lunch, or Saturday.
Home/ School Plan	Parent(s) and teacher agree on a consistent approach. The plan should be consistent with PBIS practices, emphasizing teaching and rewarding appropriate behaviors and using consistent consequences for problem behaviors. The home/school plan should be explained to the student by the parent(s) and teacher, as appropriate.
In-Class Time Out	Predetermined consequence for breaking classroom rules of short duration (five minutes or less, usually separated from group, but remains in class) or brief withdrawal of attention and other reinforcers (a time for student to reflect on his or her action).
Mentoring	An agreed upon adult or student who provides consistent support, guidance, and concrete help to a student who is in need of a positive role model.
Out-of-Class Time out	Students are assigned to another supervised environment for a period of time out (i.e., another classroom), slightly longer duration than in-class time out (30 minutes or less). Students must comply with rules of exclusion time out. Time-out procedure must be taught to students before implementing.
Privilege Loss	Incentives given for positive behavior are lost, (i.e., five minutes off computer time).
Reflective Assignment	Help student realize why his misbehavior was wrong by asking him/her to compose a reflective essay
Teach/Reteach Student Expectations	Teach and model behavioral expectation that students are having difficulty with adherence
Written Contract	Student, teacher, and parent(s) may formulate a document expressing the student's intention to remediate or stop further occurrences of a problem behavior. Written contract should be positive in tone and it should include incentives but may also include consequences for misbehavior.

*Any writing assignment or communication to home must be in a language that students and parents can fully understand.

Administrative Prevention and Early Intervention

Prior to a student receiving a suspension, it is the administrator's responsibility to ensure that the student has had two interventions that address the student's misbehavior. These interventions must be DOCUMENTED. Exceptions to this are offenses, which are most serious in nature, and have occurred with no prior opportunity to provide early interventions.

<i>Corrective Strategies</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>
Behavior Contract	A written/verbal contract or plan for the student with stated goals, objectives, and outcomes for the student to develop the necessary skills to address the stated incident.
Community Service	Donated service or activity that is performed by students for the benefit of the public or its institutions.
Conference with Parent(s)	Administrator and teacher communicate with the student's parent(s) by phone, email, written notes, or person to person about the problem.
Conference with Student	Private time with a student to discuss behavior interventions/solutions. This can include direct instruction in expected or desirable behaviors.
Daily / Weekly Report	A progress report and/or assignment sheet which gives the student and parent the opportunity to track the student's academic and behavioral progress in each of his/her classes for a specified period of time.
Detention	Required attendance for a monitored period of time, generally an hour after school, during lunch, or Saturday.
Loss of Privileges (during school hours)	The loss of a privilege(s) during school hours such as assemblies, field trips, and incentive activities. (The loss of an academic field trip should only occur when safety is a concern.)
Mentoring	An agreed upon adult or student who provides consistent support, guidance, and concrete help to a student who is in need of a positive role model.
Parent/Guardian Attends Class with Child	Parent/Guardian agrees to shadow child and/or attends class with their child at school for an agreed upon time during the child's school day.
Plan Meeting (IEP, LEP, 504)	Students recommended to the necessary department/group for discussion and development of a course of action/interventions for the student.
Referral for Admin Mediation	Referral to Mediation with an Administrator for a stated incident.
Referral for Peer Mediation	Referral to Mediation with a Peer for stated incident.
Referral to School Based Team	The referral to the School Based Team for possible interventions.
Referral to School Guidance	Counseling of the student by the guidance counselor to assist the student in developing or utilizing the necessary skills to address the stated incident.

Restorative Justice	A structured process guided by a trained facilitator in which the participants in an incident examine the intended and unintended impact of their actions and decide on interpersonal remedies to repair harm and restore relationship.
Schedule Change (change of regular classes)	A permanent change in the student's regular class schedule.
School Service Work (during school hours)	Work assistance, provided by the student, to any staff member during school hours, assistance could include campus or hallway clean-up.
Silent Lunch / Lunch Detention	A separate facility and/or seating arrangement for the student during a regularly scheduled lunch period. Additionally, the administrator may request some cafeteria clean-up assistance from the student such as sweeping, wiping tables, and/or assisting with other clean-up activities.
Temporary Classroom Change (short-term)	The temporary removal of a student from their regular classroom to a different classroom. The student will be given the opportunity to complete his or her regular class work in the alternative setting.
Temporary Removal from Classroom	The temporary removal of a student from the traditional learning environment to a separate, individual learning environment for a short period of time.
Voluntary Restitution / Self-Designed Action(s)	Students make amends for negative actions, taking responsibility to correct the problem, through a written or verbal apology.

*Any writing assignment or communication to home must be in a language that students and parents can understand.

Social Media Guide

Palm Beach County Public Schools realizes that part of 21st- century learning is adapting to the changing methods of communication. The importance of teachers, students, and parents engaging, collaborating, learning, and sharing in these digital environments is a part of 21st century learning. As such, educational standards are now requiring the use of online educational tools to demonstrate proficiency. To address related issues, PBCSD has developed guidelines to provide direction for students and the school district community when participating in online social media activities.

Social Media refers to the use of web-based and mobile technologies that enable all Palm Beach County Public Schools' internal and external stakeholders to connect, collaborate, and form virtual communities via the computer and/or Internet. For some, social media is used mainly for social purposes, but for others, these sites and technologies are used as tools to teach and to connect with the community.

The First Amendment, in general, protects the rights of individuals to participate in social media. However, the laws and courts have ruled that schools can discipline students and staff if their speech, including online postings off campus, materially and substantially disrupts school operations, reasonably likely causes a material and substantial disruption of the school, constitutes a violation of certain relevant federal or state laws or School Board policies.

Since social media reaches audiences far beyond the community and can leave lasting impressions, students must use social sites responsibly and be accountable for their actions. Students should consider not posting or linking anything to social networking sites that they would not want peers, teachers, college admissions officers, or future employers to access. Students should be sure to utilize privacy settings to control access, never share personal information with parties unknown on unsecured sites, and be protective of site passwords.

Misrepresentation of someone else's identity must also be avoided and may lead to disciplinary consequences. Students should remember to be respectful to others. When responding to someone during a disagreement, be sure that criticism is constructive and not hurtful. Beware of profane, obscene, or threatening language.

If the use or posting to a social media site creates a substantial and material disruption on a school campus, regardless of time or location while posting to a social media site, students will be subject to the behavioral standards set forth in the Student Code of Conduct.

Deepfakes and AI-Generated Material

Schools are committed to providing education on the ethical use of digital media, with a focus on understanding the implications and potential harms of deepfakes and other AI-generated content. The creation, distribution, or use of digitally manipulated content (videos, images, audio), known as deepfakes, to misrepresent someone as doing or saying something they did not actually do or say, is strictly prohibited. This includes the malicious use of deepfakes or any AI-generated material to harm, deceive, bully, or defame others. Educational use of deepfakes and AI-generated material is permitted only if it is clearly labeled as such and has been pre-approved by a teacher or administrator. Transparency and obtaining consent from any individuals depicted are mandatory requirements. Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action, which may include suspension, expulsion, or legal action, depending on the severity of the offense. Any suspected misuse should be reported to school authorities immediately for prompt investigation and appropriate action.

Discipline Guide

According to the Code of Student Conduct, The Discipline Guide is a tool for administrators to respond appropriately when students have committed discipline infractions., per the *Code of Student Conduct*. This tool is designed to offer consistency at all levels across the District so that students are disciplined fairly from school to school when their behavior requires discipline beyond the classroom.

The Discipline Guide does not apply to classroom management as assigned by the teacher, but rather as a progressive step when a student has broken the rules requiring a principal and/or his designee to assign consequences. Certain violations of the rules such as weapon possession, assault, and sexual harassment, require immediate initial administrative action.

The Discipline Guide is designed to assist you and your child in understanding the consequences of violating school rules. While most parents will have no need to be familiar with the discipline guide, the School Board and the district want to ensure that parents are knowledgeable about the actions of its school administrators when students misbehave. The discipline guide enables administrators to assign consequences consistently, regardless of the school your child attends. When a student has multiple violations in one incident, such as fighting with a weapon, the administrator will impose the more *severe consequences*.

The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act (SB 7026) requires a mandatory mental health services referral for students who commit the following infractions: (1) any student who is determined to have made a threat or false report; (2) brought a firearm or weapon; (3) any person who makes, posts, or transmits a threat in a writing or other record, including an electronic record, to conduct a mass shooting or an act of terrorism, in any manner that would allow another person to view the threat. Additionally, a mental health services referral will be required for any student who is recommended for expulsion.

Like the Student Code of Conduct, the Discipline Guide is reviewed annually by District stakeholders, including parents, teachers, administrators, counselors, and other community representatives.

Discipline Referral Incidents in Palm Beach County are classified as Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, or Level 4 infractions. When deciding what disciplinary action should be taken, the Principal or designee shall consider the student's age, exceptionality, ELL status, previous conduct, intent, and severity of the incident.

Administrators are asked to administer discipline in a progressive manner. The underlying principle is to use the least severe action that is appropriate for the misbehavior. Administrators will increase the severity of the action if the misbehaviors continue.

Administrators shall refer a student exhibiting continued disobedient, disrespectful, violent, abusive, uncontrollable, or disruptive behavior to the Child Study Team or School Based Team (including the parents or guardians) for the purpose of identifying interventions, such as behavior contracts. If

interventions fail to improve the student's behavior, the Child Study Team or School-Based Team shall discuss if alternative education is an option for the student.

Level One

Behaviors	Administrative Responsibilities	Range of Discipline Actions
<p>Level 1 Incidents are acts that disrupt the orderly operation of the classroom, school, transportation or extracurricular activities.</p> <p><u>LEVEL 1 INCIDENTS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tardiness, Habitual SBT ➤ Truancy/unexplained absences SBT ➤ Out of Assigned Area ➤ Leaving School Grounds w/out permission ➤ Dress Code Violations ➤ Public Displays of Affection ➤ Cheating ➤ Failure to comply with School Rules ➤ Bus Rules Violation ➤ Computer/Technology Misuse (Minor) ➤ Disruptive (Unruly) Behavior or Play ➤ Disrespectful Language ➤ Confrontation ➤ Lying/Misrepresentation ➤ Cellular Telephone/Technology Violation ➤ Prohibited Items, Unauthorized Use of Medications ➤ Unauthorized Sale/Distribution of Materials ➤ Inappropriate Activity ➤ Disobedient/Insubordination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Investigation (M) ➤ Parent/Guardian Contacted (M) ➤ Conference with Student (M) ➤ Collect Student Statements (M) ➤ SBT=Referral to School Based Team (M) ➤ For ESE students, refer to page 30 (IDEA process) <p><u>Range of Corrective Strategies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review of Matrix of Expectations ➤ Re-teach Behavior ➤ Coaching ➤ Reflective Assignment ➤ Apology Letter ➤ Classroom Behavior Intervention Response (CBIR) <p>M = Mandatory</p>	<p>The principal or principal designee may review and consider a higher-level discipline code if the incident occurs more than once after documented correctional strategies or directives. In addition to the mandatory actions (M), the principal or designees may select one or more of the following from Level 1 Actions.</p> <p><u>LEVEL 1 ACTIONS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conference with Parents ➤ Referred to School Guidance ➤ Referral for Peer Mediation ➤ Referral for Administrative Mediation ➤ Behavior Contract ➤ Plan Meeting (IEP, 504, LEP) ➤ Daily Weekly Report ➤ Schedule Change ➤ Parent Guardian Attends School w/Student ➤ Voluntary Restitution ➤ Assigned Bus Seat ➤ Silent Lunch/Lunch Detention ➤ After School Detention ➤ Extended or Multiple Detentions ➤ Saturday School Detention ➤ Confiscation ➤ Conflict Resolution ➤ Mentoring ➤ Referral to Outside Agency

Level Two

Behaviors	Administrative Responsibilities	Range of Discipline Actions
<p>Level 2 Incidents are more serious than Level 1 Incidents. These behaviors significantly interfere with the learning process and/or the well-being of others.</p> <p><u>LEVEL 2 INCIDENTS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Harassment (non-sexual) SBT ➤ Bus Disruption ➤ Profane or Obscene Language ➤ Threat, non-criminal TA ➤ Physical Aggression ➤ Repetitive Disobedience/Insubordination CB/SBT ➤ Bullying/Cyberbullying SBT ➤ Vandalism less than \$1000 ➤ Petty Theft or Stealing less than \$750 ➤ Possession of Tobacco Products* (include Vape/ENDS) SBT/TVP ➤ Un-served Detentions (Regular) ➤ Un-served Detentions (Saturday) ➤ Firecrackers/Poppers ➤ Forgery of Document of Signature ➤ Gambling SBT ➤ Sexual Harassment SBT/Title IX ➤ Possession of Other Instruments or Objects ➤ Menacing Statements, Non-Criminal ➤ Severe Inappropriate Activity ➤ Cheating Severe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Investigation(M) ➤ Witness Statements(M) ➤ Parent /Guardian Contact (M) ➤ Conference with Student (M) ➤ Collect Student Statements(M) ➤ Title IX=Investigation (M) ➤ SBT=Referral to SBT(M) ➤ TVP=Tobacco/VAPE Program Enrollment (M) ➤ CB=Documented previous Corrective Behavior strategies (M) ➤ TA=Threat Assessment (M) ➤ For ESE students, refer to page 30 (IDEA process) <p>Range of Corrective Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review of Matrix of Expectations ➤ Coaching ➤ Reflective Assignment ➤ Apology Letter ➤ Check in-Check Out ➤ Restorative Justice ➤ Stay Away Agreement ➤ Victim Safety Plan <p>M = Mandatory</p>	<p>Where appropriate, principals or designees should apply discipline in a progressive manner. In addition to the mandatory actions (M), the principal or designees may select one or more of the strategies from Level 1, as well as one or more of the following from Level 2 actions.</p> <p><u>LEVEL 2 ACTIONS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Restorative Justice ➤ Community Service ➤ Loss of Privileges ➤ In-School Intervention ➤ In-School Suspension ➤ Days Held in Abeyance ➤ Bus Suspension ➤ Out of School Suspension for 1-5 days

Tobacco/VAPE (TV) Offenses

**** 1st Offense** – Tobacco Violation - provide students with an opportunity to exchange 3 days of the mandatory 5-day Out-of-School Suspension for attendance in the District approved Tobacco/VAPE non-drug related program (TVP).

**** 2nd Offense** – Tobacco Violation - provide students with an opportunity to exchange 2 days of the mandatory 5-day Out-of-School Suspension for attendance in the District approved Tobacco/VAPE non-drug related program (TVP).

****3rd Offense** - Tobacco/VAPE non-drug related Violation - REQUIRE a Parent Conference and a 5-day OSS.

**** Repeated Tobacco/VAPE non-drug related Violations** require 10-day OSS

Level Three

Behaviors	Administrative Responsibilities	Range of Discipline Actions
<p>Level 3 Incidents are more serious than Level 2 Incidents. These behaviors cause significant disruptions with the learning process. These incidents cause health and/or safety concerns, or damage to school property.</p> <p><u>LEVEL 3 INCIDENTS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fighting ➤ Simple Battery on Student ➤ Simple Battery on SBE/LEO ➤ Extortion/Blackmail/Coercion ➤ Robbery ➤ Hazing ➤ Larceny/Theft, equal to or greater than \$750 ➤ Criminal Mischief/Vandalism equal to or greater than \$1000 ➤ Breaking and Entering/Burglary ➤ Computer/Technology Misuse (Major) ➤ Reckless Vehicle Use ➤ Motor Vehicle Theft ➤ Counterfeit or Misrepresented Document ➤ Sexual Assault (Title IX) ➤ Unauthorized use/possession/storage of Prescription Medications AOD ➤ Alcohol AOD ➤ Drug Paraphernalia AOD ➤ Drugs/Imitation Drugs Represented as Drugs (use/possession/storage) AOD ➤ Vape/ENDS Paraphernalia Sale/Distribution (non-drug) AOD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Parent/Guardian contact (M) ➤ Student Conference (M) ➤ Investigate (M) ➤ Witness Statements(M) ➤ Collect Student Statements (M) ➤ Notify School Police (M) ➤ Referral to School Based Team (M) ➤ MHR=Mental Health Services Referral (M) ➤ Title IX = Investigation (M) ➤ TA = Threat Assessment (M) ➤ AOD=Alcohol/Other Drug Program Enrollment(M) ➤ For ESE students, refer to page 30 (IDEA process) <p>M= Mandatory</p>	<p>In addition to the mandatory actions (M), the principal or designees may select one or more of the strategies from Level 1 and 2, as well as one or more of the following from Level 3 actions.</p> <p><u>LEVEL 3 ACTIONS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Loss of Extra Curricular Activities ➤ Suspension from School 1-10 days ➤ Recommendation for Severe Incident <p><u>Principals can request to convene a Discipline Screening Committee on any infraction that is unique in nature.</u></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Threat/Intimidation TA➤ Disruption of a School➤ Trespassing➤ Inappropriate Lewd, or Obscene Act➤ Sexual Misconduct➤ Possession of Dangerous Item MHR/TA		
--	--	--

Alcohol or Other Drug (AOD) Offenses

*** 1st Offense – 10 days OSS/5 in Abeyance with attendance in the District approved Alcohol or Other Drugs (AOD) program

*** Repeated Alcohol or Other Drugs offense during the same calendar year – REQUIRE a 10 day out-of-school suspension and the Principal can make a recommendation for Severe Incident Assignment.

Level Four

Behavior	Administrative Responsibilities	Discipline Consequences
<p>These behaviors are the most serious acts of student misconduct and threaten life.</p> <p><u>LEVEL 4 INCIDENTS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Imminent Threat of Violence, High Level TA ➤ Attempt a Criminal Act Against a Person TA ➤ Possession of a Firearm, Handgun, Rifle, Shotgun TA ➤ Aggravated Battery on Law Enforcement Officer ➤ Possession, Use, Sale, Storage or Distribution of an Explosive Device TA ➤ Sale, Intent to Sell, or Distribution of Drugs, Imitation Drugs Represented as Drugs, or Prescription Medications ➤ Aggravated Battery on a Student/Person (Non- School Board Employee) ➤ Armed Robbery ➤ Aggravated Battery on School Board Employee ➤ Sexual Battery Title IX ➤ Kidnapping or Abduction TA ➤ Arson ➤ Bomb Threat TA ➤ Post/Transmit a Threat to kill, do bodily injury or conduct a of Mass Shooting or Terrorism TA ➤ Homicide ➤ Weapon Possession TA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Investigate (M) ➤ Witness Statements (M) ➤ Collect Student Statements (M) ➤ Parent/Guardian Contacted (M) ➤ Student Conference (M) ➤ Confiscation (if applicable) (M) ➤ Notify Regional Office (M) ➤ Notify Safe Schools (M) ➤ Notify School Police (M) ➤ Mental Health Services Referral (M) ➤ Refer to SBT (M) ➤ TA=Threat Assessment (M) ➤ Title IX = Investigation (M) ➤ For ESE students, refer to page 31 (IDEA process) <p>M= Mandatory</p>	<p>In addition to the mandatory actions (M), the principal or designees may select one or more of the strategies from Level 1, 2, and 3.</p> <p><u>LEVEL 4 ACTIONS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Suspension from School 10 days (M) ➤ Recommendation for Expulsion or Severe Incident Assignment (M) <p><u>Principals can request to convene a Discipline Screening Committee on any infraction that is unique in nature.</u></p>

District Imposed Consequences

Consequences that schools can recommend but only District staff can impose.

Alternative Placement Pending Expulsion

The District will assign students to an alternative education site pending the outcome of a Discipline Review Committee

Assignment to Special Program/ Alternative School/ Alternative Program (District-placed)

The District will place students at an alternative education site for a specified period of time. (Pursuant to School Board Policy 5.1814, 5.1813, 5.18175 or 8.13)

Criminal Youth Diversion

The District will work in collaboration with the Department of Juvenile Justice to recommend students who commit a criminal offense to be allowed to participate in a civil citation or similar pre-arrest diversion program if applicable.

Expulsion

The removal of the right and obligation of a student to attend a public school under conditions set by the District School Board and for a period of time not to exceed the remainder of the term or school year and 1 additional year of attendance. Expulsions may be imposed with or without continuing educational services and shall be reported accordingly. F. S. § 1003.01(6) (Pursuant to School Board Policy 5.181475)

Before the expiration of an expulsion period, the district school superintendent shall determine, based upon the determination of the threat management team, whether the expulsion period should be extended and, if the expulsion period is extended, what educational services will be provided. A recommendation to extend the expulsion period must be provided to the student and his or her parents in accordance with s.1006.08(1).

Felony Suspension Incident

This incident code should be used for a student who has been felony suspended per F.S. § 1006.09(2) and SBER 6A-1.0956 and is assigned to an alternative education program until the student is adjudicated. If the student is adjudicated guilty, the principal may recommend expulsion. (Pursuant to School Board Policy 5.18175)

Honoring an Expulsion from another District

The School District of Palm Beach County will honor the expulsion from another school district if it is an expellable offense in Palm Beach County.

IAES

Interim Alternative Educational Setting for an ESE student for up to forty-five (45) calendar days without parental consent for:

- a. Possession of dangerous weapons in school or at school functions; or
- b. Possession, use, sale or solicitation of a controlled substance while at school or at a school function; or
- c. Serious Bodily Harm.

Long-Term Suspension (District approved and entered)

F.S. § 1006.09(1) (b) permits the Superintendent to extend a suspension beyond ten (10) school days if the student is being recommended for expulsion.

Refer to Courts or Juvenile Authorities

The District can refer students through to the courts or juvenile authorities for certain acts of misconduct.

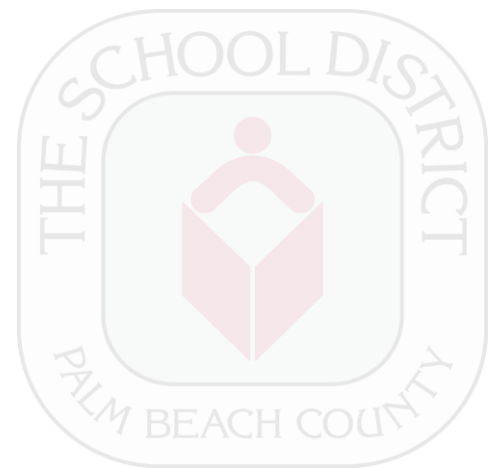
Authorization for Suspension

Unless the offense falls within the parameters of School Board Policy 5.18175 and as allowed by State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.0956, Suspension of a student from school for committing any of the infractions warranting suspension under the Palm Beach County Student Code of Conduct shall be employed only if the offense is related to school activity or school attendance.

These offenses may occur at any time, including, but not limited to, while on school grounds, while utilizing school transportation, or during a school-sponsored activity. Bus suspensions can also be warranted for infractions that occur on school transportation vehicles.

Whenever a student has been suspended during a school year for **ten (10)** cumulative school days, the appropriate Regional/Instructional Superintendent's Office shall be notified, and the student referred to the School Based Team for necessary discussion and possible interventions.

Informal suspension (i.e., a parent is told to keep a child at home under the supervision of the parent, or a student is sent home without the benefit of a conference and of official documentation) is a violation of Florida's compulsory attendance laws, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and District policy. Any form of informal suspension is prohibited.



Appeal Process for Suspension

The principal is to advise parents or guardians, in their native language, of the appeal procedures for an out-of-school suspension. The parent must appeal to the school's principal within 24 hours of the notice of suspension. A decision by the school principal must be made within 24 hours of receipt of the appeal. If the parents do not agree with the principal's decision, they may appeal to the Regional/Instructional Superintendent or designee. The conference shall be arranged as soon as possible following the parents' request; during the period of appeal, the suspension remains in effect for the length of time designated.

The results of the appeal may include, but are not limited to:

1. Sustaining the suspension in all respects.
2. Modification of penalties imposed.
3. Rescinding the suspension and expunging the suspension from the student's records.

The parents shall be notified of the appeal decision.

Note: If the student is recommended for expulsion or severe incident assignment, the appeal will be heard by the Discipline Review Committee instead of the Region.

Discipline for Students Eligible for Services under the Individuals with Disabilities Act

1. Statutes and Rules

- a. The discipline of all students with disabilities (“ESE”) is governed by federal statutes and regulations under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”) including 34 CFR 300.530 as well as Florida Statutes, and State Board of Education Rules, and the ESE Procedural Safeguards.
- b. In accordance with the Procedural Safeguards and 34 CFR 300.534, the discipline provisions pertaining to ESE students with an IEP may apply to students if the district knows or should know that a student may be eligible for special education and related services, but has not yet determined such eligibility.

2. Suspension

- a. Suspension is the temporary removal of a student from all classes of instruction on public school grounds and all other school-sponsored activities, for a period not to exceed ten (10) cumulative school days per year. Any removal from school, even if the necessary paperwork for a formal suspension is not initiated or completed, counts toward the 10-day rule. All days a student with a disability spends out of school as a result of school action, whether formal or informal, apply towards the 10-day limit.
- b. A principal/designee may remove a student eligible for services under the IDEA for up to **ten (10) cumulative school days per calendar year** for disciplinary infraction(s). The school district is not required to provide services to a child with a disability who has been removed from his or her current placement for 10 school days or less in that school year if services are not similarly provided to students without disabilities who are similarly removed.
- c. If an ESE student is arrested on campus **and** suspended, those days count towards the cumulative ten (10) days allowed each school year.
- d. The IEP team must meet no later than the tenth (10th) day of the cumulative suspension to:
 - i. Determine if the student’s behavior is a manifestation of the student’s disability.
 - ii. Initiate an FBA or review the student’s current FBA and behavior intervention plan.
 - iii. If the behavior is a manifestation of the disability, review the student’s IEP.

- e. The Manifestation Determination Review (MDR) must be conducted at the IEP meeting.
 - i. When making a manifestation determination, the district, parent, and relevant members of the Team shall review and take into consideration the student's present program and case history, including all relevant information in the student's file, the student's accommodation plan, any teacher observations, and any relevant information provided by the parents.
 - ii. The team shall then determine: (a) If the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to, the student's disability; or (b) If the conduct in question was the direct result of failure to implement the IEP. A consensus of the members of the team shall make these determinations, and such determination will be based upon the information reviewed by the Team. If either (a) or (b) is applicable, the conduct shall be determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability.
- f. The student's custodial parent/guardian must be invited to participate as a member of the manifestation team and the principal/designee must take reasonable steps to ensure that one or both of the parents of a child with a disability are present at the meeting or are afforded the opportunity to participate, including scheduling the meeting at a mutually agreed on time and place. If neither parent can attend the manifestation determination meeting, the principal/designee shall use other methods to ensure parent participation, including individual or conference telephone calls. The custodial parent/guardian must be provided with a copy of procedural safeguards.
- g. A school cannot make a parent conference mandatory prior to the ESE student being returned to campus after suspension. A conference may be suggested, but the student maintains the right of access to education under the IDEA after ten (10) cumulative days per school year, even if the parent does not attend the conference.
- h. If the student's behavior is a manifestation of the student's disability, the IEP Team shall conduct a functional behavioral assessment and implement a behavior support plan, which includes the provision of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, if such assessment for conduct was not completed prior to the behavior. If a behavior support plan has been developed, the committee shall review the IEP, modify it, as necessary, to address the behavior and include the provision of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, and *return the student to the placement from which he or she was removed*. Nothing herein shall be construed as preventing the team from proposing another school, so long as the ESE placement is appropriate and in the least restrictive environment.
- i. If the IEP Team determines that the student's behavior is not a manifestation, then the student may be suspended from school in the same manner as students not eligible for

services under the IDEA. Nevertheless, such student shall continue to receive educational services, so as to enable the child to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the student's IEP, and receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment, behavioral intervention services and modifications, that are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not recur.

3. **Bus Suspension.** Suspension of ESE students from the bus must be counted as part of the cumulative ten (10) days if transportation is needed for the student to access FAPE and an alternative means of arriving to school is not available.

4. **In-School Suspension**

- a. In-school suspension is the temporary removal of a student from the student's regular school program and placement in an alternative program, such as that provided by Florida Statute, under the supervision of district personnel, not to exceed ten (10) school days.
- b. A student's IEP must continue to be delivered while assigned to in-school suspension.
- c. Repeated days in ISS removals that cause a pattern of removing a student from the regular/ESE classroom to an in-school suspension are prohibited.

5. **Expulsion**

- a. Expulsion is the removal of the right and obligation of a student to attend a public school under conditions set by the Board, for a period not to exceed the remainder of the term or school year and one additional year of attendance.
- b. ESE students with an IEP may be expelled only with services and only in cases where the behavior is NOT a manifestation of the student's disability. Student IEPs must be fully implemented during an expulsion period.

6. **A Manifestation Determination Review (MDR)**

- a. MDR is a process by which parents and the school meet to determine if the student is being subjected to a disciplinary change in placement for behavior that is a manifestation of his or her disability. Within 10 days of any decision to change the placement of an ESE child with a disability because of a violation of the code of student conduct, an IEP Team must review all relevant information in the student's file, including the child's IEP, any teacher observations, and any relevant information provided by the parents to determine:
 - i. If the conduct in question was caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the child's disability; or
 - ii. If the conduct in question was the direct result of the school district's failure to implement the child's IEP.

7. Special Circumstances

Whether or not the behavior was a manifestation of disability, school personnel may remove a student to an interim alternative education setting (IAES) for no more than 45 school days if the child:

- a. Carries a weapon to school or has a weapon at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of the School District;
- b. Knowingly sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of the School District; or
- c. Has inflicted serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of the School District.

A Dangerous Weapon is defined as a weapon, device, instrument, material or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except that such item does not include a pocket knife with a blade of less than two and one-half inches (2-½") in length.

Serious Bodily Injury is defined as bodily injury that involves a substantial risk of death, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty. Incidents where injury occurred, but first aid or medical attention is not needed, are not required to be reported in SESIR as injury-related.

8. Interim Alternative Educational Setting ("IAES") Placement is a very restrictive placement which is permitted if the circumstances set for in paragraph 5(a) above exist:

- a. Placement in an IAES may occur pursuant to paragraph 5(a) above whether the behavior is or is not a manifestation of the student's disability.
- b. Under the circumstances set forth in paragraph 5(a) above, placement in an IAES may occur at the request of the principal.
- c. An IEP meeting must be scheduled within the first ten (10) days of placement. The principal/designee will take reasonable steps to ensure that one or both of the parents of a child with a disability are present at the meeting or are afforded the opportunity to participate, including scheduling the meeting at a mutually agreed on time and place. If neither parent can attend an IEP Team meeting, the principal/designee shall use other methods to ensure parent participation, including individual or conference telephone calls.
- d. A meeting may be conducted without a parent in attendance if the principal/designee is unable to convince the parents that they should attend. In this case, the district will keep a record of its attempts to arrange a mutually agreed on time and place.

- e. The custodial parent/guardian must be provided a copy of their procedural safeguards.
- f. A Functional Behavioral Assessment (“FBA”) must be initiated within ten (10) days of placement. Staff from both the student’s current and previous schools will participate in the FBA.
- g. A Behavior Intervention Plan (“BIP”) must be developed immediately upon completion of the FBA.
- h. Educational services to be determined within ten (10) days of placement must:
 - i. Enable the student to appropriately progress in the general curriculum;
 - ii. Enable the student to appropriately advance towards IEP goals; and
 - iii. Include, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment, behavioral intervention services, and modifications that are designed to address the behavior that gave rise to the violation so that it does not recur.

Discipline for Students Eligible for Services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

This Policy for discipline of students eligible for services under Section 504 is designed to comply with State Board of Education Rule 6A-6.0331(8), the Section 504 Regulations at 34 C.F.R. Part 104, and 29 U.S.C. § 794 (“Section 504”). The phrase “eligible for services under Section 504” refers to students with active Section 504 accommodation plans and students with disabilities who require Section 504 plans. *However, for purposes of this policy, if the student’s sole impairment is drug or alcohol dependence, the student is not eligible for protection under Section 504 or the ADA if the student is currently a user of illegal drugs or alcohol. Such students may be disciplined in the same manner as other students for use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol under Policies 5.1812 or 5.1813 [and Policy 5.1815] and will receive the same due process and substance-abuse assistance as other students under those Policies.*

1. **Definitions.** The words suspension and expulsion of students eligible for services under Section 504 shall have the following meanings through this policy:
 - a. **Suspension.** Pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 1003.01(5) (a) [and Policy 5.1815], suspension, also referred to as out-of-school suspension, is defined as the temporary removal of a student from all classes of instruction on public school grounds, except as authorized by the principal/designee, for a period up to ten (10) cumulative school days and remanding of the student to the custody of the student’s custodial parent with specific homework assignments for the student to complete. *Any removal from school, even if the necessary paperwork for a formal suspension is not initiated or completed, counts toward the 10-day rule. All days a student with a disability spends out of school as a result of school action, whether formal or informal, apply toward the 10-day limit.*
 - b. **Expulsion.** As defined in Fla. Stat. § 1003.01(6), and Policy 5.1817, expulsion is the removal of the right and obligation of a student to attend a public school under conditions set by the Board, and for a period of time not to exceed the remainder of the term or school year and one (1) additional year of attendance. Expulsions may be imposed with or without continuing educational services (subject to Section (4) (f) below) and shall be reported accordingly.
 - c. **Re-evaluation.** Students with active Section 504 accommodation plans who are recommended for suspension in excess of ten (10) days, or expulsion, must have a re-evaluation prior to a significant change in placement, as required by 34 C.F.R. § 104.35(d). Students with disabilities, suspected of being eligible for services under Section 504, who are recommended for suspension in excess of ten (10) days, or expulsion, must be evaluated prior to a significant change in placement, as required by 34 C.F.R. § 104.35(b).

2. **Suspension of Students under Section 504/ADA.** Unless otherwise indicated by their accommodation plans, students eligible for services under Section 504 are expected to follow the rules of the student conduct code. Students who are eligible for services under Section 504/ADA may be suspended for infractions as defined for all students pursuant to Policies 5.1812 or 5.1813 [and Policy 5.1815], with the following limitations:
- a. **Suspension for Ten (10) Cumulative Days or Less.** Unless otherwise indicated by their accommodation plans, student suspension procedures [in Policy 5.1815] will be followed for students who are eligible for services under Section 504/ADA and recommended for suspension for ten (10) cumulative days or less.
 - b. **Any Suspension beyond Ten (10) Cumulative Days.** No student who is eligible for services under Section 504/ADA shall be suspended beyond ten (10) cumulative days per school year, except through the following procedure. It is the responsibility of the principal/designee to monitor all serial/cumulative suspensions. **NOTE:** If a student has been referred for ESE evaluation prior to or during the Section 504 manifestation determination, the student is then protected under the IDEA for discipline provisions. Therefore, the manifestation team must treat the student as an ESE student. The principal/designee shall notify the 504 Multi-Disciplinary Team immediately when a student who is or may be eligible for services under Section 504/ADA violates the student conduct code and will be considered for suspension for more than ten (10) cumulative days per school year.
 - i. Within twenty-four (24) hours of the recommendation for the extended suspension, the principal/designee shall provide written notice to the custodial parent/guardian and the student of the proposed suspension, alleged misconduct, and time and date of the scheduled 504 Multi-Disciplinary Team meeting. Notification of purpose, participants, and location of the meeting will be included. The custodial parent/guardian shall also be notified that the 504 Multi-Disciplinary Team will also serve as a 504-plan team and may change the student's Section 504 plan. The custodial parent/guardian shall be given a copy of the Section 504/ADA Procedural Safeguards.
 - ii. The principal/designee will take reasonable steps to ensure that one or both of the parents of a child with a disability are present at the meeting or are afforded the opportunity to participate, including scheduling the meeting at a mutually agreed on time and place. If neither parent can attend an IEP Team meeting, the principal/designee shall use other methods to ensure parent participation, including individual or conference telephone calls.
 - iii. *Conducting a meeting without a parent in attendance.* A meeting may be conducted without a parent in attendance if the principal/designee is unable to

convince the parents that they should attend. In this case, the district will keep a record of its attempts to arrange a mutually agreed on time and place.

- iv. The notice and copy of Section 504/ADA Procedural Safeguards shall be delivered by registered or certified mail (return receipt requested) or personally delivered by the principal/ designee at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting. A signed receipt of delivery must be obtained.
- v. Before the student can be removed from the campus for the suspension recommendation, the principal/designee will arrange a 504 Multi-Disciplinary Team review of the incident that was the basis for the recommendation for suspension.
- vi. Members of the Committee must include the following personnel:
 - 1. A school psychologist as the person knowledgeable of the evaluation procedures pursuant to the disability.
 - 2. If the disability of record is a medical disability, the school nurse should be present to consult with the psychologist.
 - 3. A teacher, counselor, or appropriate person knowledgeable of the student.
 - 4. An administrator (not the recommending administrator) as the person who is knowledgeable of the suspension/expulsion process.
- vii. The 504 Multi-Disciplinary Team will review the case and determine whether the student's conduct was or was not a manifestation¹ of the disability for which the student has a Section 504 plan. A Manifestation Determination Review (MDR) is a process by which parents and the school meet to determine if the student is being subjected to a disciplinary change in placement for behavior that is a manifestation of his or her disability. Whenever a student with a disability is subjected to a disciplinary change of placement (e.g., suspension or expulsion), the school district must conduct an MDR within 10 days of the decision to remove the student from school.
- viii. When making a manifestation determination, the district, parent, and relevant members of the Team shall review and take the student's accommodation plan, any teacher observations, past disciplinary referrals/infractions and any relevant information provided by the parents.

¹ Manifestation of the Disability: A manifestation of the disability is the exhibition of behaviors which are considered to be a component of the individual student's disability.

- ix. The team shall then determine: (a) if the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to, the student's disability; or (b) if the conduct in question was the direct result of failure to implement the Section 504 Accommodation Plan. A consensus of the members of the team shall make this determination, and such determination will be based upon the information reviewed by the Team. If either (a) or (b) is applicable, the conduct shall be determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability.
- x. "PBSD 2209 the Manifestation of Disability Determination Process for Students with Section 504 Plans"
 - i. If prior to a manifestation determination meeting, the Team determines that an FBA is needed for a student with a disability, the Team will promptly commence the FBA and postpone the student's discipline until the FBA is completed. The Team will consider the data gathered from the FBA to determine whether the student's behavior is/was a manifestation of the disability.
- xi. If the 504 Multi-Disciplinary Team determines that the student's behavior is not a manifestation, then the student may be suspended from school in the same manner as students not eligible for services under Section 504. Nevertheless, such student shall continue to receive education services, so as to enable the child to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the student's Section 504 accommodation plan, and receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment, behavioral intervention services and modifications, that are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not recur.
- xii. If it is determined that the student's behavior is a manifestation of the student's disability, the Multi-Disciplinary Team shall conduct a functional behavioral assessment and implement a behavior intervention plan, which includes the provision of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, if such assessment for conduct was not completed prior to the behavior. If a behavior support plan has been developed, the committee shall review the plan, modify it, as necessary, to address the behavior and include the provision of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, and return the student to the placement from which he or she was removed. Nothing herein shall be construed as preventing the team from proposing another placement, so long as the placement is appropriate and in the least restrictive environment.

3. Expulsion of Students under Section 504/ADA

- a. Students eligible for services under Section 504/ADA may be recommended for expulsion as defined for all students.

- b. The principal/designee shall notify the 504 Multi-Disciplinary Team immediately when a student with a Section 504 plan is being recommended for expulsion.
- c. In addition to procedures under Policy 5.1817, within twenty-four (24) hours of the recommendation for expulsion, the principal/designee shall provide written notice to the custodial parent/guardian and the student of the proposed expulsion and the date and time of the scheduled 504 Multi-Disciplinary Team meeting to determine the manifestation of the disability. The procedures for *Conducting an MDR and for Ensuring Parental Participation* shall apply to proposals for expulsions.
- d. The notice, procedural safeguards, and a copy of this Policy shall be delivered by certified mail (return receipt requested), or the principal/designee shall personally deliver it and obtain a signed receipt.
- e. If it is determined that the misconduct is not a manifestation of the student's disability, the student may be expelled in the same manner as students not eligible for services under Section 504. *Nevertheless, such student shall continue* to receive educational services, so as to enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the student's Section 504 accommodation plan, and receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment, behavioral intervention services and modifications, that are designed to address the behavior that gave rise to the violation so that it does not recur.
- f. If it is determined that the student's misconduct is a manifestation of the student's disability, federal law does not permit a school district to cease all educational services. If it is determined that the student's behavior is a manifestation of the student's disability, the Multi-Disciplinary Team shall conduct a functional behavioral assessment and implement a behavior intervention plan, which includes the provision of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, if such assessment was not completed prior to the behavior. If a behavior intervention plan has been developed, the committee shall review the plan, modify it, as necessary, to address the behavior and include the provision of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. In either case, the student shall be returned to the placement from which he or she was removed. Nothing herein shall be construed as preventing the team from proposing another placement, so long as the placement is appropriate and in the least restrictive environment.

Glossary

Definitions of terms and/or student behavior considered to be violations of the Student Code of Conduct are described in this section of the handbook. The use of words, such as battery and arson, are not meant to be considered equivalent to or to carry the same standards and consequences as the same words, which are defined in the criminal context in the Florida Statutes. The School Board retains the flexibility and right to attach definitions found in Board Rules to such words without attaching any criminal standards set by the courts or legislature. When a student has committed an infraction, the misbehavior is to be classified according to the definition which best describes it. All students and parents/guardians must understand that, in addition to taking corrective strategies at the school level, certain criminal and/or disruptive behavior must be reported to School Police.

The notation * next to the three-letter violation code listed below in the Glossary, represents SESIR definitions and guidelines required by the Department of Education.

Abeyance - Out of School suspension days issued, but not enforced if an alternative plan is completed. Examples include tobacco, alcohol, or drug education classes.

Alcohol {ALC*} - The violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, distribution, or use of intoxicating alcoholic beverages. Use should be reported only if the person is caught in the act of using, or is discovered to have used in the course of the investigation. Alcohol incidents cannot be drug-related. L3

Apology Letter - Student makes amends for negative actions by taking responsibility to correct the problem created by the behavior through a written statement expressing remorse. declaration of remorse.

Armed Robbery {ROB*} - The taking of money or other property which may be the subject of larceny from the person or custody of another, with intent to either permanently or temporarily deprive the person or the owner of the money or other property, when in the course of the taking there is the use of force, violence, assault, or putting in fear with the use of a firearm or other deadly weapon (F.S. 812.13 (1) & (2) (a)). L4

Arson {ARS*} - To intentionally damage or cause to be damaged, by fire or explosion, any dwelling, structure, or conveyance, whether occupied or not, or its contents. Fires that are not intentional, that are caused by accident, or do not cause damage are not required to be reported in SESIR (F.S. 806.01 (1) (a)-(c)). L4

Battery-

Simple Battery (Physical Attack-PHA*) – An actual and intentional touching or striking of another person against his or her will, or the intentional causing of bodily harm to an individual. L3

Sexual Battery {SXB*} - Attempted or actual forcible penetration, forced oral, anal, or vaginal penetration by, or union with, the sexual organ of another or the anal or vaginal penetration of another by any other object (F.S. 794.011 (1) (h)). Would also include the above sexual act if a student was placed under the influence of drugs or alcohol with the purpose of committing such act. L4

Aggravated Battery {BAT*} - A battery where the attacker intentionally or knowingly causes more serious injury as defined in State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.0017 (8) (g), such as: great bodily harm, permanent disability, or permanent disfigurement; uses a deadly weapon; or where the attacker knew or should have known the victim was pregnant. (F.S. 784.03 & 784.045). L4

Behavior Contract or Plan - A written/verbal contract or plan for the student with stated goals, objectives, and outcomes for the student to develop the necessary skills to address the stated incident.

Bomb Threat {TRE*} - To make a false report, with intent to deceive, mislead, or otherwise misinform any person, concerning the placing or planting of any bomb, dynamite, other deadly explosive, or weapon of mass destruction as defined in s. 790.166. L4

Breaking and Entering/Burglary {BRK*} - The unlawful entry with or without force into a building or other structure, remaining behind or conveyance with the intent to commit a crime to property. L3

Bullying/Cyber Bullying {BUL*} - Systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employees. Bullying includes instances of cyberbullying, as defined in Section 1006.147 (3) (b), F.S. Bullying may include, but is not limited to, repetitive instances of teasing, social exclusion, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, theft, harassment, public or private humiliation, or destruction of property. If the physical harm or psychological distress is not the result of systemic or chronic behavior, evaluate for Harassment.

*Additional consequences could apply if the bullying is directed at someone because of his or her gender, gender identity, race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, marital status, age, sexual orientation, social and family background, language, pregnancy, or disability.

Bus, Assigned Seat - The temporary or permanent assignment to specified seat on the school bus.

Bus Disruption - Behavior that disrupts and/or distracts the driver from safely operating the school bus. L2

Bus Probation - An alternative to a Bus Suspension. A student placed on Bus Probation will, very likely, be suspended from the school bus if another bus violation occurs.

Bus, Suspension - Suspension of bus riding privileges for a specified period of time. (Consequences for violations of transportation policies, rules, or standards of conduct are not limited to the suspension of

bus riding privileges. Other sanctions, up to and including out of school suspension and expulsion may be imposed when warranted).

Cellular Telephone/Technology Violation - Florida Law prohibits students from using wireless communication during the school day in Grades K-8. Students in Grades 9-12 may not use wireless communication devices unless authorized by the teacher or administrator. Wireless communication devices include: cellular telephones, smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, radio-phones/walkie talkies or other emerging technology as defined by SB Policy 5.183. L1

Cheating - Copying another student's work, using cheat sheets, using Artificial Intelligence for classwork without proper attribution or acknowledgement by the student, or any cheating violation that can be resolved by the classroom teacher. The student may receive additional consequences, including academic penalties. L1

Cheating, Severe - The unauthorized use and/or sharing of tests or other instructional materials whether copied, distributed, publicized, duplicated or obtained by any means, for the purpose of academic or personal gain. This includes instructional materials and/or tests completed on behalf of another student. L2

Check In/Check Out - Daily contact with an assigned adult on campus. Students should see the adult before school starts each day, as well as at the end of the day.

Computer/Technology Misuse –Major {OMC*} - The inappropriate use of a computer, including, but not limited to, breaking into restricted accounts or networks, modifying, or destroying files without permission, illegally copying software, and entering or distributing or printing unauthorized files. Accessing or entering unauthorized internet sites; distributing inappropriate electronic messages. L3

Computer/Technology Misuse –Minor - Minor inappropriate use of a computer and/or technology without malicious intent. L1

Conference with Student/Warning - Administrative conference with student and warning about stated incident.

Confiscation - The seizure of an item(s) not permitted on school grounds. Depending on the item(s), the item(s) may be turned over to law enforcement, held until a parent/guardian comes to retrieve it, or returned to the student after a specified period of time.

Conflict Resolution - An umbrella term for a variety of activities that result in resolution of problems and normalized relationships.

Confrontation - A verbal confrontation, or the encouraging or inciting of a confrontation that has the propensity to escalate into a fight. L1

Counterfeit - To fashion or reproduce a document, money, or other items with the intent to defraud; includes counterfeit money or documents. L3

Criminal Act Against a Person {OMC*} - Any person who attempts to commit, or who solicits another to commit, or who agrees, conspires, combines, or confederates with another person or persons to commit the offense of a Battery, Robbery, Homicide, Kidnapping, or Sexual Battery against another person or persons, and in such an attempt does any act toward the commission of such offense, but fails in the perpetration or is intercepted or prevented in the execution of the offense (F.S. 774.04). L4

Criminal Mischief/Vandalism - \$1000 or more {VAN*} - Willfully and maliciously injuring or damaging by any means any real or personal property belonging to another, including, but not limited to, the placement of graffiti or other acts of vandalism. Incidents that fall below the \$1000 threshold are not reportable in SESIR, but instead should be reported as locally-defined incidents according to district policies. L3

Dangerous Items {WPO*} - Possession of an item that poses a risk to the safety and welfare of the school community. Included in this category are BB guns, Airsoft guns, toy or replica guns represented as real guns. Also included in this category is the possession or storage of items which are prohibited at school, including but not limited to, ammunition clips, bullets or cartridges, flammable liquids, combustible materials, poisonous substances, mace, pepper spray, and any other items which may result in injury. L3

Deepfakes - The creation, distribution, or use of digitally manipulated content (videos, images, audio) to misrepresent someone as doing or saying something they did not actually do or say is strictly prohibited. Malicious use of deepfakes to harm, deceive, bully, or defame others is forbidden.

Detention - Additional time a student must stay at school after other students have gone for the day, or on Saturday.

Disobedient/Insubordination - Failure to obey a reasonable instruction or request by a staff member. L1

Disobedience/ Open defiance/ Insubordination (repetitive)- Repetitive instances of disciplinary offenses or behaviors which are inappropriate and interrupt the learning environment (non-SESIR related), occurring when the student willfully fails to comply with previously prescribed correctional strategies or directives. L2

Disrespectful Language - Written, verbal remarks and/or gestures that show a lack of respect, rudeness or are inappropriate. L1

Disruption of a School Function {DOC*} - Disruptive behavior that poses a serious threat to the learning environment, health, safety, or welfare of others. Examples of major disruptions include bomb threats, inciting a riot or melee, or initiating a false fire alarm. L3

Disruptive (Unruly) Behavior or Play - Disruptive behaviors including disruptive play, disrespectful language, and any other repetitive behaviors that create a disruptive learning environment. L1

Dress Code Violation - Dress in a manner that violates the school's dress code policy and/or in a manner that would constitute a safety hazard (F.S 1006.07). For a first offense, a student shall be given a verbal warning and the school principal shall call the student's parent or guardian. For a second offense, the student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period of time not to exceed 5 days and the school principal shall meet with the student's parent or guardian. L1

Dress Code Violation (Repetitive) - For a third or subsequent offense, dressing in a manner that violates the school's dress code policy and/or in a manner that would constitute a safety hazard. A student shall receive an in-school suspension pursuant to s. 1003.01(13) for a period not to exceed 3 days, the student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period not to exceed 30 days, and the school principal shall call the student's parent or guardian and send the parent or guardian a written letter regarding the student's in-school suspension and ineligibility to participate in extracurricular activities. L2

Drugs or Imitation Drugs Represented as Drugs {DRU*} - The use or possession of any drug, narcotic, controlled substance, or any substance when used for chemical intoxication while on school district property, school transportation, or at a school related function. Use means the person is caught in the act of using, admits to use or is discovered to have used in the course of an investigation. Drugs unattended and not linked to any individual must be coded appropriately and reported as unknown. L3

Drug Paraphernalia {OMC*} - To possess, use, sell, store, or distribute any device or equipment used for the purpose of preparing or taking drugs, including, but not limited to, items listed in Florida Statute 893.145, and items which may be determined to be drug paraphernalia under the criteria set out in Florida Statute 893.146. L3

Drug (Sale or Distribution) {DRD*} - The manufacture, cultivation, purchase, sale, or distribution of any drug, narcotic, controlled substance or substance represented to be a drug, narcotic, or controlled substance. L4

Explosive Device {WPO*} - An explosive is any chemical compound or mixture that has the property of yielding readily to combustion or oxidation upon application of heat, flame, or shock. This includes but is not limited to dynamite, nitroglycerin, trinitrotoluene, or ammonium nitrate when combined with other ingredients to form an explosive mixture, blasting caps, and detonators (F.S. 790.001 (5)).

Extortion/Blackmail/Coercion {ROB*} - The use of threat or intimidation to obtain anything of value from another person, including, but not limited to, money. L3

Fighting {FIT*} - Mutual participation in a hostile, physical encounter; mutual participation in an altercation involving physical violence that requires either 1) physical intervention or 2) results in injury requiring first aid or medical attention. L3

(NOTE: Self-Defense is described as an action to restrain or block an attack by another person or to shield self from being hit by another person. Retaliating by hitting a person back is not self-defense and will be considered as fighting.)

Firearm/Handgun/Rifle/Shotgun {WPO*} - Firearm is defined as any weapon, including a starter gun, which will, is designed to, or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; firearm muffler or silencer; destructive device or machine gun. Defined by Section 790.001, F.S. or District Code of Conduct. The law requires expulsion of any student in possession of a firearm on a school campus, school transportation or at any school sponsored activity. L4

Firecrackers/Poppers - Possession, use, sale, storage, or distribution of firecrackers, poppers or associated devices as long as the object is not used as a weapon or is not considered a weapon by Florida statutes. L2

Forgery of a Document or Signature - To fashion or reproduce the signature of another for fraudulent purposes. L2

Gambling {OMC*} - One who participates in games of chance or skill for money, profit, or anything of value. L2

Grand Theft (\$750 threshold) – The unauthorized taking of the property of another person or organization, including motor vehicles, valued at \$750 or more, without threat, violence, or bodily harm. Incidents that fall below the \$750 threshold are not reportable in SESIR, but instead should be reported as locally-defined incidents according to district policies. Thefts of property of any value that involve a use of force, violence, assault, or putting the victim in fear must be reported as Robbery. L3

Harassment {HAR*} - Any threatening, insulting or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal or physical conduct. that (1) places a student or school employee in reasonable fear or harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, (2) has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, or (3) has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school including any course of conduct directed at a specific person, that causes substantial emotional distress in such a person and serves no legitimate purpose, and as defined in SB Policy 5.002. Instances of Harassment that are chronic or repeated in nature should be evaluated for Bullying or Bullying-related. L2

*Additional consequences could apply if the harassment is directed at someone because of his or her gender, gender identity, race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, marital status, age, sexual orientation, social and family background, language, pregnancy, or disability.

Hazing {HAZ*} - Any action or situation that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student at a school with any grades from 6-12 for purposes of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any school sponsored organization. "Hazing" includes, but is not limited to: (a) pressuring, coercing or forcing a student to participate in illegal or dangerous behavior, or (b) any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, or exposure to the elements. L3

Homicide/Murder {HOM*} - The unlawful killing of a human being (Florida Statute 782.04) and manslaughter - the killing of a human being by the act, procurement, or culpable negligence of another, without lawful justification (F.S. 782.07). L4

Inappropriate Activity - Any activity that is disruptive and tends to interfere with the process of teaching and learning that cannot be coded in another Level 1 incident. L1

In-School Alternative to Suspension - An alternative to an out-of-school suspension that prevents a student from attending all or some classes. During the period of an alternative to suspension, the student is assigned to a self-contained alternative classroom.

Instruments or Objects - Possession of any instrument or object that could be used as a weapon (other than a firearm) may be considered under this heading if there has been no threatening or intimidating display of the instrument or object. i.e., BB Guns, toy guns, etc. L2

Kidnapping or Abduction {KID*} - Forcibly, secretly, or by threat, confining, abducting, or imprisoning another person against his or her will and without lawful authority. L4

Leaving school grounds (without permission)-leaving school grounds during school hours or during a supervised school activity or event without expressed permission from school personnel or event sponsor(s). L1

Lewd, or Obscene Act {SXO*} - The use of oral or written language, electronic messages, pictures, objects, gestures, or engaging in any physical act considered to be offensive, socially unacceptable, or not suitable for an educational setting. Included in this category are indecent exposure (exposure of private body part(s) to the sight of another person in a lewd or indecent manner in a public place), and obscenity (conduct which by the community standards is deemed to corrupt public morals by its indecency and/or lewdness such as phone calls or other communication or unlawful manufacture, publishing, selling, buying or possessing materials such as literature or photographs. L3

Loss of Privileges - The loss of a privilege(s) during school hours and non-school hours such as assemblies, incentive activities and sporting events, etc.

Lying /Misrepresentation - Intentionally providing false or misleading information to, or withholding valid information from, a school staff member. L1

Materials - Unauthorized sale or distribution of materials during school, e.g., candy, magazines. L1

Menacing Statements - A medium level of threat which could be carried out, although it may not appear entirely realistic. The threat is more direct and more concrete than a low-level threat; the wording in the threat suggests that the aggressor has given some thought to how the act will be carried out; there may be a general indication of a possible place and time (though these signs still fall well short of a detailed plan). There is no strong indication that the aggressor has taken preparatory steps, although there may be some veiled reference or ambiguous or inconclusive evidence pointing to the possibility. L2

Mentoring - An agreed upon adult or student who provides consistent support, guidance, and concrete help to a student who is in need of a positive role model.

Motor Vehicle Theft {STL*} - The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. Examples include theft of a car, truck, motorcycle, golf cart, dune buggy, RV or anything that is self-propelled. L3

Opioids - To store, possess, purchase, use, or be under the influence of an opioid, including, but not limited to, the illegal drug heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and pain medications available legally by prescription, such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, codeine, morphine, etc. L3

Out of Assigned Area - Out of assigned area without permission and/or in a restricted access area without permission. L1

Out-of-School Suspension - The temporary removal of a student from school for a period of 1 to 10 days. During the out-of-school suspension, the student is prohibited from attending school or any school-related functions.

Petty Acts of Misconduct - Acts that do not pose a direct threat to the safety of students, staff, volunteers, or other persons, or a threat of harm to school district property. Such acts do not require consultation with law enforcement.

Petty Theft/Stealing (less than \$750) - The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property less than \$750 in value from the possession, or constructive possession, of another person. L2

Physical Aggression (not involving Law Enforcement) - Brief exchange of physical contact which could include pushing or shoving that doesn't result in significant injury AND does not require significant adult intervention to separate or restrain. L2

Possession Use Sale Storage or Distribution of an Explosive Device - A destructive device is any bomb, grenade, mine, rocket, missile, pipe-bomb, or similar device containing some type of explosive that is designed to explode and is capable of causing bodily harm or property damage. Defined by section 790.001, F.S. L4

Post or/Transmit a Threat to Kill, Do Bodily Injury or Conduct of a Mass Shooting or terrorism- To post or transmit a threat to kill, do bodily injury or conduct a mass shooting, or concerning the use of firearms in a violent manner against a person or persons, at a school, school transportation or a school sponsored event. L4

Prescription Medication {DRU*} - To possess, use, store, or be under the influence of another person's substance which requires a physician's prescription, to misuse one's own prescription medication, or to possess, store or use any over-the counter medication (other than those listed in Policy 5.321) without parent approval and school notification. L3

Profane/Obscene Language - Abusive, profane, obscene, or vulgar language (verbal, written, or gestures) or conduct in the presence of another person. L2

Prohibited items/Unauthorized use of medication - Possession and/or use of items or contraband designated by the school as inappropriate materials AND any other items that causes distraction or damage to persons or property or otherwise interfere with the learning process (including, but not limited to, squirt toys, slime, matches, and lighters, over the counter medications other than headache medications as defined in Policy 5.321). L1

Public Displays of Affection - Engaging in overtly amorous contact or language not appropriate in a school setting. L1

Reckless Vehicle Use {OMC*} - The use of any motorized or self-propelled vehicle on school grounds in a reckless manner or so as to threaten the health, safety, welfare of others, or to disrupt the educational process. L3

Restitution - Repayment for damages or loss

Restorative Justice - A structured process guided by a trained facilitator in which the participants in an incident examine the intended and unintended impact of their actions and decide on interpersonal remedies to repair harm and restore relationships.

Robbery {ROB*} - The taking or attempted taking of money or other property from the person or custody of another with the intent to permanently or temporarily deprive the person or owner of money or other property, under the confrontational circumstances by use of force, or threat of force or violence, and/or by putting the victim in fear. (A key difference indifference in Grand Theft and Robbery is that Robbery involves violence, a threat of violence or assault, and putting the victim in fear.) L3

School/Class Rules - Violation of specific posted or written school or class rules that are not necessarily disruptive behaviors (ex: repeated gum chewing) L1

Severe Inappropriate Activity - Any activity or behavior that creates a major disruption and interferes with the process of teaching and learning that goes beyond Level 1 conduct, but cannot be coded in another Level 2 incident. L2

Sexual Assault {SXA*} - An incident that includes fondling, indecent liberties, child molestation, or threatened rape. Both male and female students can be victims. Classification of these incidents should take into consideration the age and developmentally appropriate behavior of the offender(s). L3

Sexual Harassment {SXH*} - Unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, such as sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Harassing conduct can include verbal or nonverbal actions, including graphic and written statements, and may include statements made through computers, cellphones, and other devices connected to the Internet. The conduct can be carried out by school employees, other students, and non-employee third parties. L2

Sexual Misconduct {SXO*} - Sexual contact, including intercourse, without force or threat of force. L3

Silent Lunch/Lunch Detention - A separate facility and/or seating arrangement for the student during a regularly scheduled lunch period. Administration may request some cafeteria clean-up assistance from the student such as sweeping, wiping tables, and/or assisting with other clean-up activities during the lunch period.

Stay Away Agreement - A formal agreement regulating the movements of the victim and offender in incidents of bullying and/or dating violence. A formal agreement regulating the movement of certain students while on school property, including but not limited to bullying or dating violence.

Stealing more than \$300 {STL*} - The unauthorized taking or concealing the property of another person, without threat, violence or bodily harm, with the intent to prevent or deprive the rightful owner of its use. This includes taking property or taking property from a vehicle on school property. Law Enforcement is involved. L3

Tardiness (Habitual) - A consistent failure to be in a place of instruction at the assigned time. L1

Threat Assessment- A violence prevention strategy that involves: (a) identifying student threats to commit a violent act, (b) determining the seriousness of the threat, and (c) developing intervention plans that protect potential victims and address the underlying problem or conflict that stimulated the threatening behavior.

Threat-

Threat (non-criminal) - A statement which does not meet the criteria of a criminal assault. A low-level threat that poses a minimal risk to the victim and public safety. The threat is vague and indirect; the information contained within the threat is inconsistent, implausible or lacks detail; the threat lacks realism; and the content of the threat suggests the person is unlikely to carry it out. L2

Threat/Intimidation (TRE) - An non-Zero Tolerance incident where there was no physical contact between the offender and victim, but the victim reasonably believed that physical harm could have occurred based on verbal or nonverbal communication by the offender. This includes nonverbal threats (e.g., brandishing a weapon) and verbal threats of physical harm which are made in person, electronically or through any other means. L3

Threat of Violence (Imminent/High Level) {TRE*} - High level of threat is a threat that appears to pose an imminent and serious danger to the safety of others; the threat is direct, specific, and plausible; the threat suggests concrete steps have been taken toward carrying it out, for example, statements indicating that the aggressor has acquired or practiced with a weapon or has had the victim under surveillance. L4

Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug Alternative - A program designed to educate the student about tobacco, alcohol, and/or drugs and to deter future use. Generally, this is used as an alternative to an out-of-school suspension and/or to shorten the length of the suspension.

Tobacco-Nicotine Products TBC* - Possession, use, sale, storage, distribution, or purchase of tobacco products on school district property. Tobacco/nicotine products include, but are not limited to cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vape, cigars, snuff, dip, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco and hookah pens. Tobacco incidents cannot be drug-related. Incidents involving use or possession of vaping products that do not contain nicotine or controlled substances are not required to be reported in SESIR. L2

Trespassing TRS* - To enter or remain on a public-school campus, School Board facility, or at a school function without authorization or invitation and with no lawful purpose for entry, including students under suspension or expulsion; to enter or remain on a public-school campus, sSchool bBoard facility, or at a school district facility sponsored activity without authorization after being directed to leave by the chief administrator or designee of the facility, campus, or function. Only incidents involving a student currently under suspension or expulsion, or incidents where any offender (student or non-student) was previously issued an official trespass warning by school officials, or where any offender was arrested for trespass are required to be reported in SESIR. Trespass incidents that did not have a prior official warning, did not result in arrest, or did not involve students under suspension or expulsion should be reported as locally defined incidents according to district policies. L3

Truancy (Unexplained Absence) - An absence from class or school for which the reason or excuse is inadequate or does not meet the criteria for an excused absence. L1

Unserved Detentions, Regular – Failure to fulfill before, during, or after school detention. L2

Unserved Detentions, Saturday – Failure to fulfill Saturday school detention. L2

Vandalism (less than \$1,000) - The willful and/or malicious destruction, damage or defacement of public or private property, real or personal, without the consent of the owner or the person having custody or control of it. L2

Vape/Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS)/nds Paraphernalia-

Possession (non-drug) - The possession of vape devices, e-cigarettes or other electronic nicotine devices or paraphernalia that does not include a drug. L2

Sale/Distribution (non-drug) - The sale or distribution of vVape devices, e-cigarettes or other electronic nicotine devices or paraphernalia /Ends paraphernalia that does not include a drug. L3

Victim Safety Plan - A formal agreement specifying the actions students and school officials will take to protect a student when there is a known and plausible risk to his/her safety. the victims of bullying and/or dating violence.

Voluntary Restitution - Student designs and implements a plan to correct errors made, apologizes and/or replace/repair property.

Weapon- any dirk, knife, electric weapons or devices (Taser/Stun Gun), metallic knuckles, slungshot, billie, tear gas gun, chemical weapon or device, or other deadly weapons except a firearm or a common pocket knife, plastic knife, or blunt-bladed table knife as stated in Fla. Stat § 790 . L4

Weapons Possession – Possession of a firearm or any instrument or object as defined by Section 790.001 (6) and (13) that can inflict serious harm on another person or that can place a person in reasonable fear of serious harm. All SESIR incidents are required to be reported as Weapon-related where anyone involved possessed or used a firearm or weapon or if the incident was related to possession, use or sale of firearms or weapons, as defined in Section 790.001 (6) and (13), F.S. and includes tasers, box cutters and other weapons as defined by 790.115 F.S.

Acronyms

AOD = Alcohol or other Drugs

ENDS= Electronic Nicotine Delivery System

ESE = Exceptional Student Education

ELL = English Language Learners

EP= Education Plan

IEP = Individual Education Plan

LEP = Limited English Proficiency

MDR = Manifestation Determination Review

PBC = Palm Beach County

PBIS = Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports

TV=Tobacco/VAPE

Appendix

Disciplinary Actions			
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
	In addition to the mandatory actions (M), the principal or designees may select one or more of the following from Level 1 Actions.	In addition to the mandatory actions (M), the principal or designees may select one or more of the following from Level 1 and 2 Actions.	In addition to the mandatory actions (M), the principal or designees may select one or more of the following from Level 1, 2, and 3 Actions.
Conference with Parents	Restorative Justice	Loss of Extracurricular Activities	Suspension from School 10 days (Elementary & Secondary) (M)
Referred to School Guidance	Community Service	Suspension from School 1-10 days (Secondary)	Recommendation for Expulsion or Severe Incident Assignment (M)
Referral for Peer Mediation	Loss of Privileges	Suspension from School 1-5 days (Elementary)	
Referral for Administrative Mediation	In-School Intervention	Recommendation for Severe Incident Assignment (Secondary)	
Behavior Contract	In-School Suspension		
Plan Meeting (IEP, 504, LEP)	Days Held in Abeyance		
Daily Weekly Report	Bus Suspension		
Schedule Change	Out of School Suspension for 1-5 days (Secondary)		
Parent Guardian Attends School w/Student	Out of School Suspension for 1-3 days (Elementary)		
Voluntary Restitution			
Assigned Bus Seat			
Silent Lunch/Lunch Detention			
After-School Detention			
Extended or Multiple Detentions			
Saturday School Detention			
Confiscation			

Conflict Resolution			
Mentoring			
Referral to Outside Agency			