

SYSTEM-WIDE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Ethical and responsible student behavior is an essential part of the educational mission of our schools. To that end, the Board has developed this System-Wide Code of Conduct with input from school staff, students, parents and the community. The Code defines our expectations for student behavior and provides the framework for a safe, orderly and respectful learning environment.

A. Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior

The Code of Conduct is intended to support and encourage students to meet the following state-wide standards for ethical and responsible behavior:

- Respect
- Honesty
- Compassion
- Fairness
- Responsibility
- Courage

B. Code of Conduct

All students are expected to comply with the Code of Conduct and all related Board policies and school rules. The Code applies to students:

- on school property,
- while in attendance at school or at any school-sponsored activity, or
- at any time or place that such conduct directly interferes with the operations, discipline or school environment.

C. General Behavior Expectations

The following expectations for student behavior are fundamental to a safe, orderly and respectful environment in our schools. Each student should:

1. Be courteous to fellow students, staff and visitors.
2. Respect the rights and privileges of other students and school staff.
3. Obey all Board policies and school rules governing student conduct.
4. Follow directions from school staff.
5. Cooperate with staff in maintaining school safety, order and discipline.
6. Attend school regularly.

7. Meet school standards for dress.
8. Respect the property of others, including school property and facilities.
9. Refrain from cheating or plagiarizing the work of others.
10. Refrain from vulgarity, profanity, obscenity, lewdness, and indecency.

D. Discipline

Violations of the Code of Conduct may result in positive and restorative interventions and/or disciplinary action. Administrators have the discretion to tailor discipline to the facts and circumstances of the particular case. Consequences will range from a verbal warning for minor misconduct up to and including expulsion for the most serious offenses. Behavior that also violates the law may be referred to law enforcement authorities.

E. Expectations Related to Policy

The following lists Board adopted policies related to expectations for student behavior. Students, parents and others should refer to the policies and student handbooks for detailed information about the expectations and consequences.

Expectations	Related Policies
Violence and Threats	JICIA Weapons, Violence and School Safety
	JICK Bullying
	EBCC Bomb Threats
Weapons	JICIA Weapons, Violence and School Safety
	JICK Bullying
Hazing	ACAD Hazing
Discrimination and Harassment/Sexual Harassment	AC Non-Discrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
	ACAA Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students
Bullying	JICIA Weapons, Violence and School Safety
	JICK Bullying

Drug and Alcohol Use	JICH Drug and Alcohol Use by Students
Tobacco Use and Vaping	ADC Tobacco Use and Possession
Conduct on School Buses	JICC Student Conduct on School Buses
Technology/Internet Use	IJNDB Student Technology, Internet Use, and Internet Safety

F. Athletic/Co-Curricular Activities

Students must follow all RSU No. 5 Board policies and school rules while participating in athletics and co-curricular activities. Students who violate policies and rules may be subject to suspension or removal from the team/activity as well as additional disciplinary action under applicable Board policies and/or school rules.

G. Removal of Disruptive/Violent/Threatening Students

1. Students who are disruptive, violent or threatening death or bodily harm to others may be removed from classrooms, school buses, or other school property when necessary to maintain order and safety. The staff member who orders the student removed should arrange to have the student escorted to the office or other designated location.
2. If a student does not comply with a staff member’s order to leave, the staff member will contact an administrator, or, if not available, another trained staff member, who shall respond promptly.
3. Staff members should not use physical force or restraint, except to the minimum extent necessary to protect any person from imminent physical harm. Staff members are not required to take action that puts them at risk of serious injury.
4. The responding administrator will take appropriate action. If the student fails to obey verbal directions, force or restraint may be used only to the minimum extent necessary to protect any person from imminent physical harm or to quell a disturbance. Whenever practicable, law enforcement should be called to restrain or physically remove the non-compliant student. The administrator may invoke the school unit’s crisis response plan if appropriate.

H. Special Services

1. **Referral.** In some cases, a student may be referred for a special education evaluation. The school unit has adopted policies and procedures for determining when a student shall be referred for special services.

2. **Review of Individual Educational Plan.** For students with disabilities, the school shall schedule an IEP meeting to review the IEP of a student who has been removed from class when: a) school officials and/or the parent believes the student may present a substantial likelihood of injury to himself/herself or other; b) the class removals are sufficient to constitute a change in the student's special education program; or c) school officials or the parent/guardian believes that the student's behavior may warrant a change in educational programming.

I. Referrals to Law Enforcement Authorities

The Superintendent and administrators have the authority to seek the assistance of law enforcement authorities when there is a substantial threat to the safety of the students, staff, or schools. The Superintendent/administration may also inform law enforcement authorities when they have reason to suspect that a student or staff member may have violated a local, state or federal statute. All serious offenses, as determined by the Superintendent, must be reported to law enforcement authorities.

J. Dissemination of System-Wide Student Code of Conduct

The System-Wide Student Code of Conduct shall be distributed to staff, students and parents through handbooks and/or other means selected by the Superintendent and building administrators.

Cross Reference: AC – Nondiscrimination
 ACAA – Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students
 ACAD – Hazing
 ADC – Tobacco Use and Possession
 EBCC – Bomb Threats
 IHBAA – Referral/Pre-Referral Policy of Students with Disabilities
 IHBAC – Child Find
 IJNDB – Student Computer and Internet Use
 JICC – Student Conduct on School Buses
 JICH – Drug and Alcohol Use by Students
 JICIA – Weapons, Violence and School Safety
 JICK – Bullying
 JK – Student Discipline
 JKB – Detention of Students
 JKD – Suspension of Students
 JKE – Expulsion of Students
 JFK – Disciplinary Removals of Students with Disabilities
 KLG – Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA §§ 254 (11); 1001 (15), (15-A)

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