HALDANE
CENTRAL SCHOOL
DISTRICT

Code of Conduct Summary
2026-2027

Introduction

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe and orderly school environment based on the principles of civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, tolerance, honesty, and integrity. Our core mission is to create an environment where students may receive and district personnel may deliver quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, teachers, other district personnel, parents and other visitors is essential to achieving this goal. This includes in person learning, distance learning, and virtual instruction.

Essential Partners

Parents play an important role in maintaining a positive school environment. A positive environment with clear guidelines will allow their children to approach their school experience with a clear understanding of the expectations with respect to the rights of others and positive, appropriate behavior.

Additionally, teachers, guidance counselors, social workers, principals, support staff, substitute teachers, other school staff, the superintendent, the board of education, and the school resource officer are expected to uphold student rights and enforce appropriate student conduct.

Student Conduct

The district is committed to safeguarding the rights given to all students under state and federal law. In order to promote a safe, healthy, orderly, and civil school environment, all students are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, district personnel, and other members of the school community, and for the care of school facilities and equipment.

The best discipline is self-imposed, and students must learn to assume and accept responsibility for their own behavior, as well as the consequences of their misbehavior. District personnel who interact

with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary, and to place emphasis on the students' ability to further develop self-discipline.

To ensure clarity with respect to student conduct while on school property or engaged in a school function, the following rules of conduct have been developed with a focus on safety and respect. Students who will not accept responsibility for their own behavior and who violate these school rules will be required to accept the consequences of their conduct.

Students will be subject to disciplinary action if they engage in conduct that is:

- Disorderly (i.e., profane language/gestures, disrupting normal school operation, unauthorized/unapproved building access, misuse/unauthorized use of computers/electronics devices, damaging school property)
- Insubordinate (i.e., failure to comply with reasonable directions)
- Disruptive (i.e., interfering with teaching and learning)
- Violent (i.e., committing act of violence, harassing conduct, weapon possession or threats)

Or for:

- Use of items prohibited in the building or on school grounds during the school day or at school-sponsored events (i.e., internet-enabled devices, electronic games, laser pointers, lighters, pets)
- Conduct that endangers the safety, morals, health, or welfare of others (i.e., lying, theft, extortion, defamation, discrimination, harassment, bullying, obscenity, possession/under the influence of cigarettes/vape pens/drugs/alcohol, indecent exposure)
- Off campus misconduct that may constitute a crime
- Bus transportation misconduct
- Academic misconduct (i.e., plagiarism, cheating, tampering with records)
- Failure to obey driving regulations (i.e., New York State Traffic Laws, on campus parking regulations)

For a complete list of prohibited behavior, please see the full Code of Conduct, the Extracurricular Appendix, and the Internet and Network Student Acceptable Use Policy.

Internet and Network Acceptable Use Policy

All students are expected to abide by the guidelines for use of the district network, internet, email, and technology as set forth in the Haldane Internet and Network Acceptable Use Policy.

Student Dress Code

All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions.

A student's dress, grooming and appearance shall:

1. Be safe and appropriate, and not disrupt or interfere with the educational mission.
2. Be covered from mid-thigh to top of chest in non-see-through material that is connected over the shoulder.
3. Ensure that underwear is completely covered with outer clothing at all times.
4. Include footwear at all times. Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed.

5. Permit hats at the discretion of the teacher within classrooms during school hours, excusing medical and/or religious purposes.
6. Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, and libelous or denigrate others on account of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, citizenship or immigration status, creed, predisposing genetic characteristics, gender/gender identity, student pregnancy, or parental status, or sex.
7. Not contain imagery that promotes and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, or illegal drugs.
8. Not contain imagery that promotes and/or endorse violence, threats, or other illegal or violent activities.

Parent Responsibility and Attendance

Education is a joint responsibility of the parents and the school community. Parents, in particular, play an important role in shaping their child's academic success. Parents/guardians are legally obligated to comply with New York State Education Law, which mandates that children be in attendance every day that school is in session. In order for a student in the high school or middle school to receive credit for a course, it is necessary for a student to attend regular class meetings. Please refer to the Comprehensive Attendance Plan for attendance classifications.

Student Absence - Parent/guardian must call the attendance office before 9 a.m. on the day the student is absent. A written letter, phone call, or email can be provided to describe the reason for the absence. Parents or guardians must account for all absences, tardiness, and early departures. It is the parent's or guardian's responsibility to notify the school attendance office within 24 hours of the absence, tardiness, or early departure and to provide written explanation within five days of the student's return to school. Any absence which remains undocumented after the five-day period will be recorded as unexcused.

Illness while home for lunch - If a high school student goes home for lunch and becomes sick, a parent is to call the school before the start of afternoon classes. A note from the parent or guardian is to be presented to the attendance officer the next day.

Exclusion from after school activities - If a student is absent from school or arrives after 10:30 a.m. to the Middle/High School, at 11:30 a.m. to the Elementary School, or leaves school early due to an illness, he/she shall not participate in after school activities. In the case of a weekend activity, an absence or lateness from the last official school day will exclude students from participation in activities. Any exceptions will be at the discretion of the principal or their designee.

Illness while at school - If a student becomes ill during the school day, he/she must report to the nurse. The nurse will contact the parent and determine if the student should remain in school for the remainder of the day. If a student leaves school due to illness, he/she must be dismissed through the nurse's office. Any student leaving school without being released through the nurse's office will be given an unexcused absence from classes missed.

Doctor's Appointment - If a student must leave school for a doctor's appointment, he/she must present a note to the attendance office before dismissal. Any student leaving school for an appointment without reporting to the attendance office will be given an unexcused absence from classes missed. A doctor's note must be provided upon return to school.

Student Searches
An authorized school official may search a student or the student's belongings based upon information received from a reliable informant. Student lockers, desks, and other school storage places may be subject to search at any time by school officials, without prior notice to students and without their consent.

Visitors to the School
Anyone who is not a staff member or student of the school will be considered a visitor. During the school day, all visitors must enter through one of two main entrances: Elementary/Middle School flagpole entrance or the High School front door. Visitors must report to the reception desk in the lobby of either the ES/MS or HS. There they will be required to check in where they will be required to provide a valid government issued ID. At that time, they will be provided a visitor badge which must be displayed at all times while in the school or on school grounds. When leaving, the visitor must sign out at the same reception desk.

Dignity For All Students
The District condemns and prohibits all forms of discrimination and harassment of students based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, citizenship or immigration status, creed, predisposing genetic characteristics, gender/gender identity, student pregnancy, or parental status or sex by school employees or students on school property, at school-sponsored events, and activities that take place on or off of school property. In addition, any act of discrimination or harassment outside of school-sponsored events which can reasonably be expected to materially and substantially disrupt the educational process may be subject to discipline.

Any student or staff member that has any concerns regarding the above should contact the Dignity Act Coordinator **AND** school administration.

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The complete Code of Conduct is posted on our website at www.haldaneschool.org.

Please contact your school principal if you have additional questions or need more information about the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct is reviewed and updated as necessary each year. It is approved annually by the Haldane Central School District Board of Education. This summary is distributed to all students in the beginning of the school year.