DARLINGTON
COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026 - 2027 Behavioral Guidelines



MISSION STATEMENT

"Educate, Empower, and Prepare all for an ever-changing world"

VISION STATEMENT

- **The Darlington County Community will grow and prosper economically and culturally as the school district fosters an environment that produces well-educated, productive citizens.**

CORE VALUES & BELIEFS

Values

- **Integrity**: *Striving always to do the right thing in the right way*
- **Honesty**: *Having the courage and consideration to share the truth*
- **Respect**: *Recognizing and appreciating the value of others*
- **Trust**: *Believing in one another to do our best while maintaining confidentiality*
- **Accountability**: *Accepting the responsibility for our actions*

BELIEFS

- Excellence is achievable and always worth the investment.
- Education is the shared responsibility of the home, school, and community.
- All students can learn and perform at a higher level.
- The quality of a child's education depends on the quality of the teacher.
- All decisions made in the best interest of the education, safety and well-being of students create successful schools and strong communities.

CODE OF ETHICS

I will:

- Be responsible for my own behavior
- Honor myself
- Respect others
- Be honest in everything I say and do
- Treat others the way I want to be treated
- Resolve conflicts and solve problems without violence and drugs
- Take pride in my total environment.

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INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

All students have a right to learn. Good behavior by all students is necessary so that the time needed for teaching and learning is not wasted. Good behavior is everyone's responsibility. Students, parents, teachers, and principals must work together to maintain the best learning environment possible.

The Darlington County School District's *Code of Ethics* outlines positive behavioral expectations for all students. The Code teaches appropriate behavior and encourages students to accept responsibility for their actions. Students must learn how to conduct themselves at school so that teachers can spend their time teaching all students. To ensure understanding of the expectations the *Code of Ethics* will be taught in conjunction with character education, conflict resolution and drug education.

PREAMBLE TO THE PARENT

You are our primary partner in the education of your child. Nothing the school wishes to accomplish is effective without your support.

Among your responsibilities are the following:

- **to maintain regular communications with the school authorities concerning your child's progress and conduct**
- **to attend parental conferences when requested by school authorities or guidance counselors**
- **to provide your child with the resources needed to complete class work**
- **to ensure your child is in daily attendance and to promptly report and explain an absence or tardiness to school**
- **to assist your child in being healthy, neat, and clean**
- **to bring to the attention of school authorities any problem or condition which affects your child or other children of the school**
- **to discuss report cards and work assignments with your child**
- **to read and discuss this discipline code with your child**

PREAMBLE TO THE STUDENT

Teaching-Learning Process

The primary objective of the Darlington County School District is to promote the teaching-learning process. You deserve the best education that our schools are capable of providing.

Before this objective can be adequately achieved, three conditions must be present:

1. You must be present at school and prepared for the day's work.

2. Teachers must be able to carry out their plans.

3. The classroom atmosphere must be such that learning can take place.

Respect for the Rights of Others

Every right you have has an obligation attached to it. Your rights must be balanced against the rights of others and their rights must be balanced against yours. Also, the purpose of the school and the requirements of the educational process must be weighed in deciding who has a right to do what and what behavior needs to be punished. Protecting your rights is the reason our society has laws and why a school has rules.

If you are one of those students who wants to take full advantage of your rights and opportunities at your school, while at the same time respecting the rights of others, your school and district personnel will support and help you.

Responsibility for Your Own Actions

You will be held responsible only for the things you do or fail to do. What others do, or do not do, is of little importance in determining whether or not you have accepted your responsibility as a student/citizen of the Darlington County School District.

If you choose to follow bad examples set by a few of your fellow students, you will be held responsible for your actions and your actions only. The decision will be yours and so will the consequences.

Your first responsibility, then, is to decide how you should conduct yourself while you are at school. Your second responsibility is to be prepared to accept the consequences of your actions.

Your teachers and administrators regret that a considerable amount of time and energy must be spent in dealing with some students' physical, verbal, and personal actions which negatively affect the operation of your school.

No written rules can cover all situations; however, the Darlington County School District's behavioral guidelines attempt to address the

most widespread issues and situations. In situations not covered by these guidelines, your school administrators will make decisions in accordance with District policy and appropriate state laws. Circumstances and degrees of involvement will be considered in making the decision as to the seriousness of an offense.

Each school principal has the authority to use his/her discretion within the recommended guidelines of the code. If you violate one or more sections of the discipline guidelines, you may be subject to more severe disciplinary action than recommended in the guidelines.

You must understand that your responsibilities are just as important as your rights; one cannot exist without the other.

PURPOSE AND DESIGN

AND

GUIDELINE DEFINITIONS

PURPOSE AND DESIGN

The Board of Education recognizes that rules of student conduct and consequences for violations are necessary for the orderly operation of the District's schools. Generally, it is the philosophy of the District to handle all student disciplinary matters at the lowest supervisory level possible and in the most reasonable manner possible. Ultimately though, the Superintendent is in charge of ensuring that sound disciplinary practices are followed throughout the District.

The administration is charged with the development of appropriate rules of student conduct, which shall include a general listing of offenses, required or recommended disciplinary action for violations, and the times and places when such rules shall be in effect.

The behavioral guidelines are not intended to punish students, but to teach them appropriate behavior and encourage them to

accept responsibility for their actions. Students must learn how to conduct themselves at school so teachers can spend their time teaching all students. The teachers and principals will follow the behavioral guidelines to assure that all students are treated fairly.

The guidelines stress prevention of discipline problems. Many problems are minor and will be handled by their classroom teachers. Students will be given ample opportunities to change their behavior before serious problems arise. Parents will be contacted so that they can work with teachers and principals in solving problems concerning their children.

Behavioral problems that pose a threat to others will be dealt with more severely. Violence or serious disruptions in the school may result in suspension or expulsion from school. Conferences with parents will be required if a serious offense occurs.

These behavioral guidelines are to establish a safe and orderly place in which the rights of all students are protected. All students must be given maximum opportunities to learn. Clear rules and consequences are necessary to maintain a safe learning environment.

The offenses and the required or recommended dispositions under the Elementary and Secondary categories are submitted for the information of students, parents, and school personnel. Disciplinary

actions will include appropriate hearings and review, and the removal of a student from the learning environment will occur only for just cause and in accordance with due process of law.

The rules apply to every student:

1. who is on the school or District property
2. who is in attendance at school or any school-sponsored activity, whether on or off school grounds
3. who is en route to and from school on a school bus or other District vehicle; or
4. whose conduct at any time or in any place has a direct and immediate effect on maintaining order and discipline in Darlington County School District

GUIDELINE DEFINITIONS

The behavioral guidelines are designed to be in effect during ALL in-school activities, graduation, closing of school activities and extracurricular activities sponsored by the school. Disciplinary action taken at the end of the year may be carried over to the following school year.

Suspension

Suspension, as it relates to a regular education student, is the school district's unilateral exclusion of a student from school for a time not to exceed ten (10) school days for any one offense and for not more than thirty (30) days in any one school year – Suspension Policy – JKD/R. A student's absence due to suspension will be treated as an absence. A student's absence pending an expulsion or appeal hearing will not be treated as an absence – Policy JH.

Suspension, as it relates to a student with a disability, as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA), is the removal of an IDEA child from the child's current educational placement, without the provision of educational services, for not more than ten (10) school days, cumulative, in any one school year. Students will be allowed to make up any absence up to ten days for a regular term. Student Code of Conduct Policy – JICDA/R.

In-School Suspension, as it relates to a regular education student, is defined as the school district's unilateral reassignment from regular class assignments to a designated in-school suspension room at the same school for a time not to exceed ten (10) school days per in-school suspension action. The student assigned to in-school suspension will pursue

appropriate academic studies under the supervision of school officials.

In-School Suspension, as it relates to an IDEA student, is the removal of the child from the child's current educational placement to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting to another setting, for not more than ten (10) school days. An IDEA student assigned to in-school suspension will continue to receive IEP based instruction.

*45-Day Change in Placement of IDEA Student S*chool personnel may order a change in placement of an IDEA student to an appropriate interim alternative education setting, but for not more than 45 days, if the student carries a weapon to school or a school sponsored function or the student knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at school or a school-sponsored function, and a Manifestation Determination Review concludes that the misconduct was a manifestation of the student's IDEA disability. If the Manifestation Determination Review concludes that the misconduct was not a manifestation of the student's IDEA disability, an expulsion action shall be initiated.

The authority to suspend students within the parameters of this policy is delegated to the school principal/director or their designee(s). The administration may suspend a student for the commission of any crime, gross immorality, gross misbehavior, persistent disobedience, or

the violation of District or State Board of Education policies, rules, or regulations. The administration may also suspend a student when the presence of the student is detrimental to the best interest of the District or one of its schools.

A student may be suspended for any reason listed in the Student Code of Conduct, Policy JICDA/R. A principal who is considering suspending a student must comply with the following:

1. The principal or his/her designee must have a conference with the student notifying the student of the charges against him/her. If the student denies the charges, the principal or his/her designee will offer the student an explanation of the evidence and an opportunity to present his/her side of the story.

2. When a student is suspended, the administrator will attempt to contact the parent/guardian to request he/she pick up the student from school. The school may take the student home or to another appropriate location. If the administrator cannot reach the parent/legal guardian, the student must stay at school until the end of the school day.

3. If the student is summarily suspended, he/she may be removed from the school grounds immediately.

4. On the day of suspension, the principal or his/her designee will provide written notice of

the action to the student's parent/guardian. The notice will state the reason(s) for the action taken, the effective dates of suspension, and the right to a conference with the principal. This written notice will also advise the parent of his/her right to appeal an unfavorable decision to the District hearing officer.

5. At the parental conference, the principal will discuss the charges and suspension with the parent. He/she will discuss the proposed remedy and follow up procedures deemed desirable.

Suspension from school means the student cannot attend school or be on District or school property, cannot attend any school-related events or activities on or off campus, and cannot ride a school bus.

Suspension Appeal Process

The parent/guardian may appeal a suspension to the principal and/or school district hearing officer within 10 days of the suspension. Any such appeal must be made in writing. The student will NOT be allowed to return to school while awaiting the hearing. Hearings will be held in an expeditious manner. If the student is found not guilty by the Hearing Officer, the days missed will be restored and make up work allowed. The decision of the Hearing Officer is final.

Expulsion

Expulsion, as it relates to a regular student, may be expelled for any reason listed in the Student Behavioral Code in Policy JICDA/R; for the commission of any crime, gross immorality, gross misbehavior, or the violation of any other written rules and regulations established by the Board or the State Board of Education; or when the presence of the student is deemed to be detrimental to the best interest of the school. Expulsion means the student cannot attend school or be on the school grounds of any school in the District, cannot attend any program at any school in the daytime or night, and cannot ride a school bus.

If procedures for expulsion are initiated, the parents or legal guardian of the pupil shall be notified in writing of the time and the place of a hearing before the District Hearing Officer. At the hearing, the parents or legal guardian shall have the right to legal counsel and to all other regular legal rights, including the right to question any and all witnesses presented by the administration.

Expulsion, as it relates to a student with a documented disability as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA), is the removal of an IDEA child from the child's current educational placement by the IEP team based on the fact that the student's misconduct was not a manifestation of his/her disability, the student may be disciplined to the same extent that a nondisabled student may be disciplined, subject to procedural safeguards.

However, the IDEA student must be provided services to the extent necessary to enable the student to appropriately progress in the general curriculum and appropriately advance toward achieving the goals set out in the student's IEP. The IEP team shall determine the services to be provided.

If the multidisciplinary team determines that a Section 504-disabled student's misconduct was not a manifestation of his/her disability, the student may be expelled as otherwise provided for by District policy or procedure. In such cases, the District is not obligated to continue educational services.

The authority initially to hear expulsion recommendations and decide their disposition is hereby delegated to the District Hearing Officer. The principal will give written notice to the parent/guardian of the initiation of expulsion procedures via a letter formatted by the District's retained legal counsel and provided by the District. The hearing before the District Hearing Officer will take place fifteen (15) days of the initiation of expulsion procedures. The Hearing Officer's decision will be rendered within ten (10) days of the hearing.

Expulsion prohibits a student from entering the school or school grounds (except for a pre-arranged conference with an administrator), attending any day or night school function or riding a school bus.

The district may refuse to accept students who reside within the county or outside of the county who have been expelled from a school (public or private). Each case will be examined and determination made to accept or deny the student based on prior discipline records and the reason for their expulsion – Policy JFAA/JFAB.

Expulsion Appeals Process

The expulsion decision of the Hearing Officer may be appealed by the student or the administration to the Superintendent (designee) within ten school days of notification of the Hearing Officer's decision. Either side may appeal the Superintendent's decision to the Board. An appeal will normally be limited to the established record, and no new testimony will be allowed, unless the Board desires to hear additional testimony. The Board may reverse or alter the decision of the Hearing Officer. If the recommendation for expulsion is rejected on appeal, all absences resulting from the suspension shall be excused and the student's record cleared. The student will be allowed to make up for all missed work.

Petition for Readmission

Students who have been expelled for the remainder of the current school year may make

a written request to the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee for readmission. This request must be made at least thirty calendar days before the beginning of the school year or the semester, as the case may be. All students returning from expulsion shall be placed on probation for one year. If the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee denies the student's request or in all cases of permanent expulsion, the student may make a written request to the Board for readmission. If the request is denied by the Board, the student may submit another request prior to the following school year.

Second Expulsion – Secondary Level

A student (grades 9-12) removed from the traditional school or alternative school setting for a second time due to expulsion will not be readmitted to the traditional school program in Darlington County School District. The student may continue his/her education in an alternative or adult education setting if he/she meets the program guidelines – Policy JICI/JKE.

Transfer of Pupils (Intervention School)

The Board or a designated administrator may transfer a pupil to another school in lieu of suspension or expulsion but only after a conference or hearing with the parents or legal guardian. The parents or legal guardian may appeal a transfer made by an administrator to

the Superintendent and from the Superintendent to the Board (SC Code of Laws 59-63-250).

Students who are transferred to the Intervention School and fail to attend school will be charged with truancy unless they show proof of attendance at another school.

On returning to the home school from an alternative school setting, the student will be placed on strict probation for the duration of that school year. Students who return to their home school can not be reassigned to the Intervention School during that same school year. Consequently, an intervention school student should maintain proper behavior when returning to his/her home school.

Students who are administratively assigned to the Intervention School for SEVERE offenses must receive final approval from the Board of Education before readmission to regular school.

Students who are assigned to the alternative school will not be allowed to possess cell phone/telecommunication devices.

Use of Law Enforcement Officers

Your school administrators have the right to call law enforcement officers to handle any student misconduct which is believed to be in violation of a state or federal law. Students who are in violation of the law will be subject to arrest and/or prosecution. Law enforcement officers

may also assist school officials in the exercise of their legal authority to maintain order in the schools.

Law enforcement authorities have the right to enter the school to take a student into custody or to make a lawful arrest of a student provided that they act pursuant to lawful procedure. If a student is arrested or taken into custody at school, school officials will make a reasonable effort to notify the parents/legal guardians immediately.

Search and Seizure

The board directs all district personnel to conduct searches and seizures on district property or during district sponsored events in accordance with applicable federal and state law to enhance security in the schools. Random searches may be conducted at any time by school officials as deemed necessary to maintain a safe environment conducive to education.

Inspection of School Lockers

School lockers are the property of the school. You are allowed to use them as a convenience and a privilege. You should respect your locker as school property and store only those items needed for school or school-related activities in it.

Because the lockers belong to your school, they may be searched and inspected by school officials. School officials reserve the right to involve law enforcement officers in the search, if necessary. When possible, your consent will be obtained for the search. You may be present when your locker is inspected. A witness will also be present when the school officials conduct a search.

Weapons

It is the policy of the Board of Education to ensure the safety and welfare of its students and employees. The presence of firearms, knives, blackjacks, or other weapons on school District property poses a severe threat of serious harm or injury to students and staff. While on school grounds, in school buildings, on buses or at school-related functions, students will not possess any item capable of inflicting injury or harm (hereinafter referred to as a weapon) to persons or property when that item is not used in relations to a normal school activity at a scheduled time for the student.

No vehicles parked on school property may contain firearms, knives, blackjacks, or other items that are generally considered to be weapons.

It is a felony offense to carry a weapon as referenced above on school property punishable by a fine or imprisonment.

The Board or its designee will expel for no less than one calendar year any student who has brought or possessed a firearm on school property, at District or school related functions, or at any setting under the jurisdiction of the Darlington County Board of Education.

For purposes of policy JICI a weapon is defined as a firearm. The term firearm is defined extensively in the U. S. Code, but generally means a weapon (gun) or destructive

device plosive, incendiary). Expulsion proceedings for weapons violations will be conducted consistent with the District's expulsion policy and administrative rule.

Student Protests, Demonstrations, and Strikes

The district recognizes that students may express their opinions in an appropriate and non-disruptive manner while on school grounds or during school sponsored activities. However, on school grounds or during school sponsored activities, students may not engage in vulgar, lewd, obscene, or plainly offensive conduct or speech or otherwise engage in speech or conduct that infringes upon the rights of other students or is inconsistent with the legitimate pedagogical concerns or basic educational mission of the district. Likewise, school officials may limit student speech or conduct on school grounds or during school sponsored activities when such facts exist as might reasonably lead them to conclude that the student speech or conduct will substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities. Furthermore, state law makes it an unlawful criminal act for any person to interfere with or to disturb any school in any way or any manner.

Students who engage in vulgar, lewd, obscene, plainly offensive conduct or who materially and substantially interfere with, or disrupt the operation of school, or invade the rights of others, or whose actions are reasonably

likely to create material or substantial disruptions of the school or invade the rights others, will be subject to disciplinary action as authorized by District policy and school regulations including, but not limited to, detention, suspension, or expulsion.

Students who violate state law also may be subject to further action as authorized by state law. Students may also be required to immediately cease the interfering or disruptive conduct. Nothing in this policy limits the rights of District employees to discipline students consistent with the District's or school's student behavior code.

It will be the duty of the teacher or administrator in charge to see that order is maintained and that the right of students to pursue their education is not abridged by those who would disrupt that aim. Expectations for appropriate student behavior should be communicated to students and parents at the beginning of each school term.

Student Conduct Away From School Grounds or School Activities

The administrators will take appropriate action when information becomes available about student misconduct away from school grounds or school activities that may have a direct and detrimental effect on, or seriously threaten, the discipline, educational environment, safety, or general welfare of students, faculty, staff, and/or administrators of the District. When assessing the impact of out-of-school behavior on a District school, the administrator should take into consideration the seriousness of the alleged out-of-school offense and the protection of students, faculty, staff, and administrators from the effects of violence, drugs, and/or disruptions.

In the event the student is incarcerated based on his/her out-of-school conduct, the principal or his/her designee shall notify the student that he/she is to meet with the administration prior to returning to school. The administrator should take appropriate action, which action may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:

1. returning the student to his/her normal class schedule and removing all evidence of suspension
2. placing the student on probation and allowing the student to resume his/her normal class schedule
3. placing the student on probation, allowing the student to continue class

work, but restricting the student's participation in extracurricular activities and/or designated school activities, for example, clubs, study halls, pep rallies, student government activities, and so forth

4. suspending the student
5. recommending expulsion of the student from regular school and placement in the District's alternative school
6. recommending expulsion of the student for either the remainder of the semester or the year.

The disciplinary action taken must be supported by the evidence and take into full consideration the impact of the student's presence at school on the discipline, educational environment, and safety or general welfare of other students, faculty, staff, and/or administrators of the school.

Fighting

Fighting in school creates a situation which is disruptive to the educational process and all other school functions, as well as creating a situation which is highly dangerous, not only for those involved in the fight, but also for other students and for school personnel. Fighting is an activity that will not be tolerated. All fights will be investigated by the school principal or his/her designee to determine the circumstances surrounding the altercation.

A fight will be defined as one or more students striking one or more students with the intent of doing bodily harm. Levels of fights will be recognized by school officials and dealt with in a different manner. School officials have the responsibility of designating low-level versus high- level fights based on the degree of student involvement and action.

Law enforcement personnel shall be contacted in extreme cases. Prior to any out-of-school suspension or expulsion recommendation, school officials must ensure that parental contact has occurred. In the investigative process and until parents can be notified students may be placed in in-school suspension.

Depending on the result of the investigation, all those who were involved in the fight could receive recommendations for the

disciplinary action set forth in the above Level I, Level II, and Level III Offenses.

Bullying

Bullying by students in the Darlington County School District will not be tolerated (Policy JICDA and JICFAA). Bullying is defined as aggressive behavior that is intentional and that involves an imbalance of power or strength. Typically, it is repeated over time. A child who is being bullied has a hard time defending himself or herself. Bullying can take many forms such as: hitting or punching (physical bullying); teasing or name-calling (verbal bullying); intimidation through gestures or social exclusion (nonverbal bullying or emotional bullying); and sending insulting messages by e-mail (cyber bullying) – Policy IJNDB.

Secret Societies/Gang Activity

Participation in secret societies/gang activity by students in the Darlington County School District is prohibited. The district finds that gangs that initiate, advocate or promote activities threatening the safety or well-being of persons or property on school grounds or gangs that disrupt the school environment are harmful to the educational process. (Policy JICF)

The district prohibits the use of hand signals, graffiti, or the presence of any apparel, jewelry, accessory, or manner of grooming that, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark,

symbol, or any other attribute indicates or implies membership or affiliation with a group that presents a clear and present danger contrary to the school environment and educational objectives.

The district prohibits incidents involving initiations, hazing, intimidations, or related activities of such group affiliations that are likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to students.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by federal and state laws. Consistent with these laws, it is the policy of the district that sexual harassment of students is prohibited. (Policy JICFAA and JICDA)

Sexual harassment of students in the Darlington County School District is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, verbal or otherwise expressive behaviors, or physical conduct commonly understood to be of a sexual nature by a person of either sex against a person of the opposite or same sex, in any of the following circumstances:

1. submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a student's education

2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as a basis for educational actions, decisions or assessments that favor or adversely affect the student's welfare as a student.

3. Such conduct unreasonably and substantially interferes with an individual's welfare and creates an intimidating, hostile, offensive and demeaning environment.

Prohibited acts of sexual harassment may take a variety of forms ranging from subtle pressure for sexual activity to physical assault.

Examples of the kinds of conduct included in the definition of sexual harassment include but are not limited to the following:

1. Threats or intimidation of sexual relations or sexual contact which is not freely or mutually agreeable to both parties.
2. Continued or repeated verbal abuses, including graphic commentaries, innuendoes, comments, jokes or propositions of a sexual nature, unwelcome touching or interference with movement, the visual display of derogatory cartoons, drawings, or posters, or suggestive or insulting sounds, leering whistling or obscene gestures
3. Threats or insinuations that the student's educational opportunities, grades, assignments, or other educational

conditions may be adversely affected by not submitting to sexual advances.

Each administrator, supervisor, faculty member, staff member and student will strive to provide an educational environment free from sexual harassment.

No student, employee or member of the public may be subject to restraint, interference, coercion or reprisal for seeking information about sexual harassment, filing a sexual harassment complaint or serving as a witness.

An aggrieved student is encouraged to inform the person engaging in sexual, harassing conduct that such conduct is offensive and must stop. If the aggrieved student should discuss the matter with a parent, teacher, counselor or any other adult with whom he/she feels comfortable and/or should initiate either informal or formal complaint procedures. The school will have a contact person for students to confide in. The investigation will be conducted in a confidential manner and concluded in a reasonable amount of time.

Violation of this policy, including willful false accusations of sexual harassment, will be subject to disciplinary action which may include, but not be limited to oral or written warnings, suspension or expulsion.

Student Dress Code (Policy JICA)

Students are expected to dress and be groomed in such a way as to not distract or cause disruption in the educational program or orderly operation of the school. Personal appearance of students should promote health and safety, contribute to a climate conducive to teaching and learning and project a positive image of the district of the community. School administrators will be responsible for determining dress code violations.

The principal reserves the right to amend any provisions that he/she deems to be in the best interest of the student or the educational process. Students should dress for the educational setting and not the recreational one. All students will adhere to this dress code while attending classes, riding buses to and from school, and participating in all official school functions, unless otherwise indicated by the school administration.

1. Clothing, articles, hair and other displays should not be so extreme or inappropriate to the school setting as to disrupt the educational process. Clothing deemed distracting, revealing, overly suggestive or otherwise disruptive will not be permitted.

2. Wearing items that could pose a safety threat to one's self or others is not allowed. This includes heavy chains not made as jewelry, fish hooks, multiple-finger rings (rings welded

together resembling brass knuckles or rings that can be used as a weapon), studded bracelets or collars, nose/lip to ear chains, etc. No medallions will be worn larger than the student's ID badge. Unusual body piercing that is disruptive to the order of the school or is a distraction to the learning environment will not be allowed. No wallet chains or other type chains that may be dangerous or disruptive will be allowed.

3. Attire, articles, and other items must not evidence membership or affiliation with a "gang" in any negative sense of the term.

4. Attire, articles, and other items must not display any information about weapons, sex, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, controlled drugs, or illegal drugs or paraphernalia.

5. Appropriate shoes must be worn at all times to ensure safety. Covered toe shoes must be worn in labs and designated shop areas, etc.

6. Attire must not be immodest, obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, or indecent. The style of dress should not create unrest/ animosity with different ethnic groups or display racist or sexual harassment overtones, etc.

7. Lower garments should be of adequate length to assure modesty when the student is seated or engaged in school activities. Shorts and skirts must be long enough to extend below the extended fingertips of the wearer or 2 inches above the knee. Any slits in the garment must open below the fingertips.

8. Pants must be worn at the natural waistline and undergarments are not to be visible. If they do not fit properly, a belt must be worn to keep them in place.

9. Sleeveless attire cannot reveal undergarments. Shirts cannot be tight (excessive form fitting), low cut or show cleavage. Tank tops, halter tops, shirts with spaghetti straps will not be allowed. No transparent or mesh clothing will be allowed without an appropriate shirt underneath. Leggings or jeggings must have an appropriate shirt or top that covers to mid-thigh

11. Clothing, articles, or other items which display symbols, messages, or statements which would distract others, interfere with the instructional programs, or otherwise cause disruptions, are prohibited.

Violations of Dress Code

Students will be required to return home and change into appropriate attire or parent/legal guardian can bring proper clothing to school or students will be sent to In-School Suspension. (Policy JICA and JICDA)

Repeated violations of the dress code will be treated as disruptive behavior in violation of the student code of conduct. However, dress code violations will not carry over on the student's discipline record to subsequent years.

The school administration will determine the amount of lost instructional time a student must make up due to being out of class for inappropriate dress. The instructional time will be made up after school and at the financial expense of the student's parents for a certified teacher to remain and instruct the student. Failure to do so may result in a student repeating the course(s).

Uniforms

The board has allowed district schools to have a student uniform program. Schools that decide to participate in the school uniform program will follow guidelines set in Policy JICA/R Student Dress.

COMPUTER USERS POLICY (IJNDB- Use of Technology Resources in Instruction)

Computer restrictions will include the Student Internet Use Agreement Form, the Digital Citizenship Contract – Code of Conduct and Digital Rights. These forms must be signed by students and the Parent/Legal Guardians. Responsibilities and Expectations of the Laptop Program will be distributed to students using district owned equipment for instruction purposes. (Policy – IJNDBE – Exhibits 3, 5, 6, 7)

ELEMENTARY BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

(3K - 5th Grade)

ELEMENTARY BEHAVIOR

TEACHER Level Discipline Problems

Most disciplinary problems will be of a minor nature and will be handled by the classroom teacher. All classrooms will have posted rules that parents and students know and understand.

Parents can help their children become successful students and avoid discipline problems by checking the student's book bags each day before they bring them to school. Students should not bring toys, video games, etc. to school that would disrupt the learning environment.

Principals will ensure that classroom rules are consistent among classrooms and appropriate to the age of the students. Examples of consequences that teachers may use to address problems include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Counseling
2. Verbal or written reprimand
3. Parent notification
4. Parent conference
5. Detention
6. Assignment of written work
7. Withdrawal of privileges/exclusion from extracurricular activities
8. In-school suspension
9. Supervised isolation
10. Referral to the principal
11. Demerits

12. Other sanctions approved by the Board or administration (example: Work Detail)

Minor behavioral problems include any activity engaged in by student(s), which tend to impede orderly classroom procedures or instructional activities, orderly operation of the school, or the frequency or seriousness of which disturbs the classroom or school

PRINCIPAL Level Discipline Problems:

The principal will be the final authority for discipline at the school level. In addition to the previously mentioned, examples of consequences that may be used to address minor problems by the principal include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Temporary removal from class
2. In-school suspension
3. Overnight suspension/parent conference
4. Out of school suspension
5. Transfer
6. Restitution for damaged property
7. Withdrawal of privileges/exclusion from participation in extracurricular activities

10. After-school detention*
11. Other sanctions approved by the Board or administration

*When after-school detention is used, adequate supervision will be provided and arrangements must be made to ensure the safe transportation of the student to his/her home.

Disruptive conduct includes those activities engaged in by student(s), which are directed against persons or property, and the consequences of which tend to endanger the health or safety of oneself or others in the school.

SEVERE Level Behavioral Problems

Severe behavioral problems include activities engaged in by student(s) which result in violence to oneself or another's person or property or which pose a direct and serious threat to the safety of oneself or others in school. These activities usually require administrative actions which result in the immediate removal of the student from the school, the intervention of law enforcement authorities, and/or action by the Board.

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

The following guidelines will be used:

1. A conference with the principal and the parent
2. Suspension from school for up to ten (10) days
3. Recommendation for expulsion

The length of suspension will depend upon the age of the child and the seriousness of the offense.

Examples of severe behavior may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Distribution, sale, purchase, manufacture, or unlawful possession of a controlled substance
2. Furnishing or selling unauthorized substances, as defined by Board policy
3. Taking of money or other property from a person by force, violence, or assault (extortion)
4. Possession, use, or transfer of dangerous weapons
5. Bomb threat
6. Assault and battery
7. Sexual offenses/harassment
8. Vandalism
9. Arson
10. Threatening to take the life of or inflict bodily harm upon a principal, teacher, or member of their immediate family
11. Theft, possession, or sale of stolen property
12. Bullying
13. Participation in gang related activities
14. Other criminal acts as determined by the Board or administration

Possession/Use of Student Owned Electronic Devices (Policy – JICJ)

Primary or elementary students may not display or use a personal electronic device while on school property or attending a school related activity on or off school property during the regular school day. The student owned device must be powered off during the school day.

The district will make an exception to this rule if the student needs the device for a legitimate medical reason. The principal must have written/approved evidence of the student's medical need on file.

Student owned electronic devices will be regulated in accordance with S. C. Code of Laws Section 59-63-280 and Board Policy JICJ. Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary actions as defined by the Student Code of Conduct – Policy JICDA and Student Behavior Guidelines for first violation. For the first offense, the device will be confiscated and returned to the parent/legal guardian. Subsequent, multiple violations and/or illegal unethical use of a personal electronic device may result in forfeiture of the device, multi day suspension, expulsion and/or prosecution. The school will not be responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.

SECONDARY BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

(6th – 12th Grade)

BEHAVIORAL MISCONDUCT - LEVEL I

Behavioral misconduct includes any activity in which a student engages that tends to impede orderly classroom procedures or instructional activities, orderly operation of the school, or the frequency or seriousness of which disturb the classroom or school.

Acts of behavioral misconduct may include, but are not limited to:

1. classroom activities
2. cheating on examinations or classroom assignments
3. lying
4. abusive language between or among students
5. failure to complete with directives from school/district personnel or agents (to include volunteer aides or chaperones)
6. use of forged notes or excuses
7. cutting class
8. school or class tardiness

10. truancy

11. possession of an electronic communications device as defined by and in conflict with district policy

12. other acts of behavioral misconduct as determined by administration

POSSIBLE SANCTIONS to be applied In cases *Behavioral Misconduct – Level I* may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following:

1. verbal reprimand
2. withdrawal of privileges
3. detention
4. other consequences by administration

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT – LEVEL II

Disruptive Conduct includes those activities in which students engage that are directed against persons or property and the consequences of which tend to endanger the health or safety or themselves or others in the school. Some instances of disruptive conduct may overlap certain criminal offenses.

Acts of Disruptive Conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. violation of a Level I intervention plan and/or behavioral contract
2. use of an intoxicant
3. fighting
4. harassment, intimidation, or bullying
5. vandalism (minor)
6. stealing
7. threats against others
8. trespassing
9. abusive language to staff
10. repeated refusal to comply with directives from school personnel or agents (volunteers or chaperones)
11. possession or use of unauthorized substances, as defined by law and/or local school board policy
12. illegally occupying or blocking school property in any way with the intent to deprive others of its use
13. unlawful assembly
14. disrupting lawful assembly
15. hazing
16. inappropriate use of technology (bullying, harassing, or intimidating other students or district employees; plagiarizing

copy-righted materials; accessing inappropriate websites)
17. other acts as determined by the Board of administration

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

1. temporary removal from class
2. alternative education program
3. in-school suspension
4. out-of-school suspension
5. transfer
6. referral to outside agency
7. expulsion
8. restitution of property and damages, where appropriate, should be sought by local school authorities
9. withdrawal of privileges/exclusion from participation in extracurricular activities
10. other sanctions approved by the Board or administration

CRIMINAL CONDUCT – LEVEL III

Criminal conduct includes those activities in which students engage that result in violence to themselves or to another's person or property or which pose a direct and serious threat to the safety of the students themselves or others in the school. These activities usually require administrative actions which result in the immediate removal of the student from the school, the intervention of the school resource officer or other law enforcement authorities, etc.

School administrators shall contact law enforcement authorities immediately upon notice that a person is engaging, or has engaged, in activities on school property or at a school-sanctioned or sponsored activity.

Criminal conduct may include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. assault and battery
2. extortion
3. bomb threat
4. threat of the use of a destructive device (bomb, grenade, pipe bomb, or similar device)
5. possession, use, or transfer of dangerous weapons
6. sexual offenses
7. vandalism (major)
8. theft, possession, or sale of stolen property
9. arson
10. furnishing or selling unauthorized substances, as defined by law and/or Board policy
11. furnishing, selling, or possession of controlled substances (drugs, narcotics, or poisons)
12. illegal use of technology (communicating a threat of a destructive device, weapon, or event with the intent of intimidating, threatening, or interfering with school activities; maliciously transmitting sexual images of minors, other than images of the student or images transmitted with the

uncoerced consent of the individual in the images)

13. threatening to take the life of or inflict bodily harm upon a principal, teacher, or members of their immediate family

POSSIBLE SANCTIONS to be applied in cases of Criminal Conduct may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following:

1. out-of-school suspension
2. assignment to alternative schools
3. expulsion
4. restitution of property and damages, where appropriate, should be sought by local school authorities
5. other sanctions approved by the Board or administration

EXTENUATING OR MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES:

The board may confer upon the appropriate administrator the authority to consider extenuating or mitigating circumstances which may exist in a particular case of misconduct. The board may also confer upon the appropriate administrator the authority to consider aggravating circumstances which may exist in a particular case of misconduct or criminal conduct.

Possession/Use of Student Owned Electronic Devices at the Secondary Level (Policy JICJ)

A student may use a personal electronic device prior to school, during, and after the instructional day in designated green zones under Policy JICJ. The personal electronic device may be used before school, during lunch, and after school, denoted by school day bells/signals. Teachers and school administrators may allow students to use personal electronic devices for instructional and educational purposes in accordance with the district's technology use policies (IJNDB-R, Exhibits 3, 5,6,7).

Student owned electronic devices will be regulated in accordance with S. C. Code of Laws Section 59-63-280 and Board Policy JICJ. Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary actions as defined by the Student Code of Conduct – Policy JICDA and Student Behavior Guidelines for the first violation. For the first time offense, the device will be confiscated and returned to the parent/legal guardian. Subsequent, multiple violations and/or illegal unethical use of a personal electronic device may result in forfeiture of the device, multi day suspension, alternative school placement, expulsion, and/or prosecution purposes. The school will not be responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.

BUS DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES

BUS REFERRALS:

First Referral to Administrator:
WARNING and/or 1 to 3 days off the bus. (If there is a true hardship case with a student getting to school, this referral can be substituted with ISS)

Second Referral to Administrator: 1 to 3 days off the bus. (Only 1 of these days can be substituted for a hardship case, the other 2 days are off the bus.)

Third Referral to Administrator: 3 to 5 days off the bus.

Fourth Referral to Administrator: 6-10 days off the bus

Fifth Referral to Administrator: 9 weeks off the bus.

Sixth Referral to Administrator: Semester or Off the bus for the remainder of the year

- **On severe offense, parent contact is not necessary.**
- **All other offenses, driver must contact or make an honest attempt to contact the parent or guardian**
- **Any severe offense needs to be treated between fourth and sixth offense level.**
- **All school rules apply while riding the bus.**

- **Any disciplinary problem that creates an unsafe driving condition is considered a severe offense**

Bus Discipline Code

The purpose of this specific code is to identify behavior which is unacceptable and dangerous on district school buses. The Bus Discipline Code is an extension of the Darlington County School District Behavioral Guidelines. Students who commit offenses will be disciplined according to these guidelines (Policy EEAEC).

Any act that is detrimental to the safe operation of the bus and safety of its riders or activities engaged in by student(s) which tend to impede an orderly operation of the school bus may include, but are not limited to:

1. Obscenity/threatening/assaulting a driver/disobeying driver
2. Carrying a weapon
3. Alcohol or drug possession/distribution
4. Sexual acts/indecent exposure
5. Arson
6. Fireworks
7. Fighting/physical abuse
8. Property destruction
9. Stealing
10. Throwing objects/throwing things out the window
11. Riding bus while suspended

12. Horseplay/endangering activities on the bus/shouting in-out of bus/ extremely loud noises/not properly seated/obstructing aisle
13. Arms, etc. out of window
14. Abusive language
15. Major disruption
16. Smoking/lighting matches
17. Walking behind bus/approaching bus before it stops/improper boarding/deboarding
18. Tampering with emergency doors/ equipment
19. Using wrong bus stop
20. Littering
21. Eating/drinking on bus
22. Animals on bus
23. Threatening/intimidating Students
24. Playing or standing in roadway while waiting on bus/not at bus stop when bus arrives
25. Radio/tape player/toys/skateboards on bus

POSSIBLE SANCTIONS to be applied in any of the above cases:

1. Suspended from the bus for a number of days, a semester, or year.
2. In-school suspension
3. Out of school suspension (By Administration Only)
4. Other sanctions approved by the Board or administration

SUMMARY

The guiding principle of this or any other good system of school and classroom management is not to punish but to teach and encourage you to accept responsibility for your actions and decisions and to guide you to regard the rights of others with as much reverence as you regard your own.

Teachers have a right to teach and all students have a right to learn. This system of discipline is designed to provide prompt and effective consequences for students who choose to interfere with the rights of either the teacher or of the other students.

NOTES

The Darlington County School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, or other protected characteristics in its programs and activities. Inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies should be made to Human Resources, 120 East Smith Avenue, Darlington, S. C. 29532, (843) 398-5100 or the Title IX Coordinator – Mr. Larry Johnson

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Student's Name **Homeroom Teacher**

A copy of the *Darlington County School District Behavioral Guidelines*, along with an explanation of its rules and consequences, has been provided. I acknowledge receipt of the guidelines and I understand that I am subject to these guidelines. I have also been informed of the use of metal detectors and acknowledge that I am subject to their use as well as the rules and consequences surrounding them.

_____

Student Signature
(Student Signature – required for grades 2 – 12)

My child has been provided a copy of the *Darlington County School District Behavioral Guidelines* and I understand that he/she is subject to these guidelines. I also acknowledge that my child has been informed of the use of metal detectors and is subject to their use as well as the rules and consequences surrounding them.

_____

Parent Signature
(Signature required for all students)

_____

Date

Please return this form to the homeroom teacher and keep the guidelines booklet for your own reference.

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