

STUDENT CONDUCT (Zero Tolerance)

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a way that exhibits respect and consideration for the rights of others. Students of the District must conform with school regulations and accept directions from authorized school personnel. The Board has “zero tolerance” of violent, disruptive, harassing, intimidating, bullying or any other inappropriate behavior by its students.

A student who fails to comply with established school rules or with any reasonable request made by school personnel on school property and/or at school-related events is subject to approved student discipline regulations. Students are also subject to discipline, as outlined in the student code of conduct for misbehavior that occurs off school property when the misbehavior endangers the health and safety of students within the District or adversely affects the education process. The Superintendent/designee develops regulations that establish strategies ranging from prevention to intervention to address student misbehavior, and provides continuing instruction in dating violence prevention in health education courses in grades 7 through 12.

Students and parents receive, at the beginning of each school year or upon enrolling in the District schools during the year, written information on the rules and regulations to which they are subject while in school or participating in any school-related activity or event. The information includes the types of conduct that are subject to suspension or expulsion from school or other forms of disciplinary action. The Board directs the administration to make all students aware of the student code of conduct and the fact that any violations of the student code of conduct are punishable. The rules also apply to any form of student misconduct directed at a District official or employee or the property of a District official or employee, regardless of where the misconduct occurs.

If a student violates this policy or the student code of conduct, school personnel, students or parents should report the student to the appropriate principal. The administration cooperates in any prosecution pursuant to the criminal laws of the state of Ohio and local ordinances.

A student may be expelled for up to one year if he/she commits an act that inflicts serious physical harm to persons or property if it was committed at school, on other school property or at a school activity, event or program.

The Superintendent is authorized to expel a student from school for a period not to exceed one year for making a bomb threat to a school building, or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat. Any expulsion under this provision extends, as necessary, into the school year following the school year in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place.

Matters which might lead to a reduction of the expulsion period include the student's mental and/or physical characteristics or conditions, the age of the student and its relevance to the punishment, the prior disciplinary history of the student and/or the intent of the perpetrator.

The student code of conduct is made available to students and parents and is posted in a central location within each building.

[Adoption date:]

LEGAL REFS.: Gun-Free Schools Act; 20 USC 1751
The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.
Children's Internet Protection Act; 47 USC 254(h)(5)(b)(iii); (P.L. 106-554,
HR 4577, 2000, 114 Stat 2763)
ORC 3313.20; 3313.534; 3313.66; 3313.661; 3313.662; **3313.668**

CROSS REFS.: AC, Nondiscrimination
EBC, Emergency Management and Safety Plans
ECAB, Vandalism
EDE, Computer/Online Services (Acceptable Use and Internet Safety)
JFCA, Student Dress Code
JFCEA, Gangs
JFCF, Hazing and Bullying (Harassment, Intimidation and Dating Violence)
JFCJ, Weapons in the Schools
JFCK, Use of Electronic Communication Equipment by Students
JG, Student Discipline
JGA, Corporal Punishment
JGD, Student Suspension
JGDA, Emergency Removal of Student
JGE, Student Expulsion
JM, Staff-Student Relations (Also GBH)
Student Handbooks

NOTE: In accordance with State law, all boards of education are required to have a "zero tolerance" policy. Although this policy satisfies the provision of law, administrators are encouraged to develop a comprehensive list of rules for students – the actual codes of conduct – with corresponding disciplinary sanctions for violations.

House Bill (HB) 410 (2016) removed the requirement for districts to include excessive truancy in zero tolerance policies. HB 410 also prohibits districts from extending a suspension into the next school year if there are less than 10 days remaining in the current school year. The superintendent may instead require the student to complete community service or another alternative consequence determined appropriate. Districts also are prohibited from disciplining a student based solely on the basis of the student being absent from school without legitimate excuse.

The Children’s Internet Protection Act added a requirement that effective July 1, 2012, all school districts participating in the E-Rate program must include language in their Internet safety policy regarding the education of minors concerning appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response. Districts must also develop an educational plan to implement the program. Helpful resources for educational plan development are available at OnGuardOnline.gov.

This list of rules should be published in student handbooks, made available to parents, reviewed and revised yearly and approved by the board. When approved by the board, provisions in student handbooks carry the same legal status as board policies.

THIS IS A REQUIRED POLICY